

# The Editor Notes

**T**HERE ARE THREE AVENUES by which one can enjoy the music of the organ. First, being present at an organ recital, whether in a theatre, studio or private residence. This is the preferred direct method, unfortunately not available to the majority of organ lovers, whereby the listener can completely enjoy the music, and the added advantage of observing the organist in action, just as many of us used to do during the years when we would spend hours on end in a theatre behind the console observing and studying the technique of the organist as he provided the musical background for the movie or as he ascended from the pit to perform his solo or interlude.

Second, via tape or lateral disc recording. Thanks to the products of research by the high delity experts, equipment is now available to record and reproduce the full sound spectra of the organ properly. Recording companies have taken advantage of this research to bring to the public many excellent organ recordings.

Third, via radio broadcasts. Back in the early days of radio broadcasts, organ programs were among the most popular musical programs on air. During the early years of radio broadcasts, your Editor was listening to over 200 different organists broadcasting from various theatres and studios in the mid-west area. During the years that followed, there was a gradual decline in the number of organ broadcasts. Today, the radio is virtually silent as far as the organ is concerned. Ditto for TV.

What, if anything, can be done to correct this situation? That the public would welcome organ broadcasts goes without question. John Hawley, of Los Angeles, believes that something can and should be done. It is our belief that ATOE can endeavor to "further the organ and its music" by encouraging the readers of *THE TIBIA* to get in back of the project. To that end, we asked John to give us his ideas for publication herein:

"Anyone who has ever experienced the glorious thrill of hearing the mighty theater organ, in stereophonic sound, right in the comfort of his own living room, will readily agree that for sheer delight, it leaves little to be desired. But, unfortunately, too few music lovers have had this thrilling experience.

"Stereo recorders, while available, are still a bit costly. But such an investment is not necessary to make this wonderful music available to everyone interested.

"I have already done some preliminary investigating into the possibilities of having such truly delightful music brought into our home in stereo. I have a letter from Hunt Stromberg Jr., Program Development Executive for CBS-TV in Hollywood. While he states that he thinks it is "an interesting idea," he indicates a doubt as to how many people would be interested in such programming. That's where ATOE members can help. Enough cards and letters, from those of us who are interested, might just do the trick.

"And the only equipment required to receive such a program, in all its glory, is simply an ordinary television receiver, and a standard AM radio. Anyone in a position to buy anything advertised certainly has such equipment.

"Naturally, the artist to preside at the console, the one and only George Wright.\* He is available, and very enthusiastic about the idea. So, let's all get behind the

project, and let the CBS-TV programming department know how great an audience they would have, should they decide to put such a program on the air."

Isn't that enough to stir up some activity? Let's get those letters to Hunt Stromberg, Jr. Don't wait, do it now!

*(Actually there are two George Wrights — the second one plays a Hammond at a cocktail lounge in New Hyde Park, the next village west of Mineola, N. Y., home of THE TIBIA. CGMcP)*

## ANOTHER WORTHY PROJECT

There is no limit to ideas that our readers can come up with to help stimulate public interest in the theatre organ as a musical instrument. For several months now, we have been exchanging letters with an organ enthusiast in the Chicago area regarding his idea of a sort of "shrine" where a good, high-quality, 4- or 5-manual theatre organ could be set up as a museum piece with concerts from time to time.

The idea sounds good and, we believe, has sufficient merit to warrant further study. Our correspondent has been doing some checking on the over-all problem but at this writing has no specific recommendations. Chicago would presumably be the locale for such a project.

If you agree that this is worth exploring further, please send your ideas or suggestions to Mr. Bob Foreman, The Foreman Company, Monmouth, Illinois. If the response is good and there is sufficient interest, a group could be organized to carry the ball, preferably one or more persons of influence who would, as Mr. Foreman expressed it, form "a sort of 'inner circle' to come up with a plan to present."

## LET'S HEAR FROM YOU!

Interest in the theatre organ assumes many forms. Perhaps you are the proud owner of a unit organ in your home or envision an installation of your own in the foreseeable future. If you own an instrument tell us about it—make, origin, ranks, manuals and any other interesting detail. Perhaps your hobby is collecting organ records—we would like to hear about your library and any unusual recordings. Whatever your particular interest may be, the Editor would like to hear from you and on any subject pertaining to unit organs, organ recordings, playback equipment, and about organists (past or present). Such information is certain to be of general interest to organ enthusiasts. Any and all contributions will be gratefully appreciated.

## About our Authors

*Gorish, Roy* — a modest chap who would prefer to have his name deleted from this column, but I am sure our readers will appreciate a few facts about this personable young man who has been instrumental in helping to organize ATOE and *THE TIBIA*. Like many of us, and until asked the question, Roy had never stopped to think how his life became involved with the theatre organ. "It was a gradual process," he writes, "and too bad I didn't have a relative in the profession or get smacked on the head with a pipe at an early age. Instead, I'm afraid that my introduction to the organ was quite commonplace; I listened to it during intermission and in interludes while I ate peanuts. I guess the important part is that I *listened!*" That, briefly, describes our good friend and co-worker — a man who has served in the Navy, attended Syracuse University, and is now a Medical Technician in Denver, Colorado.