

2

Next Meeting: On April 25th, 1988, the last Monday of the month, at 7:30 pm at Enid Hallock's: 4001 Cherrywood; 477-0858. Please come, help us think and enjoy being together, and don't forget the munchies. Agenda:

- 1) Plans for our next production ... **Yeomen of the Guard** ... in October.
- 2) More Afterthoughts concerning our production of **Trial By Jury**, and **Scenes from G & S**.
- 3) Sale of champagne left-over from the Gala. About 5 bottles are available cheap.

Make a note now that the May meeting will also come at the END of the month: Monday, May 23rd, to be exact. It's getting to be a habit. We're thinking something partyish for June (to view the video tape of the show, we hope). Then it'll be Summer Time, and no meetings until the traditional Second Monday of the Month in September.

Flash !!! A Baby Girl was born to Bill and Shirley Girard on April 7th. Welcome to Mardi Rebecca, weighing in at 7 pounds 14 ounces. Congratulations to the proud parents.

Last Meeting: Thirteen members and two guests met at Enid's house on Monday, March 28th. Guests *ita* ~~Annette~~ Hopkins and Carol Hopkins, no relation, both from the cast of **Trial and Scenes**, came to pick up video tapes of the show from Bob Kusnetz. The members were Michael Drousche, Reba Gillman, Bill Girard, Doug Glenn, Carole Graber, Bob Greenwood, Enid Hallock, Bill Hatcher, Jan Jones, Bob Kusnetz, Allen Lawshae, Rosemary Russell-Vines, and Katharine Shields.

After introductions all around, President Bob K. began the meeting with corrections to last month's Newsletter. It is true that Bob is donating all the G & S opera scores to the Society, except **Thespi**s, but two had not been available last month. He brought **The Sorcerer** with him, and is still waiting for **The Mikado**, which is out of print at the moment.

Omitted from the last Newsletter was a report of the production meeting held on February 18th during a rehearsal at Concordia. Present were Bob Kusnetz, Allen Lawshae, Reba Gillman, Enid Hallock, and Katharine Shields. Business mainly concerned progress reports and discussion of various production problems. Bob also raised the possibility of producing **H.M.S. Pinafore** this summer. Bob had been talking with Don Toner, the new Director of Live Oak Theatre, who said we could rent the theatre for four weeks in July. Response was negative; reasons given were: summer is a bad time to recruit performers and other workers; two productions a year are enough both for our energies, and for the potential audience. After discussion it was decided to concentrate on preparing for the October production of **Yeomen**.

Bob then reported on various aspects of The Show. The burning question: Did we make money or lose it? is as yet unanswered. The expenses were complicated, a lot of services were donated. Bob is trying to get all the figures together, and to figure out the true budget for future reference. It is clear that expenses exceeded the box office take. However, we took in a lot of money in donations and memberships, and the Gala was a smashing success. It was well attended, and very enjoyable. Sending out the invitations brought in donations and paid reservations for other performances as well as the Gala night.

An insert in the program was filled out by many people; we got new members, new names for our mailing list, and MONEY. We had the same experience last year with the **Gilbert & Sullivan Sampler**. It is clearly a good idea to put a form into the program. Also, it is clearly a good idea to put on a show ... that good exposure brings enthusiastic support. Bob reported volunteers who offered to help with legal problems, printing, and other services.

The big problem in our production was the use of a new theatre space. The unfamiliar location may have reduced our audience. The unsophisticated management certainly created many unforeseen problems. We learned the hard way, Make no assumptions. Get it in writing. Questions to ask: availability of parking; availability of telephone; use of the building - dressing room space. At one point the whole arrangement nearly cancelled out completely because several different interests at Concordia were in disagreement, and our arrangements had not been spelled out and written down.

Another problem was that the Austin American Statesman refused to send a reviewer. They said they can't review every little show in Austin. Bob expects to discuss this further with Arnold Rosenfeld, the editor. It was mentioned that in the past the reviewers have never liked our shows, anyway; also that we got a fair amount of free publicity, and should not make the paper angry at us.

With the addition of many names to our membership list the question comes up with renewed urgency: what is membership? What do all these new people want? What do they want to do for and with us? Do they wish to receive the Newsletter? Do some of them just wish to express their support and be on a mailing list for future performances? Enid volunteered to call them all to find out some of these things. Bill Hatcher offered to help her. Reba will supply the names and phone numbers.

On to the future: Bob reported that hopes of putting on **The Yeomen of the Guard** with an orchestra are not realistic at this time. Live Oak Theatre has its own productions lined up for fall, and will not be available. Therefore we need to locate another theatre space. Allen volunteered to call various theatres in town to see what might be available.

Bob proposed that we adopt a tentative production schedule, to make it possible to plan better. He suggested that we do **Yeomen** in October, and **H.M.S. Pinafore** next March or April, and **Gondoliers** in December 1989. This was voted on and approved by the members present.

Bill Girard suggested that we plan an event between shows, as a way of getting into the news and keeping interest up. He proposed a Patter Song Competition, to fall between the productions of **Yeomen** and **Pinafore**. Announce open auditions. With perhaps 30 people in the first stages, cull out a few for final open performance before judges. Contestants would be responsible for their own costumes, props and staging. Perhaps the Poetry Society would be interested in sponsoring it. We agreed that this idea had possibilities. Bill also suggested that we plan to do a show in Zilker Park in the summer of 1989.



The Yeomen of the Guard

DUET—ELSIE and POINT

I have a song to sing, O!

Sing me your song, O!

It is sung to the moon

By a love-lorn loon,

Who fled from the mocking throng, O!

It's a song of a merryman, moping mum,
Whose soul was sad, and whose glance was glum,
Who sipped no sup, and who craved no crumb,
As he sighed for the love of a ladye.

41882

Bob K. announced that he will take orders for the video tapes of the last three shows.

Ruddigore	\$ 23.00
G & S Sampler	27.00
Trial and Scenes	27.00

Please call him if you're interested. Meeting adjourned for refreshments and sociability.

News of Members and Friends:

Katharine Shields will be singing a recital on Sunday, May 15th at 3 pm at the University United Methodist Church on Guadalupe at 24th Street. Accompanist: Bill Girard. Program: *Frauenlieben und Leben* by Schumann; *Chinese Mother Goose Rhymes* by Bainbridge Crist; and arias from operas by Puccini and Debussy. All are welcome.

Judy Thweatt will sing the part of *Guinevere* in the summer production of *Camelot* in Zilker Park. Friends also in the production: Scotty Roberts as a knight, and Joe York as *Launcelot*.

The Houston Gilbert and Sullivan Society will be performing a double bill the last two weekends in July: **Trial By Jury** and **H.M.S. Pinafore**, with former D'Oyly Carte member Alistair Donkin appearing in both operas. Information is available from Jim Robinson.

News of New Members and Friends:

Five cast members joined the Society: Jacki Chapman, Carla Hammock, Robert Harlan, Daniel Moncivais, and Rich Witek. Other new members are: Earl Hunt & Lorre Weidlich, Bruce & Peggy Kruger, Carolyn Jean Lopez-Cepero, Judith McCown, Mr. & Mrs. George McQueen, Robert Mellin, Mary Sue Moore, Ida Scott (and her out-of-town friend, Kitty Moore Freed), and Kent Smith.

New Patrons are: Mary Ann Anamosa, Richard Boner & Susan Pryor, Frances McNeely, Eileen Sullivan, and Dr. & Mrs. Robert Tull.

New Lord High Patrons are: Dr. Cynthia Jean Lee, Dr. & Mrs. Blair Protzman (also known as the Lord High Physician to the Society), Dr. & Mrs. Howard Rase, and Louise & Roman Smoluchowski.

17 Friends signed up to be on our mailing list, with donations from Nettie Garwood, Cynthia Lauderdale, Dr. Joseph Matluck, Ray Redwood, and Mr. & Mrs. Charles H. Roth, Jr.

Many thanks to all of you! Join us at our meeting on Monday, April 25th.

Reba

Reba Gillman, Secretary

4/20/3