

Precious Little Nonsense

NEWSLETTER OF THE MIDWESTERN GILBERT AND SULLIVAN SOCIETY

December 1995 -- Issue 47 (Such as it is)

Mighty Protectress, Hasten to My Aid

(This one was the closest to a "hurry up and get it done" quotation I could think of tonight.) We got a call from an organization that needs to get some information out to an audience of Gilbert and Sullivan enthusiasts. The Chicago Theatre Club is going to be hosting a trip to see the Skylight Opera's production of *Over the Moon* (A G&S Revue, it appears), and has opened this particular trip to non-members. Enclosed (with the MGS's holiday greeting) is information on the Chicago Theater Club, as well as the trip. The MGS is not endorsing the Chicago Theater Club, or the trip, but they are something S/A Cole thought MGS members would like to know about. If you have any questions about either, do contact the Chicago Theater Club.

Again, and especially at this season of good-will, Sarah Cole wants to thank all the membership of the Midwestern Gilbert and Sullivan Society for their patience over the last two years; and especially thanks the other G&S societies, who have been tremendously indulgent with the MGS's difficulties. We are currently working out a plan to compile all the information we've received during that time for putting in the *Nonsense*. In the meantime, here's what we've got.

Oh Members, How Say You, What Is it You've Done?

We were distressed to learn of the recent deaths of two MGS members. We lost **Mary Louise Neumann**, long-time librarian at National College in Evanston (before it changed its name to National-Louis University) in October. She was a help to both students and alumnae for many years, and at the time of her death was volunteering at a local nursing home. In the May *Nonsense*, a description of "a new operetta" called *The Joy Motel* was included. We lost its composer, **John Blum**, in April. Our sympathy is with the families of these valued members.

Incidentally, we might be able to help out Mrs. John Blum. S/A Cole recently received a note from her, not only telling about Mr. Blum's passing, but asking for help in locating one of his collaborators: a *Nora June Severance* (Wayne), formerly of East Aurora, NY. Mr. Blum had evidently written some music she needed, and Mrs. Blum does not have her address. She is believed to have moved to Idaho, Oregon, or Washington state. If anybody knows of her, please have her get in touch with Mrs. Blum. She will certainly appreciate your help!

What Cheer! What Cheer! {Midwestern}

The *Savoy-Aires* are planning to stage **Iolanthe** during 1996. When we find out more, we'll let you know, but in the meantime, for more information, contact the company at P.O. Box 126, Evanston, IL 60204, or call David Craven at (312) 862-7781.

Also, *Light Opera Works* is scheduled to perform **Ruddigore** August 17-25, 1996. Other productions during the 1996 season include *The Choco-*

late Soldier by Oscar Strauss (June 1-9) and *Wonderful Town* by Leonard Bernstein, Betty Comden and Adolph Green (December 26-31). A nice feature of the *Ruddigore* production is that some kind of half-price discount for children will be available. Light Opera Works is currently taking series subscriptions, which run from \$47 to \$113. Individual tickets will range from \$21 to \$48 per show. For more information, to subscribe, or to find out what ages qualify for a children's discount, call Light Opera Works at (708) 869-6300.

Where can it Be

If you're stuck for a Christmas Gift for a G&S enthusiast, or just stuck for a Christmas Gift, *The Best of Gilbert and Sullivan* have another recording available. They always give a good show, even on tape, and while S/A Cole didn't like this one quite as much as their first tape (the singing is fine, but the place where it was recorded sounds "echo-y"), it does give a good overview of G&S. Songs on the tape include "We're called gondolieri/Thank you gallant gondolieri", "Time was when love and I were well acquainted", "When I was a lad", "Fair Moon, to thee I sing", "Never mind the why and wherefore", "Cheerily carols the lark", "The Sun whose rays", "Were you not to Ko-Ko plighted", "Here's a How-de-do", "Then one of us shall be a queen", "I once was a very abandoned person/My eyes are fully opened", "When first my old, old love I knew", "When you had left our pirate fold", "Take a pair of sparkling eyes", "Poor Wand'ring One", and "Once more gondolieri". Performers are Deborah Clague (soprano), Lorraine Daniels (mezzo), John Ayldon and Kenneth Sandford (baritones), Geoffrey Shovelton (tenor), and

David Mackie (accompaniment). Cassettes cost \$11.50 (postage included), and can be ordered from *Nona M. Young*; Box 330, RFD 1; Kingfield, ME 04947. While I can't find an order blank to check this information, I made the check out to Deborah Clague, so chances are, you can do the same.

We're going to get right to work on the next real *Non-sense*. In the meantime, have a delightful holiday, and a bright and successful new year. Do keep in touch!

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