

NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN MUSICAL INSTRUMENT SOCIETY

Vol. 2, No. 2

June, 1973



THE MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS COLLECTION MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

The view shows a portion of the collection purchased for the Museum in 1916 by the father of Leslie Lindsey Mason, from the Reverend Francis Galpin. Details of individual instruments in the collection are to be found in Bessaraboff, *Ancient European Musical Instruments*, Harvard University Press, 1941. Although not large in numbers, this famous collection is unique in that an example of almost every known type of musical instrument is represented. The collection is further noteworthy in that it is a working collection in which many instruments are used in performance and all are fully accessible to qualified students and players. The large workroom and display area are air-conditioned and humidified in the interests of preservation and chairs and music stands bespeak active use of the facilities.

The NEWSLETTER is published three times yearly — June, October and March. All correspondence should be directed to THE NEWSLETTER Editor, William Maynard, 17 Lincoln Avenue, Massapequa Park, New York 11762. Photos and short news items will be welcome.

**AMERICAN MUSICAL INSTRUMENT SOCIETY
(AMIS)**

Officers and Board

Robert Rosenbaum	<i>President</i>
Arnold Fromme	<i>Vice President</i>
William Maynard	<i>Secretary</i>
Linda Tauber	<i>Treasurer</i>
Dale Higbee	Barbara Lambert
Frederich von Huene	Edwin Ripin
	Cynthia Hoover
James Swain	<i>Membership Chairman</i>

PRESIDENTS COMMENT...

With the second annual meeting of AMIS behind us, it is clear that our Society has come of age. Interest in the Society is accelerating, and it is astonishing how many people are discovering that the goals and purposes of AMIS coincide with theirs. Strong indication of the vigor of the Society are announcements in this NEWSLETTER of the appointment of an Editor for our new journal and the first project of the Society, compilation of a comprehensive directory of contemporary American musical instrument makers. The Board of Governors and the membership are unanimous in the understanding that any Society undertaking be representative of the highest scholarly effort and provide a definitive, lasting contribution. To consistently achieve this, we must work towards increasing membership and enlisting individuals who represent all areas pertaining to interest in musical instruments. Currently, AMIS is undergoing incorporation procedures which, when completed, will benefit all of us. For one, we shall exist as a corporate entity with ultimate tax-exempt status, and this condition will enable us to fund exciting worthwhile projects, such as the journal, and special efforts, such as the catalogue mentioned above. We must now anticipate, in the immediate future, the next annual meeting to be held in the mid-west at the invitation of the University of Michigan. As with our first meeting at the Smithsonian, and the second Boston meeting, we can all fully expect to experience another stimulating conclave. With the appearance of the next NEWSLETTER this Fall, a call for papers will once again go out. We can all seek satisfaction in our mutual efforts and enthusiasm thus far, and join in anticipation for the coming year.

Robert Rosenbaum

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY...

The second annual business meeting of the AMIS began at 9:30 A.M. on April 29, 1973 at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts. Dr. Robert M. Rosenbaum, President, presided.

After a brief welcome, Dr. Rosenbaum extended the appreciation of the Society to Cynthia Hoover and Barbara Lambert for their efforts in preparing the two day meeting. Members in attendance seconded Dr. Rosenbaum's accolade.

Linda Tauber read the Secretary's report of the first annual meeting held in 1972 at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. The Secretary also read the results of the election held this year. As a result of a mail ballot the new officers are:

Secretary William J. Maynard
Treasurer Linda Tauber

Dr. James M. Swain read the Treasurer's report and stated that as of April 29, 1973, the treasury held \$565.02, with membership at 230. Both reports were approved and seconded.

Dr. Rosenbaum announced to the membership in attendance that Dr. Swain had resigned as Editor of the Newsletter. All present showed their appreciation of the excellence of Dr. Swain's work in preparing the Newsletter. Mr. William Maynard will assume editorship beginning with the June issue. Dr. Swain will assume the post of chairman of the membership committee.

Dr. Robert Warner spoke next and invited the Society to hold the 3rd annual meeting at the University of Michigan where the Stearns Collection is on display. Dr. Warner gave a brief history of the collection and further discussed the locale of the school and other items of interest. It was decided by the members to hold the meeting at the University on April 5, 6, and 7th, 1974 and thanks were extended to Dr. Warner for this invitation.

The last order of business was the introduction of Dr. Thomas Forrest Kelly who was appointed by the Board of Governors to edit the forthcoming AMIS Journal. Although Dr. Kelly was not in attendance, Dr. Rosenbaum reviewed the Board meeting and pointed out the responsibilities of the new editor and indicated that all interested parties were in agreement. An editorial board will soon be formed. Also discussed was the possible costs of a journal, and ways of increasing income of the Society to finance such a venture. A tentative date of publication was put at 12 to 16 months.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,
William J. Maynard
Secretary



Left to right: Narcissa Williamson (Mass.), Dr. Robert Warner (Mich.), Edith Friedman (Mich.) and Thomas Kelly, new journal editor.

EDITOR'S REPORT ON THE BOSTON MEETING ...

The cover photo of this Newsletter shows a partial view of the Leslie Lindsey Mason Collection (formerly the first Galpin Collection) housed at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts. It was with this collection in mind that over one-hundred members eagerly attended the opening session of the 2nd Annual Meeting of AMIS on Saturday, April 28th. Although the papers were read in an upstairs lecture hall in the museum, members were given liberal access to the collection by the Keeper of the Instruments, Ms. Barbara Lambert. It was a delight for the visitor to be able to see, touch, and even play upon some of the examples in the collection.

As can be seen from the scheduled sessions (summarized below), a wide range of subject matter was discussed. Following each paper, time was available for questions from the audience. A slight departure this year was the inclusion of two panel discussions.



Our roving photographer took some inpromptu shots at the recent Boston meeting and the results are summarized in these pages in four of the best (out of 500) exposures: Above: Messrs Gribbon (Mass.) and Eliasson (Mich.) with cocktails.

Dr. Rosenbaum moderated a panel dealing with collecting practices and the philosophy of collecting and invited Edith Friedman (Detroit), Andre Larson (North Dakota), William Maynard (New York), Eric Selch (New York), and Dr. G. Norman Eddy (Mass.) to participate. Mrs. Hoover, chairing the Instrument Makers Forum, sat with panelists Charles B. Fisk (Organ), Frank Hubbard (Harpsichord), Friedrich von Huene (Recorders, Flutes), and Donald Warnock (Lutes, Viols, Guitars). As with the papers, questions were invited from the members in attendance.

Social activities were not overlooked at this productive meeting. Many members enjoyed the food, drink, and conversation which prevailed at the reception and dinner held at Boston University on Saturday evening. Professor and Mrs. G. Norman Eddy were sponsors for this affair which was a highlight of the conference.

At the business meeting on Sunday, Dr. Rosenbaum extended the Society's appreciation to Ms. Barbara Lambert, hostess for the 1973 annual meeting of the AMIS, and to Mrs. Cynthia Hoover who chaired the program committee. All in attendance seconded the President's words of esteem.

The 1974 meeting will be held at the University of Michigan where the Stearns Collection is housed. Dr. Robert A. Warner, Curator of the Stearns Collection of Musical Instruments, has extended the invitation to the AMIS for April 5, 6, and 7. More details will be forthcoming in future editions of the Newsletter.

For the record, specific papers presented are recorded by title as follows:

Session 1: American Instruments, Robert Eliasson, Chairman

Charles Kaufmann: New Jersey Instrument Makers, 1796-1860.

Samuel Ogden: Abraham Prescott, Maker of Umbrellas, Parasols, and Bass Viols.

Paul Gifford: The Hammered Dulcimer in the United States.

Session II: Early Strings, Performance Practices, Arnold Fromme, Chairman

Narcissa Williamson: Instruments of the Jongleurs in Romanesque Sculpture.

Lawrence Witten: Discovering the Early History of Violin Making.

Jane Ambrose: Three 18th century Flute Treatises.

Eugene Enrico: Instrumental Performance in San Petronio at the Time of Giuseppe Torelli.

Session 111: Collector's Hour, Robert Rosenbaum, Moderator

Subject: Philosophy of Collecting.

Session IV: Keyboards, Edwin Ripin, Chairman

John Fesperman: The Renaissance in American Organ Design, 1933-1961.

Walter Burr: The Work of B. Stehlin, Harpsichord Builder.

Sheridan Germann: Masters of the Fat Arabesques—Identifying the Hand of Soundboard Painters on Flemish Harpsichords.

Session V: Instrument Makers Forum Cynthia Hoover, Moderator

Session VI: Wind Instruments, Dale Higbee, Chairman

James M. Swain: X-ray Examination of Instruments.

Michael Zadro: Aspects of the Restoration of Woodwind Instruments.

Robert Rosenbaum: Nationalistic Flavor in the Design and Construction of The Oboe.

Andre Larson: Seven Instruments by Charles Pace.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS APPOINT JOURNAL EDITOR

Dr. Thomas Forrest Kelly, a member of the Wellesley College faculty, has been appointed Editor of the new Journal of the American Musical Instrument Society. Dr. Kelly and the Board met in Boston on April 27th and agreed on many aspects of the new Journal. It was decided that the first step would be the selection of an Editorial Board to advise and assist the Editor, and a tentative date for publication was set for the Fall of 1974. Format, costs and related details will be handled by the Editor. Articles related to the interests of the Society will be considered by the Editor and anyone wishing to contact Dr. Kelly concerning the Journal should write to him at the following address:

Department of Music
Wellesley College
Wellesley, Mass. 02181

FIRST AMIS PROJECT

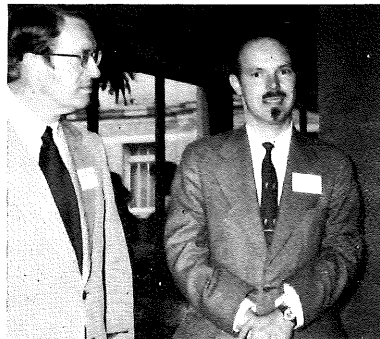
As Amis grows, it is hoped that a number of projects of permanent value will be published, sponsored by the Society. The first of these, as voted on by the Board of Governors at the Boston meeting, will consist of a directory of contemporary American musical instrument makers. The project is in charge of Mrs. Susan Caust Farrell who will develop the directory based on a questionnaire. This questionnaire will be sent to all professional makers currently on our list, but this list is not comprehensive. All members of the Society are urged to write to Mrs. Farrell with the name and address of any maker known to sell his or her instruments. Makers are also urged to request the questionnaire. Address: Mrs. Susan C. Farrell, 21 Ft. Washington Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10032.



Mesdames Barbara Lambert (Mass.) and Cynthia Hoover (Washington, D. C.) both offer Eric Selch (N. Y.) a drink (he had at least three!).

BACK ISSUES

Back issues of the AMIS Newsletter are available in a complete set (five numbers) at a cost of \$5.00. Payment should be made out to AMIS and sent with the request to the Newsletter Editor.



Dr. James Swain (La.) and Stuart-Morgan Vance (Ky.) with no flutes to swap!

MEMBERSHIP BLANKS

Every member should have handy at least one membership blank in the event a potential member expresses serious interest in joining the Society. Beginning with this NEWSLETTER, such blanks will be enclosed and (we hope) used freely. Additional blanks can always be obtained from the NEWSLETTER office, or by writing Dr. James Swain, Membership Chairman, P. O. Box 351, Lake Charles, Louisiana 70601.

DUES REMINDER

Your Society has plenty of enthusiasm and scholarly know-how, but we need money too. The Annual Dues of \$5.00 pay for the NEWSLETTER printing and mailing, and all the other administrative expenses of AMIS. Some members are in arrears for 1973. Ms. Linda Tauber (your Treasurer) has been sending out letters, and asks the NEWSLETTER to remind all members that our Bylaws indicate all dues to be payable each July. *The 1973 July deadline is just around the corner!* The address of the Treasurer is: Ms. Linda Tauber, 807 Walters Street, Lake Charles, La. 70601.

A NEW SERVICE

The next edition (October) of the Newsletter will introduce a new classified column for members who wish to buy, sell, swap, etc., instruments or related materials. Twenty words will cost \$5.00 for one issue. Checks should be made out to AMIS and sent with the copy to the Editor. All ads must be made by individuals, no commercial businesses, and will be published at the discretion of the Editor.

NEW COLLECTION

Mr. Douglas B. Moore has sent to the Editor a checklist of instruments in the John B. Taylor Instrument Collection at Williams College. Approximately forty-one instruments are all in the woodwind family with an exceptional brass or two. Mr. Moore plans to spend the summer researching and restoring the collection and hopes to schedule on-campus performances in the near future.

Communications should be addressed to:

Mr. Douglas B. Moore, Williams College, Dept. of Music, Williamstown, Mass. 01267.