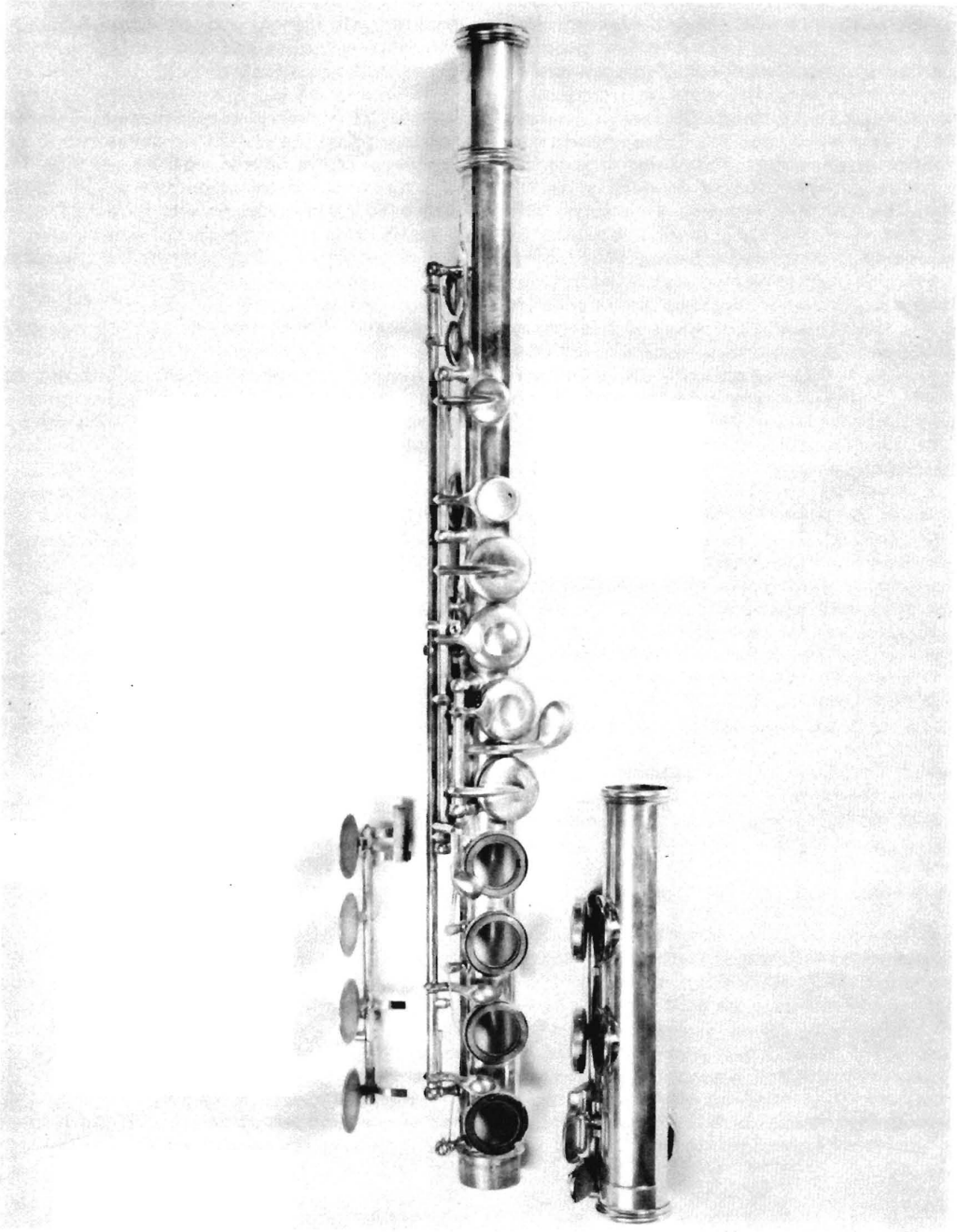


Newsletter

Of The Historical Musical Society



ORGANIZATION:

On October 23, 1971 eight collectors of antique musical instruments met in the home of Robert M. Rosenbaum, M.D. in Scarsdale, New York, to discuss the possible formation of an organization of collectors. The need for such a group has been felt for some time. Questionnaires recently prepared and mailed by James M. Swain, Lake Charles, La., had resulted in over one hundred interested responses. The only other similar organization known to us is the Galpin Society of England which has a number of U. S. members.

After preliminary discussion it was felt by those present that a definite beginning should be made in forming a society. Dr. Rosenbaum was asked to preside which he did, using a prepared agenda. William J. Maynard presented a proposed set of By-Laws which was discussed in detail and amended to reflect the aims and purposes of this group. A copy of this proposed By-Laws is included elsewhere in this newsletter. Dr. Swain was asked to prepare a newsletter for general distribution which would include the results of the questionnaire, the minutes of this meeting, and any other pertinent material.

Enthusiasm carried the discussion to the point of a possible national meeting in Washington, D. C. in the spring of 1972. Dr. Rosenbaum and Dr. Swain were asked to contact several facilities in Washington to see if this is a feasible project.

Results of the questionnaire had been tabulated by Linda Tauber and she reported on this to the group. These are also recorded in this newsletter.

To provide financial support for this venture the group decided that \$5.00 in "dues" be asked of each potential member and Dr. Swain will handle this. In addition, a brief outline of each of the organizers will also be given in this newsletter.

COMMENT:

A number of interesting ideas were developed at the Scarsdale meeting. Dr. Modrey mentioned that a similar organization in England served as a central clearing house for the sale/purchase of instruments. A prospective seller would name a price, submit his instrument to the agency; a prospective buyer would send the proposed purchase price to the agency and then would receive the instrument for his inspection and ap-

proval. If approved, the money would be forwarded to the seller; if not, the instrument would be returned and his (buyer's) money returned to him. In effect, the central office acted as an escrow service.

Several suggestions as to the format of a journal or newsletter were made. Harry Moskowitz told of his past experience with another similar group of collectors; Dr. Rosenbaum had helped to organize a similar group in his medical work.

The idea of a national meeting in Washington, D. C. was also considered. Before a formal organization can be developed it will be necessary to have a meeting. At this time organizational details can be worked out and approved. However, face to face confrontations among the various collectors will be the most interesting and fruitful result of such a national meeting. Perhaps a form of "show and tell" may develop with regard to unique and rare instruments which are owned by many collectors.

Although no definite date is yet set, the meeting in Washington will be in April or May, most likely on a weekend. As soon as a date has been selected this will be widely publicized.

Several collectors have made very handsome photographs of their collection (or individual items) and express willingness to swap photographs with other collectors.

PRELIMINARY ORGANIZATION:

The following were asked to serve in the capacities listed until a general meeting can be held:

President - Robert M. Rosenbaum, M.D.
Secretary - William J. Maynard
Treasurer/Editor - James M. Swain, M.D.

FRONTISPIECE:

This "pad-less" flute was experimentally made by Selmer (Elkhart) some years ago.

QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS:

Nearly four hundred questionnaires were mailed to various known collectors and others interested in this activity. As of the Scarsdale meeting, 109 had responded. Since that time several more have been added. A detailed breakdown as worked out by Linda Tauber is too lengthy for inclusion here but a summary may be interesting and useful.

QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS (Continued)

About three-fourths of the respondents are (or were) playing semi-professionally or professionally. Instruments played include many varieties but the heaviest concentration was in the woodwinds, especially flute (35). Recorders (15) and piano (13) were next most popular. Some mention of playing Baroque or Renaissance instruments (winds, viol, etc.) was made; it was our impression that most of the collectors play the instruments they have.

The most prevalent occupation was in the field of teaching (university, public and private, personal instruction), accounting for 42 of the respondents. Some are professional musicians (19), many are in activities closely allied to music (music store owners, repairmen, musicologists) with 27 in this group. Many other vocations were listed.

Collections range in almost fantastic degrees from just a few instruments to a high of 3,000 instruments in a single collection. 21 of the collections encompassed nearly all kinds of historical instruments. Most of the collections, however, were with emphasis on winds (wood and brass) — 79 in this group. Others included strings (11), keyboard (8), ethnic instruments (8), Baroque and/or Renaissance instruments or reproductions (6). Flute collections, as a specific group, accounted for 28 collections.

Ninety nine men and nine women (with one museum) were heard from. Ages ranged from 18 to 82 with a median age of 47.

Less than 30% had definite plans for disposition of their collections. Most (60) felt that this society might be helpful in this process.

Geographical distribution of respondents included 34 states (US), the largest number in the Northeast (45) and Midwest (30). There were also 4 Canadians and 1 Austrian.

Basically, most respondents felt that the proposed society should (a) inform, encourage, and publish research projects, (b) help collectors learn of one another, and (c) aid in the sale/purchase of instruments. Several thought that the Galpin Society was a good model to follow.

Several collectors were concerned about the security of their collections (theft, vandalism) and did not want any undue publicity. This is a definite hazard in dealing with antiques of any kind and, as promised in the original questionnaire, there will be no publication of names, addresses and collections, without specific permission from each. Most collectors welcome visits from fellow collectors and serious students.

Some voiced the fear that any focusing of attention upon rare musical instruments would only serve to drive the cost of acquiring such instruments up to the point where only the wealthy could hope to collect. This is also a valid point but is an inescapable fact of life in dealing with any antique.

At least two collectors have suggested that they would be interested in swapping photographs of their own instruments (individually or collectively) with others. This idea certainly has merit — many collectors have very handsome photographs of their instruments. It is hoped that some of these photographs will be published in this newsletter. The photograph on the front was included to indicate how this can be done.

ORGANIZERS

A brief outline of each of those who were present at the Scarsdale meeting:

William J. Maynard

17 Lincoln Avenue

Massapequa, New York 11762

Bill is a teacher and librarian. He collects clarinets in particular.

Dr. Henry J. Modrey

Eagle Drive

Stamford, Conn. 06903

Henry is a consulting engineer. Woodwinds are his specialty.

Harry Moskovitz

P. O. Box 222

Forest Hills, N. Y. 11375

Harry is a well-known professional flutist, clinician, and teacher. He has a very fine collection of flutes and related winds; also records and other similar items.

Robert M. Rosenbaum, M. D.

154 South Morris Lane

Scarsdale, New York 10583

Bob is an indefatigable collector, interested in many fields. His group of woodwinds is carefully indexed and beautifully displayed; he has other instruments, also. He is an oboist, and also a pathologist during working hours.

Robert B. Spargo

16 Plateau Road

Westerly, Rhode Island 02891

Bob is a music teacher in public schools; he plays trumpet and has a collection including music boxes.

James M. Swain, M. D.

3929 Bayouwood Drive

Lake Charles, La. 70601

Jim is a radiologist who plays flute as an amateur and has a moderate flute collection.

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Linda Tauber
86 Hamilton Avenue
Yonkers, New York 10705

Linda is a professional flutist and teacher; she has a small collection of flutes and piccolo.

Alfred Wood
30 Hubbard Street
Westerly, Rhode Island 02891

Alfred is a music teacher in the public schools. He plays keyboard and winds and has a very nice collection of winds (brass and wood).

BY-LAWS:

As a part of this issue, the complete proposed By-Laws are included. This is the result of a detailed discussion during the Scarsdale meeting and, while perhaps not perfect, it does represent a lot of work and thought and is a basis for future action. It is hoped to incorporate the Society as a non-profit corporation at some future date. These By-Laws will not be binding until adopted by a general membership meeting, most likely the proposed meeting in Washington, D. C. next spring.

ARTICLE ONE (Name and Object)

Section 1. This society shall be called "The Historical Musical Instrument Society."

Section 2. The object of this Society shall be to further the cause of organology. The specific objective shall be the study and collecting of historical musical instruments, and their performance, design, and production.

ARTICLE TWO (Government)

Section 1. The officers of this Society shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and five Governors who together shall form a Board of Governors.

Section 2. The officers and Governors shall be elected by the active members of the Society at an annual meeting. The Governors shall be elected for a term of three years and may be re-elected. Terms of Governors shall be staggered so that three serve for two years and two for three years. Subsequently each Governor shall be elected for three years.

Section 3. The term of the President and Vice-President shall be for one year. They may serve for not more than three consecutive terms. The term of the Treasurer and Secretary is for one year; they may be re-elected.

Section 4. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Society and of the Board of

Governors; he shall appoint all committees; and he shall perform such duties as are incident to his office.

Section 5. The Vice-President shall in the absence of the President preside at all meetings of the Society and of the Board of Governors, and shall assume all the functions of the President during such absence.

Section 6. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all meetings of the Society and of the Board of Governors; he shall issue all necessary notices; he shall have the custody of the records of the Society and perform such duties as are pertinent to his office.

Section 7. The Treasurer shall keep the accounts of the Society; he shall collect and receive all dues and other indebtedness to the Society and deposit the same in the name of the Society in such bank or trust company as may be directed by the Board of Governors; he shall pay all bills and perform such other duties as his office may require. He shall prepare an annual financial report.

Section 8. In the case of a vacancy in the office of President, Vice-President, Secretary or Treasurer, the Board of Governors shall elect from its own number a member to fill the office.

Section 9. The Board of Governors shall have the following powers and it shall be its duty:

- (a) To manage and control the affairs of the Society subject to the general approval of the members, and to carry out its Purposes according to its By-Laws.
- (b) To examine the books of the Society and to provide for their audit.
- (c) To fill any vacancy among the Governors, the members so chosen to hold office until the next annual meeting.

Section 10. The presence of three members of the Board of Governors at any meeting shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE THREE (Membership)

Section 1. All members shall enjoy equal Society privileges so long as they be active members in good standing in accordance with the By-Laws. The Board of Governors may create additional memberships from time to time as they see fit.

ARTICLE FOUR (Dues)

Section 1. Dues will be set forth by the Board of Governors and collected by the Treasurer.

Section 2. The Treasurer shall send to each member of the Society a statement of dues once
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ARTICLE FOUR (Dues) - Continued

each year. If a member remains six months in arrears in the payment of his dues, he shall be dropped from active membership. Should the demand not be complied with within one year the Board of Governors shall have the power to suspend him or strike his name from the membership. The Board of Governors shall have the power to reinstate him upon payment of all arrears.

ARTICLE FIVE (Meetings)

Section 1. A general meeting of the membership will be held at least once a year.

Section 2. The Board of Governors shall meet at least once a year at their discretion. Said meeting may be called by the President or by a majority of the Governors.

Section 3. All officers shall be elected at the annual meeting. Voting shall be by ballot either in person or by mail on a form provided for this purpose.

Section 4. The President shall appoint a Nominating Committee of three members at least one month before the annual meeting.

Section 5. Special meetings may be called by the President or the Board of Governors. Two weeks notice will be given to those members concerned.

Section 6. At the written request of ten per cent of active members, the President shall, within thirty days, call a special meeting to consider any specified subject.

Section 7. The conduct of all meetings shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order.

ARTICLE SIX (Publications)

Section 1. The Society may enter into the publication of individual or periodical material as is consistent with its purpose as stated in the By-Laws. The Board of Governors may select and appoint any editor(s) they deem suitable to qualify for such purpose upon approval of the membership. The editor in concert with the Board of Governors is authorized to enter into negotiation and agreement with publishers and printers necessary to establish or further the publication and distribution of such material as fits the purpose of the Society as stated in these By-Laws.

ARTICLE SEVEN (Authority to Compensate)

Section 1. No officer or Governor of the

Society shall receive compensation of his services. The Board of Governors acting by majority may authorize or ratify the payment to any officer or committee reasonable reimbursement for expenses incurred on behalf of the Society in any capacity deemed necessary or advisable to be in the interests of the Society consistent with its purpose.

ARTICLE EIGHT (Amendments and Changes)

Section 1. These By-Laws or any one or more of the provisions thereof may at any annual or special meeting of the Board of Governors or members be amended by changing, altering, adding to, suspending or repealing the same by a majority of those present and entitled to vote. If any amendment be adopted at a special meeting, the substance of such amendments must have been stated to the membership in writing for a period of not less than two weeks prior to such a meeting.

ARTICLE NINE (Adoption)

Section 1. These By-Laws shall become effective upon receipt by the Secretary of mailed ballots or upon vote of the members present in good standing at the next annual business meeting. A majority of these members present at said meeting shall be required for adoption.

INVITATION:

An invitation is hereby extended to you to join us in this organization. Your check in the amount of \$5.00, together with your name and address (and information concerning your musical interests if not already in our files), is all that is necessary. Mail to:

*James M. Swain, M. D.
Historical Musical Instrument Society
3929 Bayouwood Drive
Lake Charles, Louisiana 70601*

More information concerning the proposed general meeting in Washington, D. C. next year will be forthcoming. If you have any comments or suggestions please relay them to the above address or to any of the organizers listed.

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