

The President's Column

Greetings to all of our members and friends of A.T.O.E.! There are several matters of interest that I would like to call to your attention through the medium of "The President's Column," a new feature of THE TIBIA. The American Association of Theatre Organ Enthusiasts was organized at a meeting held on February 8, 1955, which was, incidentally, the anniversary of the eve of Hope-Jones' birth date. From its inception, your officers have recognized the importance of providing a sound structure for the new organization. Many factors were taken into consideration: financial protection for the individual member against judgments, tax exemption, the responsibility of the officers, finances, and so on. It was at last agreed, after careful study of these factors and others, that a Corporation would be the strongest and most protective base onto which the A.T.O.E. could be soundly built.

Attorney Walter W. Weir Jr., of the firm of Dobbins and Weir of Vacaville, California, a friend of A.T.O.E., and also close personal friend of Everett Nourse the well-known San Francisco Bay Area organist, drew up the necessary incorporation papers. On April 12, 1956, Corporation No. 319022, The American Association of Theater Organ Enthusiasts was certified by the Secretary of State, State of California. Walter is to be commended on doing a fine piece of legal work, and the prompt manner in which he executed it. He is also an enthusiast and A.T.O.E. member in his own right!

Since incorporation, we have been certified as tax-exempt by the State of California, and exemption certification by the Internal Revenue Service is now pending—Most of our readers are undoubtedly familiar with this department.

In the beginning, it was decided that the A.T.O.E. would be an organization formed solely for pleasure purposes—there would be no formalities, no critical comments regarding the efforts of any artist to please his listeners—either through recordings or live concert—no attempt to "regulate" the pleasure of any enthusiast in the pursuit of his chosen hobby. We who are the officers of A.T.O.E. shall do our utmost to proceed along these lines.

With any organization, there are certain minimum requirements that must be attended to. These tasks have been entrusted

to a willing group of officers and directors; in addition to the President whose duties are administrative and executive, there is the Vice-President, Judd Walton, who handles correspondence and membership matters; Paul Pease, our able secretary-treasurer who maintains our bank account and bookkeeping; Mel Doner and Roy Gorish, Editor and Assistant Editor, respectively, of our journal, THE TIBIA.

Now that organization details have been completed we are turning our attention to the formation of Chapters. Officially Chartered is the Eastern Massachusetts Chapter, Donald L. Phipps, President; the Delaware Valley Chapter, Willoughby W. Moyer Jr., President, and the Los Angeles Chapter, Dr. Howard O. Stocker, M.D., President, and the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter, Hastings Abel, President. Members are urged to attend to the matter of forming Chapters in their immediate area, and complete details may be had from National Headquarters. Chapter Activities will be reported as a regular feature in THE TIBIA.

In conclusion, and in response to many inquiries, I wish to point out that THE TIBIA is sent to each member of A.T.O.E., regular membership being \$4.00. Subscriptions without membership are available, but we urge all who are interested in THE TIBIA to help support A.T.O.E. by being a member rather than just a subscriber—without A.T.O.E. THE TIBIA would not have been born—and a lusty child it is. ALL inquiries regarding membership and THE TIBIA should be mailed to National Headquarters, 6906 Santa Monica Blvd., Hollywood 38, California. Inquiries about membership sent elsewhere will only be delayed while being forwarded.

To our members, may I urge that you aid in building the membership of A.T.O.E. by showing your copy of THE TIBIA to your friends, and if they are interested, asking them to join. Just forward their dues in to headquarters, and thus will grow A.T.O.E., our Chapters and THE TIBIA. We sincerely hope that A.T.O.E. will provide greater enjoyment of your hobby, heretofore impossible for most of us, and that you will join in the fun and fellowship with others.

Richard Simonton, President

Where are the Live Ones?

We have a hunch that there are many more organs and organists being heard publicly around the country these days than anyone realizes, and the TIBIA wants to conduct a "roundup" of them all. The results will be published in an early issue.

So, if you know of an organist in your neck of the woods who is playing regularly, write and tell us about it. Please include the following information: Organist's name, where playing (theatre, radio station, restaurant, rink, hotel, etc.) what kind of organ (make, size, any notable features), when the organist can be heard (if on radio, please include the "number on your dial" if possible). Any additional information on the organist's background, or interesting facts about the organ itself, will be welcome. So will photographs.

Send all information to THE TIBIA's musty old historian, Ben Hall, 217 West 10th Street, New York 14, N. Y.

Errata

Vol. 1, No. 3:

Page 13—Reggie Foort's portable organ was a Möller, not a Wurlitzer; Page 18—Gunn School had three Wurlitzers; it appears that only one was used for recording purposes; Page 19—Disc #102 recorded on Welte Unit Organ in Welte-Mignon Studios, N. Y.; Page 19—Disc #128, record label incorrectly states "Wurlitzer" whereas the organ is a Robert-Morton; Page 8—The organ in the Saenger Theatre is a 4m Robert-Morton, not a Marr & Colton as advised by Mr. Koch.

Vol. 1, No. 4:

Page 13—Disc #250 should be Bloomfield, N. J., not N. Y.; John Duffy—Disc #253 was recorded on the Columbia Square (KNX) organ. The organ purchased by Mr. Kearns was the organ from CBS, Hollywood. This organ, recorded by Mr. Duffy (Disc #254), was originally located in Warner Brothers Sunset Studio which was recorded there by Gaylord Carter and Eddie Dunstedter. Sorry, Mr. Kearns! Page 17—Ramona Gerhard recorded the KNX organ, not the Mr. Kearns' residence organ.