

News, Views, Events

FOUR ISSUES OF VOLUME I have made their appearance and there need no longer be any doubt about the future of this periodical. We hope to see it around for years to come. Why not? Three cheers again for the splendid efforts of our publisher, C. G. McProud, in giving us a most attractive journal. . . . Sorry, the "Profile" on Jesse Crawford will be delayed. Jesse has the manuscript and has promised to read it critically when time permits from his busy schedule so that the final results will be authentic in every detail for the Fall issue. Better late and accurate than early and non-authentic to the last detail. . . . We're proud indeed to have Ben Hall, G. Edgar Gress, and Bro. Andrew Corsini, CSC, on our staff. Your editor became a bonafide member of the "Coronary Club" a year ago last March and, with some of THE TIBIA responsibilities now in such capable hands, he is definitely not seeking reelection to the Club. . . . What is *your* favorite organ Hi-Fi recording among those issued during the last two years? Drop us a card, stating your preference. If reader response is good, perhaps we'll tabulate the results. . . . Marmaduke Eide, who once played theatre organs in New York and Pennsylvania and whose songs have been widely concertized, died at his home in La Crosse, Wisconsin, in late December, 1956. The "Duke" was a well-known Hammond performer in the area. . . . What equipment do you Hi-Fi experts hold to do justice to organ? The thought occurs that contributions to this subject could be interesting reading and helpful to many who are simply confused. . . .

One of our faithful correspondents from Florida, Anton Waldin, Jr., writes: "The only theatre with an organ in this area is the Olympia in Miami. They have a 3m/13r Wurlitzer that hasn't been played since about 1947." He also states that the Wurlitzers in the Temple Israel, Miami's oldest synagogue, and in the "Florida" Theatre in Jacksonville are in regular use. . . . Belated congratulations to Al Miller's (and staff) newsy—who said there wasn't room for two periodicals on the theatre organ? . . . Suppose you were asked this question: "Don't you think the music of the symphony is superior to that of the organ?" Your editor was asked this question by a friend during intermission of the Minneapolis Symphony. Quick-like came the reply: "Why try to compare a rose with an orchid?" . . . The photos of the New York Paramount console and of Ray Bohr (THE TIBIA No. 3) were taken by Clealan Blakely of Picton, Ontario with his Brownie Hawkeye flash outfit. Thanks, Clealan! . . . Ralph Bartlett who authors the "Europe Calling America" series reports that the members of the Organ Club "brought down the ceiling" when they met at Granada, Tooting. What actually happened is that the ceiling circle fell down on Christmas Eve, injuring two patrons. Could it have been that the famed Wurlitzer, presided over by John Madin, Elton Robers and William Davies, shook the house down? . . . Organist Billy Nalle of New York City is one of our most enthusiastic correspondents. Read this: "There's a whale of a lot of enthusiasm among a great variety of people I know along the Eastern seaboard. At this point now I'll tackle anything on two legs who believes it impossible for a real theatre organ renaissance to take place nationally, providing really competent, professional players with fresh ideas stick to their guns. In fact, it seems to be happening already as more and more people learn that the instrument offers apologies to no one in the realm of contemporary music. A.T.O.E. and THE TIBIA are doing an essential job and they're great ammunition in our making 'Converts.'" That reads good! . . .

From Stan Garniss of Boston comes a news clipping from *The Providence Sunday Journal* (Dec. 2, 1956) by Ted Holmberg who writes: "Old theatre organs, whose triumphant tones once swelled through the silent cinema caverns of yesteryear, will become a matter of memory shortly in Providence as the last of the instruments in the downtown area is removed. . . . All that is left of the console used at the Strand is a few old keys and a sideboard decoration. Damaged by the 1938 hurricane, the instrument was floated about and destroyed in 1954 as it toured the theatre orchestra on the waves born of Hurricane Carol. . . . Organs at the RKO-Albee and the Majestic have already been removed. . . . With hi-fi addicts creating a

boom in the sale of organ records, the day may come when the instruments will return to style. Meanwhile they collect dust in theatres or join some of their fellows on scrap heaps or hay-lofts. . . . Only the memory remains, the rich memory of vaudeville days and silent movies when great organs in stately pomp sounded the music that America cried, laughed, and lived by." . . . We believe in giving credit where credit is due. Those fine photos of the Nov. 18th A.T.O.E. meeting (THE TIBIA, Vol. I, No. 4) were taken by Harlan Helm, a commercial photographer and member of A.T.O.E. and owner of the 3m/11r style 235 Wurlitzer from the Carthay Theatre. He used a Rolliflex and some dame was in such a hurry to get the last vacant seat that she knocked it out of his hand and just about wrecked it. Sorry we didn't have this low-down earlier, Harlan. . . .

Important Notice

Among the many letters received from our readers there is a substantial number inquiring about A.T.O.E., membership, and **The TIBIA**. Every attempt is made to answer each letter individually, but for the benefit of those who also have questions unanswered in their minds, and who are not "letter-writers," we present the following facts.

Membership in A.T.O.E., (a California Corporation), is four dollars (\$4.00) per year and includes a subscription to **The TIBIA** for the four issues published during the fiscal year. Thus, any person joining now will receive issues 5 through 8 inclusive (Vol. 2, No's. 1 to 4). Charter memberships are available for a minimum of ten dollars (\$10.00), with renewal at the regular rate—it is anticipated that Charter Memberships will be withdrawn in the near future, however. While all who are interested in the Theatre Organ and **The TIBIA** are urged to become members, a subscription without membership may be had for three dollars (\$3.00) per year. Issues 1 through 4 of **The TIBIA** are available as back issues at one dollar (\$1.00) each while they last. All checks for membership should be mailed directly to Nat'l Headquarters, 6906 Santa Monica Blvd., Hollywood 38, California together with the name, mailing address, and any information about the member's activities in the Theatre Organ field that the applicant may wish to give.

There have now been organized four officially Chartered Chapters: Eastern Massachusetts Chapter, Donald L. Phipps, President, 54 Marilyn Road, Milton, Mass.; Delaware Valley Chapter, Willoughby W. Moyer, President P. O. Box 71, Creamery, Pa.; Los Angeles Chapter, Dr. Howard Stocker, President, 4001 Mountain Avenue, San Bernardino, California; and the Northern California Chapter, Hastings Abel, President, 2250 Pelham Place, Oakland, California. Members residing in these areas are urged to get in touch with and participate in the activities of these Chapters. Very interesting programs in theatres and homes are being planned and it is through this medium that maximum enjoyment of your membership can be obtained.

Members in other areas who desire to form Chapters should contact Nat'l Headquarters for particulars and requirements in setting up a Chapter. Your Nat'l Officers are more than willing to cooperate in such activities where it is feasible, and are hopeful that Chapters can be organized in other areas as soon as possible to further the enjoyment of our members who do not have an organized Chapter near them.

—R. C. Simonton, President