

BROADSIDE

NEWSLETTER OF THE THEATRE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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NEW SERIES

TLA'S BIG DAY

Monday, October 23d, 1978 was a red-letter day for the Theatre Library Association beginning with TLA's annual meeting, election of members to the Executive Board, a conservation program panel, the premiere of the 1978-79 ASTR/TLA Lecture Series, and ending with tours of the Shubert Archive -- all of which transpired in the Lyceum Theatre in New York City.

Immediately following adjournment of the annual meeting (as recorded by Paul R. Palmer elsewhere in this issue) an informal discussion on "Conservation of Performing Arts Materials" was held. Panelists were Robert DeCandido, Head of the Physical Treatment Branch, Conservation Division of The New York Public Library; Helen Otis, Associate Conservator of Prints and Drawings at the Metropolitan Museum of Art; Paul LaPaglia, Conservator of the Dance Collection at The New York Public Library at Lincoln Center; and Elizabeth Walsh, Director of the Federal Theatre Project at George Mason University. Brooks McNamara, President of the Theatre Library Association and Professor in the Graduate Drama Department at New York University, served as moderator.

Following a dinner break Robert E. Kimball, Music and Dance Critic of the *New York Post* and former Curator of the Yale University American Musical Theatre, launched the 1978-79 ASTR/TLA Lecture Series with comments on "Researching and Archiving America's Musical Theatre Heritage". Mr. Kimball is also noted for his co-authorship of *The Gershwins and Reminiscing with Sissle and Blake*.

The day's events ended with the serving of refreshments and guided tours of the Shubert Archive.

CHALLENGE WIG

Richard Moody writes: Did you ever hear of a "challenge wig"? When Harrigan's Theatre Comique burned down in the 1880's one of the items rescued was a "challenge wig".

Anyone willing to accept this challenge please write Professor Moody at the Department of Theatre and Drama, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana 47401.



LEADERSHIP IN MUSEUM EDUCATION

Bank Street College will offer working museum educators an opportunity to begin a two-year weekend Master's degree program specializing in Leadership in Museum Education in February 1979. The program will meet at the college one weekend a month (Friday evenings and all day Saturday) and two full weeks during two summers.

The Leadership program offers colleagues in the museum education profession a chance to learn and grow together in an intensive and individualized learning environment of lectures, seminars, workshops, and on-site consultations. For general information, catalog and application form write the Admissions Office, Bank Street College of Education, 610 West 112th Street, New York, N. Y. 10025. Telephone: (212) 663-7200, extension 313.

TLA ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Theatre Library Association was held at the Shubert Archive in the Lyceum Theatre, 149 West 45th Street, New York City, on Monday, October 23d, 1978 at four p.m.

The meeting was called to order and members were welcomed by President Brooks McNamara. Also seated at the speaker's table were Richard M. Buck, Secretary-Treasurer, and Paul R. Palmer, Recording Secretary. The minutes of the previous annual meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Mr. Buck announced that since copies of the treasurer's report were available there would be no need to read it before the assembly. He reported that TLA had gained forty new members and asked that the membership suggest ways in which to recruit new members. He also called attention to the fact that a summary of meetings was appended to the report.

Publications Reports: (1) Mary Henderson announced that there have been a number of delays in the next volume of *Performing Arts Resources*, but she does expect it to be sent out to members in December of this year. She was confident that there will be volumes of PAR for both 1978 and 1979; (2) Louis Rachow reported that copy for the Fall issue of *Broadside* is being solicited. It was suggested that future issues contain articles on the preservation and conservation of performing arts materials; (3) William Green reported that the proceedings of the Conference on the History of American Popular Entertainment is now being copy edited and that Greenwood Press has already made an advance on the royalties of this volume to be divided by ASTR and TLA. Brooks McNamara asked members of TLA to consider seriously an Ethnic Theatre Conference based

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Art is the finest appreciation of Life

— Henry W. Wells

As teacher, critic, scholar, poet and translator, Henry W. Wells was a man who appreciated and enjoyed life, literature, art and nature to the utmost. Sensitive to the wonder and meaning of the spoken and written word, movement and music, he and his wife, Katharine, and I shared many rewarding experiences of reading, attending concerts and the theatre, and visiting museums. His was a long and productive life that ended on March 22d, 1978. On Good Friday the flag flew at half-mast at Columbia University where Dr. Wells had taught for forty years. "Thoughts and memories will stretch far into the future," Katharine wrote me in a letter telling of the memorial service held on April, 16th.

I first met the curator of the Brander Matthews Dramatic Museum in November 1962 at a meeting of the American Society for Theatre Research (he was the Society's first secretary-treasurer). I lingered to look at models of theatres and settings for the stage and Javanese and other puppets. Our mutual interest in the Orient was a tie strengthened later by my intermittent extracurricular visits to New York and Dr. and Mrs. Wells' stopovers in Cambridge when enroute to their summer home near Casco Bay. Occasionally we corresponded, and at times I received publications usually relevant to the Orient, once and again to gardens, animals and birds.

As a teacher and critic of English and comparative literature, Dr. Wells' range of study was as wide as the world and as long as the history of literature: mystery and morality plays, Elizabethan and Jacobean playwrights, studies of Emily Dickinson and Wallace Stevens, a modernization of *The Vision of Piers Plowman*, and essays and translations in the realm of the literature of the Orient. After his retirement in 1965 from Columbia University — "in welcome leisure" — Henry Wells devoted himself to the absorbing project of setting forth to the Western World the special and universal qualities of the drama, dance, poetry and painting of India, China and Japan. In collaboration with scholars, linguists and artists (always acknowledged) he rendered into lyrical English the text and mood of many an ancient classic of the East. His total immersion in

Oriental philosophy and imagery can be seen in Saka's *Diary of a Pilgrim to Ise*: a travel journey of the 14th-century put into stanzaic form by H.W.W. (1977). Its presentation is "a panoramic view of both thought and scenery, a landscape of the mind and of nature". Motivated by H.W.W. there were convocation and Oriental "festivals" on campuses throughout this country and Canada where papers were presented by international specialists and where ancient plays like the Sanskrit comedy, *The Little Clay Cart*, were performed under expert guidance by students, who were learning by doing.

Henry Wells wrote me not long ago that "the theatre is a spring-board into the infinite: all that is imaginary is there — the prose and the poetry of life".

— Helen D. Willard

(The editor wishes to correct two errors that appeared in Dr. Wells' obituary in *Broadside*, 5:4, Spring 1978: Mrs. Wells is the former Katharine Allen Powell, not Alleb and the date of death was March 22d, not March 24th).

WORK IN PROGRESS

ADAMS, Edwin (1834-1877). American Actor, Monograph. Frank Fuller, Jr., Dept. of Education, Commonwealth of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia 23216.

BANKHEAD, Tallulah (1903-1969). Actress. Biographical essay for *Notable American Women*. John D. Shout, Dept. of English, State University College, Plattsburgh, N. Y. 12901.

COWARD, Noel (1899-1973). English Actor and Playwright. Archie K. Loss, Head, Division of Arts and Humanities, The Pennsylvania State University, Erie, Pennsylvania 16510.

CRABTREE, Lotta (1847-1924). American Actress. Doctoral thesis. Irene Forsyth Comer, Graduate School, Drama Department, Tufts University, Medford, Massachusetts 02155.

GEER, Will (1902-1978). American Actor. Doctoral dissertation. University of Southern California. Sally Norton, 1867 Camous Road, Los Angeles, California 90041.

HEMINGWAY, Ernest (1899-1961). Study of Hemingway's fiction. Gene Phillips, S. J., Faculty Residence, Loyola University, 6525 North Sheridan Road. Chicago, Illinois 60626.

Nicholas B. Scheetz, of Georgetown University Library, is engaged in a study of the noted American book collector, Dewitt Miller (1857-1911) and his friends Leon H. Vincent (1858-1941) the critic, and Francis Wilson (1854-1935) the actor. It would be greatly appreciated if members having recollections, anecdotes and manuscript material on these three persons would please write Nicholas B. Scheetz, Special Collections Division, Georgetown University Library, Washington, D. C. 20007. Thank you.

KREUTZBERG, Harald (1902-1968). European Modern Dancer. Biography. Information on his numerous tours in America with Yvonne Georgi and Ruth Page. Ruch Clark Lert, 1 San Antonio Place, San Francisco, California 94133.

LONG, John Luther (1861-1927). Author-Composer-Playwright-Lawyer. Timothy J. Lockyer, The York Campus, The Pennsylvania State University, 1031 Edgecomb Avenue, York, Pennsylvania 17403.

MCCOLLERS, Carson (1917-1967). American Writer. Biography. Margaret Sullivan, 1411 Wynnton Road, Columbus, Georgia 31906.

PLACIDE, Henry (1799-1870). American Comedian. John D. Irving, 305 West 18th Street, Apt. 4J, New York, N. Y. 10011.

SECUNDA, Sholom. Composer for the Yiddish Musical Theatre from 1920-1964. Biography. Victoria H. Secunda, RFD 1, Maple Road, Brewster, N. Y. 10509.

SHOWBOATS in America. Maria Myers, 205 West 15th Street, Apt. 5D, New York, N. Y. 10011.

SOWERBY, Katherine Githa. British Playwright. Monograph. John Fuegi, Division of Arts and Humanities, College Park, University of Maryland 20742.

WILLIAMS, William Carlos (1883-1963). American Writer. Biography. Paul Mariani, Dept. of English, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts 01003.

YIDDISH Vaudeville. Material from its inception in America in the 1900's until it expired during the 1930's. William Smith, Long Meadow Lane, Bethel, Connecticut 06801.

ZIEGFELD, Florenz (1867-1932). Producer. Biography. Richard Freeman Leavitt, 206 Beaver Run Drive, Warner Robins, Georgia 31093.

TLA ANNUAL MEETING

(Continued from page 1)

on the model of CHAPE. He noted that the field is a virtually untapped source for TLA.

Program Reports: (1) ASTR/TLA, San Francisco, November 16-19, 1978. Mary Ashe invited all members to the conference. She reported that a fine program has been planned which will be of interest to all, and that members attending the conference may also sign up for interesting tours of the region; (2) ATA in New York, August 1979. Richard Buck announced that the 1978 American Theatre Association meeting in New Orleans was the first that TLA has participated in. The 1979 conference will include panel discussions and tours of collections sponsored by TLA as well as a conference booth to attract new members to TLA. Volunteers will be needed to man the booth; (3) TLA in Dallas, June 24-30, 1979. Richard Buck announced that he plans to attend the mid-winter American Library Association meeting and that he and others will explore the possibilities of places to hold the TLA events at the ALA Conference next June. He asked that members forward any suggestions to him; (4) MLA in New York, December 1978. TLA will have some representation or members active in the Modern Language Association Conference; (5) ASTR/TLA Lecture Series, 1978-79. Brooks McNamara asked members for suggestions of possible meeting places for the next four lectures in this Monday night series. Suggestions for speakers would also be welcome.

President's Report: Brooks McNamara suggested that the subject of "fund raising" be the topic for discussion at next year's annual meeting. He announced that he and Elizabeth Walsh have discussed the importance of a "preservation and conservation" manual to be sponsored, perhaps, by TLA in addition to the coverage in *Broadside*.

Election of Executive Board Members, Class C: Dorothy Swerdlove reported that there were 99 responses to the ballot for new members, but that only 98 were valid because one person voted for every member on the ballot instead of the four requested. The following four members were elected Class C Board members: (1) William W. Appleton, Professor Emeritus, Columbia University, New York; (2) Babette Craven, Private Collector, New York

City; (3) Geraldine Duclow, Librarian in Charge, Theatre Collection, Free Library of Philadelphia; and (4) Brigitte Kueppers, Archivist, Shubert Archive, New York City. These members were elected to three year terms as Class C Officers.

New business centered on the possible name change of the Theatre Library Association to Performing Arts Library Association (PALA). The change in name would encounter no legal problems. Some members felt that the name Theatre Library Association is too narrow and restrictive. There is the implication that the Association is for members who are strictly interested in "theatre". On the other hand, others felt just as strongly that the name Performing Arts Library Association would be too broad and inclusive. One member suggested the name be changed to the Spoken Arts Library Association, but it was quickly pointed out that many subjects of interest such as mime, puppets, silent films and others would make this title meaningless. After some discussion in which various ideas were expressed, it was decided that the Board of Directors try to come up with a solution at its next meeting. The other item of new business was the discussion of the publication of a new membership roster in the near future. The meeting adjourned at five p.m.

—Paul R. Palmer,
Recording Secretary

DANCE SCHOLARS' NEWSLETTER

The Dance Scholars' Newsletter is now published jointly by Dance Perspectives Foundation and Dance Horizons on a biannual basis. Information on work-in-progress, publications and exhibitions on dance history and dance in theatre and popular entertainment is being sought. Curators and librarians of performing arts collections and libraries are urged to contribute material on current acquisitions and exhibitions. The deadlines for submission of material are April 10th and October 10th with publication dates set for June 15th and November 15th.

All items should be sent to Barbara Naomi Cohen, Editor, *The Dance Scholars' Newsletter*, 300 Riverside Drive, New York, N. Y. 10025.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

MARY HENDERSON was named Curator of the Theatre Collection of the Museum of the City of New York effective July 1st, 1978. She succeeds Theodore H. Fetter who is now Consultative Curator. Wendy Warnken was appointed Assistant Curator.

FRANKLYN LENTHALL is the author of two essays published in 1978. The first is a colorful account of "Boothbay's Remarkable Theater Museum" which is one of the feature articles in the July-August 1978 issue of *Americana*. The second is his contribution on collecting American theatre manuscript material which comprises a chapter in *Autographs and Manuscripts: a Collector's Manual*, sponsored by the Manuscript Society and published by Charles Scribner's Sons.

RICHARD STODDARD'S *Theatre and Cinema Architecture: a Guide to Information Sources* was recently published by Gale Research Company of Detroit, Michigan. Covering a wide range of publications from archaeological treatises on Greek and Roman theatres to current articles and essays, it is the first book-length bibliography on the subject and is Volume 5 in the Performing Arts Information Guide Series of Gale's Information Guide Library. His *Stage Scenery, Machinery, and Lighting*, Volume 2 in the series, was published in 1977.

DON B. WILMETH'S *The American Stage to World War I: a Guide to Information Sources* is Volume 4 in the Performing Arts Information Guide Series, a part of the Gale Information Guide Library. This annotated bibliography attempts to account for information sources written during the past two hundred years that deal with all aspects of the American stage prior to World War I except for those concerned with drama as literature. Wilmeth's *American and English Popular Entertainment* guide will be published in 1979.



FREEDLEY AND TLA AWARD NOMINATIONS

The first George Freedley Memorial Award was presented to Louis Sheaffer for his *O'Neill, Son and Playwright* (Little, Brown, 1968) in the Spring of 1969. Now, a decade later, the juries for the Freedley and TLA awards have already begun the annual deliberation process for the 1978 awards.

In years past the membership of TLA has been urged to make nominations for these two prestigious awards with only minimal results. It is extremely important that the membership consider themselves a critical part of this process if these awards are to represent TLA in a meaningful way. We urge you, therefore, to take a few moments and send suggested titles of books published during 1978 on the live performing arts or the media to either Brooks McNamara, President of TLA, Graduate Department, School of the Arts, New York University, 61 West 4th Street, New York, N. Y. 10012 or Don B. Wilmeth, Chairman of the Awards Committees, Dept. of Theatre Arts, Box 1897, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island 02912.

The following record of awards for the past ten years is presented for your interest and information:

George Freedley Memorial Awards

- 1968 *O'Neill, Son and Playwright*, by Louis Shaeffer (Little, Brown)
- 1969 *The Hamlet of Edwin Booth*, by Charles Shattuck (University of Illinois Press)
- 1970 *Broadway*, by Brooks Atkinson (Macmillan)
- 1971 *Meyerhold's Theatre of the Grotesque: the Post-Revolutionary Productions 1920-1932*, by James M. Symons (University of Miami Press)
- 1972 *Run-through: a Memoir*, by John Houseman (Simon and Schuster)
- 1973 *Inigo Jones: the Theatre of the Stuart Court*, by Stephen Orgel and Roy Strong (University of California Press)
- 1974 *Blacking Up: the Minstrel Show in Nineteenth-Century America* (Oxford University Press)

- 1975 *Stage Design: Four Centuries of Scenic Invention*, by Donald Oenslager (Viking Press)
- 1976 *Jacques Callot: Artist of the Theatre*, by Gerald Kahan (University of Georgia Press)
- 1977 *Theatre Design*, by George C. Izenour (McGraw-Hill)

Honorable Mention

- 1968 *Gordon Craig: the Story of his Life*, by Edward Craig (Knopf)
- 1968 *Adolphe Appia, Prophet of the Modern Theatre*, by Walter R. Volbach (Wesleyan University Press)
- 1969 None Presented
- 1970 *Bright Particular Star: the Life & Times of Charlotte Cushman*, by Joseph Leach (Yale University Press)
- 1971 *Journey to Heartbreak: the Crucible Years of Bernard Shaw 1914-1918*, by Stanley Weintraub (Weybright and Talley)
- 1972 *The Masks of King Lear*, by Marvin Rosenberg (University of California Press)
- 1973 *The Development of the English Playhouse*, by Richard Leacroft (Cornell University Press)
- O'Neill, Son and Artist*, by Louis Shaeffer (Little, Brown)
- 1974 *Life among the Playwrights: being Mostly the Story of the Playwrights Producing Company, Inc.* by John F. Wharton (Quadrangle/The New York Times Book Co.)

- 1975 None Presented
- 1976 *Shakespeare on the American Stage*, by Charles Shattuck (Folger Shakespeare Library)
- 1977 *Vagabond Stars: a World History of Yiddish Theatre*, by Nahma Sandrow (Harper and Row)

Theatre Library Association Awards

- 1973 *Toms, Coons, Mulattoes, Mammies, and Bucks: an interpretive History of Blacks in American Films*, by Donald Bogle (Viking Press)

- 1974 *Children and Television: Lessons from Sesame Street*, by Gerald S. Lesser (Random House)
- 1975 *Movie-Made America: a Social History of American Movies*, by Robert Sklar (Random House)
- 1976 *The Good Guys, the Bad Guys and the First Amendment: Free Speech and Fairness in Broadcasting*, by Fred W. Friendly (Random House)
- 1977 *The Most Important Art: East European Film after 1945*, by Mira and Antonin Liehm (University of California Press)

Honorable Mention

- 1973 *Special: Fred Freed and the Television Documentary*, by David G. Yellin (Macmillan)
- 1974-77 None Presented

ASTR-TLA LECTURE SERIES

Mark the dates of February 5th, April 9th, and June 4th, 1979 on your calendar now for the 1978-1979 ASTR-TLA Lecture Series.

Brendan Gill, author and drama critic of *The New Yorker*, will be the guest speaker at the February 5th meeting. His deliberations will center on "Historic Preservation and the American Theatre". The April 9th lecture will be presented by George Nash, former curator of the Enthoven Collection at the Victoria and Albert Museum, who will discuss the resources of that collection. Both lectures will be held at 6:00 p.m. at the Jefferson Market Branch Library located at 10th Street and the Avenue of the Americas. The speaker for the June 4th date will be announced at a later date.

This second Lecture Series season, honoring noted individuals and their contributions to the performing arts, was launched by Robert E. Kimball, Music and Drama Critic of the *New York Post* and former Curator of the Yale University American Musical Theatre, on October 23d. The second guest speaker was George White, Director of The Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center, on December 11th.

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.