only for musicians in need but for mass victims of war and disaster.

Fritz Kreisler is a classical scholar, a humorist of parts, a dedicated book collector, and a talented pianist. Judging from his prose poem on trees, reprinted in this biography, he would have made an inspiring writer. Mr. Lochner has rounded out his volume with photographs, a discography, and a bibliography.

-ANN F. WOLFE.

LIFELONG BOYHOOD. By Loye Miller. University of California Press. These "recollections of a naturalist afield" were first set down by Professor Miller in response to the demands of his sons, his students, and his colleagues at the University of California. Now in his seventies, he has been associated with teaching and research in biology at the university since he graduated from it about the turn of the century; but much of his career as a naturalist, dating back to his high-school days, has been spent in the field, on expeditions in Arizona, Mexico, Oregon, and off the coast from California to Panama. He writes with boyish enthusiasm but rather impersonally, perhaps because he is speaking to those who already know him in a certain way. The professor doesn't confide his intimate life to his students.

It is characteristic of his recollections that he gets married in less than one line of a paragraph dealing with his curriculum at Berkeley.

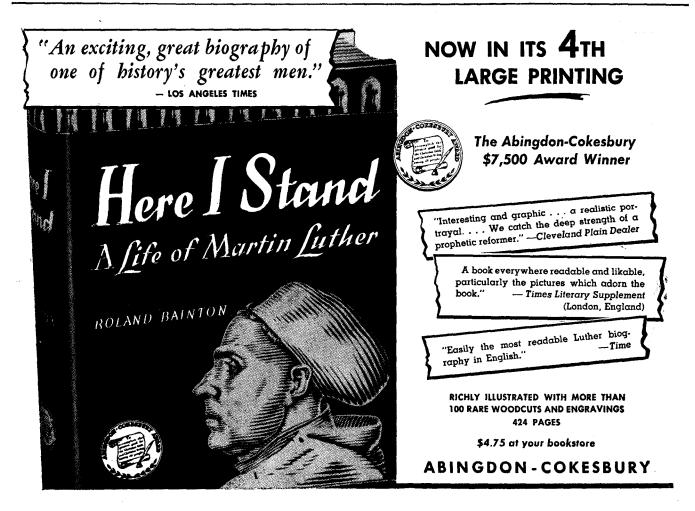
The recollections take up about three-quarters of the volume. They are followed by "selected writings," consisting of readable scientific papers on various aspects of ornithology and a lecture on "California's Ancient Bird Life." The whole is imbued with vigorous optimism and satisfaction in living.

-Louis J. Halle, Jr.

MEMOIRS OF KING ABDULLAH OF TRANSJORDAN. Translated by G. Khuri. Philosophical Library. \$3.75. Abdullah is the second son of the sherif of Mecca, Emir Husain, who headed the Arab revolt dramatized for English readers by the pen and personality of Lawrence of Arabia. In 1915 the British Government undertook "to recognize and uphold the independence of the Arabs in all regions lying within the frontiers proposed by the sherif of Mecca" (with some exceptions), but the postwar settlement disappointed Husain. One son, Faisal, became King of Iraq, and Abdullah became Emir and (after 1946) King of Transjordan. The latter in this record of his life emphasizes his devotion to the cause of Arab unity and his conviction that it must be achieved under the Hashimite dynasty (descended from Muhammad the Prophet), of which he is a leading representative.

These memoirs were written for his own people, translated by G. Khuri, and edited with notes by Philip Graves. They are interesting and valuable but must be used with caution. Lawrence did not rate Abdullah highly-"In manner he was open, or affected openness," but he seemed "a tool too complex for a simple purpose." This openness of manner appears to good purpose here; the memoirs are sincere in tone, straightforward, moderate, and statesmanlike. But they lack fire and vision. This deficiency makes it easier to understand why after World War I Ibn Sa'ud of the puritanical South Wahabi dynasty defeated the Hashimites and annexed Hejaz and Nejd. Lawrence's judgment that Abdullah was "too balanced, too cool, too humorous to be a prophet" has been validated by events. But Abdullah has succeeded by prudence, industry, and British support in transforming his limited kingdom of Transjordan with its 400,000 people into a reputable state with a reputable Army, the famous Arab Legion trained by Glubb Pasha.

-Geoffrey Bruun.



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### The New Recordings

COMPOSITION, PERFORMER,

ALBUM NUMBER,

NUMBER OF RECORDS

Recording Technique, Surface

ENGINEERING

PERFORMANCE AND CONTENT

#### SCHUBERTIAD

#### Symphony

SCHUBERT: SYM-PHONY #2. Boston Symphony, Munch. RCA Victor LP: LM 41 (10")

SCHUBERT: SYM-PHONY \$3. Stuttgart Philharmonic, Van Hoogstraten.

SCHUBERT: QUARTET-SATZ IN C MINOR. Barchet String Quartet. Period LP: SPLP 517

SCHUBERT: SYM-PHONY #6. Bavarian Radio Orch., Dressel. Mercury LP: MG 15003 (10") Symphonies #1 to #6, now on way to popularity, are usually lumped as immature, "Haydn influenced." Actually, steady growth is clear through them—greatest "influence" to our ears: early Beethoven, and Schubert. Beethoven's brash contrasts, lumpish orchestrations are everywhere, but Schubertian flashes of melody ornament the semi-stock structural formats.

▶ Symphony #2 is brash, youthfully boastful; atypical Schubert, perhaps the outward influence of early-Beethoven style, unassimilated. It's full of redeeming Schubert melodies, the last movement a really original piece. The #3, similar, is more naturally lyric, a bucolic "little Pastorale," clearly advanced in structure and idiom over #2. Munch's #2 is string-heavy, but playing is light, accurate, good. Van H.'s #3 is a fine job, the lovely wind writing beautifully projected. Though RCA's recording of #2 is excellent, Period's #3 on direct comparison is fuller, deeper, more transparent, a fine job.

This \$\pm\$6 is most significant transitional work. Outwardly like other five, it is far advanced in structure and melodic depth. Early-Beethoven influence is suddenly mature, now an inner feeling; nowhere is Schubert closer to Beethoven than here. The scherzo, strikingly Beethoven, is a true Schubert masterpiece, easily equaling B. himself in this style, not matched anywhere else. A rough but convincing performance under Dressel. Recording basically excellent, but highs are unfortunately distorted with some hum trouble. Mercury should re-cut this for a better LP—it's worth it.

#### Piano and Strings

SCHUBERT: FANTASIA FOR VIOLIN AND PI-ANO, OP. 159. Joseph Szigeti, Joseph Levine. Columbia LP: ml 4338 (½)

SCHUBERT: SONATAS, OP. 137, #1, #2, #3, FOR VIOLIN AND PIANO. Mischa Mischakoff, Erno Balogh. Lyrichord LP: LL 7

SCHUBERT: PIANO TRIO #1 IN B FLAT, OP. 99. The Carnegie Trio. Program LP (Period): EXLP 703 As usual, Szigeti is up close, making for harsh tone, breath sounds; piano is full but in background, "off-mike." Hinders both artists' effectiveness.

Violin is excellent here, but piano is again in back-ground with small, wooden tone, lacking bass. "Apartment" recording—deadish. Better piano would have made this first rate.

This is remarkably realistic, with tremendous presence, even though balance isn't ideal; piano is by far best of this group; strings very close. High level, very low distortion. A real "hi-fi" record.

Somewhat long-winded, like other Schubert fantasias—but mature, advanced writing; four movts., including variations on his "Sei mir gegrüsst." Good, not inspired performance.

A useful and enjoyable collating of the three works. Mischakoff's violin is full-toned, taut, not always crystalline enough for this music. Balogh is handicapped by recording.

Musical, gracious playing—but this is gargantuan in sound, a kind of Brahms version of Schubert. Lacks accustomed lightness, yet isn't heavy either. Interesting, and a gorgeous sound, if unmatured.

#### The Big Quartets

SCHUBERT: QUARTET #14 IN D MINOR ("DEATH AND THE MAIDEN").

SCHUBERT: QUARTET #15 IN G. Vienna Konzerthaus Quartet. Westminster LP's: WL 50-52; 50-41.

SCHUBERT: QUARTET #13 IN A MINOR. Fine Arts Quartet (Am. Broadcasting Co.).
Mercury LP: MG 10065 (1/2) (With Mendelssohn, Quartet #1)

Two tremendous quartet recordings, done fairly close-to in a large, reverberant space; huge, symphonic sound, quite appropriate for this big music. #14 is bit thinner, sharper, #15 is positively orchestral. Both wide range, with low distortion.

▶ This one is a top quartet recording, too—sharp, close, more intimate than above, but still with excellent presence, roundness, edge. Surfaces so-so. These Viennese performances are most musical, ingratiating, but a bit soft, untense, blurred for ears accustomed to precision and tautness of a Budapest; tempi on slow side. Still, music (with superbrecording) was never more pleasing.

Here is the more familiar tense, accurate playing, from an American-based-group—compare with Viennese Schubert above. Most melodious of the late quartets.

-EDWARD TATNALL CANBY.