## NEWSON'S GERMAN OPERA TEXTS. RHEINGOLD

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Newson's German Opera Texts. Rheingold by Richard Wagner & Richard A. von Minkvitz

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## Newson's German Opera Texts

### EDITED WITH INTRODUCTION AND NOTES BY RICHARD A. VON MINCKWITZ

RHEINGOLD



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## RICHARD WAGNER'S

# Rheingold

### EDITED WITH INTRODUCTION AND NOTES

BY

RICHARD A. VON MINCKWITZ

"Mheingold Mheingold Leuchtende Luft!"

NEWSON & COMPANY
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17306 The Particulars

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### INTRODUCTION.

I. Richard Wagner. — On May 13, 1813, in a modest home at the old university town of Leipzig, Saxony, Richard Wilhelm Wagner was born. In the palace of the French Bourbons, at Venice, Italy, on February 13, 1883, he closed his weary eyes. A life of incessant struggle was then ended; a life, however, crowned by success sublime. On a new field — new at least to some extent — the Teutonic race under his leadership proved its supremacy. Ignored at first, attacked later on, he triumphantly overcame all obstacles, which fate, malice, and stupidity threw in his way. His great capacity for work, his untiring energy, his remarkable individuality, gained for him the admiration of the civilized world, the love of his friends, and the respect of his enemies.

Of the German masters in the field of music, Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven had gradually deepened the impress which by their art their predecessors had left on the mind of the public. Those three masters gave to their nation—perhaps to mankind in general—something better, something loftier than mere material enjoyment or the pleasure of the hour. In their thorough knowledge of the nature of man, they aimed to touch the religious chord of the human heart; yet they barely entered upon the way which Wagner followed to the end. While Mozart, however, chose the fairy legends, the popular myths which originated among the people as a last reminiscence of paganism, of the old religion indigenous