



AMICA International

Automatic Musical Instrument Collectors' Association

Honor Roll

Julius Burger

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Information has been received recently describing in more detail the career of Julius Burger, one of Ampico's celebrated recording artists. His recordings were made in conjunction with Milton Suskind, and together they recorded several fine duets such as: "Pique Dame" by von Suppe, "Sakuntala Overture" by Goldmark, "Symphony, G Minor" by Mozart, and several others. Mr. Burger was born in Vienna in 1897. A great part of his adult life has been spent with the Metropolitan Opera Company where he served as the assistant conductor. He started at the Met in 1924 when Artur Bodanzky was the chief conductor of the German repertoire. Bodanzky, incidentally, conducted Suskind and Burger when they recorded their four-hand arrangements for the Ampico.



From 1927 to 1933 Mr. Burger was engaged in Berlin where he worked with Otto Klemperer. He left Berlin in 1933 and until 1939 was an orchestrator for the British Broadcasting Company in London, after which he emigrated to the United States. He returned to the Metropolitan where he remained until retirement in 1967.

He has had the good fortune to coach many famous singers: Lauritz Melchior studied his famous Tristan with Mr. Burger; he toured with the celebrated Schumann-Heink in 1926 and has wonderful memories of these and other great artists. He says he will never forget with what great feeling Madame Schumann-Heink sang the Wiegenlied by Brahms at the time she was 65!

Julius Burger still plays the piano quite well, but modestly says he never was a virtuoso. He admits to having enjoyed his life and maybe even more so now than before. His life-long hobby is music and for that to fill it out he says he would need two lives.