



## The Bruckner Society of America, Inc. WESTERN REGION

F R A N K P L A S H

A U T H O R I T Y O N A N T O N B R U C K N E R

The city of Linz in Austria is known as the 'Bruckner city' because the composer Anton Bruckner (1824-1896) spent forty years of his life in the vicinity of Linz and Bruckner's creative period as a symphonist began here. The symphonies composed by Anton Bruckner are performed by all major orchestras in the world and have become a criterion for judgment upon the quality of both orchestras and conductors.

The dedication of Mr. Frank Plash to the music of Anton Bruckner and his passion for this composer stems from the fact that the 'Bruckner city' Linz was also the birthplace of Mr. Frank Plash. He was educated in a 'Bruckner environment' and many places where Bruckner worked and lived were well known to him.

After emigrating to the United States in 1938, Mr. Plash continued his interest in the composer Anton Bruckner with research from material accumulated over many years. He owns the largest library of writings and books on Bruckner in the United States, most of it in German and much of it out of print. He also has in his possession an original sketch from Bruckner's Fourth Symphony, a calling card with the composer's own handwriting, and many letters with references to Bruckner from renowned musicians like Bruno Walter, Arnold Schoenberg, Wilhelm Furtwangler etc.

Other Bruckner scholars like Dr. Leopold Nowak, the editor of the complete works of Bruckner, and Jack Diether of New York, a recognized authority on Bruckner and Mahler, interact regularly with Mr. Plash.



Numerous essays in both German and English have been written by Mr. Plash for publication in the U.S., Europe and South America, including one for the book issued at the dedication of the Brucknerhaus, the prestigious concert-hall in Linz. He is also the American correspondent for the International Bruckner Society in Vienna. A yearly listing of Bruckner performances in the United States and Canada is compiled by him for publication in Europe and for distribution on this continent.

To contribute to a better understanding and a greater appreciation for the composer Anton Bruckner, Mr. Plash has lectured many times on Bruckner's life and music. He has found a most effective way in combining a performance of a Bruckner symphony by an orchestra with a preceding introduction to the 'LIFE AND MUSIC OF ANTON BRUCKNER' which is illustrated with excerpts from Bruckner's symphonic and choral music. Jack Diether has called it an 'intriguing biographical talk and an ideal mood-inducer.' It is not a technical analysis, but appeals to the music lover and layperson who values a better knowledge about the composer.

Mr. Plash accompanied the Los Angeles Philharmonic on concert-tours to Japan in 1972 and to Europe in 1974 when he presented the Bruckner Society of America's Medal of Honor to conductor Zubin Mehta who led the orchestra in a Bruckner concert in Linz, Austria.

Through his affiliation with organizations concerned with Anton Bruckner, Mr. Frank Plash is actively involved in matters relating to the composer. He is an Executive Member of the Bruckner Society of America, a Member of the International Bruckner-Gesellschaft in Vienna, a Member of the Bruckner-Bund in Linz, and a contributing author to the Bruckner-Institut in Austria.



A growing acceptance by the world community of music lovers for the music of Anton Bruckner and the inclusion of his compositions as standard repertory of all major orchestras has created an intense interest in the history of Anton Bruckner. Mr. Frank Plash, uniquely endowed with his knowledge and background, is making his contribution toward a better understanding for a composer whose time has come.