

YOU CAN HELP SAVE OUR ARCHIVES!

In August of 1974, a national archives was founded by ATOS. An agreement was made between ATOS and Elon College (a 4-year liberal arts college in Piedmont, North Carolina) to house materials for our organization in the college library. Since that time, numerous donations of material have been made by individuals from across the country. Recordings, sheet music, glass slides and player rolls (the list is endless) have arrived at the college during the past six years. What happens when this material arrives? How is it catalogued and processed for easy access? It isn't and thus lies the heart of our problem.

In these days of tight budgets and increasing inflation, money (as it must seem in everything we do) is the watchword for *our* archives. Without money, the necessary processing, filing, indexing and orderly storing of this increasing volume of music and memorabilia cannot be done. In principle, National ATOS supports the library and to that end has allocated money for the library in the form of two small scholarships. These scholarships will be used to hire local students to process the demand for loan requests. Two scholarships, however, cannot begin to fill the need for cabinets, folders, ledgers and all the tools librarians need, not to mention a catalogue showing what the archives have to offer.

Will the college supply the tools we need?

To answer that question, let's look at the four points of our agreement with Elon College.

1) The College will furnish the necessary space for the ATOS Library rent free.

2) Elon College will incur no expense in establishing and maintaining the ATOS Library, other than maintenance and operation of the plant itself.

3) All donated materials to the ATOS Library shall at all times remain the property of ATOS.

4) ATOS will supply all furnishings, stationery and materials necessary for the operation of its library.

The agreement was designed to eliminate ATOS from being responsible for monthly bills. Electricity, rent and other basic operating costs are all absorbed in Elon's budget. Elon College cannot, moreover, should not incur debts for *our* archives other than those specified in our agreement. It is *our* archives and *our* responsibility.

AN OMISSION

Due to an oversight on our part, the convention coverage in England did not cover the trip to Frank Holland's British Piano Museum. An item on this adventure will appear in the next issue.

The acquisition of source materials comes from people like you. Think of the countless collections of memorabilia in homes across the country. We thank those who have contributed to the archive's resources. We hope more of you will remember the library in the years to come. Be sure you have specified to your family the "when, what and wherefores" governing your gift. Keep in mind that all gifts are tax deductible. Your collections are invaluable to us! There must be an archives to *preserve* and redistribute this knowledge as only ATOS can.

Will rentals and fees pay these expenses?

The answer to that is NO! Fees for rentals are designed to maintain the status quo at best. This form of income cannot begin to generate the necessary capital sufficient to begin the task.

How much money is necessary to get the facility going?

As near an estimate as can be obtained at this time, \$5,000.00 is required. This figure is based on current prices and existent volumes of materials. It will be necessary to obtain the services of a professional consultant to make purchases and organize the library for our specific operation.

When can the work begin?

Not until the money is in hand. The very rudimentary materials are needed, and that takes money.

The most obvious question is, of course, where will the money come from?

You guessed it, from you and me. Tax deductible donations to ATOS specifically stating its use for the archives is what we need. Whether a single contribution, or a grant from a large corporation, we need all of you to make this work. We also welcome your ideas. Certainly someone in this organization knows how to raise money. How about it ATOS? Do you want a National Archives? The time to act is now!

Please address your comments and contributions to ATOS Headquarters or to Mac Abernethy, P.O. Box 2480, Burlington, N.C. 27215. You may not always get an acknowledgement, but I'll do what I can to answer your questions. Do what you can, and let's make the archives count for something positive in ATOS! □