

ARSC NEWSLETTER

No. 46

WINTER 1989

ARSC 1989 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

June 1-3 are the dates of this year's ARSC Annual Conference--at the University of Missouri--Kansas City. In addition to those mentioned in the last issue of the Newsletter, sessions so far set will include presentations, papers, and panels on Rachmaninoff's Third Piano Concerto, the Beach Boys, Count Basie and Pop Wills, the history of recorded sound in Australia, famous Australian singers on records, the medical profession represented in popular song lyrics, the Toscanini legacy at the Rodgers & Hammerstein Archives, and the use of documentary radio programs to publicize private collections. Carlos Hagen, program chair, reports that other tantalizing topics are on the verge of being finalized. There is still, however, room on the program for more. If you are interested contact Carlos at P.O. Box 342, Malibu, CA 90265 (213 825-3526 at ULCA).

Arrangements have been made by the Conference Planning Committee, chaired by Ted Sheldon of the UMKC Libraries, for very reasonably priced accommodations at the University Residence Hall. Hotel space, of course, is also available. As ARSC members are not expected to live by conference sessions alone, various events are planned: a Jazz Pub Crawl, a family style soul food dinner at a local restaurant, a showing of selections from the Kansas City Jazz Film Collection, and a guided tour of the Thomas Hart Benton Exhibit at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. And further, for those so inclined to take advantage, discount cards (10% to 20%) have been arranged which will be honored by three area record stores. Ted expects further details along with registration materials to be in the mail by March 1.

Watch this space in the spring for updates and further developments.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

1989 dues notices are in preparation and will be sent out shortly. Please remit promptly this year; most members did pay early in 1988, and the donations made by a large number enabled ARSC to expand its activities and research. Thanks to all who have helped. Fifty-one members have had to be dropped this January for prolonged non-payment of dues. Members who failed to pay their 1988 dues will be dropped if they have not brought their dues current by the end of March. Although ARSC wants members who are interested in the association, it cannot afford to carry non-paying members on its mailing list.

In a few cases members who have moved without sending a forwarding address have been dropped. Members are again requested to send change of address notices to the Executive Director when they move. Not only are publications delayed when they have to be forwarded, the photocopied forms from the Post Office (for which the association pays) are often not legible and the correct address has to be guessed at; if guessed wrong the entire cycle repeats.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The autumn Executive Board meeting of ARSC took place November 18-19, 1988, at the New York Public Library at Lincoln Center in New York City. It was a very intense two-day meeting at which many decisions were made concerning the future of ARSC and particularly the association's publications program. I would like to thank all those board members and committee chair persons who attended and helped to keep the discussions on target making the meeting so productive.

Quite simply, the focus of the meeting centered on whether ARSC could or should even attempt to continue its existing publications program. The Journal and the Bulletin in particular have both fallen behind in recent years, and there has been a rather disconcerting turnover of editors of the Journal in this period as well.

There will be a complete report of the fall meeting and our resolutions which will appear at the front of the Journal issue to be published in late spring 1989, and it will also be the subject of a presentation at the ARSC Conference in Kansas City. Because of their importance, however, I am taking this opportunity to apprise the membership of some major changes which will occur in 1989.

A new publications program and schedule has been adopted which is detailed on p. 3 of this Newsletter. Richard Perry has resigned as Journal editor effective with Vol. 19, Nos. 2-3. The first issue of Vol. 20, to be published this spring, will be under an interim group editorship. Ted Sheldon of the University of Missouri-Kansas City, will be the new managing editor beginning with Vol. 20, No. 2 (Fall 1989).

ARSC's Publications Committee has been reconstituted to consist of a chair person appointed by the President, the Journal, Newsletter, and Directory editors, the ARSC Secretary (previously responsible for the Bulletin), an advertising editor, and the publisher (if different from any of the above). Current committee personnel are Jerome Weber (Chair), Ted Sheldon (Journal), David Sommerfield (Newsletter), Tim Brooks (Membership Directory), Richard Markow (ARSC Secretary), Christine Hoffman (advertising editor), and Michael Gray (publisher).

An official editorial board to assist actively the Journal editor on a continuing basis as been set in place. It will consist of at least eight people at all times plus any others the managing editor may deem appropriate. The eight current members are five committee chair persons as part of their committee chair responsibilities, a book review editor, a record review editor, and a past Second Vice-President (conference program chair). Seven of these positions are filled as of this writing. They are: Gerald Gibson (AAA Committee), Barbara Sawka (Grants Committee), William Storm (Technical Committee), Suzanne Stover (Fair Practices Committee), Garrett Bowles (Discographic Access Committee), Richard Perry (book review editor), and Michael Biel (past Second Vice-President). The Executive Board is actively searching for a record review editor and welcomes all recommendations.

I speak for the entire ARSC Board when I say that we hope these changes will be beneficial to our organization, and we look forward to a lively discussion at the next conference.

• Don McCormick

REVISED PUBLICATIONS SCHEDULE

Because of accumulated increases in the mailing and production costs for ARSC periodicals, the Board of Directors has instructed the Publications Committee to make the following changes in the publications program effective with the 1989 membership year.

ARSC Journal. Vol. 19, Nos. 2-3 (1987) is in preparation and will be mailed during the first quarter of 1989. Beginning with Vol. 20 there will be two mailings per year--as has been the practice in most recent years; to avoid confusion sometimes caused by the 1, 2, 3 issue numbering system, however, the individual issues will be designated henceforth as "Spring" and "Fall." The Spring issue will be mailed in the second quarter of the year and the Fall issue in the last quarter. Vol. 20 will cover 1988-1989. The Publications Committee has been directed to make a greater effort to maintain a regular schedule for the Journal. Accordingly, the deadline for contributions for publication in the Vol. 20 Spring issue is March 31, 1989, the deadline for the Vol. 20 Fall issue is August 1, 1989. Send contributions to the editor, Ted P. Sheldon, Director of Libraries, University of Missouri-Kansas City, 5100 Rockhill Road, Kansas City, MO 64100 (from whom "Information for Contributors" may also be obtained).

ARSC Bulletin. The combined Nos. 20 and 21 is in preparation and will be mailed during the first quarter of 1989. Thereafter the Bulletin's contents will be included as an additional section of the ARSC Journal. Such material will not be substituted for regular Journal content, but will be appended to the Journal to reduce the production and distribution costs of a separate publication.

ARSC Membership Directory. The next bi-annual Membership Directory will be issued during the summer of 1989. The deadline for changes and new entries is May 1, 1989. Funds permitting, abridged membership listings will be included with the *ARSC Newsletter* in alternate (even-numbered) years.

ARSC Newsletter. The Newsletter will continue to appear quarterly on the present schedule.

Advertising. Advertising will be accepted hereafter for all ARSC periodical publications, including the Newsletter and Membership Directory. (The Newsletter will continue to print appropriate one-time announcements without charge.) Advertising policy may be found in Vol. 19 of the *ARSC Journal* or may be obtained by writing to the Executive Director.

ARSC DISCOGRAPHIC ACCESS COMMITTEE

The membership of the ARSC Discographic Access Committee consists of Daniel Kinney (CC:DA representative), SUNY Stony Brook; Brenda Nelson-Strauss, Archives of Traditional Music, Indiana University; C.-P. Gerald Parker, Université du Québec à Montréal; Charles Simpson, SUNY, Stony Brook; and David Sommerfield, Library of Congress. The committee is reviewing the *ARSC Rules for the Archival Cataloging of Sound Recordings* and requests anyone with comments or corrections to send them before May 1, 1989, to the Chair, Garrett Bowles, Central University Library C-075-Q, University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, CA 92093. All submissions will be considered by the committee at its closed meeting held during the Association's Annual Conference.



IN REPLY REFER TO

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Edison National Historic Site
Main Street and Lakeside Avenue
West Orange, New Jersey 07052

AN OPEN LETTER TO PHONOGRAPH COLLECTORS

October 24, 1988

Dear Friends:

Because of the latest round of activity in the case of U.S. vs Phillip Burns Petersen, it seems timely to let you all know the status of the case and to appeal for your help. For those of you unfamiliar with the details of the case, here are the high points:

Between 1974 and 1976, California phonograph collector Phillip B. Petersen visited the archives of the Edison National Historic Site on about thirty occasions. A knowledgeable individual who made friends with the staff, he was allowed broad access to the collections. Shortly after his 1976 visit, many documents and artifacts were discovered missing, but there was insufficient evidence for a search warrant at that time. In the late 1970s Petersen was incarcerated for the embezzlement of over \$60,000 from his former employer, Stanford University.

In the winter of 1984-1985 Petersen, who had been intermittently selling and trading with other collectors over the years, began to systematically sell off portions of his document collection. Within a few months, several of the documents he offered for sale were positively identified as belonging to the Edison National Historic Site. A search warrant was obtained, and in June the FBI and officials from the Site removed approximately 3500 items, including manuscripts, sketches, photographs, printed material and artifacts (most notably the very rare electric pen).

A year later, Petersen, who insisted that he had returned all stolen property to the Site, pleaded guilty to the charge of concealment of stolen Federal property (the statute of limitations on theft had expired). He received a light sentence; he spent only a few weeks in prison, and in lieu of the \$22,400 the case cost the National Park Service, was ordered to give the Site his "phonograph library," a body of material whose contents were only vaguely defined. The "library," consisting of nine boxes of books, periodicals, catalogs, manuals and other printed ephemera pertaining to Edison and other phonograph companies, finally arrived at the Site in July 1988. Within hours, over sixty items in it were found which were clearly identifiable as the Site's property. At the same time, another California antique phonograph dealer was contacted by Petersen, who offered

for sale a number of documents of which the former was deeply suspicious. After the dealer, in cooperation with the FBI, made a purchase which confirmed that Petersen was still holding stolen material, new warrants were drawn up. On October 12, 1988, FBI agents and a Site official again searched Petersen's home, uncovering an additional 184 items belonging to the Site. Included were a number of early Edison signatures which Petersen had cut from documents, all believed to date from the 1870s. Petersen had destroyed the bodies of the documents from which the signatures were cut, to prevent their being traced to the Site. The extent of the loss of these historic resources will never be known. Petersen was arrested; he is now out on bail, facing charges in New Jersey.

This may be particularly uncomfortable reading for some, for many phonograph collectors have had dealings with Petersen over the years. If you have purchased items from Petersen whose lawful ownership may be in doubt, we urge you to contact the Edison National Historic Site. Although Edison manuscripts, sketches, medals, reproducers and printed items are particularly suspect, all items are questionable, since Petersen stole competitors' catalogs and similar items from the Site as well. The FBI and the National Park Service have no intention of prosecuting any individuals who made good-faith purchases from Petersen. Collectors should be aware, though, that even items purchased in good faith, if originally stolen, remain the property of the rightful owner from whom they were taken, regardless of the innocence of the unfortunate buyer.

Most collectors are honorable people. In fact, the recovery of thousands of stolen documents would never have been possible without the assistance of concerned collectors both in 1985 and 1988. The documents and artifacts which Petersen stole from the Site represent a significant part of Edison's priceless legacy, and it would have been tragic had they been permanently lost. They were given to the people of the United States for the enjoyment and education of all. If you really care about Edison, and if you care about the preservation of our cultural heritage, please contact us if you know or suspect the whereabouts of stolen material.

Sincerely yours,



Mary B. Bowling
Acting Supervisory Museum Curator
Edison National Historic Site
West Orange, New Jersey 07052
201-736-0550

ARSC GRANTS GUIDELINES

The ARSC Grants Program is designed to encourage and support scholarship and publication by individuals in any field of sound recordings or audio preservation. Specific projects eligible for support include discography, bibliography, historical studies of the sound recording industry and its products, oral history, and any other subject likely to increase the public's understanding and appreciation of the lasting importance of recorded sound. Both ARSC members and non-members are eligible for grants in amounts up to \$500. Grant funds can be used to underwrite clerical, travel, and editorial expenses; funds may not be used to purchase capital equipment or recordings. Grant recipients are required to submit documentation of their expenses before reimbursement, and funds must be disbursed within eighteen months of the grant award. Applications for an ARSC grant should include: 1) a summary of the project (one page maximum), with samples of the work attached if possible; 2) a budget covering the entire project and highlighting the expenses the ARSC grant will cover (one page maximum); 3) a curriculum vitae; 4) an indication of the prospects for publication or other public presentation of the project results. Applications should be sent by March 31 to Grants Committee Chair Barbara Sawka, Archive of Recorded Sound, Braun Music Center, Stanford, CA 94305. Grants will be awarded at the ARSC Board of Directors meeting held this spring in connection with the ARSC Annual Conference.

Announcements

Vladimir Horowitz has donated to Yale University 218 original recordings of Carnegie Hall concerts he gave during the 1940s and 1950s. The recordings, privately recorded 12 in. and 16 in. acetate discs, were acquired by Yale along with other Horowitz memorabilia.

The Sarasota Music Archive will host a forum entitled *The Role of Archives in the Humanities* on Sunday afternoon March 19 in Sarasota's Opera House. It will be moderated by Robert Sherman, executive producer of WQXR in New York; there will be four panelists, as yet only tentatively engaged. After the program there will be a tour of the Archive and a reception.

Questions to be addressed at the forum include: Archives: What are they and how do they differ from and how are they the same as libraries? What should be expected from each? Who needs archives? Whose responsibility are they? How should they be supported? What role should government and foundations play in their support? How should archivists be trained? How does an archive strike a balance between preserving and sharing material? Who should be permitted to use the resources? How can access among archives be improved and promoted?

Those interest please write the Sarasota Music Archive, 61 N. Pineapple Avenue, Sarasota, FL 34236, or phone at 813 366-8450 or 813 371-2408. There is no fee, but space is limited.

The **Second Annual Midwest Antique Record and Phonograph Show** will be held Saturday April 15 from 9 A.M. to 6 P.M. at the Zion Leisure Center, 2400 Dowie Memorial Drive, Zion, IL. For information on exhibiting or attending contact the show at 2312 Crescent Avenue, Waukegan, IL 60085 (312 336-7621 after 6 P.M.

Wanted--

William R. Moran, editor of *The Encyclopedic Discography of Victor Recordings*, is interested in developing entries for Chinese and other Asian material recorded by Victor in Asia and elsewhere during the period ca. 1900-1950. At present these recordings are represented in published and projected volumes of *EDVR* for the most part by blocks of numbers only. Discographers working in the field--and others who have knowledge of such work--are asked to communicate with Mr. Moran. Information on discographies, whether completed or in progress, in English, a European language, or the original Asian language (either transliterated or not), will be welcome. In addition, information is being sought as to the location of collections of Victor Asian recordings not represented in the *Rigler and Deutsch Record Index*. Please contact the Asian Victor Project, c/o Archive of Recorded Sound, Braun Music Center, Stanford, CA 94305-3076.

Recent Publications

- Bushnell, Garvin. *Jazz from the Beginning*, as told to Mark Tucker. The Michigan American Music Series. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1988. 198 pp.
Includes a discography compiled by Mr. Tucker with the assistance of an ARSC Research Grant in 1986. \$29.95.
- Díaz Ayala, Cristóbal. *Si te quieres por el pico divertir*. Puerto Rico: Fundacion Musicalia, 1988. 360 pp.
A history of the Latin-America street cries (pregones) with photographs, discography, and 450 street cries. (\$15.00 to ARSC members from the author, Box 613, Hato Rey Station, PR 00919).
- Smith, Ronald L. *Comedy on Record: The Complete Critical Discography*. Garland Reference Library of the Humanities, vol. 724. New York: Garland Publishing, 1988. 728 pp.
\$57.00 (Garland Publishing, 136 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10016).

ADDENDUM

In the first item on p. 5 of the previous issue (No. 45), the address was inadvertently left without state and zip code. The complete address is Rachel Anne Goodman, Box 41, Mouth of Wilson, VA 24363.

The deadline for the Spring 1989 issue (No. 47) of the ARSC Newsletter is April 10, 1989. Send all submissions--typed and double-spaced, please--to the editor: David Sommerfield, 101 G Street, SW, Apartment A-618, Washington, DC 20024.

**Executive Director
Association for Recorded Sound Collections, Inc.
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