

extra!

The Austin Gilbert & Sullivan Society
July 1987 Newsletter

Extra!

Next Meeting: Next meeting will be the second Monday of September: September 14th at 7:30 pm, place to be announced. You will receive a reminder and more information in the first week of September. Put it on your calendar! This meeting will be very important for the future of our Society, as you will see below.

Note: This is an extra Newsletter, to report on recent events and give you something to think about all summer - - there is plenty!

Last Meeting: The best, most interesting, most thoughtful meeting we've had in a LONG time. 14 members, including David Rigg, from the cast of The G & S Sampler, who just joined, and invited guest, Mike Workman, met at Enid Hallock's to hear reports from President Bob Kusnetz, and discuss a lot of new ideas.

Report: The Show was a great success, despite a slow start in attendance during the first weekend. We made money, and turned away would-be customers for two sold out nights. Many people contributed goods and services to keep our costs low and our profits high. What's really great is the enthusiasm they all expressed: "Had a wonderful time, looking forward to working on the next show!" said one. Audience response was terrific - - they want us back! Also, they joined up: 5 new Patrons and 15 new Members signed the cards they found in the program, and forked over the money. In addition there were 2 new Patrons and 10 new Members from the cast and crew. I couldn't keep up with the Membership List, so the last Newsletter did not mention 8 people who had just signed up (3 as Patrons). I hope to include a fully up-to-date list in this Newsletter.

Special Thanks to Donna Delvy, Strait Music Co., and Frank Early (printer). We were sad that because of some emergencies and miscalculations Frank was turned away from the sold-out last performance, and never saw the show. Bob asked that the Gilbert & Sullivan Society give Frank a copy of the video tape made of one performance. We unanimously agreed to do this.

New Business: We have three possibilities for shows in the next year and a half.

1) Definite. On Saturday, July 18th at 2 pm in Northcross Mall we will put on a 30-45 minute show, based on the theme: Treasures, People, Ships and Dreams. We have been invited to do this as a benefit for the Austin Children's Museum, which will open on 5th Street in October. The stage has been built by Capitol City Playhouse, and is being used by them on alternate Saturdays. We will perform light-hearted scenes and music from Pinafore and Pirates; we will receive an honorarium; a piano will be provided; and the Museum has signed a contract assuring us that all Muzac will be turned off during the performance.

Since Bob will be out-of-town for most of the next few weeks he asked for someone to take charge of this production. Allen Lawshae volunteered to "help". Bob will work on lining up a musical director; David Rigg, will call cast members to ask if they will perform; our visitor, Mike Workman, will line up costumes and props.

Update: Plans are going full steam ahead on this production. Bill Girard has agreed to be the musical director, and Bob Wall will again be the accompanist. David Rigg has lined up a cast of 12 people. There will be about 30 minutes of music, and we may do a second performance later in the afternoon. If you can, stop by to see it. The stage is set up near Beall's, at the eastern end of the mall.



A British tar is a soaring soul
H.M.S. Pinafore

7/17-1

2) Suggestion: A Gilbert and Sullivan Sampler may be repeated in response to many requests. This might be in late summer; or if we're not doing another show, in September or October.

3) Suggestion: A major production to open in September, 1988. Bob proposes *Yeomen of the Guard*, which opened originally on October 3rd, 1888. He suggests that we start work now on a Gala celebration of Yeomen's 100th anniversary, to be held on Sunday, October 2nd, 1988.

All this does not preclude the possibility of doing a lighter show in Spring 1988 . . . Bob and Bill have been talking about *Pinafore*. Also, Bob and Louise Richardson have been talking about a sort of Reader's Theater presentation of *Bab's Ballads* (Comic verses written by W. S. Gilbert).

Other New Business: Future plans, and direction for the Society. Bob and Bill have been talking about this, and invited Mike Workman to our meeting because of his experience and ideas. Mike holds two music degrees from North Texas State University; he has been involved in many community efforts; and in an Arts Administration program at UT in the mid '70's. He was involved in establishing the Music Umbrella, and the Civic Orchestra in Austin. For several years he worked with the Arlington, Texas, Opera Company, but has recently returned to Austin. He has made an informal proposal to the Society that he be hired to prepare a list of suggestions, proposals and options for our consideration, to be presented to our Executive Board three weeks before the September meeting of the Society in order to allow their input before making the presentation to the general membership.

Subjects which need to be considered include establishment of an outside Board of Directors, a fund-raising director, and an artistic director, aiming for a partially professional staff after 3, 5 or 7 years. We need to decide what to do with our meetings . . one suggestion was that we plan to go through about 4 G&S operas a year, learning the music on our own and presenting the opera to the members. It was further suggested that this be open to the public, and that we charge a small fee to non-members, which might become membership dues.

Bob suggested that we hire Mike to do this job; this was moved and seconded. In the following discussion Bob emphasized that this would not commit the Society to anything, and that Mike knows very well what can and can't be done, and would probably lay out three options with pros and cons for us to consider. During the summer Mike would be conducting a survey of the members to gather all opinions and ideas. It was remarked that typically ticket sales generate 40-60% of expenses, never 100%, so other sources of funds must be developed. Bob mentioned his experience on the former Board of the Hyde Park Showplace: a standard requirement for a Board Member was possession of one or two of the three W's: Work, Wealth and Wisdom. There was discussion of what made the early successes of the Society, and the importance of strong influence from an artistic director, and the dedication of a production manager.

The motion was voted on, and carried. Bob then informed us that Bill has approached him about becoming the Artistic Director for the Society, volunteer now but eventually to be a paid position. Reba remarked that there is no question that there is an audience in Austin for Gilbert and Sullivan; the question is how to put on the productions and tap into that audience. Bob stated that we need to establish a seasonal schedule; also, he wants to suggest that we raise dues to \$10, and add some higher categories beyond the present Patron and Lord High Patron. Reba urged that we retain a \$5 membership as a special category for Students and other people on a tight budget, to maintain our original intention to turn no one away.



I stole the Prince - The Gondoliers

7/17-2

It was announced that the Houston Gilbert and Sullivan Society will be performing **The Gondoliers** in the new Wortham Center in Houston July 17, 18, 19, and 24, 25, 26. Performances on Sunday, July 19th and 26th will be at 2:30 pm. Those tickets will be \$12 and \$18; send order to Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Houston; P.O. Box 55456; Houston, TX 77255. We then adjourned to eat, drink and be merry in Enid's hospitable kitchen. Again, we thank all who contributed goodies.

New Members: Joined since the last Newsletter - Welcome to:

Patrons: Pearl Amster; William & Esther McCormick; and Carey & Louise Thompson

Members: Allan R. Black; Colin J. Carl; Melissa Groves; Lara Ledet; John & Fredell Lore; and David Rigg

Yet another Membership List is enclosed in this Newsletter. **Have a Good Summer!**

Reba

Reba Gillman, Secretary



He is an Englishman!

H.M.S. Pinafore

Note: The sketches appearing in this Newsletter, as well as many preceding issues, are signed "Bab". When W.S. Gilbert wrote his Bab's Ballads, he illustrated them, and that is my source. It's too bad to have to destroy the delightful notion some have entertained, that the illustrator was our own Bob Kusnetz.

Reminder: Don't forget you have the chance to see our own Bob as Bennington Broadbeam "the villainous villain from the city" in **Trapped In The Shaft**. The melodrama is playing Thursday nights in Wimberley through August. Call 453-2207 (in Austin) for reservations. Tickets are \$2.25 for adults and \$1.50 for children.

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Austin Gilbert & Sullivan Society
Membership List, June 1987

Page Allen	1430 Frontier Dr., #150; Austin 78741	385-6266
P Pearl Amster	2304 Hartford Rd., Austin 78703	472-7028
Jennifer Arndt	1607 Barnswallow, Austin 78746	327-0859
Bob & Margy Ayres	2103 Forest Trail, Austin 78703	
Dorothy Barber	5002 Finley Dr., Austin 78731	453-8978
Mary Lu Barras	1713 Palma Plaza, Austin 78703	477-8120
Richard Bell	8539 Capital of Tx Hwy North, #2077; Austin 78759	343-9640; 471-3515
Allan R. Black	812 San Antonio, Suite 525, Austin 78701	478-9786
Sidney Brammer	1810 Willow St, Austin 78702	477-7534
P Sue Ricket Caldwell	6804 Rockledge Cove, Austin 78731	343-7700; 929-2078
Colin J. Carl	5330-B Balcones Dr., Austin 78731	452-1205
Richard & Doreen Cohen	10008 Faylia Dr., Austin 78753	837-9091; 338-3335
John G. Dailey	10600 Pinehurst Dr., Austin 78747	
Frank & Donna Delvy	4608 Duval, Austin 78751	451-3710; 456-9093
Mr. & Mrs. Hugh Eckols	3301 Oakmont Blv'd, Austin 78703	459-7745
Judy Forbes	9700 Glenfield Court, #804, Houston 77096	(713) 729-5737
L Len & Reba Gillman	1606 The High Road, Austin 78746	327-2277; 442-2301
Bill Girard	Rt 1, #113, Manor, TX 78653	272-4456; 454-8711
Doug & Sheila Glenn	9921 Childress Dr., Austin 78753	837-4570; 838-6704
P Loel and Carole Graber	12227 Forsythe Dr., Austin 78759	836-2273; 469-7226
Bob Greenwood	3203 Breeze Terrace, Austin 78722	477-4530; 471-7711
Melissa Groves	14100 Thermal Dr., #1923, Austin 78728	251-8643
Joe Haggard	606-B Texas Ave., Austin 78751	472-2515
P Enid Hallock	4001 Cherrywood, Austin 78722	477-0858; 453-4431
Bill Hatcher	7006 One Oak Road, Austin 78749	892-3722
Al Hopkins	2620 West 49 1/2 St., Austin 78731	459-0346
Ray O. Howard	3403-A Westlake Dr., Austin 78746	327-3630
Jan Jones	1015 Yager Lane, #138; Austin 78753	835-7513; 471-1324
P Mr. & Mrs. Robert S. Jones	1805 Rogge Lane, Austin 78723	928-0893
Arthur Keller	5905 Paseo del Toro, Austin 78731	467-8323
L Jim & Dorothy Kellogg	318 S. Alfred, Alexandria, VA 22314	(703) 739-0831
Sharon Kite	11403 Hilltop, Austin 78753	836-0908
Camille Knight	6214 Walnut Hills Dr., Austin 78723	926-9531
L Bob Kusnetz	11624 Parkfield, Austin 78758	836-1853; 823-2714
Keith Larson	Lot 21, UT MHP Lake Austin Blv, Austin 78703	476-9660; 454-8300
Allen Lawshae	5804 Fairlane, Austin 78731	453-7637; 445-8728
Laura Ledet	5302 Sunshine, Austin 78756	458-4934
P Dale Lipsett (and Linda)	Box 1030, Eldorado, TX 76936	(915) 853-3113
Myrna Longenecker	2305 Preston Trails Cove, Austin 78747	282-1849; 480-1359
John & Fredell Lore	4502 Knapp Hollow, Austin 78731	454-3329
George W. Lowe, M.D.	46 Sundown Parkway, Austin 78746	327-5600
Rosemary Mahoney	2300 West 11th St., Austin, 78703	478-6288
P William & Esther McCormick	P.O. Box 5710, Austin 78763	327-1262
L Ben & Lucy Shoe Meritt	712 West 16th St., Austin 78701	476-3103
Sari Moyer	4201 Lullwood, Austin 78722	459-9076
C.W. Nelson	7509 Daugherty, Austin 78757	459-7724
Elizabeth Opal	4900 Timberline, Austin 78746	328-2476
Edward L. Pinney, Jr.	P.O. Box 49680, Austin 78765	346-4732; 452-0381 Ext 4204
Alan Potter	134 Hamilton Rd., Glasgow, G 32 9QR, Scotland, UK	

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P Marvin Rasmussen	10610 Cooper Hill Dr., Austin 78758	837-2022
Louise Richardson	1507 Drake Ave., Austin 78704	441-8760; 463-8238
David Rigg	6201 Nasco, Austin 78757	453-4378; 250-1266
P Jim Robinson	8314 Summerwood Dr., Austin 78759	345-6772; 836-1010
Carolyn Roseboom	1702 Bissel, Austin 78745	442-7968
Rosemary Russell-Vines	105 East 46th St., Austin, 78751	454-4358
P Judy Scott	7600 Bluffcreek Dr. Austin 78750	345-7224; 331-6600; 480-6977
P Diana Sethre	7010 Northledge, Austin 78731	345-3207
Larry Shepley	207 Yaupon Valley Rd., Austin 78746	327-1511; 471-5774
P Katharine Shields	1933 Smith Grade, Santa Cruz, CA 95060	(408) 423-4578
(Carole Smith = Carole Graber)	(See Graber)	472-7227(w)
Linnea Smith	2607 Fiset, Austin 78731	452-8072
Robbis Storm	P.O. Box 5215, Jamestown, TX 78646	1-267-3662
David Strong	5106 Valley Oak Dr., Austin 78731	
Steve Swanson	1725 Harlequin Run, Austin 78758	339-6457
P Judy Thweatt	3033 Sesbania Dr., Austin 78748	282-2937; 327-7884
P Carey & Louise Thompson	2304 Tower Dr., Austin 78703	477-8844
Elizabeth Vickers	4604 Gray Fox Dr., Austin 78759	345-1269
Bob Wall	5015 Highland Ct., Austin 78731	467-1498; 471-1701
Claire E. Weinstein	6108-A Shadow Valley Dr. Austin 78731	345-5540; 471-1375
Gail White	1029 East 44th St., Austin 78751	453-0006
P Dr. & Mrs. R. E. Wyllys	2603 Rogge Lane, Austin 78723-3509	926-6353

Lord High Physician to the Society - Dr. Blair Protzman

Member	\$ 5 (May include donation in addition)
P = Patron	\$25
L = Lord High Patron	\$50

6/17/87

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