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The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin

November 1993 Newsletter

Reba Gillman, Editor

• Next Meeting - Our Monthly Musicale •

• Monday, November 8th, 1993 at 7:30 pm.
at Pearl Amster's, 2304 Hartford Road, 472-7028.

• Come and enjoy our informal Gilbert and Sullivan.
We always have a good time, and the food is delicious
(Please bring munchies to keep up our reputation!)
We're always looking for new faces and old friends.

• THANKS •

Warmest thanks to those faithful supporters who have
made special gifts for our production of *Pinafore*:

Ronald K. and Marion DeFord \$300.00 in honor of Jess
Walters.

Mrs. Benjamin Meritt \$100.00

Mrs. Robert Greenwood \$50.00 in thanks to
Russell Gregory for help with Bob's insurance.

• Last Gathering and Musicale •

On Monday October 4th 24 people gathered happily
at Pearl Amster's. There were 18 members: Pearl, Wren
Andersen, Patrick Bennett, Frank Delvy, Harold Gilbert,
Reba Gillman, Doug and Sheila Glenn, Loel Graber, Enid
Hallock, Kristina Havenhill, Janette Jones, Bob Kusnetz,
Allen Lawshae, Robert Mellin, Lucy Shoe Meritt, Lord
High Pianist Bob Wall, and Libby Weed attending for the
first time. Guests were Pete Akenhead representing the
Unitarian Church, Marian Alexander who owns Bluebonnet
Market where Frank works, Cissi Wright who works with
Frank, Matthew Kaplan, Nancy Owen (Matt's mother and
Pearl's daughter), and Susan Weed. Welcome all!

Frank welcomed us singing "Rising early in the
morning" from *Gondoliers*. President Robert gave us
some updates about *H.M.S. Pinafore* (directors, money
received to date, plans for Fund Raiser, auditions). Executive
V.P. Bob Kusnetz corrected a mis-statement in the October
Newsletter; our G&S productions have received two other B.
Iden Payne awards (costumes for *Pirates*, and Libba Bray
in *Patience*, supporting actress in a musical). Allen re-
(Continued on page 2)

• Message from your President •

Production for our *H.M.S. Pinafore* is moving
along at an exciting pace. Casting has been completed and
rehearsals have begun with the strongest cast of principals
and chorus of any past G&S, or any other musical show in
Austin. Assisting them are the excellent crew of non-acting
artists. They are: Stage Director and Choreographer Terri
Lynn Fiala, Musical Director Jeffrey Jones, Assistant
Director Krys Holland, Sets Jerry Collum, Lights Pat Fox,
and Stage Manager Richard Williford. Helping coordinate
this effort and more, is our versatile V.P. for Production
Patrick Bennett. Lord High Patron Bee Polomé is helping
assemble the orchestra.

Rehearsal space is difficult to come by. We have been
able to use the Music Department facilities at UT to only a
limited degree. Therefore we are grateful to the Reverend
Samuel Hose and Director of Music John Balka, of Saint
Mary's Cathedral, for allotting to us rehearsal space twice
weekly. They are both Gilbert and Sullivan fans. And thanks
to the Reverend David Hoster and Saint George's Episcopal
Church for space once a week.

Our friend Freddy Carnes is director of our fund raising
effort at the Unitarian Church on Saturday December 4th.
For this he has assembled an all-star cast of soloists, some
of whom are too busy to commit to a full month's run of a
show. So, here is an opportunity to see first rate talent in a
very special production, and enjoy a Champagne Buffet,
while contributing to the funding of our *Pinafore*.
Proceeds from this event will be shared with the Unitarian
Church.

And I do hope to see a good number of our Gilbert and
Sullivan Society members at our monthly musicale at Pearl
Amster's house on Monday November 8th. It'll be a special
program.

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

Some Ways You Could Help Fund

H.M.S. Pinafore

1. Make a donation in honor of someone
2. Make a donation that your company will match
3. Place a business ad in our program playbill
4. Use your influence to persuade your company to
underwrite our production

Other Ideas Welcome!

Texas Gilbert and Sullivan Seminar

Tentatively scheduled for Spring 1994 • Ideas and Assistance Welcome!

We are looking for people to help organize the event. Call Robert Mellin 345-5950. Or write to Reba Gillman.

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Last Gathering and Musicale. cont. from p.1

ported that the new musical *Where There's a Will ...* in which he is appearing, will close prematurely after the performance Saturday, October 9th. There were then introductions all around with special congratulations to Frank, who won the ACOT B. Iden Payne Award for Lead Actor in a Musical for his performance as the Lord Chancellor in our 1993 production of *Iolanthe*.

Allen then took over the musical presentation introducing two philosophical quintets, frequently left out of productions. Allen, Frank, Enid, Harold and Janette sang "See how the fates their gifts allot, for A is happy, B is not" from *The Mikado*. Allen, Enid, Frank, Janette and Sheila sang from *The Gondoliers*, "Try we lifelong", in which the line I love appears: "Life's perhaps the only riddle that we shrink from giving up." Next, Sheila sang "Orpheus with his lute" by Shakespeare and Sullivan. Allen and Enid gave us their well-loved interpretation of the Duke and the Duchess from *Gondoliers*, singing "To help unhappy commoners". Frank and Janette launched into a blood-thirsty "There is beauty in the bellow of the blast" from *Mikado*. Coming at last to *H.M.S. Pinafore*, Kristina sang "Sorry her lot who loves too well". (If this ballad sometimes seems very familiar that may be because it was interpolated into the Joseph Papp version of *The Pirates of Penzance*, and toured the country in that production.) There followed the sextette from the first act finale of *Patience*, "I hear the soft note of the echoing voice of an old, old love long dead".

From *Pinafore* Harold gave us a rousing version of "For he is an Englishman" with all joining in on the choruses. Allen, Janette, Kristina, and Loel sang the madrigal "Brightly dawns our wedding day" from *Mikado*, and Frank sang yet another flawless "Nightmare Song" from *Iolanthe*. To finish up we all joined in to sing a spirited "When the foeman bares his steel" from *Pirates* with Allen, Enid, Frank, Harold, Janette, Kristina, Loel, and Sheila leading the way. Then on to the refreshments!

~~ The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin ~~ Information

In 1976 a very successful production of *H.M.S. Pinafore* at the Zachary Scott Theatre Center inspired a group of enthusiasts to form a Society to promote the enjoyment and production of the G&S operas. Since then we've sponsored 18 major productions at 10 different theaters in Austin. We publish a Newsletter and gather monthly, except in the summer, to sing and enjoy the works of Gilbert and Sullivan. Dues start at \$10 and go skyhigh.

• CAST of H.M.S. PINAFORE •

Sir Joseph Porter, K.C.B.	Robert Rudié
Captain Corcoran	Frank Delvy
Ralph Rackstraw	Scott Ferrell
Dick Deadeye	Allen Lawshae
Bill Bobstay	Robert Nelson
Bob Becket	Matthew Buchanan
Josephine	Kristina Havenhill
Cousin Hebe	Julia Lawshae
Little Buttercup	Janette Jones

Chorus of Female Relatives

Elisha Hipólito, also understudy for Josephine
Lara K. Britton, Dawn Forbes, Robyn Graham, April Hines,
Tamsen Mann, Diana McAlpin, Lisa Renée Ormistan,
Lesley Pan, Libby Weed, Susan Weed

Chorus of Peers

Garret Maddox, also understudy for Ralph
Donny Bryant, Joe David, Arthur DiBianca, Harold Gilbert,
Dale Smith, Dan Smith, James Wise, Juan Zalles

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Producer	Robert Mellin
Stage Director and Choreographer	
Music Director	Terri Lynn Fiala
Assistant Director	Jeffrey Jones
Production Coordinator	Krys Holland
Stage Manager	Patrick Bennett
Set Designer	Richard Williford
Lighting Designer	Jerry Collum
Publicity	Pat Fox
	Donna Delvy

• Volunteers Needed for Pinafore •

Call Robert Mellin • 345-5950

Officers

President	Robert Mellin	345-5950
Executive V. P.	Bob Kusnetz	836-1853
Production V. P.	Patrick Bennett	442-0528
Publicity V. P.	Donna Delvy	451-3710
Secretary	Reba Gillman	327-2277
Co-Treasurers	Kate Hendricks	371-7901
	Diane Simpson	343-0901
Historian	Anne Collins Smith	339-1086

G&S Society of Austin Dues Structure

Member - \$10.00	Patron - \$25.00	Lord High Patron - \$50.00	Grand Duke - \$100.00
Major General - \$250.00	Pooh Bah - \$500.00	Savoyard - \$1,000.00	

• Meetings of G&S Executive Committee •

1) The Executive Committee met on August 16, 1993 at Robert Mellin's. Present were Robert, Patrick Bennett and Donna Delvy. They discussed plans, and the need for more people to share the work load now carried by the President.

2) The Executive Committee met on September 28, 1993 at Robert Mellin's. Present were Robert, Patrick Bennett and Reba Gillman. We discussed plans for a two or three-day G&S Seminar, as mentioned in the September 1993 Newsletter. A date soon after the opening of *H.M.S. Pinafore* was thought feasible.

Robert gave us an update on the production of *Pinafore*. We discussed possibilities for Director. Patrick will prepare and distribute Audition Notices. Reba will edit the fund raising letter to corporations (written by Mike Guerino), and get it back to Robert. Reba will send notices about the production to the Michigan G&S Society publication GASBAG, and to the NY G&S Society publication THE PALACE PEEPER.

Robert will appoint a committee to nominate officers for the elections at the January Annual Meeting.

From now on meetings of the Executive Committee will be held regularly on the 4th Monday of each month, at 6:30 pm in the O. Henry Room in the Austin History Center on 9th St. at Guadalupe. Interested members are welcome to attend.

3) The Executive Committee met on October 25, 1993 at 6:30 pm in the O. Henry Room of the Austin History Center. Present were Robert Mellin, Patrick Bennett, Kate Hendricks, Anne Smith, Reba Gillman, and guest by invitation Allen Lawshae.

The Board approved the purchase of copies of the book "A Gilbert & Sullivan Lexicon" by Harry Benford, to sell in the lobby during the run of *Pinafore*. (This was very successful during the run of *Iolanthe*.)

Update on Fund Raiser Saturday December 4th at the Unitarian Church. Freddy Carnes Director, Bob Wall Music Director. Robert will be meeting with Doug Glenn (G&S member, and representative from the Church), and someone else from the Church to discuss details.

Update on *Pinafore*. Robert needs help soliciting ads for the program-playbill. Prices will be: \$300 for the back page; \$275 for a full page; \$150 for a half page; \$80 for one quarter page. Reba will mail copies of the Newsletter to each cast and crew member. Anne Smith, as Historian, will look up material on the connection between O. Henry and Gilbert and Sullivan to use in publicity for *Pinafore*.

It was agreed that we need to enlarge the Executive Board, and allow flexibility for other positions on it. Patrick will have an amendment to the By-Laws to present at the next meeting. It was also agreed that we should create a second Board to raise money, and seek support from prestigious names in the community. Patrick will ask advice from Ann Ciccolella on how to do this legally within the framework of our non-profit incorporation status.

We discussed Society finances and agreed that our books need to be put in order and set up properly. Kate will ask the person who has been advising her on the finances to help us.

Robert has asked Bill Hatcher to chair the nominating committee forelections in January.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on November 22nd, the fourth Monday of the month, at the O. Henry Room of the Austin History Center, at 6:30 pm. Interested members are welcome to attend.

• FLASH •

The Austin Lyric Opera production of Puccini's opera *Turandot* will be performing in the UT Bass Concert Hall on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, November 19, 20, and 21, 1993. Several of our members will appear in the chorus, and report that it will be an exciting event. Look for our friends Harold Gilbert, Kristina Havenhill, Janette Jones, and Katharine Shields. If there are others, please excuse me, I didn't get the word.

• Message from the Editor •

In this Newsletter I have begun to include information which probably should appear in each issue as a matter of course. Like a number of other publications ("The New Yorker", and "The New York Times Magazine Section", for instance) this Newsletter is groping for new and better ways. People often express pleasure at some item they have read in our Newsletter. Let me remind you that I welcome contributions from you all: the more personal notes, newsy items and G&S lore I can include the better. So, don't be shy, communicate!

Reba

Reba Gillman, Secretary
The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin
1606 The High Road
Austin TX 78746
327-2277

H.M.S. Pinafore was Gilbert and Sullivan's first great joint success, and has been one of the most popular works on the musical stage ever since. Information: in Great Britain the name Ralph is pronounced Rafe. If you question this, note that in Buttercup's revelations toward the end of Act II the name "Ralph" rhymes with the word "waif".

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Gilbert & Sullivan

Gala Holiday Season All-Star Revue and Fund Raiser

Saturday December 4th at 8 pm
At the First Unitarian Church of Austin
4700 Grover Ave, Austin 78756

Stage Director, Freddy Carnes; Music Director, Bob Wall
Featuring

Mary Alice Carnes
Frank Delvy
Harold Gilbert
Sheila Glenn
Kristina Havenhill
Elizabeth Hodges
Matt Kaplan

Allen Lawshae
Julia Lawshae
Daniel Moncivais
Steve Ruzicka
Scott Schroeder
Judy Scott
Katharine Shields

Jess Walters

For a \$25 per person donation you receive preferred
reserved seating and a Champagne Buffet served at 7 pm
\$10 for general admission (does not include the Buffet)

Order now for the best preferred seating. Make checks payable to
G&S-Unitarian

By mail: Send check to Unitarian Church
By phone: Call the Church at 452-6168

Proceeds will be shared with the Unitarian Church. Our part
will help fund the G&S Society production of

H.M.S. Pinafore



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