

The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin

November 1992 Newsletter

• Next Meeting •

• **Monday, November 2nd, the first Monday**, at 7:30 pm. At Pearl Amster's: 2304 Hartford Road, 472-7028. Come sing through *The Mikado*, and gather afterward for conversation and refreshments in Pearl's pleasant dining room. Please bring munchies. AND scores if you have any!

• G&S Society Needs List •

1) **Volunteers:** We need willing workers to serve on the Board of Directors. If you love G&S, and can devote some time to work on running the Society please let us hear from you. Call Enid Hallock, Chair of the Nominating Committee, at 453-4431.

Note: Writing grant applications is a special need!

2) We still need **Storage Space**. Call Robert Mellin at 345-5950 if you have some available.

• News of Members •

• President **Robert Mellin** is taking a well-earned vacation in Bolivia. Please don't get mugged this time, Robert!

• **Sheila Glenn** and **Harold Gilbert** performed a *Porgy and Bess Medley* on a program at the Unitarian Church on October 4th.

• **Katharine Shields** and Jerry Conn (**Bob Wall** at the piano) put on a pleasantly popular program at Westminster Manor in early October.

• **Alert:** A bedraggled October Newsletter came back to me with the name and address torn off. Some worthy member didn't get a Newsletter in October. If it was you call me and I'll send a replacement.

• Coming Attractions •

• Save the date for **A Gala Event** on Sunday December 6th at Capitol City Playhouse.

• Our spring show will probably be *Iolanthe*. It will open at the Dougherty Arts Center late in April for a 4-week run, Thursdays through Sundays.

• Message from your President •

***** Robert Mellin will return *****

• Last Gathering and Sing Through •

On **Monday, October 12th**, at Pearl Amster's came together fifteen people: members Pearl, Reba Gillman, Loel Graber, Enid Hallock, newly joined Kristina Havenhill, Allen Lawshae, Robert Mellin, Bob Wall, Emma and Jess Walters, and Terri Wilson (her first meeting); and guests Margaret Barton, Maggie Bavousett, Tim Havenhill, and Jeannette Lay.

After introductions all around there were a few announcements. Reba reported that the Dallas Gilbert & Sullivan Society had sent an invitation to October 3rd auditions for their production of *Trial By Jury* (performances in early November). Reba also reported receiving material advertising an interesting new book **Modified Rapture • Comedy in W. S. Gilbert's Savoy Operas**, by Alan Fischler (see enclosed flyer).

President Robert announced that the Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin is alive and well. A Gala Event will be held on Sunday, December 6th at the Capitol City Playhouse. Our production of *Iolanthe* will have a 4-week run starting in late April at the Dougherty Arts Center. Robert is hoping to work out a plan to rent some part of the original D'Oyly Carte scenery from the Houston G&S Society.

Allen read a letter he had received from Carla Hammock.

We then got Bob Wall settled at the piano, passed out the *Iolanthe* scores, and began our singing with "We are dainty little fairies". Allen regaled us with the famous *Nightmare Song* (When you're lying awake with a dismal headache and repose is tabooed by anxiety ...). We worked our way through the first act, and took a break for refreshments. Later, some returned to finish off the high spots of Act II. A good time was had by all!

• Welcome to New Members •

As a direct result of our production of *The Mikado* we have a total of 25 new members. The July and September Newsletters listed 22. Three more have since joined: Kristina Havenhill, Sania Shaw and Libby Weed.

Attention All Members

Help keep our members informed. Make the Newsletter more interesting. Let me know your news. Pass on Gilbert & Sullivan tid-bits and lore. Call me at 327-2277, or write me a note.

New from the
UNIVERSITY PRESS OF VIRGINIA



"Modified Rapture"
Comedy in W. S. Gilbert's
Savoy Operas

Alan Fischler
Victorian Literature and Culture Series

The professional success achieved by W. S. Gilbert was unique in nineteenth-century English theater: he was the first dramatist ever to be knighted for his stage works, which yielded him a fortune that his less prosperous playwriting predecessors could scarcely have imagined. For those aware of the vast popularity of the Gilbert and Sullivan operas this does not seem surprising; what is surprising is that this popularity was achieved during the Victorian era.

The Savoy operas—so called after the theater at which most of them were originally produced—were comedies. But comedy, in its traditional form, was hardly congenial to the prevailing social prejudices of the Victorian age: it features the triumph of rebelliousness over laws and rules, ridicules the keepers of the established order, and celebrates the victory of the erotic instinct over repression. Spectacles of this kind were especially uncomfortable for the newly arrived middle class, intent on making itself conspicuous for its dedication to respectability and duty. In fact, before Gilbert's Savoy productions, many of the bourgeoisie refused altogether to patronize the English stage, where the dominant form was comedy in its various guises.

Beginning with *H.M.S. Pinafore*, Fischler shows how Gilbert made it his business to cater to the sensibilities of this middle class. He demonstrates how Gilbert responded to his targeted audience's concerns through the structure he imposed on his plots, the approach he took to characterization, and the treatment he accorded erotic love, the quintessential theme of comedy. The book's conclusions not only illuminate Gilbert's own comic practice but point the way toward a new understanding of the transactions between comedy in general and the spirit of the Victorian age.

ALAN FISCHLER is Associate Professor of English at Le Moyne College in Syracuse, New York.



September
160 pages, 6 x 9, cloth
ISBN 0-8139-1334-9, \$25.00



Contemporary illustrations for *Iolanthe* and *Pirates of Penzance*, from *The First Night Gilbert and Sullivan*, ed. Reginald Allen (London: Chappell, 1958).

Also Available
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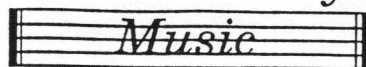
The Discourse of Self in Victorian Poetry
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The Victorian Serial
Linda K. Hughes and Michael Lund
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Harry Benford (*A Gilbert & Sullivan Lexicon*) says:
"This well-written, thought-provoking book should be in the collection of all serious students of theatrical history. It is well indexed and heavily annotated."

If we can get up an order for 10 books
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The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin

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The Mikado

Come sing and eat and chat!

Bring yourselves, your scores, your munchies

Monday, November 2nd at 7:30 pm

to

Pearl Amster's, 2304 Hartford Road

The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin
Reba Gillman, Secretary
1606 The High Road
Austin, TX 78746

