

The Austin Gilbert & Sullivan Society

January 1985 Newsletter

Next Meeting: Will be held Monday, February 4th at 7:30 pm at Enid Hallock's, 4001 Cherrywood; 477-0858. Please bring munchies.

Chief business will be the election of new officers, suggested slate below. We also hope to spend time discussing our future -- goals, plans, ideas.

Slate of Officers

President	Bob Kusnetz
Executive Vice President	Rosemary Russell-Vines
Production Vice President	(unfilled)
Publicity Vice President	(unfilled)
Secretary	Reba Gillman
Treasurer	Carole Smith
Historian	Elizabeth Vickers

Last Meeting: On Monday, January 7th, 1985, at 6 pm, seven loyal members met in the "L Room" at Zachary Scott Theatre. Five were in the cast of **Ruddigore**. Gary Duck was in the building to attend another meeting, and Sharon Kite made the trip from Braker Lane just to join us. (Three Cheers for Sharon!)

Bob Kusnetz presided. He announced that a thirty minute tape of our production of **Gondoliers** would be shown on public television (Channel 10) on January 7th, 8th, 12th and 15th. Entitled "**The Marvelous Merry Music of The Gondoliers**", the tape would include a plug for our production of **Ruddigore**. (Note: Jim Kellogg was able to tape one of these presentations and we hope to show it at a meeting soon.)

Bob also announced that he and Music Director Barbara Irvine would appear on Tuesday, January 8th at 9:30 am on KLBJ-AM on the Olin Murrell show. This was, of course, to provide some much needed publicity for **Ruddigore**.

In other business, Reba apologized for adding an extra E to the name of Frank Delvy in the last Newsletter; and the slate of officers was presented (still lacking nominees for the positions of Production Vice President and Publicity Vice President). It was agreed that both unfilled offices can be very important. It was suggested that at our February and March meetings we discuss plans and goals for the future of the society. Ideas to consider included:

- a membership drive
- ways of raising money
- a thorough investigation of ways of putting on shows in Austin, including theater space available
- informational talks about Gilbert & Sullivan at meetings
- sing-alongs at meetings

We also talked about the poor publicity for **Ruddigore**. As a last minute effort, Dorothy Allen volunteered to make up a flyer. (Note: We printed about 250 of these flyers, which the cast took to circulate among their friends. In addition, Len Gillman heavily papered the Math and Physics Departments at U-T, and mailed flyers to about ten friends. I mailed out about 40 flyers to our mailing list of former members and past associates of the Society.)

Ruddigore: The run of **Ruddigore** concluded on Sunday, January 27th, with a flourish and an After-Strike cast party at the Gillmans'. Bob Kusnetz presented his second annual Awards to cast and crew members amid groans and laughter.

We were a tired but happy bunch, and agreed that it was hardly less than a miracle that we put this show on. We got off to a bad start with disappearing directors and cast. Then came the Christmas break and the illnesses, with laryngitis rampant. We opened on a sleety night and had to cancel the next two shows on account of the weather. Martha Pearson's voice failed her, and Enid Hallock came in to fill the role of Dame Hannah for 4 performances. Enid had played the part eight years ago in our first production of **Ruddigore**. Then Joe Dowell, our staunch Richard Dauntless, contracted a severe sinus infection. He was able to play his part every night, but for several performances we cut some of the music to conserve his voice and energy. The question every evening was: "Who plays Dame Hannah tonight?" and "Do we do the hornpipe?"

Question: Was the witch's curse on us?

Reba

Reba Gillman
Secretary



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Reba Gillman, Secretary
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