

# theatre organ

JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF THEATRE ORGAN ENTHUSIASTS

## THE EDITOR NOTES . . .

Dear Enthusiasts:

In one of his Ballads, Rudyard Kipling said,

"Oh, East is East, and West is West, and never the twain shall meet,

Till Earth and Sky stand presently at God's great Judgment Seat; . . ."

At this time of the year men's hearts are open, and brotherhood extends itself in thought and deed, in work and music. In a few weeks ATOE shall see its sixth birthday. East and West did meet on the eve of the birthdate of Robert Hope-Jones in February 1955 and ATCE came into being. As a major undertaking, the publication of a magazine was visualized as the unification of the organization.

Almost from the beginning the East has provided more activities and active chapters more organs and more organists. That ATOE was a California Corporation was more of a coincidence than a planned circumstance. The first officer and administrative force were largely western. The magazine was published in the East through great cooperative efforts of all those who were actively concerned. The line of communications was long, and even enthusiasm did not alter its tenuousness. When this became the greatest single difficulty in getting out the magazine on schedule, your Board of Directors decided to move all magazine activities together.

A long period of reconstruction followed in which a schedule was worked out and the magazine was put on a predictable basis for the first time. The long distance between East and West was still

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there, but its effect was reduced greatly. The ATOE Board is now looking back over the path it has taken and then at the goals it wishes to achieve.

In this issue of Theatre Organ, for the first time, too, we have a real feature article on an East Coast home or studio installation. Our mail has been supplied generously with 'suggestions' that we forget the West and look toward the East. One might add that some of the hints were not altogether subtle. But the unfortunate facts were that we did not have any material with which to remedy this situation. Just now are we beginning to acquire enough materials to provide us with some choice and effective balance between East and West. This, we hope, will continue.

The next Annual Meeting of ATOE is being planned for the East. Although incomplete, so far no real obstacle to the plans has appeared. It is our sincere desire to make and keep this an organization for all theatre organ enthusiasts, without geographic distinction. We feel that in this issue, East and West have met. It seems more than a meeting -- an actual joining of hands and hearts. It is the Christmas Wish of your ATOE Board and Staff that this will be a permanent merger, and that material will continue to flow into our hands.

"But there is neither East nor West, Border nor Breed, nor Birth,

When two strong men stand face to face, though they come from the ends of the earth!"

Faithfully yours,

Ralph M. Bell

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Editor . . . . . Ralph M. Bell, M.D.  
Associate Editor . . Robert Jacobus  
Production Manager . . Phil Lockwood  
Advertising Manager . . Dewey Cagle  
4438 Camden St. Oakland, California

## STAFF FOR A.T.O.E.

President . . . . . Judd Walton  
Vice President . . . . W. Tiny James  
Secretary-Treasurer . . Mrs. Ida James

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