

# Dickinson College Archives & Special Collections

<http://archives.dickinson.edu/>

## Documents Online

**Title:** Piano Technique by Allen Tanner

**Date:** Undated

**Location:** MC 2013.3, B4, F34

### Contact:

Archives & Special Collections  
Waidner-Spahr Library  
Dickinson College  
P.O. Box 1773  
Carlisle, PA 17013

717-245-1399

[archives@dickinson.edu](mailto:archives@dickinson.edu)

I wish to follow up some extremely revelatory conversations I had with Leopold Godowsky in Paris, as well as ideas obtained through examination of and work in the Cortot piano method, as to the application of certain theories concerning the use of the arm, hand and fingers with ~~all~~ <sup>economy in</sup> their several systems of articulation, ~~applied to~~ <sup>applied to</sup> a sense of "engineering" of weights, balance, <sup>with</sup> close-finger <sup>manipulation</sup> action in certain forms of movement, and of ~~maneuver~~ <sup>then insert the them on</sup> of keys, as opposed to a surplus use of finger action and force. All this <sup>between</sup> in relation to the interaction of mechanics and matters of expression and style. <sup>Moreover</sup> For this, I <sup>plan</sup> wish to have some <sup>lessons</sup> (paid) periods of consultation and discussion with some piano virtuosos in order to clarify and construct <sup>finally</sup> my theories and deductions, with the <sup>view</sup> in <sup>arm</sup> end, of writing a treatise upon the subject. A sprained right thumb and index, in Paris.

curtailed for the time being my work <sup>there,</sup> ~~in~~  
~~for some years now~~

~~partly~~ but I have been able to overcome  
<sup>^ Recently</sup> this to the point where I have ~~just~~ made  
some recordings of my playing, which I  
would be glad to submit to you ~~for your~~

~~examination. These recordings are to be~~  
~~out after Tuesday, Oct. 24th, the Factory~~  
has <sup>just</sup> ~~now~~ assured me. My ideas

<sup>^</sup> about music and my  
interest in the instrument  
of the piano have grown  
very intense during the  
past few years and I  
cherish the ambition  
of concluding my life  
work with a significant  
contribution to the  
art of playing the piano.