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The Austin Gilbert & Sullivan Society

June 1986 Newsletter

Next Meeting: Will be held Monday, September 8th. Save the date. Details in the September Newsletter.

That's right - NO MEETING in June. And no more Newsletters until September. So have a good summer!

Last Meeting: Four of the faithful gathered at Bob Kusnetz's on May 12th, to view his tape of **The Mikado** produced in Stratford, Canada. We enjoyed it thoroughly and wished y'all could have been with us!

In a short business meeting, Bob mentioned that he had been invited to attend a Board Meeting of the Sam Bass Theatre group. They have expressed interest in working with us. I reported on my recent conversation with Susan Loughran, Director of the Theater program at Saint Edward's University. She is still interested in future cooperative possibilities, but next year's program is already set. One problem is that the chief focus of the St. Ed's drama program is naturally the education of their students; at this time, it does not appear that experience in performing Gilbert and Sullivan operas is a pressing need. Susan is working on adding theater space to their setup, and hopes then to be able to be more flexible in planning co-productions.

Bob also reported that he and I had worked on the possibility of getting in an application by May 1st, for a grant from the Austin Arts Commission. We gave it up because we were afraid that the necessary work-power could not be counted on at this time, either from our members or from talented outsiders. In fact, our big problem remains that we have not lined up such people. We still need a Production Vice President, for instance.

News of Members: Unfortunately Naomi Hirsch's recital fell between Newsletters, so I couldn't get the news out to our members. On Sunday, June 1st, I enjoyed her delightful and varied program, presented at the Amster's home. This is Good Bye to Naomi. We'll miss her!

Bob Kusnetz has a new work phone number: 823-7516. Make a note of it.

Other News: I attended a meeting and picnic held by ACOT (Austin Circle of Theatres) on Sunday, May 18th. ACOT is working on many schemes, especially on keeping the lines of communication open with the American-Statesman, and planning ways to publicize theater activity in Austin better. The main focus of the meeting was to hear the concerns and needs from the members. Penny Taylor, Executive Secretary of ACOT, asked me to write a piece about the Austin Gilbert and Sullivan Society - what it does and what it needs - for publication in the September issue of the ACOT Newsletter. Here is a chance to get the word out to the theater community! I also talked with ACOT President, Boyd Vance, about the kinds of help we need. He was interested and sympathetic, and promised to keep us in mind. For instance, Diana Claitor, who writes occasional reviews for the Statesman, may be interested in writing an article about us. It seems to me that ACOT can help us get the exposure we need to attract new talent. Surely, in a growing city like Austin there must be people out there who would love to be involved actively in a Gilbert and Sullivan project.

President Bob is thinking along these lines, too. He urges y'all to talk up the Society wherever you go. You never know when a new face will turn out to conceal a dyed-in-the-wool G&S fan. Recently Bob used a G&S quote in a conversation on the IBM Worldwide Computer Network. He was talking to an IBM engineer in Rochester, Minnesota, who promptly came back with an appropriate

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reply and the information that he was an active member of the Rochester Savoyards. They're out there everywhere. Let's find them!

G&S Notes From All Over: Will you be near Ann Arbor, Michigan in July? If so plan to see **Trial By Jury**, and **Cox and Box**, July 3rd through 6th. This is a production of the University of Michigan Gilbert and Sullivan Society (UMGASS), an interesting and very active group. I belong to their support group, Friends of the University of Michigan Gilbert and Sullivan Society (FUMGASS), and receive their substantial Newsletter. For ticket information call me (327-2277).

Another active group that puts out a Newsletter, is the Gilbert and Sullivan Society of New York. Their May Newsletter carries the exciting news flash: "Hugh Inheritance May Revive Gilbert and Sullivan Company". This is taken from an April AP newswire story. Dame Bridget D'Oyly Carte, who died a year ago, left an estate of \$7.87 million, a good part of which will go to the D'Oyly Carte Opera Trust, which she founded in 1961. The amount of the bequest is not known, but there is a good possibility that it would enable the resuscitation of the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company, which was founded by Dame Bridget's grandfather.

Reba

Reba Gillman,
Secretary

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Over the hedges and brooks she bounds
Straight as a crow, from find to finish.
At cricket, her kin will lose or win—
She and her maids, on grass and clover,
Eleven maids out—eleven maids in—
And perhaps an occasional "maiden over!"

Go search the world and search the sea,
Then come you home and sing with me
There's no such gold and no such pearl
As a bright and beautiful English girl!

With a ten-mile spin she stretches her limbs,
She golfs, she punts, she rows, she swims—
She plays, she sings, she dances, too,
From ten or eleven till all is blue!



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