The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin June 1993 Newsletter

- Next Meeting Our Monthly Musicale •
- Monday, June 7th, 1993 at 7:30 pm. at Pearl Amster's, 2304 Hartford Road, 472-7028.
- Come to the last meeting of the season: Music by everyone, Fun, and Food. Please bring munchies.
- · Plans for the future? President Robert has lots of dreams; come and bring yours!
- Plan now to attend the September meeting: Monday September 13th, 7:30 pm, more information later.

· IOLANTHE ·

GRATEFUL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Underwriter Richard Anderson (Armstrong Moving & Storage-United Van Lines) \$2500

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Many Thanks for big program ads from Benold's Jewelers Michelle Perris, Realtor

> And special gratitude to Four Sons' Quality Cleaners who kept our costumes clean

 Thanks also to our loyal members Savoyards "Deacon" Crain and Bob Kusnetz Pooh Bah Reba Gillman

Major General Ronald & Marion DeFord Grand Dukes James & Nanni Almond, Richard Anderson, Bill & Virginia Binger, Tad Bynum, Mary Ann Courter, M. Patton Echols Jr., Austen H. Furse, Lucy Shoe Meritt, Robert Miller, Eva Pickerel, Janita Robbins, Jim Robinson, Gregory & Katharine Shields, Eileen Sullivan, Carey & Louise Thompson, Jess & Emma Walters, Steven & Louise Weinberg, Dean & Darlyene Yarian, and Amy Lynne Young.

Lord High Patrons Russell Gregory, Dalton & Mary Jean Gross, Janette Jones, Jim & Dorothy Kellogg, Mary Hobart Key, William & Esther McCormick, Reuben R. McDaniel Jr., Col. George McQueen, Bill & Susan Reid, and P.J. Roy. (List continued p. 2)

Message from your President

Well, it's over now and didn't we have a fine *Iolanthe*? I certainly think so, and if the smiles and comments of the people leaving the theater were any indication they were very pleased too. If I may brag a little I believe our productions are getting bigger and better. Better in production values such as costumes, choreography, and sets. Bigger in the number of performers in the chorus, which helps do justice to Sullivan's beautiful music. And don't you agree that our eight-piece orchestra under John McLean provided that special enhancement that simply cannot be achieved with one or two pianos?

I'm still basking in the satisfaction of a great Iolanthe. Stage director Noel Koran and choreographer Terri Lynn Fiala deserve accolades for their creativity. I'm especially proud of our chorus of beautiful dancing faries. And our principals were not only competent, but some of them surprised and captivated our audiences with their remarkable talent. And hey you peers, I haven't forgotten you. You were great, but I'm sorry guys, the fairies were just so much prettier.

And here is some more good news. Although the final figures are not fully tabulated I can report that there will be a modest profit. And that really is all I had hoped for. The deciding financial factor was the individual contributions from our old friends and members, and from new patrons, who apparently liked what we're doing. I sincerely thank you all. I also truly appreciate the time and effort that so many gave in helping the production. I'm sure that some didn't even get their names mentioned in the program. And about the program, the first batch we had printed, by some mistake, omitted the names of many of our contributors in various categories. The error was corrected immediately and now all names are listed as they should be (I hope). If you would like a revised program, let me know and you will get

Plans for the future of the Gilbert and Sullivan Society are being formulated. We hope to have good news for you soon. Thank you again for helping make Iolanthe a success.

* * * * * * Robert Mellin * * * * *

KUT-FM gave us good publicity on John Aielli's program Thursday, May 6th at 12:20 pm. President Robert Mellin and directors Noel Koran and John McLean spoke, and Leah Tsamous, Frank Delvy, Barton Green, and Allen Lawshae sang.

Buy Soft Drinks Cheap, and help out the Society

Coke, Diet Coke, 7-Up, Diet 7-Up left over from the Concessions sales at Iolanthe

For sale at \$2 a six-pack: Call Bob Kusnetz at 836-1853 to arrange purchase so he can bring orders to the June 7th Meeting.



Last Gathering and Musicale

On Monday, May 10th, 22 people gathered at Pearl Amster's: members Pearl, Patrick Bennett, Sue Ricket Caldwell, Frank & Donna Delvy, Harold Gilbert, Reba Gillman, Sheila Glenn, Loel Graber, Enid Hallock, Elena Hinderer, Bob Kusnetz, Allen Lawshae, Robert Mellin, Lucy Shoe Meritt, Bob Wall (Lord High Pianist), and Jess and Emma Walters; and guests Barton Green (Lord Tolloller), and Noel Koran (Director, who has since becomea member) with his wife Linda and their daughter Erin.

Frank started off the evening singing "The law is the true embodiment". We then paused for introductions and a brief report on *Iolanthe*. The show is going well but we are performing to small houses. Michael Barnes' review hasn't helped. On Saturday afternoon May 1st, most of the cast of Iolanthe performed for 30 minutes in the middle of Neches Street, as a pre-Pun Off entertainment for this year's Pecan Street Festival. John McLean was there to direct, and Bob Wall played the piano. Question: the first act finale of Iolanthe is the third longest musical section with no dialog in a G&S opera. What are the first two longest?

Back to music: Barton Green sang an exciting "A wandering minstrel I" from The Mikado, with new member Elena Hinderer playing the 'cello, and Bob Wall the piano. The men provided a wonderful chorus. Returning to Iolanthe Harold Gilbert sang "When all night long", again with piano and 'cello accompaniment. Frank, Barton and Allen gave us a rousing trio "If you go in"; Barton sang "Blue Blood" and Frank sang "The Nightmare Song", letter perfect as always.

Barton told us about his first performance in G&S, when he was 9 years old. In a boys' camp production of Pinafore the boys played all the parts. Barton was a cousin (female, of course). Ten years later he played Ralph.

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

He then finished off our program singing "A British Tar is a soaring soul" (*Pinafore*), joined lustily by the men. We all sang "Now to the banquet we press" and went off happily to the dining room. Three cheers for Pearl, the hostest with the mostest!

In Memory of Bob Greenwood

We have received two generous donations: from Ronald and Marion DeFord, and from Lucy Shoe Meritt, who also wished to remember her husband Benjamin Meritt.

News of Members

Anne Collins Smith came in 3rd in the Pun Off!! Michael Drousche is happily settled in Hawaii, where he has connected with theater people and G&S fans. He hopes to persuade the community theater to put on *Pinafore*.

Amy Lynne Young was in Austin briefly and attended the May 6th performance of *Iolanthe*. "It's so British!" She still loves her job in London, Amsterdam, Amman et al and sends warm greeting to all her G&S friends.

(Cont. from p.1) Patrons Ed & Eda Ballinger, Mary Lu Barras, Sally Bartkowiak, Dr. Robert Bernstein, Richard Boner & Susan Pryor, Jane Bullard, Sue Ricket Caldwell, Richard & Dorene Cohen, Hugh & Ruth Eckols, Harry & Shirley Ellison, Sidney Frost, Rosemary & William Garner Jr., Kenneth Gentle, Doug & Sheila Glenn, Loel Graber, Mark Graber & Julia Frank, Larry & Kay Greenhaw, Joe Haggard, Enid Hallock, Bill Hatcher, Dudley Houghton, Susie & Dan Jacobson, Leonard Johnson, Bob & Helen Jones, Arthur Keller, Michael & Alice Kuhn, Allen Lawshae, Dale Lipsett, Frances Lockhart, Robert Mellin, Mary Metz, Eliza Morehead, Charles & Helen Morton, Mollie Newman, A. Wilson Nolle, Dr. Blair & Joyce Protzman, Charles & Diane Radin, Mr & Mrs M A Saad, Kent & Marion Smith, Linnea Smith, Roman & Louise Smoluchowski, John Tate & Carol MacPherson, Bob Wall, David A White, and Ronald E Wyllys.

New Lord High Patrons Steven Laden and Donald Wertz. New Patrons Steve Bickerstaff and Carla S Lederman. To be continued - Regular Members, Old and New, will be listed in the next Newsletter. Sorry, but I've run out of space!

