

Joachim and His Vanity

Saturday Night
Detroit, Michigan
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Maud Powell adds a good one to the list of Joachim anecdotes:

That Joachim had an overweening love of adulation is perhaps but natural; at any rate, his position was unquestioned, and he had for so many decades been the recipient of so much hero worship of extravagant nature that it is not to be wondered at that he would upon occasions resent and reprove some of the impertinent and uncultured Americans who forced their unpleasant personalities upon him. One young, aspiring boy with plenty of money and more assurance, upon being asked if he had ever studied with Joachim, replied coolly that he had had one lesson only. He called at Joachim's apartment to ask if he might hope to be enrolled as pupil. Joachim replied that the young man would have to first learn many things before he would even hear him play and first of all he must learn to have respect for a man in his position, learn to address his superiors with a due sense of humility, and, for instance, not to walk into a room ahead of an older person whom even then he addressed as his possible future master. The young man assuredly had a lesson from Joachim, but it was not a violin lesson.

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