

BROADSIDE

NEWSLETTER OF THE THEATRE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 9, NUMBER 1

SUMMER 1981

NEW SERIES

THEATRE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL NEW YORK PROGRAM MEETING

The TLA Annual New York Program Meeting, to which all ASTR members are invited, will be held from 4-5 PM, Thursday, November 19, in the Vincent Astor Gallery. The program will feature *Getting It Together: Putting the London Actor-Manager Exhibition on the Walls*. This first major gallery showing of rare and unusual theatrical memorabilia organized around the most popular English actor-managers of the 18th and 19th centuries has been selected by Babette Craven and William Appleton to reflect the importance of such personages as David Garrick, Henry Irving, Charles Kean and Madame Vestris to the theatrical and cultural milieu of their time. The exhibition was designed by Don Vlack. *London Actor-Managers: 1700-1900* will be open to the public from September 17 until December 31.



CANADIAN MEMBER RECEIVES AWARD

Heather McCallum, Head of the Theatre Department, Metropolitan Toronto Library, was recently awarded the Jubilee Award for 1981 by the Alumni Association, Faculty of Library Science, University of Toronto. The award was made in recognition of her "distinguished contribution to the profession and her innovative work in the development of theatre libraries in Canada and her national and international work with theatre collections."

PLAN TO ATTEND
THE NOVEMBER 1982
TLA MEETING IN
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

CALL FOR PAPERS
FOR THE THEATRE AREA
POPULAR CULTURE ASSOCIATION
FOURTH ANNUAL CONVENTION
Louisville, KY, April 14-18, 1982

Topics being considered include: the characteristics of contemporary drama (form, style, characterization, relationship to contemporary institutions, etc.); the language (or the history of language) in American drama; the relationship between drama and films or television; drama in specific films or television programs; the resurgence of radio drama; the history of drama in the popular culture; attitudes, models and stereotypes in contemporary drama; theatrical personalities or activists in the popular culture (biography); drama or theatre in the schools as enculturation; the economics of theatre; dance and theatre in the popular culture; musical comedy; women in theatre; the docu-drama; research techniques and bibliography in popular theatre.

Other topics will be considered, depending on proposals and papers received.

Papers and proposals should be received by *November 1, 1981*.

Please address papers, proposals or inquiries to:

Professor Daniel Lamer
Department of Theatre and Dance
Western Washington University
Bellingham, WA 98225

ASTR/TLA NOVEMBER CONFERENCE

The American Society for Theatre Research will hold its 25th Anniversary Conference at The New York Public Library at Lincoln Center, Library and Museum of the Performing Arts, on November 20 and 21.

The Theatre Library Association will present the opening panel of the conference on Friday, November 20. The discussion, *In the Matter of Illustrative Materials: Visual Riches of Area Theatre Collections*, will cover such topics as clipping files, photograph collections, original designs, light plots and blueprints, and window cards and posters. The user panel will include authors Lee Israel, Michael Patrick Hearn, and Robert Kimball, and researchers Jay O. Glerum and Carlton Ward. The reactor panel of collection staff members will include Loraine Correll, Robert de Candido, Mary C. Henderson, Brigitte Kueppers, Elizabeth Ross, and Dorothy L. Swerdlow. Emphasis will be on use, disuse and preservation.

Full program details are on page 3. A registration form is enclosed, or write: Prof. Vera Mowry Roberts, Dept. of Theatre and Film, Hunter College, CUNY, 695 Park Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10021.

10th ANNUAL
GIANT BAZAAR
OF
THE NEW YORK
PUBLIC LIBRARY
Sunday, November 15th
10:30 AM - 5:30 PM

THE MAX LIEBMAN ARCHIVES OF THE TAMIMENT PLAYHOUSE

On July 20th, just before Max Liebman's death at the age of 78, the Max Liebman Archives of the Tamiment Playhouse was launched with his blessing. The purpose of the archives, a project of the Tamiment Institute, is to recognize and commemorate the important contribution to the entertainment world made by the Tamiment theatre.

According to project chairman, William B. Thomas, the initial function of the archives will be the assembling of all Tamiment theatre-related material, such as photos, programs, original scripts and films of actual performances, for public exhibition. Also included in the archives will be taped and written recollections by former staff members, who are now among the best-known names in the theatre, film, television and dance.

In 1933, at a 2,200-acre camp in the Poconos known as Camp Tamiment, Max Liebman initiated a theatrical workshop which operated for over a quarter of a century as the incubator for such talent as Carol Channing, Danny Kaye, Imogene Coca, Jerome Robbins, Carol Burnett, Neil Simon, Woody Allen,

Betty Garrett, Jerry Bock, Lee Grant, Bea Arthur, Dick Shawn, Larty Kert, Jack Cassidy, Sylvia Miles, Herb Ross, Fred Ebb, Dorothy Loudon, Gene Saks, Lucille Kallen, Richard Maltby, Jr., Bernie West, Mary Rodgers, Bob Dishy, Professor Irwin Corey, Lee Theodore, Marshall Barer, Jonathan Tunick, Mata and Hari, Grover Dale, Anita Alvarez, Christopher Hewitt and many others.

From 1933 until 1960, under the direction and supervision of Liebman and his successor, Monroe B. Hack, the Tamiment Playhouse was known as a "show biz laboratory," "an incubator for Broadway talent" and "TV's studio in the sunshine" (according to *Variety*). On Tamiment's dining room stage, behind a pair of blankets which served as a makeshift curtain, 17-year-old Jerome Robbins originated the concept which later became the Keystone Kops Ballet sequence in "High Button Shoes," and worked out other sequences which were to turn up in "Fancy Free". Chet Forrest wrote "Song of Norway" there. It's where Danny Kaye trademarked his famous hand gestures, and Bea Arthur, previously known as a dramatic

actress, discovered her talents as a comedienne. Sylvia Regan, who would write "The Fifth Season," appeared there as an ingenue in a drama Paul Muni was trying out. Successive editors of the camp paper, "The Breakfast Serial," would grow up to become Hollywood producer Don Hartman and noted music critic Irving Kolodin.

"The Strawhat Revue," compiled from the best material of the 1939 season, was transferred directly from Tamiment to Broadway's Ambassador Theatre within a week by the Shuberts. The show not only enjoyed a moderately successful run with such little-knowns as Kaye, Robbins, Imogene Coca, Alfred Drake and Betty Garrett, but coined the phrase "Strawhat circuit" as well. In 1958, Marshall Barer, Mary Rodgers and Jay Thompson wrote a one-act, book musical in three weeks, which would travel to Broadway with enormous success as "Once Upon A Mattress" with Carol Burnett.

During the 30s, Liebman established the tradition, continued by Hack, of producing an original, one-

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NEDCC INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR CONSERVATION SURVEYS

The Northeast Document Conservation Center, Andover, Massachusetts, has been awarded a three-year grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to support its field service efforts. The major activity will be short-term, on-site consultation to small and medium-size repositories in NEDCC's region (New England, New York and New Jersey).

Surveys consisting of a day of on-site consultation and a written follow-up report will be provided at reduced cost throughout the period of funding. The NEDCC Field Service Director will review the building environment, examine the condition of collections, and prepare a written report advising on environmental standards, proper storage and handling, and needs for conservation treatment. The fee for consultation and preparation of the report (until December 31, 1981) will be \$100 plus transportation expenses.

Small and medium size libraries, archives, records repositories and historical organizations located in New England, New York and New

Jersey are encouraged to submit a letter of application for this service. The letter should include information about the nature and size of collections, number and training of staff, budget size, and conservation efforts to date. In general, preference will be given to institutions which hold collections of unique and irreplaceable materials and which demonstrate a commitment to upgrading preservation practices. The number of subsidized surveys is strictly limited. Survey requests that cannot be accepted in the first year will be held to the second and third years of the project.

The Northeast Document Conservation Center, founded by the New England Library Board, is a non-profit, regional conservation center, specializing in conservation of library and archival materials and art on paper. Letters of application should be sent to Mildred O'Connell, Field Service Director, NEDCC, Abbot Hall, School Street, Andover, MA 01810.

NEW JOURNAL

Theatre History Studies is a new annual journal devoted to research and excellence in all areas of theatre history, representing a wide range of theatre history research for diverse and international fields of interest. The first issue was published in June 1981. Among the articles appearing in the first volume are "Edwin Booth's *Richelieu*" by Daniel J. Watermeier, "Imre Kiralfy's 1890 Boston Production of *The Fall of Babylon*" by James S. Moy, "The Stage Irishman Among the Irish", by Robert Graves, "Charles Kean in the Provinces: 1833-1838" by M. Glen Wilson, " wooing a Local Audience: The Irish-American Appeal of Philadelphia's Mae Desmond Players" by Mari Kathleen Fielder, plus a special feature section, "Theatre History Obscurities." Ron Engle of the University of North Dakota is the editor.

Subscriptions to *Theatre History Studies* are \$6.00 for one year and \$11.00 for 2 years. Send check or money order to *Theatre History Studies*, Theatre Arts Department, Box 8182, University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, ND 58202.



5th Anniversary Conference

November 20 and 21, 1981
at The New York Public Library at Lincoln Center,
Library and Museum of the Performing Arts
111 Amsterdam Avenue, New York, New York 10023

All panels and meetings will be held in the Bruno Walter Auditorium unless otherwise announced.

PROGRAM

Friday, November 20

- 8:00 AM – 9:30 AM Registration, coffee, and . . .
- 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM **IN THE MATTER OF ILLUSTRATIVE MATERIALS: Visual Riches of Area Theatre Collections (TLA Panel, Richard Buck presiding)**
Fragile ephemera, photographs, designs, blue-prints, posters.
To include Dorothy Swerdlove, Mary Henderson, Elizabeth Ross, Robert DeCandido and others. (See article page 1).
- 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM **PLAYWRIGHTS RECONSIDERED (Bernard Beckerman presiding)**
"No Time for Comedy: The Failure of Philip Barry," David Mays, Virginia Poly. Inst. & S.U.
"Mourning Becomes Electra: Long Night's Journey Into Day," John M. Callahan, Kutztown State College
"Thornton Wilder: Broadway Production History," Martin Blank, College of Staten Island, CUNY
- 12:30 PM – 1:30 PM Lunch "on your own" (a list of suggestions will be supplied).
- 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM **THE CLASSICS ON BROADWAY (Simon Williams presiding)**
"Shakespeare Productions," Cary M. Mazer, University of Pennsylvania
"Moliere and Chekov on Broadway," Alex Szogyi, Hunter College, CUNY
"Broadway and the Ancient Greeks," Nick Azzaretti, Colby College
- 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM **REPERTORY ON BROADWAY (Robert K. Sarlos presiding)**
"The American Repertory Theatre," Daniel Watermeier, SUNY, Plattsburgh
"Triple-A Plowed Under: A Federal Theatre Saga," Barry Witham, University of Washington
"Politics and Passion: Women in the Group Theatre," Helen Krich Chinoy, Smith College
- 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM Reception, co-hosted with TLA (place to be announced)
- Evening: Free for theatre-going

PROGRAM

Saturday, November 21

- 8:30 AM – 9:00 AM Coffee
- 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM **ANNUAL MEETING OF ASTR (Joseph Donohue presiding)**
President's Address and Other Business.
- 10:30 AM – 12:00 Noon **SOME ASPECTS OF MUSICAL THEATRE (Brooks McNamara presiding)**
"Kathering Dunham's 'Tropical Revue'," Veve A. Clark, Tufts University
"Hot-Cha to Panama Hattie: Musical Theatre Costumes of the '30's," John E. Hirsch, New York University
"TAC (Theatre Action Committee) Cabaret Performances," Barbara Naomi Cohen, Editor, Dance Data
- 12:00 Noon – 2:00 PM **ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON at Sweetwater's, 170 Amsterdam Ave.**
Featured Speaker: Ralph G. Allen, "The Pleasures and Terrors of Broadway"
Honored Guests (the Founders and Organizers of ASTR): Robert H. Ball, Gerald E. Bentley, Malcolm Goldstein, Barnard Hewitt, George R. Kernodle, Paul Kozelka, Edward A. Langhans, Thomas F. Marshall, Richard Moody, Alois H. Nagler, Harry W. Pedicord, Edwin Pettit
- 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM **"ON THE WHOLE ..." (Myron Matlov presiding)**
"Broadway Critics: Band or Blessing?" Lucille Johnsen Stelling, Normandale College and Minnesota critic
"The Abdication of Broadway from Major Repertory," Alan Woods, Ohio State University
"Joe McCarthy and the Subversives: Broadway Replies," Albert Wertheim, Indiana University
- 3:30 PM – 5:00 PM **THE PLAYWRIGHTS SPEAK (Andrew B. Harris presiding)**
Panel Discussion on the topic: "What's Happened To the Serious American Play on Broadway?"
Committed participants are Edward Albee, David Mamet, Arthur Miller, Wendy Wasserstein, and Lanford Wilson, There may be others.
- 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM Wine, cheese and cookies in the Greenroom
Vera Mowry Roberts, Hostess
An informal reception to conclude the Conference

SPECIAL EXHIBITS ON VIEW IN NEW YORK DURING THE CONFERENCE

London Actor-Managers, 1700-1900 (Vincent Astor Gallery, Lincoln Center Library) • Showgirls (Museum of the City of New York) • Theatre Models from the Brander Matthews Collection, Columbia University, Dodge Hall and perhaps an exhibit from the Theatre Collection of the Museum of the City of New York, at the new Minskoff Arcade. We will add to this list as other interesting exhibits occur.

AND PLEASE NOTE

The Theatre Library Association will hold its Annual New York Program Meeting, on Thursday, November 19, from 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM in the Vincent Astor Gallery at the Library.

Topic: GETTING IT TOGETHER: PUTTING THE LONDON ACTOR-MANAGER EXHIBITION ON THE WALLS.

Participants will be Babette Craven and William Appleton, who selected the material, and Don Vlack, who designed the exhibition which will be on view.

(Registration Form Enclosed)

**NEW GUIDE PROVIDES
"WHEREWITHAL" FOR MUSEUMS
AND HISTORICAL SOCIETIES**

Continuing in its program of developing vital arts resource directories, the Center for Arts Information has announced the publication of *Wherewithal: A Guide to Resources for Museums and Historical Societies in New York State*. The 96-page, softbound volume contains detailed descriptions of 145 nonprofit organizations and government agencies that offer funds, consultant services, technical assistance, legal services, circulating exhibitions, workshops, research facilities, and a host of other resources. Each page describes some service that can give a museum or historical society the "wherewithal" to help itself. Compiled by Tema Greenleaf Hamik, *Wherewithal* is fully indexed to assist the user in locating specific types of services. Among the 83 descriptors are Archival Management, Conservation, Exhibition Design and Development, and Historic Preservation.

New York has been called a "treasure house" of museums, historical societies, and historic sites, and *Wherewithal* was conceived as a tool to aid these institutions. It will be distributed throughout the State by the New York State Education Department, Office of Cultural Education. The book will also prove a valuable resource to institutions across the country, since a majority of the organizations included are national in scope.

Wherewithal sells for \$5.00, plus 75¢ for postage and handling, and may be ordered directly from the Center for Arts Information, 625 Broadway, New York City 10012. Discounts on bulk orders can be arranged with the Center.

The Center for Arts Information is a program of the Clearinghouse for Arts Information, Inc., and is supported with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts, as well as contributions from private foundations, corporations, and individuals. A complete list of Center publications is available upon request.

Officers of the Theatre Library Association (founded 1937): *President*, 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; *Vice-President*, Don B. Wilmeth, Head, Department of Theatre Arts, Brown University, Providence, R.I. 02912; *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*, Brigitte Kueppers, Curator, Shubert Archive, Lyceum Theatre, 149 West 45th Street, New York, N. Y. 10036. *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*: Ginnine Cocuzza, New York University, The Drama Review, 300 South Building, New York, N. Y. 10012. *Assistant Editor*: John Frick, Adjunct Instructor, Theatre Arts, Long Island University, 45 Tudor City Place #2110, New York, N. Y. 10017. TLA membership dues of \$15 annually (\$20 for institutions) include *Performing Arts Resources* published annually.

THE MAX LIEBMAN ARCHIVES

(Continued from page 2)

hour musical revue conceived, written, mounted and performed by a resident staff of professionals each week. These productions – a blend of comedy, music, ballet, modern dance and tap – resulted in the format Liebman used when he left Tamiment to write, produce and direct his award-winning TV program, "Show of Shows" in 1949.

Among the many Tamiment alumni who graduated to the Broadway stage, television, film and professional dance world are George Tobias, Jules Munshin, Jack Lescolie, Joey Faye, Jane Connell, songwriters Kenny Welch, Paul Nassau and Lee Goldsmith, choreographers and dancers James Starbuck, Danny Daniels, Biff Liff, Lee Sherman, Ruthana Boris, Mickey Deems, Tony Mordente and Peter Gladke, designers Robert Fletcher and Willard Levitas, and directors Frank Wagner and Vincent Sherman.

Seed money for the Max Liebman Archives has been partially funded by a grant from the Tamiment Institute, Inc., and by contributions from individuals and corporations. The Tamiment Institute, Inc., 1431 Broadway, New York, N. Y. 10018, a small, tax-exempt foundation concerned with cultural and social affairs, was organized by the founders and original owners of Camp Tamiment. Camp Tamiment was sold in 1963, and is now privately owned and operated as the Tamiment Resort. For further information, contact Andrew M. Horn at (212) 944-8317.



● ACTOR PUZZLE ●

The names of twenty movie actors, current and historical, are hidden in the maze of letters. The clues are phrases, puns, and quotations connected with a movie in which each actor starred. The names read forward, backward, up, down, or diagonally, are always in a straight line and never skip letters. They may overlap, and letters may be used more than once, but not all the letters will be used. To start, the name COOPER is circled, the answer to Number 1 in the diagram (Gary Cooper in *High Noon*).

1. Lunch Time
2. Manderley Mystery
3. Napoleonic Code
4. Atlanta's Burning
5. Waldo did it!
6. "Play it, Sam"
7. Zither thou goest
8. Dipso Chandelier
9. "A Couple of Swells"
10. A Rosebud by Any Other Name
11. Dust Bowl to Orange Grove
12. Singing, Dancing, Splashing
13. Flanagan's Dream
14. Taking a "Chance"
15. Bette's Flinty Combatant
16. Master de Wilde's Hero
17. Salina's Salad Bowl
18. Ford's "Donnybrook"
19. Heil!
20. "Swinging on a Star"

N F A X C O O P E R
 N O K H U D S O N Q
 Y N W E L L E S V N
 L D R E P L E M M O
 F A N N B O G A R T
 O D N A R B Y K N T
 L O G E L E E L I O
 I Y D D A L N O L C
 V C S A L N I Y P E
 I A J Y N E W M A N
 E R I A T S A U H W
 R T M Y B S O R C Z

Answers will appear in the Fall issue (9:2) of *Broadside*.