

HAROLD HOLT

Harold Holt, who died in September, was a great impresario. Whether or not he was the last of the great impresarios it is too early to say, for though with changing times the avocation has lost some of its glamour, there is still much that a man who is at once spirited and sensitive, shrewd yet endowed with a sympathy for Music that is more than just commercial, can do in guiding a potentially great artist towards the peaks and in protecting him when he reaches them.

Such a man was Harold Holt. His partnership with Lionel Powell was an adventure—a wild adventure, if some of his own stories about its ups and downs are to be believed. But he had an affectionate understanding of the artists he served that made him very much more than their man of business. As a man of business he was, in his time, eminently successful. Yet earning money for himself never became a main objective. Indeed, it was scarcely an objective at all; he just liked being an impresario, and the fund of reminiscences on which, in his later years, he was always ready to draw, to the intense pleasure of his friends, proved that he had liked it very well.

He was born in 1885, at Kimberley, South Africa, and was educated in Johannesburg. Debarred by ill health from military service in the first world war, he practiced law both in South Africa and in England for some time, and it was as a legal adviser that he first came into touch with Lionel Powell, carrying on the business himself when Powell died. Among the world famous artists whose affairs he handled were Pachmann, Kubelik, Melba, Chaliapin, Clara Butt, John McCormack, Tettrazzini, Galli Curci, Kreisler, Rubinstein, Heifetz, Menuhin, Horowitz, Arrau—a list that is by no means exhaustive. He was the founder of the International Celebrity Concerts at which most of them appeared in this country, and through which a great service has been rendered to the cause of music.

His generous personality will be sadly missed and *TEMPO* desires to put on record the true sympathy which all who knew him would wish to extend at this time to his widow, to his two sisters now resident in South Africa, and to the loyal and devoted staff who did so much to ease the burden of his work when ill-health began to take its toll of energy.