MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Hello to chapter members throughout New York and Ontario--why do I feel this impulse to add "and all the ships at sea?" Spring seems to have finally arrived (albeit slowly) in my neck of the woods, and I trust in yours. I know we'll soon be complaining about the heat, but after last winter I know I'll gladly suffer some heat for a while.

I should start out by thanking all those who read papers at our October meeting here in Albany, as well as all who attended--put up with our arcane security regulations--and generally helped make the meeting a success. Those who did attend know that Sarah Dorsey, music librarian at SUNY/Fredonia is our incoming chapter Vice-Chair/Chair Elect. Ann Churukian, assistant music librarian at Vassar College is our new Secretary/Treasurer. In addition Linda Blair is now editor of this newsletter. I want to thank them all for their work on behalf of the Chapter. I would also like to add my voice to that of Suzanne Myers Sawa in thanking our outgoing Secretary-Treasurer, Donna Lester, and former newsletter editor Laura Snyder. Occasionally I find myself wondering "How in the world can I manage to chair such a geographically dispersed and diverse group of people?" I'm not sure if there's an answer, but I do know that the task is made easier by the help and support of other chapter executives present and past.

Before I leave this subject I want to once more thank Suzanne Myers Sawa for her terrific work as Chair of the chapter. We all missed her at the October meeting, and look forward to seeing her at future ones.

Speaking of meetings, Sarah Dorsey is hosting the 1994 meeting at SUNY/Fredonia. The meeting will be held October 15-16 and will be a joint meeting between our chapter and the AMS. The current schedule (probably subject to change) is as follows:

Saturday morning-- MLA
Saturday afternoon-- joint MLA/AMS
Saturday evening-- banquet and/or concert
Sunday, morning-- AMS

Sarah is seeking papers for the MLA portion of the meeting. If you have suggestions please call her at (716) 673-3183; e-mail: dorsey@fredonia.bitnet. Or you can contact me at (518) 474-4461; e-mail: pmercer@unix2.nysed.gov.
Rick McRae and Sarah Canino are continuing work on the directory project for our chapter. Related to this effort, I've been discussing with Sarah Dorsey ways to increase the visibility of the chapter, how to become more active. As a start we're looking at writing a brochure to send to potential members to inform them of our existence, membership policies, activities etc. I'm also interested in extending the range of our activities beyond the October meeting and the newsletters. Perhaps we might want to consider local activities/meetings/events sponsored or co-sponsored by the chapter at our various institutions. Perhaps we can look to other chapters for examples. Sarah, while representing us at the Chapter Officers' Breakfast at Kansas City, met with a person from the Pennsylvania chapter. Pennsylvania does have a brochure which may work as a model for ours. Also there was some interest expressed in attending our meeting, and perhaps beginning a more regular exchange between neighboring chapters.

It seems to me that we all face budget constraints which make such things as attending national meetings in far off places seem like a luxury. Heaven knows some of us have trouble getting to regional chapter meetings, especially in a region such as ours which offers daunting geographic impediments to straight line travel. Stronger regional chapters and, as I mentioned, exchanges with neighboring ones may be a way to combat creeping isolationism.

Speaking of isolationism, you may have caught the reference to my brand new e-mail address a couple of paragraphs ago. In case you missed it I am now available electronically. I hope to make use of my new toy to help me stay in touch with individuals and the larger universe via such tools as NYSO-L. I encourage all of you to do likewise. See you on the information superhighway! (I'm probably the one in the breakdown lane.)

Best wishes,

Paul Mercer
Librarian
Manuscripts and Special Collections
New York State Library
11th Floor
Cultural Education Center
Albany, NY 12230
E-mail: pmercer@unix2.nysed.gov
Telephone: (518) 474-4461

* * * * * * * *

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
OCTOBER 2, 1993

Paul Mercer, the incoming chair, opened the meeting at 1:45 by thanking Suzanne Meyers Sawa, the outgoing chair, for all her efforts, and announced that he would be sending a message of condolence to her on the death of her father.

Election results were announced. There were two uncontested elections this year. Sarah Dorsey is the new Vice Chair/Chair Elect, and Ann Churukian is the new Secretary/Treasurer.

The Secretary/Treasurer's report from Donna Lester was read by Paul Mercer, as Donna was unable to attend the meeting. Her report stated that the Chapter's bank
balance stood at $465.00 and that there were 38 members last year.

Discussion was begun concerning a site for next year's meeting. It was tentatively decided to hold it at Fredonia, hosted by Sarah Dorsey, possibly as a joint meeting with AMS. We will try to choose a date that will not coincide with MLA board meetings or other meetings that our members might need to attend. Sarah Dorsey suggested that a program committee be established to plan the meeting, thus preventing all the work from falling to just one person.

Lenore Coral announced that next summer's IAML meeting will be held in Ottawa, July 17-22. She suggested that the Chapter might be able to offer some support for the local committee.

Rick McRae reported on the new committee for establishing a directory of music resources in libraries in New York and Ontario, which met for the first time over lunch just before the business meeting. Rick described the project as being at Phase Zero. He will be looking for interested people to begin collecting data for the project.

The Chapter's e-mail digest is reported to be serene: no controversies have been stirred up, no people maligned. There are currently between 25 and 30 people subscribed.

In other business, plans for the 1995 meeting were discussed. Jerry McBride discussed the possibility of holding it at Middlebury College as a joint meeting with the New England Chapter, possibly during the 2nd week in October. This might also include librarians from Quebec. Jerry described possible accommodations at the Bread Loaf campus. The meeting itself would take place at the main campus.

Lenore Coral thanked Paul Mercer for doing a wonderful job with this year's meeting.

The business meeting was adjourned at 2:05.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Churukian
Secretary/Treasurer

*****

FINANCIAL REPORT
May 3, 1993-April 30, 1994
Submitted by Ann Churukian

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balance</td>
<td>$602.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INCOME</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership</td>
<td>$335.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Registration</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Income</td>
<td>$485.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXPENSES</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Newsletter</td>
<td>$56.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Catering</td>
<td>$161.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Performer's Fee</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expenses</td>
<td>$367.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance in U.S. Bank Account April 30, 1994</td>
<td>$720.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Balance does not include amount in Canadian bank account.
1993 PROGRAM SUMMARIES

The annual meeting of the New York State/Ontario Chapter was held on October 3, 1993 in Albany, New York at the New York State Library. For many attenders, this was a first opportunity to become acquainted with the resources of the largest state library in the nation. The day's sessions focused on collections and resources of the library, and the kind of projects and research currently underway there.

After welcomes by Lee Stanton, Principal Librarian of Reference Services, and Paul Mercer, also of the State Library and current Chair of NYSO, the day's presentations began.

****

Diamonds or rust: Non-traditional sources in popular music research. Billie Aul, Senior Librarian New York State Library.

Popular music researchers need materials not often collected by music libraries. Music libraries concentrate on acquiring written music rather than actual performance of music, especially performance as captured on bootleg and non-commercial recordings. In addition to non-commercial live performance recordings, materials which aid in their interpretation, such as fanzines and bootleg discographies, should be collected. Even commercial recordings need documentation, such as recording dates, composers and backup musicians, that is not usually included in library cataloging.

In addition, evidence about non-commercial popularity is needed. Charts, such as those in Billboard, are not adequate measures of popularity. Sources such as non-commercial radio play lists, programs from musical events, and tapes of non-commercial musical events are useful in identifying true popularity.--(Summary by Billie Aul).


Although music in Albany during the period of 1800-1850 is generally not well documented, the documents of the Euterpean Society provide some insight into the local musical life of the time. The Society, organized in 1823, appears to be the earliest attempt to organize an instrumental ensemble in the city. The members of the Society, 112 documented in all, were avid amateur musicians who met together for the stated purpose of "improvement instrumental music". The membership included important professional people who were well-connected enough, in fact, to procure the capitol building for their meeting place. Actual professional musicians were notably absent from their ranks. Still, the society probably maintained a fairly high level of musicianship. The directors of the club were responsible for the arrangements of the music used by the members. And it was members of the Euterpean Society who performed for Lafayette, when he visited Albany.--(Summary by Linda Blair)

Popular music 'zines and the Factsheet Five Collection. Carol Reid, Librarian, New York State Library

Zines are self-published fan magazines which represent a reaction to slick commercial publications such as Tiger Beat
and Rolling Stone. The first 'zines began in the science fiction community, but the genre has gathered such momentum that 'zines now exist devoted to "every arcane subculture, pastime and point of view", according to Ms. Reid. Categories described by Mike Gunderloy in the Whole Earth Review (Fall 1990) include: 'Zines for various fringe groups (Kooks); comic, sci-fi and film fanzines; publications of the Amateur Press Association (APA); high school underground papers; Pagan 'zines (for "worshippers of the Goddess"); art 'zines, encompassing poetry, prose and visual arts; 'zines dealing with sex/gender and social justice issues; and of course, music, especially punk rock, of which there are hundreds, and possibly thousands of titles.

Gunderloy, dubbed "the Grand Cataloger of the underground press" by the Whole Earth Review, became involved in 'zinedom in the early 1980's, when he discovered there was an unsuspected amount of interest in the informal reviews of interesting new 'zines he had been sharing with friends via correspondence. Rather than repeat himself in a number of letters, he produced Factsheet Five #1, consisting of 2 pages, with about a dozen reviews. By the end of the decade, Factsheet Five had grown to 8 issues a year, with a thousand titles reviewed in each, and Gunderloy needed a rest.

He sold Factsheet Five, which now continues in the capable hands of R. Seth Friedman, and donated his huge collection of 'zines to the New York State Archive.

What are the actual titles of these 'zines? To whet the appetites of potential popular music researchers, here are some representative examples: Bacteria of Decay, Stressed Out, Butt Ugly, Girl Germs, Skag 2000, Metal Curse, Spilled Guts, Still No Symptoms, Obscure Publications, Vicious Hippies from Panda Hell, and the 'zine most often cited in outside sources, Why Music Sucks.--(Summary by Linda Blair, with assistance from Carol Reid)

Music of the Anti-Rent War
George Ward, folklorist

Following the business meeting and a tour of the State Museum's music collections and the State Library's Manuscript and Special Collections Sections, the attenders were treated to a performance by folklorist George Ward, entitled Music of the Anti-Rent War. The Anti-Rent War was a civil uprising in upper New York State (ca. 1839-1846), in which lease-holding farmers protested the unfair practices of the long-standing Dutch patroon system of hereditary land ownership. In between the lively selections, Mr. Ward described the processes of discovery and research that led to his reconstruction of the ballads which told the stories and fueled the fires in this episode of New York State history. After the performance, the day's proceedings concluded with a reception.

*********
SUBSCRIBE TO NYSO-L

NYSO-L is our discussion list, available to members with access to electronic mail. To subscribe:

1. Send an e-mail message to
   LISTSERV@UBVM.CC.BUFFALO.EDU
   (bitnet: LISTSERV@UBVM)

2. In the body of the message, type:
   SUB NYSO-L JANE DOE

3. You will receive notification that you have been added to the list.

* * * * * * *

CHAPTER NEWS

At the annual meeting in Kansas City, several members of the New York Ontario Chapter were elected to new positions, in MLA and other organizations. Newly elected to the MLA Board are Laura Snyder (Eastman School of Music), Recording Secretary and Jim Cassaro (Cornell University), Member-at-Large. Jim served also as a panelist for the Ask MLA session, Streamlining your acquisitions workflow. Nancy Nuzzo (SUNY at Buffalo) completed her term as Recording Secretary of MLA, and assumed her new position, as Chair of the NOTIS Users Group. Mary Wallace Davidson (Eastman) and Sarah Dorsey (SUNY at Fredonia) served as panelists for the Ask MLA session Creative solutions to the realities of the 1990's and Rick McCrae read a paper at the Black Music Collections Roundtable entitled Musicians Union records as an important source for black music research.

The above list was compiled from submissions from chapter members, and therefore is not in any way exhaustive. Please help to keep us current in this column of the Newsletter by returning the membership News form found with the renewal form. All the news that fits we print!

* * * * * * *

CHAPTER OFFICERS

CHAIR: Paul Mercer, New York State Library, 11th floor, Cultural Education Center, Albany, NY 12230. Phone: (518) 474-4461
PMERCER@UNIX2.NYSED.GOV

VICE CHAIR: Sarah Dorsey, Music Librarian, Reed Library, SUNY Fredonia, Fredonia, NY 14063 (716) 673-3184
DORSEY@FREDONIA (bitnet)

SECRETARY/TREASURER: Ann Churukian, Vassar College, Music Library, Box 38, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 (914) 437-7492 ANCHURUKIAN@VASSAR.EDU

* * * * * * *

COMING EVENTS

Association for Recorded Sound Collections (ARSC), 28th annual conference, Rodgers & Hammerstein Archives of Recorded Sound. New York City, June 6-9, 1994. For information write: 1994 ARSC Conference, Rodgers & Hammerstein Archives of Recorded Sound, 111 Amsterdam Avenue, New York, NY 10023

International Association of Music Libraries, Archives and Documentation Centres (IAML). Ottawa, July 16-22, 1994. For information write, IAML 94, Attn. Alison Hall, Library, Carleton University, 1125 Colonel By Drive, Ottawa ON, K1S 5B6, Canada.
ATTENTION MEMBERS OF MLA CHAPTERS

If you are a member of your regional chapter, but do not belong to the national Music Library Association, consider the benefits of national membership:

* personal subscription to Notes, the quarterly journal of the Association, which includes book and music reviews, indexes to audio equipment reviews, record and CD reviews, articles on music bibliography and music history, current publication lists, and advertising for new publications and services in music
* subscription to the MLA Newsletter
* advance information on the annual conventions
* voting privileges for the Board of Directors and officers of the Association
* 20% discount on MLA publications from the Index Series and Technical Reports
* a copy of the MLA membership directory
* the knowledge that you support a fine professional association, working to increase the visibility of music librarianship

Use the form on this page to join today!

MUSIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
Application for membership

Name__________________________

Mailing address

Category: ___ Sustaining ($120)

___ Individual ($65)

___ Student ($35)

___ Retired ($35)

Telephone: work: __________

home: __________

(Include department, division, etc., or "none", as appropriate.)

Electronic mail (system, address): __________________________

Institutional affiliation: __________________________

Chapter memberships: __________________________

Please make checks payable to Music Library Association, Inc. Mail to: Music Library Association, P.O. Box 487, Canton, MA 02021 USA. Allow 6-8 weeks for processing of new memberships. The Music Library Association is a non-profit, tax-exempt professional organization.
INSIDE

Message from the Chair ............................................. 1-2
1993 Business Meeting ............................................. 2-3
Financial Report ..................................................... 3
1993 Program Summary ............................................. 4-5
Chapter News ......................................................... 6
Coming Events ......................................................... 6

* * * * * * * * * * * * *

MLA NYS/Ontario Chapter Newsletter
Sibley Music Library
27 Gibbs Street
Rochester, NY 14604
TO: Subscribers to the NYSO Newsletter

July 5, 1994

Please note the following corrections to the New York State/Ontario MLA Chapter Newsletter, no. 29:

Nancy Nuzzo has been elected Vice Chair/Chair Elect of the NOTIS Music User's Group.

Jim Cassaro has been appointed Treasurer of the Music Library Association.

The editor regrets these errors.