

# BROADSIDE

NEWSLETTER OF THE THEATRE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 5, NUMBER 3

WINTER 1978

NEW SERIES

## IBSEN FESTIVAL TO CELEBRATE PLAYWRIGHT'S BIRTH

An Ibsen Symposium will be held in New York City on the Brooklyn and Manhattan campuses of Pratt Institute from May 9th through 12th in celebration of the 150th anniversary of the world-renowned playwright's birth. Based on the theme, *Ibsen in America: Interpretation/Performance*, the five-day conference will bring together leading scholars, critics and theatre practitioners from throughout the United States to discuss new approaches to interpreting and staging the later works of the master playwright who has been termed the "father of the modern drama".

The symposium is under the supervision of Rolf Fjelde, Professor of English and Drama at Pratt Institute and highly acclaimed translator of Ibsen's plays. Fjelde's latest work, *Ibsen: the Complete Major Prose Plays*, was published by New American Library and Farrar, Straus and Giroux on March 20th, birthdate of the Norwegian dramatist. Among the festival's participants will be theatre directors Alan Schneider and Harold Clurman, critics Elizabeth Hardwick and Jan Kott, Dean Robert Brustein of the Yale Drama School and noted psychologist Rollo May.

In addition to the main program of lectures, seminars and panels restricted to the participants, several public events will explore other dimensions of Ibsen's achievement and influence. A concert of "Ibsen in Music" conducted by Jens Nygaard will present rare and unusual music based on Ibsen's poems and plays. Exhibitions arranged in cooperation with the Norwegian government will

(Continued on page 3)

## CHAPE TELECAST

CBS-TV has completed a program on American burlesque based on the burlesque segment of the conference on the History of American Popular Entertainment. The telecast will be shown throughout the country on a forthcoming Sunday Camera Three series. Please watch your local papers for Camera Three listings and time.

The performance features Morton Minsky and Joey Fay with William Green serving as host. ASTR and TLA are to receive production credit.



## PHOTOGRAPHIC COLLECTIONS SEMINAR

The American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) will offer a seminar on the "Administration of Photographic Collections" from May 7 to 11 at the Rochester Museum of Science Center, Rochester, New York. Open to twenty-five participants, the sessions will deal with curatorial care, public access, reproduction rights, use fees, copyright and staff training. Additional information may be obtained from the AASLH, 1400 Eighth Avenue South, Nashville, Tennessee 37203.

## TLA TO MEET WITH ALA IN CHICAGO

*Chicago Theatre: the Scene, the Awards, the Collections* is the theme of this year's Theatre Library Association Summer Meeting to be held in conjunction with the annual American Library Association Conference in Chicago, Illinois on Wednesday, June 28th. The program's objectives will be to familiarize librarians with theatre activities and performing arts archives in the Chicago area.

The day's activities will begin at 9:00 a.m. with tours of the St. Nicholas Theatre, co-founded by playwright David Mamet, and the newly refurbished theatre of the Chicago Public Library Cultural Center for a limited number of advance registrants. The fee is three dollars (\$3.00) per person which includes chartered bus and afternoon reception. Tickets may be obtained from Judith Weisman, The Chicago Public Library Cultural Center, 78 East Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois 60602 by sending a check made payable to the Theatre Library Association and a self-addressed, stamped envelope. The deadline is May 15.

The afternoon program will be held in the Goodman Theatre at 200 Columbus Drive South. Participants include Gregory Mosher, Artistic Director of the Goodman Theatre, who will discuss the success of regional theatre; Thomas A. Orlando, Curator of Special Collections and Archivist of the Chicago Public Library, whose deliberations will focus on theatre collections and resources in the Chicago area; Baird Brown, Vice-Chairman of the Joseph

(Continued on page 3)

## JOHN F. WHARTON (1894-1977)

John Wharton was never an official member of the Theatre Library Association, but he was a firm friend of the organization for many years. We knew we could always turn to him for advice in matters of law, fund-raising or plain common sense. His interest was not based solely on the fact that his wife, Betty, was an active member of TLA, although this opened the door to the relationship. John was genuinely interested in all aspects of the theatre, and any group or individual who shared this concern could count on his sympathetic ear.

A founding member of the Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison law firm and one of the foremost theatrical attorneys of our day, John Wharton was instrumental in developing the dramatists contract which protects a playwright's interest in motion picture rights and the limited partnership producing agreement. He knew about the failings of the theatre as he worked on the day-to-day problems of his clients (playwrights, composers, producers, designers, actors and others in the theatrical field) but he never lost faith in a future which would make good theatre accessible to all at a fair price. The Theatre Development Fund, which subsidizes productions so that tickets can be sold at reduced rates, is a product of his efforts. He also helped organize the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Theatre Arts (IASTA) and the New Dramatists Committee. At one point in his career he ventured into the producing field as a founding member of the Playwrights Producing Company. The group's formation and history are recorded in his book, *Life Among the Playwrights*, which won an Honorable Mention Award at the George Freedley Award ceremonies in 1975.

In the past year, although illness was beginning to sap his physical energy, he continued to play an active role on the planning committee for the Conference on the History of American Popular Entertainment which was jointly sponsored by the Theatre Library Association and the American Society for Theatre Research last November. As chairman William Green said at the CHAPE committee meeting following

the Conference, the Conference would not have been possible, let alone the great success it proved to be, without the Wharton's constructive advice and hard work. Unfortunately, John and Betty were unable to attend the Conference because of his ill health.

John Wharton received many honors in the theatrical world, among them a special Tony Award, the Kelcey Allen Award, and a special citation from the New Dramatists, Inc. In 1966 *Variety* named him the man who had done most for the theatre. But for those of us who knew him, it is not the wise theatrical lawyer that we remember or the concerned citizen for clean air, a quieter city, world-peace and other causes, but the warm friend who managed to combine idealism with hard-headed practicality and to leaven it with a delightful sense of humor.

-----Dorothy L. Swerdlove

## SUMMER COURSE IN PERFORMING ARTS COLLECTIONS

Dr. Mary C. Henderson, Associate Curator of the Theatre and Music Division of the Museum of the City of New York, will give a repeat performance of her academic course on the "Management of Performing Arts Collections" at New York University this summer. Classes will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. from June 12 to July 20.

Dr. Henderson describes the course as "a professional course designed as an introduction to the functions and problems of performing arts collections. Lectures will deal with such collections and how to preserve, classify and catalog them. Attention will also be given to the acquisition and appraisal of materials and how to script and mount exhibitions. Some practical field work within an actual collection will be required".

The course may be taken for graduate credit or without credit at a cost of \$354.00. Information concerning registration may be obtained from Brooks McNamara, Acting Chairman, Graduate Department, 300 South Building, New York University, New York, N. Y. 10003.

## TLA BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Brooks McNamara reported that thirty-five people were in attendance at the first ASTR-TLA Speakers Series which featured Alan Schneider and his discourse on productions of Samuel Beckett.

Because the by-laws of the Theatre Library Association require that the Annual Business Meeting must be held in the State of New York it was the consensus of the Board that a TLA program be planned to be held in conjunction with annual meetings of the American Society for Theatre Research.

Ideas and suggestions on the possibility of an Ethnic Theatre Conference were discussed with the conclusion that 1982 might be a practical date to consider for such a conference.

Dorothy Swerdlove was appointed Chairman of a sub-committee to revise the TLA application form. It was agreed that emphasis be placed on an "appeal to more people in the performing arts than just strictly 'theatre' people". It was also the Board's feeling that TLA attempt more coverage in the various professional performing arts and library bulletins and journals. In accordance with this revision the new dues rate will be \$15.00 for personal membership and \$20.00 for institutional membership.

Mary C. Henderson, Editor of *Performing Arts Resources*, reported that she has an introduction and eleven manuscripts on deposit for Volume IV. The forthcoming volume will also include a listing of the George Freedley and Theatre Library Association Awards from their inception.

William Green reported that a video tape of the CHAPE proceedings has been made and deposited in the Lincoln Center Library. Two spin-offs from the Conference include a CBS show on burlesque with Green as moderator and the publication of the proceedings by Greenwood Press.

-----Paul R. Palmer,  
Recording Secretary

## ACRL CINEMA LIBRARIANS

### DISCUSSION GROUP

In 1976 Nancy Allen, Assistant Undergraduate Librarian at the University of Illinois in Urbana, initiated the Cinema Librarians Discussion Group (CLDG) within the Association of College and Research Libraries. Its purpose is to provide a forum for the exchange of information of interest to librarians involved in the support of cinema study. This involves the areas of reference sources and services; instruction to students, scholars and librarians in the use of cinema holdings; dissemination of information regarding location and description of cinema collections and archives of primary material and other areas such as acquisition of print and non-print material for studying film. CLDG's goals differ from the aims of the various audio visual committees within the American Library Association since CLDG is not concerned primarily with non-print material services or processing.

A *Cinema Librarians Newsletter* is to appear quarterly to inform interested individuals and groups of cinema study news as it pertains to libraries. The Fall 1977 issue (Vol. I, No. 1) includes brief sketches of the Educational Film Library Association (EFLA), the National Film Information Service (NFIS) and the Theatre Library Association (TLA).

Additional information on CLDG and back copies of the *Newsletter* may be obtained from Nancy Allen, Undergraduate Library, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois 61801.

### IBSEN FESTIVAL

(Continued from page 1)

display theatre posters, programs, production photographs, original manuscripts and memorabilia illustrating "Ibsen and his Works, Then and Now" and "Ibsen in World Drama."

Sponsored by Pratt's Mellon Program in the Humanities and the American-Scandinavian Foundation, the Ibsen Sesquicentennial Symposium will be limited to seventy-five participants already involved in interpretation and performance of the playwright's works with a small additional number of places reserved for full-time students.

## ACQUISITIONS FROM THE FIELD

*British Actors Orphanage Fund Collection:* Lloyd V. Almirall of the law firm Breed, Abbott & Morgan has presented his outstanding collection on the British Actors Orphanage to The Walter Hampden-Edwin Booth Theatre Collection and Library at The Players. The holdings include copies of the charter, by-laws, minutes, journals and ledgers, children's travel arrangements, working files and preliminary and general correspondence for the years 1940-1946 featuring such luminaries as Noel Coward, Dame May Whitty, Boris Karloff, Maurice Evans, Cole Porter, Peggy Wood and Margaret Webster. The British Actors Orphanage Fund was incorporated in Los Angeles, California in July 1940 "to promote and effect the transfer of male and female minor orphans of deceased British actors and actresses from their present home or homes in Great Britain to America ... and to provide and pay for their complete maintenance, housing and schooling therein, during the pendency of the present war between Great Britain and Germany, to the end that these orphans may be removed from the horrors and perils of such war." The duties and activities of the Fund came to a successful conclusion in 1946 when forty-eight of the original fifty-four orphans returned to England and the remaining six either became self-supporting or their care was assumed by others.

*Charles K. Feldman and Leo McCarey Collections:* The Charles K. Feldman Library, located in the American Film Institute Center for Advanced Film Studies in Beverly Hills, has acquired the correspondence, scripts, budgets and other records documenting the careers of Feldman and Leo McCarey. Feldman, a lawyer and talent agent who became one of Hollywood's first and best independent producers, died in 1968. His clients included Irene Dunne, Claudette Colbert, Lauren Bacall, John Wayne, Greta Garbo and Marilyn Monroe. In 1948 he teamed with Howard Hawks on *Red River*. This was followed by *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *The Seven Year Itch*, *The Group* and *Casino Royale*. The collection of McCarey includes materials on the production of such

outstanding films as *The Awful Truth*, *Going My Way*, *Rally Round the Flag, Boys!* and *The Bells of St. Mary's*.

*Elmo Neale Pickerill Collection:* The Broadcast Pioneers Library was the recipient of the Pickerill Collection through the good offices of Pickerill's cousin, Eugene M. Baker. "Pick" was the first man to pioneer an air-to-ground communication, to perpetuate a sea rescue via radio, to present professional talent on radio (Geraldine Farrar), to receive a first-class radio license from the U. S. government as well as construct a radio station atop New York's Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. The collection documents Pickerill's career through his correspondence with DeForest, Marconi, Sarnoff, Clarence D. Tuska and others. It contains books, catalogs, photos and memorabilia that represents a cross-section of electronic advancements made during this century. The Broadcast Pioneers Library is located in the National Association of Broadcasters Building, 1771 W Street, N. W., Washington, D. C. 20036.

### TLA TO MEET WITH ALA

(Continued from page 1)

Jefferson Awards Committee, who will reveal how Chicago recognizes its theatre through the presentation of the Joseph Jefferson and Sarah Siddons Awards; and Virgil Johnson, Resident Designer of the Goodman Theatre, who will share his experience in researching costume designs for a production by means of a slide presentation.

An informal panel discussion on "Library Appraisals" will conclude the program. Panelists include Lee Ash, Library Consultant and Editor of *Subject Collections*; Mary Beth Beal, Appraiser and Library Consultant; Mary C. Henderson, Associate Curator of the Theatre and Music Division of the Museum of the City of New York; Brooks McNamara, Graduate Drama Department, School of the Arts, New York University and President of the Theatre Library Association; and Louis A. Rachow, Curator and Librarian of The Walter Hampden-Edwin Booth Theatre Collection and Library at The Players.

—————Richard M. Buck

## KENNEDY CENTER LIBRARY OF THE PERFORMING ARTS

Librarian of Congress Daniel J. Boorstin and Roger L. Stevens, Chairman of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, announced recently plans for a research library at the Kennedy Center which will draw upon the extensive collections of performing arts material in the Library of Congress.

The jointly sponsored library will make available a core reference collection of three to five thousand volumes, plus current issues of major domestic and foreign periodicals devoted to the performing arts, to scholars and the general public as well as the artists and performers associated with the Kennedy Center. The facility will also house photo files of the Kennedy Center productions and include viewing rooms for film and television clips and sound-proof rooms for records and tapes. A special feature will be a video display computer link-up with the Library of Congress which will make it possible for the serious researcher to have access to books currently cataloged by the Library and ultimately to films, prints, posters, musical recordings and other material.

According to Dr. Boorstin the establishment of the Kennedy Center Library will act as a stimulus to pull together its widespread collections and help pave the way for a much needed national clearinghouse for bibliographical information on the performing arts. He envisions future computer link-ups through the Center's facility with other performing arts libraries. Mr. Stevens adds that, in addition to providing invaluable service to the musical and theatre artists working at the Center, the library will be able to prepare special exhibits and bibliographies to enhance the public understanding and appreciation of current productions.

Philip Johnson has been engaged to design the Kennedy Center Library. It is to be established on the top floor of the Center in the east end of the North Gallery, adjacent to the new studio theatre — the Bicentennial gift of Japan — and the Multi Purpose Room, home of the new Musical Theatre Lab.

## THE MUSIC CENTER ARCHIVES

In an upstairs room behind the Ahmanson Theatre in Los Angeles is housed an "impressive collection of source materials pertaining to the history and development of the Music Center complex and its resident companies, playbills and other memorabilia relevant to the history of other, often long-gone Los Angeles theatres, an extensive file on the Academy Awards and a current general file of arts clippings from around the world".

This outstanding collection was organized eight years ago by the Music Center's House Managers Kenn Randall and Norman Macdonald by collecting materials from the previous five years of the Center's existence. Soon after these informal beginnings the Archives become an official unit of the Music Center administered by the Music Center Operating Company. It is "among the first to centralize the collections of a performing arts complex in one location. While it is a relatively young facility, it has already become known as a precedent setter and other theatres have contacted Archivist Joel Pritkin for advice on establishing similar archives".

Although the most frequent users of the Archives are the resident companies, Mr. Pritkin reports that the materials are available to all qualified users including graduate students and theatre buffs.

(Based on material from an article on the Music Center Archives in the November 1977 issue of *Performing Arts*)

### MAILING ADDRESSES FOR TLA

NEWSLETTER ONLY: Send news items, announcements, books for review and comments for *Broadside* directly to the Editor: Louis A. Rachow, The Walter Hampden-Edwin Booth Theatre Collection and Library, 16 Gramercy Park, New York, N. Y. 10003.

DUES, CONTRIBUTIONS, CHANGE OF ADDRESS NOTICES AND OTHER CORRESPONDENCE to the Secretary-Treasurer: Richard M. Buck, Performing Arts Research Center, The New York Public Library at Lincoln Center, 111 Amsterdam Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10023.

## WORKS IN PROGRESS

BOOTH, John Wilkes (1838-1865). American Actor. Novel. Dr. Constance Head, Dept. of History, Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, N. C. 28723.

EAGLES, Jeanne (1894-1929). American Actress. Biography. James Camner, La Scala Autography, P. O. Box 268, Plainsboro, N. J. 08536.

JEFFERSON, Joseph (1829-1905). American Actor. Images and Portraits. Bruce Weber, Smithsonian Fellow, Office of Research, National Collection of Fine Arts, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C. 20560.

LANGRISHE, John A. Actor and Manager of 19th-century Touring Theatrical Companies. Charles E. Lauterbach, Theatre Arts Dept., Boise State University, 1910 University Drive, Boise, Idaho 83725.

MARQUIS, Don (1878-1937). Author and Playwright. Compilation of Letters. William McCollum, Jr., R. D. 3, Box 197, Flemington, N. J. 08822.

O'NEILL, Eugene. Oriental Philosophy in O'Neill's Plays from 1920 to 1930. Ph.D. Research. James A. Robinson, Dept. of English, University of Maryland, College Park, Md. 20742.

O'NEILL, Eugene: the Philosopher of a Mother's Eternal Son. Ph.D. Research. Judith W. B. Williams, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104.

PROVINCETOWN PLAYERS. New York Productions. Ph.D. Research. Alice J. Kellman, Assistant Editor, *The Drama Review*, 51 West 4th Street, Room 300, New York, N. Y. 10012.

SAINT JOAN. (George Bernard Shaw). Theatre Guild Production 28 December 1923. Ph.D. Research. Susan Vick, Dept. of Theatre, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois 61801.

SARGENT, Franklin Haven (1856-1923). Teacher of Acting, Stage Director and a Founder of The American Academy of Dramatic Art. Biography. Daniel J. Watermeier, Dept. of Theatre, College of Arts and Science, State University of New York, Plattsburgh, N. Y. 12901.

Officers of the Theatre Library Association (founded 1937); *President*, Brooks McNamara, Graduate Drama Department, School of the Arts, New York University, Room 300, 61 West 4th Street, New York, N. Y. 10012; *Vice-President*, Louis A. Rachow, The Walter Hampden-Edwin Booth Theatre Collection and Library, The Players, 16 Gramercy Park, New York, N. Y. 10003; *Secretary-Treasurer*, Richard M. Buck, Assistant to the Chief, Performing Arts Research Center, The New York Public Library at Lincoln Center, 111 Amsterdam Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10023; *Recording Secretary*, Paul R. Palmer, 560 Riverside Drive, Apt. 21B, New York, N. Y. 10027.

*Broadside*, published quarterly by the Theatre Library Association, 111 Amsterdam Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10023, is sent to all members in good standing. Editor: Louis A. Rachow, Curator-Librarian, The Walter Hampden-Edwin Booth Theatre Collection and Library at The Players, 16 Gramercy Park, New York, N. Y. 10003. TLA membership dues of \$15 annually (\$20 for institutions) include *Performing Arts Resources* published annually.