TLA ANNUAL MEETING

The annual business meeting of the Theatre Library Association was held on Thursday afternoon, November 18, 1981, in the Vincent Astor Gallery, Library and Museum of the Performing Arts at Lincoln Center, New York City, President Louis A. Racbów presided.

Richard M. Buck presented the Secretary-Treasurer’s report for 1980-81, reporting a $157.54 working balance, the first time in several years that income has exceeded expenses. The total paid membership shows an increase in personal members and a decrease in institutional members. Mr. Buck continued with a brief summary of 1981 meetings: the 13th Annual George Freedley Memorial Award Presentation combined with the 6th Annual TLA Award Presentation at Deutsches Haus, New York University, with about 80 members and guests in attendance, May 18; and the program meeting in San Francisco during the ALA Conference which included a tour of the Fort Mason Performing Arts Center and a panel on the San Francisco Public Library, June 29; and the Annual Business Meeting and Program, “Getting It Together: Putting the London Actor-Manager Exhibition on the Walls,” November 19. Copies of the Secretary-Treasurer’s Report may be obtained from the treasurer’s office at Lincoln Center.

Future participation of TLA members in several projects were noted: Louis A. Racbów will attend a meeting of the ASTR Bibliography Project (See Broadside, Spring 1981), and May Ann Jensen and Richard Buck will be TLA’s delegates to the CNLIA meeting in December.

CONFERENCE ON
PRESERVATION MANAGEMENT
IN PERFORMING ARTS COLLECTIONS

The site and date of the Conference on Preservation Management in Performing Arts Collections was announced at the November TLA Annual Program Meeting. The Conference will be held at the recently renovated Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C., April 28-May 1.

The Theatre Library Association has received a $20,000 grant for the conference from the National Endowment to the Humanities, the largest grant in the association’s history.

The TLA Conservation Committee has been working in close collaboration with the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts in Philadelphia while developing a program designed to meet the special preservation needs of performing arts collections both old and new.

Registration materials will be mailed to TLA members early in the new year. For additional information contact Brigitte Kueppers, Shubert Archive, Lyceum Theatre, 149 West 45th Street, New York, N.Y. 10036. Telephone: (212) 944-3895.

PERFORMING ARTS RESOURCES

Performing Arts Resources, Vol. 6, recently sent to all members in good standing in 1980, features two major articles on Federal Theatre Project material housed at George Mason University and the Theatre Collection of The New York Public Library. Other articles concern the Museum of Broadcasting, the Walt Disney Archives at UCLA, the Screenwriters’ Hall of Fame, and the San Francisco Archives of the Performing Arts.

Complete your collection of Performing Arts Resources: Past issues are available to current members only at $10.00 per copy, prepaid.

Vol. 1, 1974 includes 17 articles on major American resources.

Vol. 2, 1975 includes Mander & Mitchenson Collection, Peabody Awards Collection, promptscripts and unpublished scripts.


Send your prepaid order to the Theatre Library Association, 111 Amsterdam Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10023.
The Harvard Theatre Collection is celebrating the eightieth anniversary of its founding. On the 19th of November 1901 Professor George Pierce Baker and a group of Harvard alumni, including Evert Jansen Wendell, ’82, Daniel Payne Giswold, ’87, and Wintrop Ames, ’95, presented the Harvard Library with a collection of portraits of David Garrick, “given in commemoration of the late (Harvard) Librarian Justin Winsor, who devoted many years to the study of the English stage in the days of Garrick.” Harvard’s acceptance of these portraits marked the formal beginning of the Harvard Theatre Collection, the first performing arts research library.

In December of the following year Baker and a former student of his, the dramatist Louis Evan Shipman, were instrumental in acquiring for the Library almost 900 books and pamphlets, many of them scarce, assembled by Robert W. Lowe, the theatrical bibliographer. Through the influence of Baker, John Drew, the noted actor, presented the books to the newly-founded Theatre Collection.

In the next ten years other gifts of theatrical material were added to the collection, largely because of Baker.

It was Baker who successfully carried out the lengthy negotiations with Robert Gould Shaw (Harvard 1869) who had one of the largest private collections in the country. When Shaw gave his collection to Harvard in 1913 and became Honorary Curator, space was provided for it on the top floor of the new Widener Library.

In 1917 the size of the Theatre Collection was doubled and its importance tremendously increased by the bequest of Evert Jansen Wendell’s collection. There has never been any collection comparable to Wendell’s on the theatre. It is estimated that it contained two million items, including 9,433 manuscripts, over 200,000 books, 350,000 photographs, and 600,000 playbills.

To celebrate its eightieth birthday the Harvard Theatre Collection has mounted an exhibition of eighty treasures in its Sheldon Exhibition Rooms and in the Copeland Gallery of the Pusey Library. The exhibit salutes the founders and friends and illustrates the full range of the history of performing arts preserved in the Harvard Theatre Collection. The exhibit will be on display through the 31st of December.

CALLS FOR PAPERS

The Second Annual Theatre History Symposium of the Mid-America Theatre Conference will be held at the Ramada Inn Central, Kansas City, Missouri, March 19–21, 1982. The conference, titled “Makers of the Modern Theatre,” will focus upon the contributions of those persons who have significantly influenced the theatre since 1875. Panel discussions will include Ethnic Celebrities, Women Playwrights, Modern Actors, Stanislavski, Brecht and ???, and Ibsen and Strindberg.

Manuscripts, abstracts, outlines, or proposals should be received by February 1, 1982.

Please address papers or inquiries to Symposium Coordinator, Weldon B. Durham, 129 Fine Arts Center, University of Missouri-Columbia, Columbia, MO 65211.

The Society of Cinema Studies 1982 National Conference will be held March 21–April 3, at the University of California at Los Angeles. The theme is “Hollywood: Past, Present, and Future.” Highlights of the conference will be a tour of a major Hollywood studio, an on-site presentation of a new electronic media production studio, and special thematic sessions on Singing in the Rain. For further information about the conference contact Professor Harold Silber of UCLA at (213) 992–6168 or David Shepard of the Directors’ Guild of America at (213) 656–1220.

The Ohio State University Theatre Research Institute in conjunction with The Midwest Victorian Studies Association will present a conference on “Victorian Popular Entertainments,” April 30–May 2, at Ohio State University. Special sessions already planned include Images of Death on the Victorian Stage and Melodrama as Social Document. The deadline for submission of papers is February 12, 1982. For additional information, contact: William F. Smith, Department of Theatre, 1089 Drake Union, 1849 Cannon Drive, Columbus, OH 43210.

IN MEMORIAM

Dr. Joseph Mersand, a former Theatre Library Association member for many years, died on October 19, 1981, in West Palm Beach, Florida. Dr. Mersand was the author of The Play’s the Thing and The American Drama Since 1930.

IN THE AGE OF LOUIS XIV

The Aston Magna Foundation for Music will hold its fifth NEH-funded crossdisciplinary Academy on Music, Arts and Society, June 27–July 17, 1982 on the campus of Simon’s Rock of Bard College in Great Barrington, Massachusetts. The theme of the Academy will be “Music, Art, Theater and Dance in the Age of Louis XIV.”

Humanist lecturers in residence will include Eugene Cox and Robert Isherwood (history), Marcel Gutwirth (French literature and drama), John Rupert Martin (visual arts), Shirley Wynne (dance history), Lewis Thomas (history and philosophy of science) and James Anthony, David Fuller and Catherine Massip (music history).

Applications are welcome from scholars and advanced students in all fields of cultural history and musicians and dancers with serious interest in historical performance practices. For detailed program information including fees and fellowship assistance, contact the Aston Magna Academy, Raymond Erickson, Director, 65 West 83rd Street #4, New York, N.Y. 10024 (phone: 212–95–151).

COMING UP IN BROADSIDE

New Books, Historic Collections, Your News • Deadline for Spring 1982 issue: February 15 • Send your ideas, suggestions and contributions to BROADSIDE c/o G. Cocuzza 413 West 22nd Street New York, NY 10011
1982 CONFERENCE TO BE HOSTED BY BROWN UNIVERSITY

The 1982 fall meeting of TLA (November 19–22) will be hosted by Brown University in Providence, R.I. Brown, the seventh oldest college in America and the third in New England, is a medium-sized campus located in the scenic East Side of Providence, the oldest section of the City. Brown is immediately adjacent to the Rhode Island School of Design, one of America’s leading art schools, and is within easy walking distance of the Providence Athenaeum, one of the oldest private libraries in the U.S. The Brown libraries plan a special exhibit for the conference, mounted in the newly renovated John Hay Special Collections Library from the Harris Collection of American Drama, founded in 1984. The collection is now the world’s largest collection in its field.

TLA will be meeting in conjunction with the annual meeting of the American Society for Theatre Research, whose 1982 theme is "Nineteenth Century Theatre." A special program for TLA members is being planned by Martha Mahard, Assistant Curator of the Harvard Theatre Collection, and Don B. Wilmeth, Chairperson of the Theatre Arts Department at Brown.

The conference hotel will be the Providence Biltmore, located in downtown Providence, and within easy walking distance of the Brown campus. Providence itself, located on I-95, is approximately four hours from New York City and one hour from Boston by car. The capital city is accessible by bus, train, or plane.

Both the bus station and the train station are located within easy walking distance of the Biltmore. Trains and buses operate frequently from Boston or New York. Air service is available from virtually all points directly to Providence or via Boston’s Logan Airport and a shuttle bus to Providence that operates hourly. Numerous restaurants are located within one to two blocks of the Biltmore. The Trinity Square Repertory Theatre, winner of a 1981 Tony Award, is only several blocks from the Biltmore.

In addition to the Athenaeum and the RISD Art Museum, members of TLA will enjoy visits to the John Carter Brown Library of America, the Rockefeller Library, and the Annmary Brown Memorial Library on the Brown Campus. Strolling tours of Benefit Street, a beautifully preserved 18th-century section of the East Side, are readily available. Some members might enjoy a trip to Newport and a tour of its mansions, the Brick Market with remnants of its first theatre still evident, and other attractions. Anyone who might arrive early or stay late could plan many number of interesting side-trips (Block Island by ferry, New Bedford’s historic south end, Battleship Cove in Fall River, Mystic seaport, etc.). These and many other historic sites are within driving distance of Providence.

Plan now to attend this exciting conference in 1982. More information on the conference and its program will appear in subsequent issues of *Broadsid*.

ANNUAL MEETING (Continued)

*Special Collections, Vol. 1, No. 1, Theatre & Performing Arts Collections*, edited by Louis A. Rachow and published by Haworth Press is now available. (Look for review in *Broadsid*, Spring 1982.)

The Freedley/TLA Awards are scheduled for presentation in the Vincent Astor Gallery, NYPL, in May. The selection of nominees will be concluded by December and publishers will receive an official letter of nomination by the Vice-President, Don Wilmeth, on behalf of the nominating committee in January. The papers presented at the Musical Theatre in America Conference will be published by Greenwood Press and edited by Glenn Loney.

The Conference on Preservation Management in Performing Arts Collections will be held at the Shoreham Hotel in Washington, DC, April 28-May 1. The conference committee, Geraldine Duclow, Free Library of Philadelphia; Laraine Correll, George Mason University; and Brigitte Kueppers, Shubert Archive, has been augmented by the hiring of two assistants, Jeanne Byrne in Washington and Ginnine Cocuzza in New York.

TLA participating in other conferences to be held in 1982 include the TLA program meeting scheduled for Monday, July 12, during the ALA conference in Philadelphia; the ATA conference in New York City, August 15–18; the SIBMAS Congress, held for the first time in the U.S. in New York City, August 29–September 3; and the joint ASTRA/TLA Conference to be held in Providence, R.I., November 18–21. Suggestions for a proposed conference on Ethnic Theatre should be directed to the Board for consideration.

*Performing Arts Resources* editors, Barbara Naomi Cohen and Ginnine Cocuzza, reported that PAR 7, 1981, *Lusi di la Commedia dell’ arte* is currently being edited, and PAR 8, 1982, *Theatrical Dance Resources* articles are being solicited. Under consideration for future volumes are the SIBMAS proceedings and Theatrical Sheet Music.

Richard Buck reported that the ALA Affiliates, at the October meeting in Chicago, achieved the listing of all programs of the affiliates, including TLA, in the chronological program and in the index of the annual conference book.

Louis A. Rachow announced the results of the election for Class D Directors. Those elected were William Appleton, Professor Emeritus, Columbia University and private collector; Geraldine Duclow, Theatre Collection, Free Library of Philadelphia; Robert Parkinson, Circus World Museum Library; and Anne Schlosser, American Film Institute Library, West Coast.
RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Harriet Kramer and her husband, Robert Plotkin, have presented a collection of still photographs from the films of the silent era to the Library of Congress in honor of her parents, Ethel and Monte Kramer.

The photographs are primarily from films produced between 1915 and 1917. Many of the stills bear notations from the early trade journal, Moving Picture World, and originally appeared in that journal. The collection includes photography of Douglas Fairbanks, Lon Chaney, and Mary Pickford, as well as stills showing the Fox, Kalem, Universal, and Vitagraph studios. In addition, many stills represent lesser-known films with such actors as Hobart Bosworth, Louise Lovely, and Harry B. Willard. (LE Information Bulletin, October 16, 1981)

The Humanities Research Center at the University of Texas has recently acquired the David O. Selznick archives, valued at over $2 million.

Mr. Selznick, who produced such films as Gone with the Wind and Tender is the Night, took a creative hand in all steps of his productions, keeping a complete file of work sheets, scripts and memos. Consequently, his archives provide what is now probably the most thorough record available of the process and achievements of a Hollywood studio. The Selznick archives include 1,961 file boxes of correspondence and 38 four-drawer file cases of manuscript materials, more than 100 drawings, paintings and other memorabilia. (AB, Sept. 28, 1981)

Georgia State University, Atlanta, has acquired the works of Johnnie Mercer (1910–1976). The collection includes the original scores for some 1,500 published songs (such as Moon River and The Ach ison, Topanga and the Santa Fe), hundreds of pictures and awards, and the autobiography Mercer was writing at the time of his death. (ACRL News, October 1981)

The University of California, Los Angeles, Music Library has received the manuscripts, performing parts and copies of the film music of composer George Antheil (1900–1959). Antheil gained notoriety for his avant garde work Ballet Meccanique in 1926. (ACRL News, September, 1981)

The Theatre Department of the Metropolitan Toronto Library recently announced the following acquisitions: A scrapbook on the Rita Farquharson Memorial Award which was presented by the Toronto Branch of the Women's Press Club "in recognition of an outstanding contribution to humorous drama by a Canadian Woman;" a series of Japanese wood block prints which include depictions of an actor (possibly Danjuro) in the character of Goro the Arrow Sharpener in Yanone, a scene from the Noh play Okina, Ichikawa Sadanji I looking over his wig boxes, Asso Yoroi I as a ghost standing in flames, and scenes from various plays; and, a number of prints of theatrical personalities which appeared in the well-known English periodical Vanity Fair during the period 1880–1912.

The Library of Congress Rare Book and Special Collections Division has recently catalogued a group of playbills relating to the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln. The playbills are divided into five categories: original playbills; "E" or Buckingham type playbills, so called because they were allegedly forged from a playbill originally in the possession of J. E. Buckingham, doorman of the theatre on the night of the assassination, and contain a poorly printed "e" at the end of Laura Keene's name; playbills with the inserted three-line statement, "This evening the performance will be honored by the presence of President Lincoln"; Brown type playbills which bore the three-line announcement of Lincoln's presence, the misprint "Night 191," and the imprint "L. Brown"; and Craneminiature playbills, clearly intended to be a souvenir and inscribed "Always cherish the Memory of Abraham Lincoln, Born Feb. 12, 1809, Died April 15, 1865, Aged 56 Yrs, 2 Ms, 3 Days." (LC Information Bulletin, Nov. 16, 1981)

WORK IN PROGRESS

ALLAN, Maud (1883-1956). Dancer. Biography. Carol Bishop, 32 Columbus Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M4L 1P3, Canada.


THEATRE AND DANCE

FULBRIGHT AWARDS

TO U.S. SCHOLARS, 1981–82

University Teaching and Advanced Research Abroad

JARKA M. BURJAN – Prof. Theater, SUNY, Albany, New York. Research on modern choreography; British Association of Theater Design, United Kingdom, 3 months during academic year.

SALLY J. CLONINGER – Convenor Executive Committee, Ohio State University, Columbus, Consultant for National Arts Academy project, assist with workshops and seminars in arts management; Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 9/1-8/82.

JOHN B. EBERHARD – Assoc Prof. Theatre Arts, Brown U., Providence, Rhode Island. Research on the performing arts of North India; Sanskrit Natkal Academi, New Delhi, India, 4/1–1/82. (Indo-American Research Fellowship)

JOHN M. REYNOLDS – Assoc Prof. San Francisco State U., California. Research on original theater production and photographic exhibition; Centro Cultural del Nuevo, Paris, France, 1/1–3/82.

LUCILLE R. RHODES – Assoc Prof and Director Film Program, C.W. Post Center, Long Island U., New York. Study of Indian films; National Film Archive of India, Pune, 1/1–9/82. (Indo-American Research Fellowship)


jsonData: null