

Subj: Re: Henry Hardy Heins  
Date: Wednesday, November 12, 2003 9:45:28 AM  
From: gtmcwh01@louisville.edu  
To: Stewvicki@aol.com

Dear Vicki: Thanks for your kind note. The only other singer I knew well during my Paris days was Grace Bumbry. She was on a Whitney scholarship and I was on a Harriet Hale Woolley Scholarship...with a Fulbright travel grant. This was in 1959-1960. We lived in the United States House on Boulevard Jourdain, and I didn't get to meet many other singers, not even at Bernac's studio where I got a part time job transposing vocal music for him. It was there that I met Poulenc, and asked him why he pronounced the second syllable of his name "lank" instead of "lahnk" ..and he said his father and grandfather pronounced it that way, so he saw no need to change. By the time he died, I was back in the USA, and Bernac sent me a cable with only three words: "He is gone." I was quite touched by it. I sang Schubert's "Winterreise" cycle at Boulanger's house, and a concert of French songs at the Ecole de Musique...but my scholarship prohibited me from accepting singing engagements for money...so I stuck pretty close to the rules. It was a fine experience for me...and to this day, I love to sing the French songs in concert...especially Duparc and Faure, with some Poulenc tossed in for variety. As for your father's books, let me know if and when I can be of service. He embodied the best qualities of a gentleman scholar, and I am happy knowing that he was the first to do a bibliography of Burroughs. I began collecting Burroughs in 1936, and rejoiced when your father's bibliography came out thirty years later. It answered all the questions I had been wondering about, but didn't know who to ask. His work has made a definite niche for him in the crazy world of Burroughs fandom. Cheers! George McWhorter

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