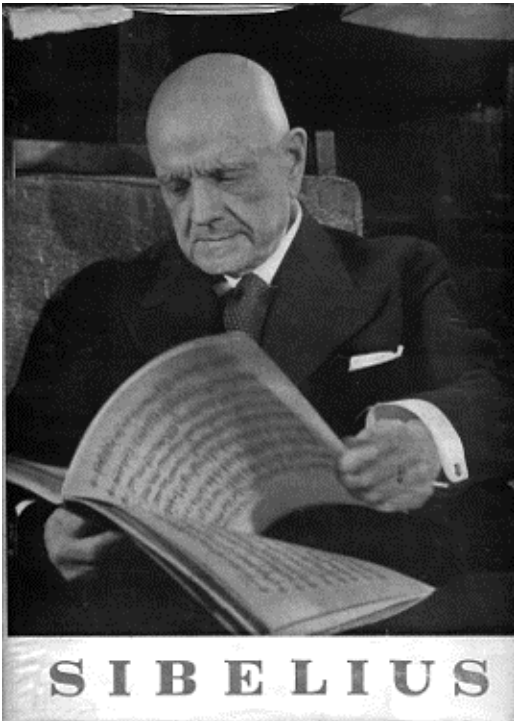


Harold E. Johnson Jean Sibelius Collection

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Harold E. Johnson (1915–85) was a graduate of Cornell University with a doctorate from the University of Paris. He was a music librarian at the New York Public Library and the Library of Congress and taught at Oberlin College before joining Butler University's faculty in 1952 as professor of musicology. Fluent in Norwegian and Finnish, he was a Fellow of the American-Scandinavian Foundation and a 1957–58 Fulbright Research Scholar to Finland.

While in Finland, Johnson located some twenty Sibelius manuscripts of works that had been performed but not published and were presumed lost even during the composer's lifetime. He discovered two compositions that previous researchers had bypassed, believing they were identical works. His research and his findings were widely reported in Finnish, Swedish, and English language papers and journals, and Johnson was given access to collections and archives that had not previously been examined by scholars from outside Finland. He gave his word as a scholar and a gentleman not to publish works that were made available to him. He would seek performance but not publication; the library has honored his word.

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In 1959, Johnson published the first critical Sibelius biography (reprinted and translated several times since). He gave his collection of scores, books, recordings, and accompanying materials to Special Collections and Rare Books in 1982 and 1983.

The collection includes many less well known compositions, some of them never performed in this country and not available in print. Books and pamphlets, many of them rare and inscribed by their authors, provide unusual secondary sources. The recordings are largely of early performances, many of them recorded during the composer's lifetime. Among the other items in the collection are photographs, prints, microfilms, and articles. A printed catalog is available on-site.