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BOOMERANG-CANOE



BRITANNICA JUNIOR ENCYCLOPÆDIA

For Boys and Girls

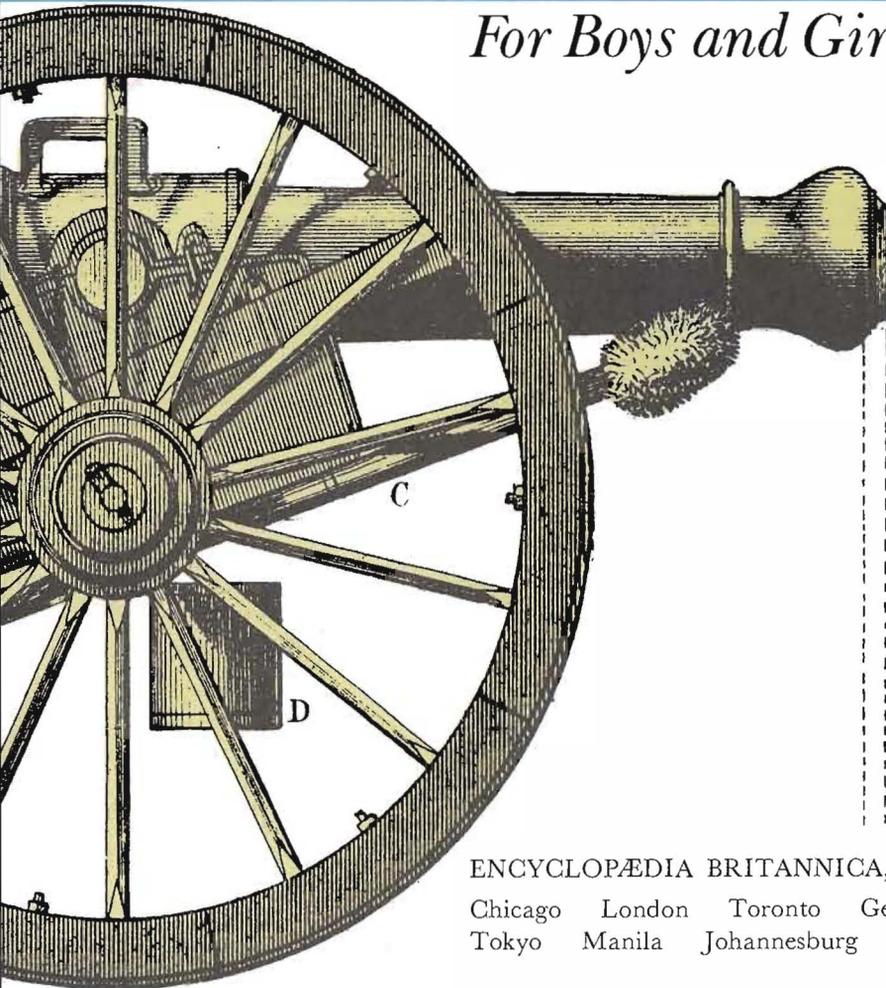
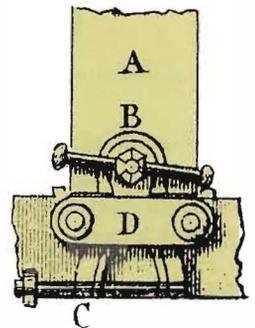


Fig. 28



ENCYCLOPÆDIA BRITANNICA, INC.

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BRUCKNER (*bruk'nēr*), **ANTON** (*ân'tōn*) (1824-1896). In the peaceful little village of Ansfelden, in Austria, Anton Bruckner was born in 1824. His father was a schoolteacher and church organist, and therefore, his teacher in music as well as in school subjects. In 1836 when Anton was 12, he wrote his first organ preludes (opening movements of musical compositions).

It was customary in those days for a son to take up the profession of his father. Thus Anton studied in the Teachers' Preparatory School in the nearby town of Linz. In 1845 he passed his final examination and was appointed a teacher in St. Florian. Three years later one of his greatest wishes came true when he was made organist there. This was a preparation for his appointment as organist in the cathedral at Linz in 1856.

Through a teacher who was also a musician, Anton was introduced to the music of Beethoven and Wagner. Wagner's music, especially, inspired him to compose music of his own. One of his first efforts was the *Mass in D Minor* which he completed in three months. In 1866 his *Symphony No. One in C Minor* was ready. He was made a member of the faculty of the Conservatory of Music in Vienna in 1868. But his newly composed *Mass No. Three in F Minor* failed to get a hearing because it was thought to be too difficult to sing. Discouraged, he stopped composing and set out on a concert tour. The audiences were greatly impressed by the grandeur of his compositions and by his skill as an organist.

Bruckner's *Symphony No. Three in D Minor* was dedicated to Richard Wagner, and thus bears the name "Wagner" Symphony. His *Symphony No. Five in B Flat*, called the "Tragic" Symphony, was composed at a time of personal

suffering, and was not heard until 18 years after it had been written.

Encouragement came when the University of Vienna appointed Bruckner lecturer in music, and he was enthusiastically received by the students. His *Symphony No. Seven in E*, a tribute to Wagner, was a great success.

In December 1892 the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra played Bruckner's *Symphony No. Eight in C Minor*. It was a great moment in his career, and the enthusiasm was unlimited. A few years later, in 1896, Anton Bruckner, composer of nine great symphonies, died.