

EDITOR RESIGNS

It is with deep regret that THE TIBIA announces the resignation of its first editor, Dr. Melvin P. Doner. Mel, as we all have come to know him, was appointed to his recently vacated post at the original organization meeting of the American Association of Theatre Organ Enthusiasts, held on the evening of February 8, 1955. Little need be said regarding the excellence of Mel's work as editor of THE TIBIA. The past issues speak for themselves in Mel's behalf. Correspondence from subscribers all over the world has further pointed to the appreciation of his work.

Because of a health problem and other personal reasons, Mel's resignation became effective with the January issue of THE TIBIA. The officers of A.T.O.E. have authorized me to express their sincere appreciation for Dr. Doner's work, and to wish him many more happy years of association with A.T.O.E. in continuing his interest in theatre organs.

In future issues of THE TIBIA we hope to measure up to the high standard he has set for us.

SUCCESSOR APPOINTED TO EDITORSHIP

THE TIBIA is happy to announce the appointment of Ralph M. Bell, M.D., as its editor. Ralph comes to THE TIBIA with a wealth of background in Theatre Organ lore dating back to the days when he was "a kid on the front row of the old Strand Theatre in San Francisco, sitting through all the matinee showings in order to watch a very young organist from Woodland make the picture talk." To quote further from his original letter to A.T.O.E. dated November 19, 1956, in which he enclosed his check for Charter Membership, "If I qualify . . . if not, let me add this to your support."

We welcome Ralph to our staff and look forward to a fine new relationship with him.

All correspondence to The Editor should be addressed directly to Dr. Ralph M. Bell at 829 Sutter Street, Vallejo, California.

Richard C. Simonton
President, A.T.O.E.

The Editor Notes . . .

NO MATTER how interesting it may be, stepping into a new job always requires some adjustments. So, if one plans to make his job pleasant, keep his sanity, and lose as few friends as possible in the process, he must make changes with caution. Editorially, then, THE TIBIA may appear grossly unchanged to many. To some, it could be unbearably different. Our intention is to be gentle and gradual.

In purpose THE TIBIA shall continue to express the opinions and wishes of its readers and A.T.O.E. membership. We shall try to present points of view which are, in general, constructive. Where real differences in opinion exist, we shall strive to remain unbiased.

Surely there must be some fields where progress can be anticipated. Among these, there seems to be a need for more notes on personalities. These may come from any sources, but the membership at large suggests the greatest reserve possibility. PROFILES have been popular and deserve continuance. Organ stories and anecdotes abound in interest and cry for popularization. Incompleted series of articles should, if possible, be completed as anticipated.

Most important of all, the Editor must accept humbly the tremendous work and material turned over to him by those tireless workers who preceded him. With your help, we hope to see THE TIBIA grow in interest, usefulness, size, and circulation. Your help and suggestions are counted on; in return our best efforts are pledged.

A.T.O.E. DUES RESCHEDULED

When one arrives at the theatre late, he misses part of the performance and annoys those who were in their seats on time. But when the performance starts late, it disturbs everyone. So it is with THE TIBIA . . . late as it has been. And to go into detail as to why this has happened would require another issue, so many are the pieces of this mosaic.

What to do about dues has been a resultant problem. Since virtually a whole year has been disorganized, it has been suggested that we simply skip the 1957 volume and

close it with the fiscal year of 1958. Nothing can completely restore the situation, and it seemed more proper to try to keep the publication on schedule from now on, rather than to try to make up for lost time. So Volume II will end with the current fiscal year, October 1958.

Now, have we gotten the situation under control? Your officers and the publisher think we have! Only time can prove our judgment, but when you read this, at least part of the answer will have become clear. We all are disappointed and we regret that this delay has appeared. Your patience has been a tremendous help and a deeply gratifying inspiration to serve you better.

A WORD ABOUT MANUSCRIPTS

Without your contributions THE TIBIA could not get along. Nor would there be much reason to issue a magazine that did not invite those who could to submit material for consideration. For that reason we are reminding those who wish to try their hands at the game of writing to type, if possible, all material submitted. We sometimes can be careless in translating handwriting into English! Double space your material, start ten lines down from the top of the page, put no more than twenty-five lines of 55 characters on one page. And, of course, write only on one side. This will enable us to consider material in the shortest possible time.

If you are submitting material that you want back, please enclose a return, stamped envelope. And if your material is submitted at a price, please indicate that it is not a gratis contribution. At this point, we might add, that THE TIBIA has not been in a position to solicit material from commercial writers as yet.

We do not wish to be too elementary, but there are always a few who have not had prior experience. For these we noted the above. There are some good, usable materials in our files which have been deferred simply because they require complete rewriting or retyping, at least. Your indulgence here means quicker processing throughout the course of getting something published.