



## 8 young women of the August Göllerich Estate

Throughout his life, Anton Bruckner will court and try to win the hearts of lovely young women of modest origins, whether Austrian or German.

(The following portraits are archived since 1975 at the Music Collection of the Austrian National Library in Vienna - Fonds 28, Göllerich, 379 MUS MAG.)



Mathilde Mayr (born Feßl)



Maria Payrleithner



Karoline Weimböck



Henriette Sammet



Hedwig Habermann



Cäcilie Kloppenburg



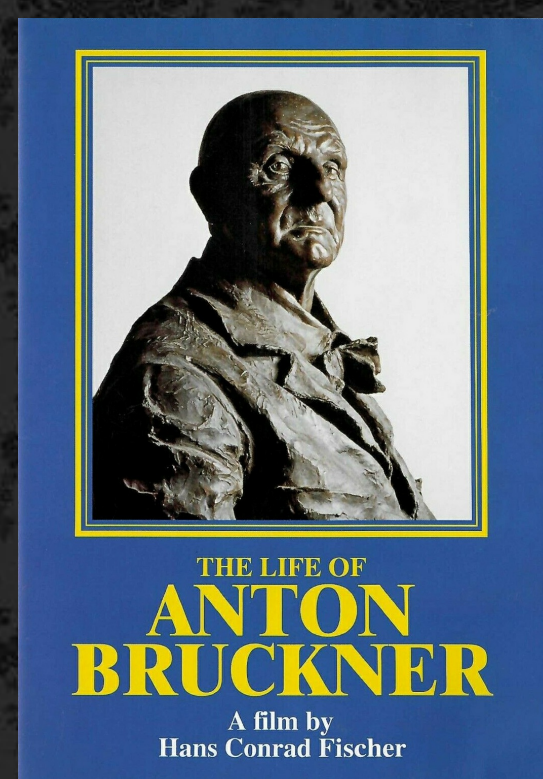
Aurelia Stolar



Wilhelmine (Minna) Reischl



August Göllerich died in Linz on Friday, March 16, 1923.



Extensive material in possession of August Göllerich's grand-son, the pianist and pedagogue Hugo Rabitsch Jr., was entrusted to the library of the Bruckner Conservatory in Linz\*. A number of photographs of different personalities comes from the Bruckner Estate. The Master received portraits of women with a written dedication, except for one. There are 4 unknown portraits of women, including the unique « unknown » and « unsigned » photograph. August Göllerich had a very close relationship with Bruckner. Therefore, it is not surprising that he came in possession of these artefacts. 9 portraits are classified under the title : « V/I photographs ». They are shown in the film entitled **The Life of Anton Bruckner** (1974) directed by Hans Conrad Fischer. Based on what we know, Göllerich never talked openly about them.

In the literature (for example, the Göllerich and Max Auer biography) , we do not meet more than half of these women's names ; in 2 cases, we are limited to a few vague dependent observations. Due to the nature of the composer's personality, the chapter called « Bruckner and the women » cannot be enriched. Franz Gräßlinger related to Bruckner, only in his later years. But his writings contributed to clarify erroneous affirmations on the Master's circle. Gräßlinger subtle formulations are based on deeply human trusted source coming from credible witnesses so that his statements have great historical weight. He heard stories about « friends, women and girls who Bruckner knew to whom he wrote letters » .

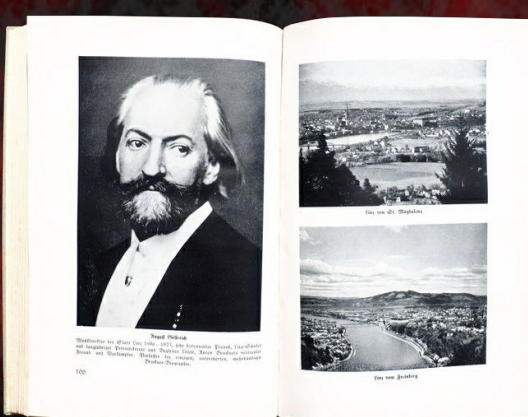
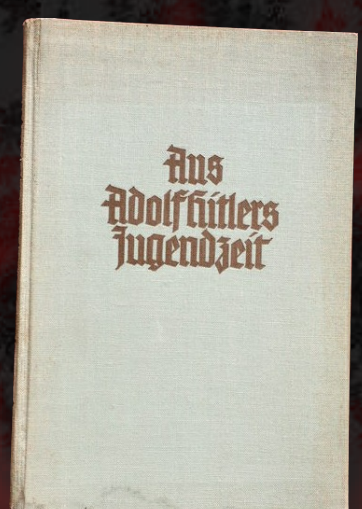
**About the assertion that Bruckner went through love affairs, Gräßlinger comments :**

« Bruckner never really met the great love in his sentimental affairs. Nor did he live intimate relationships. »

There is a fundamental difference between love adventures (falling for the beauty of a young female) and the « absolute devotion to a wife » . Bruckner's loud letters to different women prove this assertion. Bruckner is still naïve and rather expresses himself with silly enthusiasm. But his sincerity and his moral attitude cannot be questioned.

« A person ready for total renunciation is a superior mind. For him, earth is actually just a beautiful place, withholding from God's ancestors the still more beautiful sky. »

**Carl Johann Perl. « Christliche Musik und Anton Bruckner » (« Christian Music and Anton Bruckner ») , Heitz & Co. , Leipzig, Straßburg, Zürich (1937) .**



\* Hugo Rabitsch senior (1896-1943) : son-in-law of the Austrian pianist, conductor and biographer August Göllerich (1859-1923) . He was married to Göllerich's daughter, Erika (1901-1972) . They had several children, one of them was Hugo Rabitsch junior, who became a famous pianist and Conservatory teacher. It appears that Rabitsch senior served in the First World War as an officer in the Austrian-Hungarian Army. He was an ardent National-Socialist, who lived in 1937 in the Ruhr area of Germany. In February 1938, he was named as « Captain, retired » , in a correspondence with the German Consul in Linz, Paul Trompke. That same month, he published a book entitled « Aus Adolf Hitlers Jugendzeit. Jugend-Erinnerungen eines zeitgenössischen Linzer Realschülers. » (« From Adolf Hitler's youth. Youthful memories of a contemporary Linz high-school pupil. ») , edited by « Deutscher Volks-Verlag G.m.b.H. München » (152 pages, typeface : « Fraktur ») . It was banned right after the « Anschluß » , since Hitler wanted only « his version » of the period publicized.

\* Hugo Rabitsch junior : born on 21 January 1933 in Vienna ; died on 27 August 2010. Grand-son of August Göllerich ; son of Erika (Maria Gisela) Göllerich, who was also a pianist. He studied piano and music theory at what was then the Linz Bruckner Conservatory, and completed his training at the « Mozarteum » in Salzburg at the age of 19. He handed over his grand-father's estate to the Bruckner Conservatory as a depository. He later withdrew it, and sold it to the Music Collection of the Austrian National Library in 1975. Rabitsch junior was a professor at the Bruckner University in Linz, where he supervised a piano class for almost 50 years, from 1955 to 2003.