

NEWSLETTER

Of The

American Musical Instrument Society

Vol. VI, No 2

JUNE 1977



NEW GALLERY AT THE HENRY FORD MUSEUM IN DEARBORN

A new musical instrument gallery was opened at the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Michigan, in the spring of 1974. The photograph above shows

some of the wind instruments. Many of the brasses and a few of the woodwinds of this display are a part of the Daniel S. Pillsbury Collection. Pillsbury was a stationer, printer, and wholesale paper dealer in New York City from about 1862 until his death in 1902. During the later years of his life he began collecting American brass instruments. Shortly before his death the collection

was mounted on red panels, some of which are shown above, and displayed at the Chickering Piano Company's music exhibition of 1902 in Boston. The collection came to the Henry Ford Museum in 1928.

Recently a sound system was approved for purchase and installation in the gallery which will let visitors hear the sound of some of the instruments.

**NEWSLETTER OF THE
AMERICAN MUSICAL
INSTRUMENT SOCIETY**

Andre P. Larson, Editor

The Newsletter is published in March, June, and October for the members of the American Musical Instrument Society (AMIS). News items, photos, reviews, and short monographs are invited, as well as any other information of interest to AMIS members. Address all correspondence to the Editor, AMIS Newsletter, USD Box 194, Vermillion, SD 57069. Requests for back issues and all correspondence regarding membership (\$12.50 per year) should be directed to the Membership Office, American Musical Instrument Society, USD Box 194, Vermillion, SD 57069.

AMIS OFFICERS AND BOARD

Frederick R. Selch President (to 1979)
Cynthia Hoover Vice-President (to 1979)
Alan G. Moore Secretary (to 1978)
Linda Tauber Treasurer (to 1978)

Howard M. Brown (1975-78) Andre P. Larson (1976-79)
Robert Eliason (1975-78) R. Kenneth Lee (1976-79)
Betty Hensley (1975-78) William Dowd (1977-79)
Lawrence Witten (1975-78) James Caldwell (1977-80)
Frederick Crane (1976-79) Laurence Libin (1977-80)

Robert Rosenbaum (1977-80)

Minutes

AMIS ANNUAL BUSINESS

MEETING

April 24, 1977

Auditorium, Salem College
Winston-Salem, North Carolina

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. by the President, Robert Rosenbaum.

Ruth Eddy moved and Dale Higbee seconded that the reading of the Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting, May 1, 1976, be dispensed with and accepted as published in the June/October 1976 Newsletter. The motion carried unanimously.

The treasurer's report will be published in the Newsletter. No action was taken.

OLD BUSINESS

The financial problems of the Journal were discussed. A meeting of the editorial board will be held in June, probably in Boston or Washington, to solve these problems. Recommendations will be published in the Newsletter.

Betty Hensley, Chairman of the Membership Committee, reported that five hundred flyers with copies of the Newsletter were distributed. Mrs. Hensley made the following recommendations formulated by the Membership Committee: Each member should be responsible for bringing in at least one new member during the year; members should urge their college, university, and public libraries to subscribe to the Journal; new flyers with updated information should be printed; arrangements might be made to exchange ads with newsletters and journals of other related societies; and handouts should be available at museums and meetings of other related societies.



Marc Eldrige of Washington, D.C., displayed his collection of brass instruments from the Civil War era in the lobby of the Salem College Fine Arts Center in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, during the recent AMIS meetings, April 22-24. (Photo by Howard Walker)

It was suggested that there be created a category of institutional membership. This was discussed, but the consensus of opinion reflected that a one-price membership for everyone was better. Cecil Adkins, Registrar of the American Musicological Society, reported that the AMS had tried a two-tiered system and that it had not worked. Dr. Adkins added that pre-printed labels of members and institutions subscribing to the AMS could be obtained at a nominal charge.

An invitation to hold next year's meeting at Yale University was received. Cynthia Hoover moved and Frederick Selch seconded that this invitation be accepted and that the meeting be held sometime in April, depending on the Yale University calendar.

The motion carried unanimously.

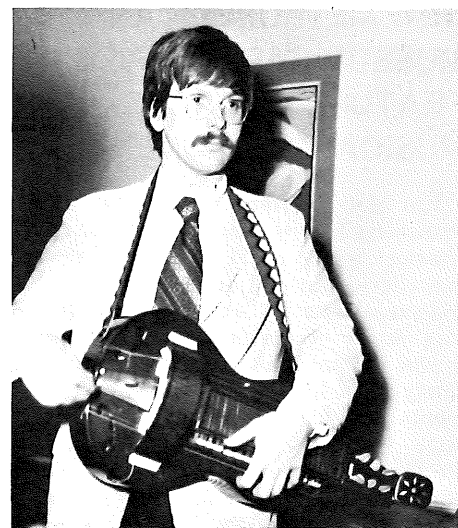
Communications problems were discussed. It was reported that one central office will now receive all correspondence dealing with membership: Dr. André P. Larson, Box 194, University of South Dakota, Vermillion, South Dakota 57069.

Results of the election are as follows: President (1977-79), Frederick R. Selch; Vice-President (1977-79), Cynthia Hoover; Secretary (1977-78), Alan G. Moore; Treasurer (1977-78), Linda Tauber; Board of Directors (1977-80), James Caldwell, Laurence Libin, Robert Rosenbaum; Board of Directors (1977-79), William Dowd, Andre P. Larson.

A heartfelt vote of thanks was given to the arrangers of this year's meeting:



A reception for AMIS members followed a concert by faculty members from Salem College and the North Carolina School of the Arts at the beautiful Reynolda House in Winston-Salem on April 23. It was all part of the sixth-annual national meeting. (Photo by Stuart-Morgan Vance)



Warren Steel, graduate assistant with the Stearns collection at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, tries one of a number of reproductions which were on exhibit during the AMIS national meeting in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. (Photo by Stuart-Morgan Vance)



AMIS members enjoy a reception following a concert by John Mueller on the Flen-trop organ in the auditorium of the Salem College Fine Arts Center on the opening night of the 1977 meeting in Winston-Salem. (Photo by Stuart-Morgan Vance)

Dean Clemens Sandresky and John Mueller of Salem College; Mr. Higbee; and Frederick Crane, program chairman.

NEW BUSINESS

Barbara Lambert reported that the Fine Arts Museum of Boston has acquired the collection of instruments, books, and correspondence belonging to the late Edwin Ripin. Included are ten keyboard instruments and a dozen strings and winds.

Foundation help was discussed. However, it was decided that until a track record with the Journal had been achieved this avenue of funding should be held in abeyance.

Expanding the Journal advertising was discussed. Dr. Rosenbaum reported that vols. 2 and 3 show continually expanding advertising, especially from European dealers, some of whom have purchased full-page advertisements.

Dorothy Rosenbaum requested a list of European libraries. Dr. Crane reported that Rita Benton of the University of Iowa had compiled such a list.

A suggestion was made that the Society compile a list of the open hours of museums and libraries, especially those in Europe. Several members reported that sources containing this information are available.

Richard Abel raised the question of the legal tax-exempt status of the AMIS. It was reported that the AMIS is fully tax-exempt and that it is considered to be a Scientific and Educational society. All contributions are tax deductible.

Mrs. Hoover moved for a vote of thanks to Dr. Rosenbaum for his long and distinguished service to the AMIS. The members responded with long sustained applause in appreciation for a job well done.

The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mrs. Hoover and seconded by the members present.

The meeting adjourned at 11 a.m.

Respectfully submitted
Alan G. Moore
Acting Secretary

CENTRAL MEMBERSHIP OFFICE ESTABLISHED

A central membership office for the American Musical Instrument Society has been established at the University of South Dakota. The action was taken by the AMIS Board during its meeting in Winston-Salem on April 22 in an effort to alleviate communication problems which had developed during the past year. As a result, all communications dealing with one's membership in the AMIS should now be directed to the AMIS Membership Office; Att: Dr. Andre' P. Larson; USD Box 194; Vermillion, SD 57069.

BAROQUE PERFORMANCE INSTITUTE

The sixth Baroque Performance Institute at Oberlin College in Oberlin, Ohio, is underway, running from June 26 to July 17. The Institute, which offers an opportunity for players of Baroque instruments and singers to study with some of the world's foremost teachers and performers, will give special attention this summer to the music of J. S. Bach. Inquiries should be directed to Professor James Caldwell, Conservatory of Music, Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio 44074.

RIPIN COLLECTION TO BOSTON

The Edwin M. Ripin Library and Collection of Musical Instruments, purchased by the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, was presented to the Friends of the Museum at a special musical gathering held in the Gallery Dining Room of the Museum on April 13, 1977. The program included performances by Joan Benson, John Gibbons, and Robert Koff on, respectively, a Schiedmayer clavichord, Neustadt, 1796; a Couchet harpsichord, Antwerp, 1681, enlarged by Blanchet in 1758, with expressive devices by Taskin, 1781; and a Chappuy violin, Paris, 1778. Arrangements were made by Barbara Lambert, Keeper of Musical Instruments at the Boston Museum.

NEW METROPOLITAN MUSEUM RADIO SERIES FEATURES ANTIQUE MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

The Metropolitan Museum of Art is launching a new series of educational, classical music radio programs devoted to historic musical instruments in its collection. Titled "Lend Us Your Ears," this series of thirteen half-hour programs presents the sounds of more than thirty beautiful and unusual instruments in performances and discussions with internationally-known artists. Each program was specially recorded in stereo at either the Museum's Andre Mertens Galleries for Musical Instruments or in the Grace Rainey Rogers Auditorium.

"Lend Us Your Ears" was hosted and organized by Laurence Libin, Associate Curator in Charge of the Museum's Department of Musical Instruments. Lincoln Diamant, award-winning author and director, is executive producer for the series; audio direction is by Mark Dichter, with engineering supervision by Eugene Coleman. Commenting on the innovative nature of the series, Laurence Libin said: "Our aim has been to reach beyond the Museum's walls in order to share the great beauties of our instruments. Instruments are meant to be heard, not merely seen in glass cases, and radio has the unique potential to convey their essence to homes and schools far from New York. By recording music originally composed for these miraculously-preserved instruments, and placing them in historical context through our commentaries, my guests and I seek to encourage the growing public interest in authentic performance practice on the unsurpassed original instruments of master builders."

"Programs offer listeners a rare opportunity to hear such treasures as a Venetian virginal made in 1540 for the daughter of Isabella d'Este; the earliest surviving piano, made at the Medici Court in Florence in 1720; the only Stradivari violin ever restored to its original Baroque form, dated 1691; and a host of other woodwinds, brasses, strings & keyboard instruments dating from the Renaissance to 1974. Many have not been played in over a century."

Renowned concert artists in this series include pianist Mieczyslaw Horszowski, violinist Jaap Schroder, oboist Michel Piguet, and horn player Barry Tuckwell—all with a special interest in the techniques and literature of antique instruments. These performers share their insights into the secrets of tone production, and compare

old and modern approaches to instrument making and playing.

Recognizing the musical and educational importance of this project, the National Endowment for the Arts and the Ampex Corporation contributed support for the radio production, enabling the Museum to offer the series as a public service for non-commercial broadcast to all interested stations. Distribution is through the Broadcast Foundation of America, 52 Vanderbilt Avenue, New York 10017, and is planned for the entire U.S. and Canada and English-speaking countries around the world. Inquiries from stations should be directed to the Broadcasting Foundation.

NEW PUBLICATION

A book, *Arcadia at Versailles: Noble Amateur Musicians and their Musettes and Hurdy-Gurdies at the French Court (ca. 1660-1789) - A Visual Study*, will be published soon by Swets Publishing Service of Lisse, Holland. The author is Richard D. Leppert, Assistant Professor of Humanities at the University of Minnesota.

FEDERAL MUSIC SOCIETY PERFORMS

The Federal Music Society Orchestra and Wind Band with the Columbian Chorus presented a "Grand Concert of Early American Music" on April 25, 1977 in Town Hall in New York City under the musical direction of John Baldon. Using authentic music and instruments of the 1775-1830 era from the private collection of Frederick R. Selch, the performance garnered favorable reviews from many sources. As Robert Kimball, writing in the New York Post, noted: "The fascination far outweighed the shortcomings. Selch and his colleagues have embarked on a worthy, exciting project that merits wide public exposure and support."

1978 AMIS Meeting Set

The seventh-annual national meeting of the American Musical Instrument Society will be held on the campus of Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut, April 14-16, 1978.

Host for the meeting is Richard Rephann, Director of the Yale University Collection of Musical Instruments.

The program chairman will be announced in the October issue of the Newsletter, along with a formal call for papers.

NATIONAL MUSEUM ACT GRANT RECEIVED

A \$6,000 grant from the National Museum Act will make it possible for Gary M. Stewart, who was appointed restorer for the "Shrine to Music" Museum at the University of South Dakota, July 1, 1976, to take advanced training in the conservation laboratories of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., July 1 - November 30, 1977. Stewart will work primarily with Scott Odell, conservator in the Smithsonian's Division of Musical Instruments.

A native of North Carolina, Stewart received his Bachelor of Music from Appalachian State University in Boone, N.C. He is now in the process of completing his thesis for a Master of Music in the history of musical instruments from the University of South Dakota.

He read a paper, "The Restoration of Four Serpents," at the national meeting of the American Musical Instrument Society in Vermillion, South Dakota, in 1976, and is a member of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, a national music fraternity.

FINANCIAL REPORT

American Musical Instrument Society
April 1, 1976 - March 31, 1977

Balance on April 1, 1976		\$ 6,085.38
INCOME:		
1976 Dues	\$ 1,187.00	
1977 Dues	3,117.50	
Advertising	1,255.25	
Back Issues	95.00	
Reprints of Journal Articles	121.35	
1976 Meeting, U. of South Dakota	240.00	
Void Check	19.50	
Total	\$ 6,035.60	6,035.60
EXPENDITURES:		
Secretary's Expenses	166.24	
Treasurer's Expenses	102.94	
Journal Business Manager Expenses	64.76	
Post Office Box	20.00	
Refunds of Over-Paid Dues	15.00	
Newsletter V, No. 1	156.45	
Newsletter V, No. 2/3	249.60	
Journal I	6,500.82	
Journal II (partial payment)	3,806.82	
Journal III (partial payment)	550.00	
Total	\$11,632.63	-11,632.63
Balance on March 31, 1977		\$488.35