

# AMS NEWSLETTER

THE AMERICAN MUSICOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
Constituent Member of the American Council of Learned Societies

## DENVER—EPILOGUE

Judged by nearly every reasonable standard, the annual meeting of the Society held this past November at the Denver Hilton Hotel was an unqualified success. Scholars from England, France, and Israel, among other countries, joined with those of the U.S. and Canada to push the combined registration (including members of the Society for Music Theory and the College Music Society) to more than 1,100. This exceeded by 100 the pre-meeting estimate and was especially encouraging in a year in which commercial airfares rose 43% and the real value of university travel budgets continued to decline. Those who made the trip to Denver were certainly not disappointed by the weather (sunny with temperatures in the 60s) or by the quality of the hotel. The Denver Hilton proved to be a thoroughly professional establishment; reservations were honored, elevators and audio-visual equipment functioned correctly, meeting rooms were easily accessible, and perhaps most important—since at least half the business of the convention seems to transpire in the lobby and corridors—there was more than ample space for informal discussion in the registration and book display areas. Inside the meeting rooms the program was somewhat leaner, but by no means less substantive than in previous years. The AMS Program Committee selected papers more competitively this year and reduced the number of simultaneous sessions to four. Fewer papers tended to concentrate both attendance and attention, and lively and sometimes heated discussions followed many of the offerings. If the sentiment of the membership expressed at the business meeting in the form of a swell of hisses flung at the prospect of increased simultaneous sessions next year did indeed properly impact on the members of the succeeding program committee, the number of papers offered at the 1981 meeting in Boston will again be tightly controlled.

The business meeting of the Society  
*continued on p. 2*

## BOSTON—1981

The 1981 Annual Meeting of the Society will be held in the Park Plaza Hotel in Boston, November 12-15 (Thursday through Sunday). Host institutions are Boston University, Brandeis University, Harvard University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the New England Conservatory of Music, Tufts University and Wellesley College. The organization of the meeting is in the hands of the Local Arrangements Committee, chaired by Prof. Murray Lefkowitz of Boston University, the Performance Committee, chaired by Steven Ledbetter of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, and the Program Committee, chaired by Prof. Jeffrey Kurtzman of the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University. The full program will be announced in the summer *Newsletter*, and a booklet of *Abstracts of Papers* will be published as in past years.

This year's meeting will not be a joint meeting with any other society, which should lessen the competition for space and time and will perhaps keep the atmosphere a little less hectic than usual. The proximity to so many universities should enable more students to attend than last year, and the manifold cultural opportunities of Boston as well as the city's historical sites should prove a major attraction to our membership. The Local Arrangements Committee is attempting to obtain special visitor permits to all libraries in the area, to arrange tours of early-instrument makers, and to organize guided walking tours of the Freedom Trail. A New England clambake will be available in the hotel ballroom Friday evening, to be followed by the annual AMS dance. No events are being planned for Saturday evening.

## IMS CONGRESS

The thirteenth congress of the International Musicological Society will take place in Strasbourg from 29 August until 3 September 1981. Under the general heading "Music and Ceremony, Sacred and Secular," panel discussions will deal with the following topics:

- (1) Official court music: form and sign of might
- (2) Interaction between folk festivity and religious ceremony
- (3) Ideological attitude of religious authorities towards art music and its impact on the development of music
- (4) Masonic, revolutionary, imperial and bourgeois musical festivities and ceremonies in France, ca. 1750-1870
- (5) Change of function and transformation of ritual and ceremonial music and dance
- (6) Vocal and instrumental practice in ritual music: contradiction and agreement
- (7) Ritualization of musical performance today
- (8) The process of derivation of musical forms and genres from Christian rite
- (9) Ceremonial aspects of opera in the transition from the 18th to the 19th centuries
- (10) *Ballet de cour*, theatre festivities and masque as forms of ceremonial representation
- (11) Contrasting claims of dance, music and rite in sacred and secular occasions
- (12) Sacred and secular festivities and ceremonies in 15th-century Europe

Scholars who would like to take part as panelists in one of the discussions are invited to make their intention known to the President of the Programme Committee, Mme Nanie Bridgman, 4 rue Herschel, F 75006 Paris, by 1 April 1981 at the latest.

was preceded by an innovation, a presidential address entitled "Emulation, Competition and Homage in the Music of the Renaissance," offered by outgoing president Howard Brown. Since a precedent has now been set, the onus is squarely on the incoming president, Howard Smither, to offer a similar valediction two years hence. Once the meeting was underway, the treasurer's report brought home again how indebted we are to Al Johnson. Not only did he make an AMS treasurer's report amusing, he stated that the finances of the Society were sound and therefore no increase in dues would be necessary in the coming year—we anxiously await his third miracle! It should also be noted that at this meeting secretary Frank Traficante announced that Gerald Abraham and Kurt von Fischer had been elected corresponding members and Otto Albrecht and Nino Pirrotta honorary members of the Society, and Harry Powers read a memorial text in honor of the late Oliver Strunk, a founding member who died earlier this year.

A final word of gratitude: since the task of organizing a convention of this magnitude is indeed an Augean labor, with all the unsavory connotations that term implies, special thanks should go to Craig Short, Executive Secretary of CMS, who, if the truth be known, did most of the work.

*Craig Wright, Chairman  
1980 AMS Program Committee*

## REPORT OF THE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

The following report was presented at the Business Meeting of the AMS in Denver, 8 November 1980.

I am pleased to report that the following publications are in press, and that publication can be expected during the forthcoming year:

1. Complete Works of William Billings, vol. I, *The New-England Psalm-singer (1770)*, ed. by Karl Kroeger (AMS and Colonial Society of Massachusetts)
2. *Haydn Studies: Proceedings of the International Haydn Conference*, ed. by Jens Peter Larsen, Howard Serwer, and James Webster (W. W. Norton)
3. H. Wiley Hitchcock, *The Works of M.-A. Charpentier: Catalogue Raisonné* (A. & J. Picard)
4. I.M.S. Congress Report, Berkeley 1977, ed. by Daniel Hertz & Bonnie Wade (Bärenreiter)
5. Collected Works of Johannes Ockeghem, vol. III, *Motets and Chansons*, ed. by Dragan Plamenac, with Richard Wexler (A.M.S.)
6. Hans Tischler, *Complete Edition of the Earliest Motets*, 3 vols. (Yale U. Press)

Other projects remain under consideration.

*Martin Picker*

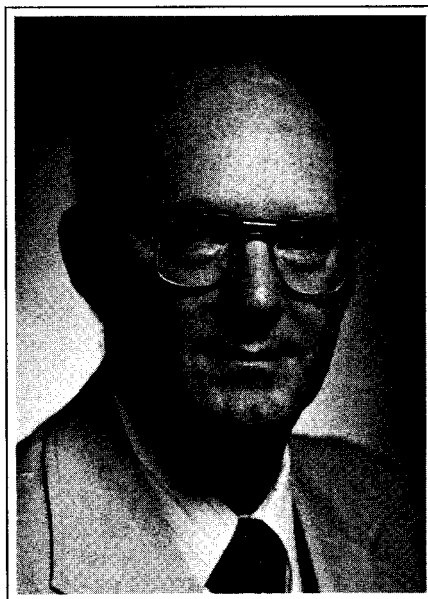
## Commission on the Humanities

Learned societies can play a vital and varied role in strengthening the humanities, according to *The Humanities in American Life: Report of the Commission on the Humanities*, to be published in October. The work of a 32-member panel sponsored by the Rockefeller Foundation and chaired by Richard W. Lyman, former president of Stanford and now president of the foundation, the report surveys the humanities at every level of education, the system of humanistic research, and patterns of support for the humanities.

The report energetically affirms the importance of humanistic scholarship. Though it "seldom attracts public fanfare" or "leads straight to widely visible results," the Commission emphasizes, research in the humanities must be supported—particularly when inflation is eroding the financial resources of fellowship programs, research libraries and centers, and scholarly publishers.

"Learned societies are fast becoming professional associations," the Commission observes. New technologies for storing and sharing knowledge, the changed fortunes of higher education, and the many new responsibilities of humanists in a "learning society" all "promise to stretch the meaning of the word *humanist* and change the profession. Regulating the pace of that change, making it work for the benefit of education and scholarship in the humanities," the report states, is a task that the learned societies must share.

*The Humanities in American Life* (\$12.50 cloth, \$3.50 paper) is published by the University of California Press, 2223 Fulton St., Berkeley, CA 94720.



**President Howard Smither**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The annual meeting of the Society in Denver, together with the College Music Society and the Society for Music Theory, was clearly a success. From my personal experience and from what others have said, it seems that the quality of the papers and performances was generally high and the problems of local arrangements were solved smoothly and effectively. For their excellent work in making the meeting such a valuable experience, I should like to thank all those involved, especially the Program Committee, chaired by Craig Wright; the Performance Committee, by Carol Marsh-Rowan; and the Local Arrangements Committee, co-chaired by Anne Culver, Carlton Gamer, and Craig Short.

The work of the Society is dependent in large measure on the effective function of its network of committees, and I am gratified by the spirit of cooperation that I find among the membership. Two important services to the Society are those of Chairman of the Publications Committee, a post held by Martin Picker from 1976 to 1980, and Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of the AMS, held by Nicholas Temperley from 1977 to 1980. Many thanks to both for their hard work in these positions, and my best wishes to their successors, James Webster and Ellen Rosand, respectively.

As I enter the first year of my presidency, I should like to express my appreciation to Past President Howard Brown and Treasurer-Executive Director Alvin Johnson, who were generous with their assistance as I began to learn the job and on whom I shall continue to rely for experienced advice.

*H.E.S.*

At the annual business meeting of the Society in Denver, Howard E. Smither took office as President of the AMS. Educated at Hamline and Cornell Universities, Smither has taught at Oberlin, the University of Kansas, and Tulane, and is presently James Gordon Hanes Professor of the Humanities in Music at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He has published widely in scholarly journals and elsewhere, including several articles in the new *Grove's*, has lectured in the United States, Canada, and Europe, and is known particularly for his work on rhythmic theory and on the oratorio. Professor Smither is also serving as the American member of the Program Committee for the IMS Congress in Strasbourg in August 1982.

Several communications have been received by various officers of the Society, as well as by the editors of both the *Journal* and the *Newsletter*, concerning the potentially devastating impact of the recent Supreme Court decision in the case of the Thor Power Tool Company. The following will serve to alert readers to the situation and to suggest possible courses of action in response.

*Thor Power Tool Co. vs. Commissioner of Internal Revenue* (January, 1979), in which the Supreme Court found for the I.R.S., has far-reaching implications for the future of the publishing industry. Prior to this decision, publishers made use (for tax purposes) of the accepted accounting practice of "writing down" their excess inventory to what they estimated as its net realizable value. In the case of scholarly, scientific, and technical books, which have a limited market and normally sell very slowly, this procedure enabled the maintenance of backlists, which, upon eventual sale, provided taxable profit. With the implementation of *Thor*, such warehoused goods must be taxed at full market price, remaindered to demonstrate that the market value had indeed dropped below cost, or destroyed (pulped).

As a consequence, it is expected that slow-selling non-commercial books will be more expensive and will go out of print sooner, and that future contracts in this area will be severely curtailed. Because the decision applies to the business year 1979, publishers face a crippling tax burden for that year unless they destroy or remainder their excess stock, and, according to newspaper reports, many are seeking to protect themselves in this way. Senator Gaylord Nelson has introduced a bill (S. 2805), along with Representatives Barber H. Conable, Jr. and Ed Nelson (H. R. 7390; 7704), to block application of *Thor* to 1979. Senator Moynihan is introducing a bill to exempt publishers from *Thor*. All of this legislation is still pending.

Those wishing further information are referred to: "Millions of Books Endangered as Result of Tax Ruling" (Michiko Kakutani, *The New York Times*, October 5, 1980) and "Taxman's Ax" (*TIME*, November 3, 1980), two of a spate of recent articles and editorials. Eileen D. Cooke, Director, American Library Association / Washington Office (Box 54, 110 Maryland Ave. NE, Washington, D.C. 20002) has been monitoring and advocating efforts to relieve the publishing industry, and can provide more detailed information. Ms. Cooke recommends writing to your Congressional Representatives, in support of remedial legislation to ensure the future availability of books for libraries, teaching, and research.

Vivian S. Ramalingam

## NOAH GREENBERG AWARD

### APPLICATION DEADLINE EXTENDED TO MARCH 15, 1981

The Noah Greenberg Award Committee has announced an extension of the deadline for application for the 1981 award to March 15, 1981. Members of the Society wishing to apply for the award should submit their application, along with a proposed budget, to John G. Suess, Department of Music, Haydn Hall, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio 44106. (216) 368-2400. This year's Noah Greenberg Award Committee consists of John G. Suess, Chairman, Howard M. Brown, Ross W. Duffin, Richard French, and John H. Hajdu.

The Noah Greenberg Award was established by the Trustees of the New York Pro Musica in memory of their founder and first director. It is intended to stimulate active cooperation between scholars and performers and to encourage a high level of performance by ensembles specializing in music written before 1700. For instance, awards are given to enable performers to prepare concerts they would not otherwise be able to give, or publish materials of special interest to performers.

#### Guidelines for the Noah Greenberg Award

The Noah Greenberg Award, for a distinguished contribution to the study and performance of early music, will be given annually (provided that the committee responsible for awarding the prize judges at least one of the entries to be of sufficient distinction). The Award is intended to stimulate new approaches and imaginative solutions to the problems of the performance of early music, of a sort so characteristic of the man for whom the Award is named.

It seems to the Committee more consistent with these goals to give the award either to a performer or group of performers who need the money to do something good they could not otherwise do, or to a scholar to help him publish an article, monograph or edition that will be of help to performers and thus lead to more and better performances of early music. Members of the AMS will realize that this policy represents a change from the original guidelines, which suggested that the award be given to performers for something they wished to do in the future, but to scholars for something they had already done in the past. The new policy—to subsidize publication costs or to support performances—thus requires that both scholars and performers apply for the award.

The Noah Greenberg Award will consist of a sum up to \$1,000 per annum, depending on the scope and significance of

the entry selected. Normally there will be a single award; the committee may in some years, however, make two smaller awards.

A committee of five members, appointed by the President of the American Musicological Society in consultation with the Board of Directors, will judge entries for this prize. The Noah Greenberg Committee, one member to be designated as chairman, will serve for a two-year period.

## EINSTEIN AWARD

The Alfred Einstein Award will honor each year the author of the article on a musicological subject deemed by a committee of scholars to be the most significant by a young scholar who is a citizen or permanent resident of the United States or Canada published in a periodical during the preceding calendar year. A "young scholar" shall be defined as one who at the time of publication has not reached his thirty-sixth birthday nor has held a Ph.D. longer than five years. "Periodical" shall be defined as a serial publication appearing at least once a year in any country and in any language.

The Alfred Einstein Award shall consist of the sum of \$400 and a certificate, signed by the President, citing the name of the recipient and the work.

The article shall be selected by a committee of three appointed by the President in consultation with the Executive Board, one member to be designated as chairman. The Committee shall be known as the Alfred Einstein Award Committee, and its members shall serve overlapping three-year terms, each retiring chairman to be succeeded by the member with the longest service.

The Chairman or another member of the Committee will normally announce and confer the Award at the Annual Business Meeting of the Society. Inability to attend the meeting shall not disqualify a nominee for the Award.

The nomination of articles for the 1981 Alfred Einstein Award is now open. Articles that appeared during the 1980 calendar year will be considered for this year's award. Due to the problem of determining eligibility, only those articles that are formally nominated may be considered. Individual authors and others who wish to make a nomination are encouraged to do so, and to do it before June 1, 1981. Nominations can be sent to any member of the Einstein Award Committee: Charles M. Atkinson, Chair, c/o Institut für Musikwissenschaft der Universität Erlangen, Bismarckstrasse 1, 8520 Erlangen, Western Germany; Kerala Snyder, Department of Music, Yale University, Box 4030 Yale Station, New Haven, Connecticut 06520; Richard Taruskin, Music Department, Columbia University, New York, NY 10027.

