

NEGASS
New England Gilbert & Sullivan Society
P.O. Box 367, Arlington, MA 02476-0004

Vol. XXIV No. 1
A lump of sugar ---

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 22:
SORCERER PICNIC MEETING**
RENEWAL ISSUE

SUNDAY, AUGUST 22, AT 3 PM: EAT, DRINK AND BE GAY! Join us on Sunday, August 22 at 3:00 PM [yes, *the date and time have changed from those announced last month!* - mlc], for a **SPONTANEOUS SORCERER PICNIC**. We've all been invited to the home of the gracious **Ilana Gerard** of 20 Marshall Street in Wrentham, MA, who has raised the torch passed on by **Mr. Alfred Shepherd** and **Mrs. Mary Howe DeWolf Shepherd**, our long-time hosts, for our annual picnic-and-sing-through.

Bring your own entree, but bring along something to share as well - anything from a rollicking bun to a gay Sally Lunn would do. As we will begin the meeting at 3:00 with a sing-through of **THE SORCERER**, we plan to eat around 5 PM, leaving people ample time to drive home before sundown.

Program Chair **Rebecca Consentino** will be casting the lead roles in **SORCERER**, so make your wish and contact her! She can be reached at 617-731-3998 or rac@bu.edu. Please indicate your vocal range, any past roles you've had and groups you've been involved in. In order to be fair, casting will be done primarily on a first-come, first-serve basis; roles that she receives many requests for may be split by act, so if you like the first act better than the second, let her know! Roles are as follows:

- Sir Marmaduke Pointdextre, an Elderly Baronet**..... Bass-baritone
- Alexis, of the Grenadier Guards—His Son**..... Tenor
- Dr. Daly, Vicar of Ploverleigh**..... Lyric Baritone
- John Wellington Wells, of J. W. Wells & Co., Family Sorcerers**..... Patter Baritone
- The Notary**..... Bass
- Lady Sangazure, a Lady of Ancient Lineage**..... Contralto
- Aline, Her Daughter—betrothed to Alexis**... Soprano
- Mrs. Partlet, a Pew-Opener**..... Mezzo-soprano

Constance, her Daughter..... Soprano
If you'd like to sing with the chorus or come to watch, just show up! And be sure to bring along any extra scores you may have, in order to share with others.

We do not plan to have a spontaneous orchestra, although instrumentalists are more than welcome! We do, however, need a pianist and a conductor. Please contact Rebecca if you are interested in this -- **REBECCA CONSENTINO**

HOW TO GET THERE: 1a) From far west or far south, take Route 495 to Exit 15 (Wrentham, Route 1A North).

2a) Turn right and follow 1A North for approximately 4.5 miles to the traffic light at Route 115. (The Horse and Carriage restaurant will be on your left.)

3a) Turn left onto Route 115 and continue 0.8 miles to a blinking yellow light marking the intersection with Marshall Street. Turn left onto Marshall Street (It's a T intersection; that is, your only options are to go straight or turn left.) There will be several numbered houses on the right, a sign for a 'blind driveway' which will be #12, followed by a short stretch of woods. The next driveway on the right is 20 Marshall Street. It is an all-white cape cod house with a circular driveway. Welcome!

1b) From the east, take Route 128 to Interstate 95 South. Take 95 to Exit 9 Route 1, Wrentham). Exit onto Route 1 Southbound (your only choice). Turn right at the first traffic light, which is at the next intersection (Old Post Road). (You will pass the Sharon Inn and Bickford's Restaurant on your right. If you reach Dominic's Restaurant, you have gone too far.)

while Eric joined **Melissa Hirshson** in *Kind Captain, I've important information (PINAFORE)*. Finally, **Bill Mahoney** arrived to wave copies of songs from *The Hot Mikado*, which Nancy and Eric brought to life. Somehow, the list of planned fantasies was done, but longings did not end - Carl led the assembled multitude in a chorus from *PATIENCE*, singing the Duke's *Your maiden hearts, ah, do not steel*, after which Katherine, Tony, Marion and Eric led the crowd in *When the foeman bares his steel (PIRATES)*... In truth, I could say more, but, behold, I have said enough. We gathered, ate wonderful refreshments, and went home to enjoy a long, hot summer. -- **RUTH ROWBOTTOM**



And now, M'Luds, to the business of the day
(by all means!):

It's time to renew your membership!

The Board's decision several years ago to create extra categories of membership is still in effect - please bear in mind that the majority of our members are still "Yeomen," but that those who wish to contribute more to NEGASS have the opportunity to do so, in the following increments:

- \$15 **Yeomen** (basic membership)
- 25 **Daughters of the Plough**
- 50 **Bucks and Blades**
- 100 **Flowers of Progress**

(On the other hand, if even the \$15 basic membership is a problem, please talk to Membership Chair **Bill Mahoney**)

Part of the deal was that We would print a yearly list of Members Extraordinary - those who chose a category higher than Yeomen for the previous year. So here's the list of 1998-99 Extraordinary Memberships (*Bow, bow, ye Lower Middle Classes*):

Daughters of the Plough

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Frank Behrens | Earnest V. Loewenstein |
| Lisa Berglund | Bob Manninen |
| Nancy & Philip Burstein | David Marshall |
| Maureen Carey | Wallace Mason |
| Judith Chasin | Neil McCormick |
| Allen & Janet Cohen | Daniel & Rena Miller |
| CLOC | Lee Patterson |
| (Robert & Ursula Haslun) | |
| R. E. Coleson | Lonnie Powell |
| Charles Coolong | Ruth Roper |
| Philip Drew | Mr. & Mrs. Robert Russell |
| Barry Garden | Larry Seiler |
| Stephen Grover | Marcy & Marc Shepherd |
| Dale Hall | Rose Marie Short |
| Carl F. Hampe | Barry Singer |
| Brian Harris | David Stieber |
| Melissa Hirshson | Jonathan Strong |
| Sheldon & Alice Hochman | Victor Troll & Nell Wright |
| Fred Hughes | Tom Weber |

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Charlee Hutton | Carl Weggel |
| Alessandra Kingsford | Dr. & Mrs. Charles Wilder |
| Theodore Koban | Phyllis Wilner |
| Jim Krainin | Edward Wiseman |
| Kathy Lague | Jane Young |
| Susan Lindquist | Stephen Zykofsky |

Bucks and Blades

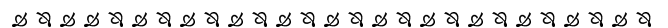
- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|
| Dean S. Edmonds, Jr. | Miles Cary Leahey |
| Richard Freedman | Larry Littlefield |
| Nathan Handspicker | Stephen Malionek |
| John N. Howard | Jim Parmentier & Beth Fowler |
| Arthur & Jean Koykka | J. Donald Smith |
| Wayne Ward | |

Flowers of Progress

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Robert L. Bishop | Bill, Nancy & Carol Burdine |
| Walt Howe & Hope Tillman | |

(How shall I express the all-absorbing gratitude -)

Whatever category suits you - please send the enclosed Renewal Form to **NEGASS, PO Box 367, Arlington, MA 02476-0004 c/o Membership Chair Bill Mahoney**, with what dispatch ye may! --- *mlc*



BUT, DAMME, YOU DON'T GO! Thank you all for your enthusiastic response to our recent meeting-attendance survey. We received a large number of responses - with interesting results. The people who claimed to be *most* interested in attending meetings are less likely to have attended a meeting in the recent past than those who claim to be only *somewhat* interested in attending. The people who have attended the fewest meetings recently were the ones who urged that we hold the most meetings per year. Some people wish meetings were held on mid-week evenings, while others find even Sunday afternoons too late during the winter for a safe drive home. As The Board expected, many people are members only in order to receive this rag, and never plan to attend meetings at all. However, we will continue to plan meetings, to which all will continue to be invited!

Spontaneous orchestra. One fascinating meeting idea has arisen, at the request of French Horn player **Victor Godin**: G&S is not only for singers, and the original orchestration was not piano solo! If enough instrumentalists are available and interested, and if a conductor can be found to hold the show together—and if orchestra parts can be borrowed for the nonce - NEGASS's next **Last Minute Light Opera** will include a **Last Minute Orchestra** as well. (Instrumentalists are welcome to join the singers for the picnic meeting **SORCERER**, of course, but nothing formal

has been arranged for that meeting.) More news as it breaks! -- mlc

SHREDS AND PATCHES: Dame Rumour Whispers that



a SavoyNetter wrote a few months ago: I have just read in a Sunday newspaper (in a feature on obscure laws) that persistent flirting is punishable in New York by a fine of \$15. It doesn't say whether it's ever been enforced and I suppose it's better

than being decapitated. :-)

NATURAL-FOODS STORE Bread and Circus is advertising new products with a flyer which proclaims "Oh Soy! Oh Rapture!"

INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL NEWS

This year's festival, which is going on right now in Buxton, England, will end August 15. Many NEGASS friends and members have been involved in the SavoyNet production of RUDDIGORE, which was performed on August 5: Sam Silvers of NYC (familiar to the Sudbury Savoyards as the last-minute Rockville Sing-Out J. W. Wells of a few years ago), who's playing Robin; Irv Hodgkin of The Hancock County G&S Soc., Maine, who's playing his faithful retainer, Old Adam; and Bobbie Herman and Paul Cohen of Connecticut and Mary Finn (the librettist of The Foundling) and Don Smith (NEGASS V.P.), who are chorus and production team members. Visit the SavoyNet RUDDIGORE web site to see pictures of the cast, costume illustrations, and other fun stuff: http://www.btinternet.com/~richards.gands/ruddigore99/snetruddigore.htm

NEGASSer Bruce Miller had a day of glory as well: On July 29 he was Music Director for a program with the title Gilbert & Sullivan Rarities: Music from the Cutting-Room Floor at which Michael Rayner and Jean Hindmarsh performed the World Premier With Orchestra of Bruce and Helga Perry's discovery, Reflect, my child, the missing song from PINAFORE (which NEGASSers will be able to hear - with piano accompaniment - at our September meeting!)

For all the details of the ongoing 1999 Festival - photos, schedules and a general sense of the ambiance of a wonderful experience - visit the Buxton Festival Site at:

http://www.gs-festivals.freemove.co.uk/buxton99/

(Site authored by SavoyNetters Bob and Jackie Richards)

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We'd like to remind folks: To subscribe to SavoyNet, the G&S mailing list, send the message Subscribe SavoyNet (your full name) to the address listserv@bridgewater.edu - and you'll be sent all the information you need.

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ESSENTIAL G&S LIBRARIES. Pardon this month's very SavoyNet-heavy Bray; this is what We've been sent this summer! Marc Shepherd, SavoyNet's current list manager, posted two lists of 10 G&S Books Everyone Ought To Own. (We confess, We don't own most of them!) The first was by Jim Drew:

- Gilbert - Original Plays
Bradley - Complete Annotated Plays of G&S
Allen - The First Night G&S
Bailey - The G&S Story
Ellis - The Complete Annotated Bab Ballads
Pearson - Gilbert, His Life & Strife
Goldberg - W.S. Gilbert
Jacobs - Sullivan, the Victorian Musician
Young - Sir Arthur Sullivan
Young - The Music of Sir Arthur Sullivan

Marc comments: I would choose the Stedman bio over those by Pearson and Goldberg. There is another Goldberg book that I prefer to the one listed. I would add Rollins & Witts's The D'Oyly Carte Opera Company in Gilbert and Sullivan Opera and Harry Benford's The Gilbert and Sullivan Lexicon.

Hence [Marc continues], my list is:

- Gilbert - Original Plays
Bradley - Complete Annotated Plays of G&S
Allen - The First Night G&S
Bailey - The Gilbert and Sullivan Book
Ellis - The Complete Annotated Bab Ballads
Stedman - W. S. Gilbert: A Classic Victorian and His Theatre
Goldberg - Gilbert and Sullivan, or, The Compleat Savoyard
Jacobs - Arthur Sullivan, A Victorian Musician
Benford - The Gilbert and Sullivan Lexicon
Rollins & Witts - The D'Oyly Carte Opera Company

So - for those NEGASSers who are ready to begin a course of study - there are your potential reading lists! Anyone have other suggestions? -- mlc

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THE SHOW MUST GO ON! The Titipu Times of May '99 tells a tale of a brave Savoyard: Kevin Young, Don Alhambra in the Winnipeg G&S Soc's recent GONDOLIERS, insisted upon returning to the theater from his hospital bed to finish the last performance of the show before agreeing to have his appendix removed. (Fortunately, there was a doctor in the house - a cast member who was also a physician, who made sure the Grand Inquisitor was not merely Up-To-Date, but also Up to Snuff!) The company plans PATIENCE for next April; let's hope there are no crises next season!

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Bob Cumming of the Connecticut G&S Society writes: Thanks for the *PINAFORE* plug in the current *Bray...* The 1-800 number used is good only within Connecticut. The other number would be 1-860-873-2832. Address is P.O. Box 2152, Middletown, CT 06457-2152. Our cast is stellar and a nice mix of CG&SS veterans plus new faces and voices. Ralph is a newcomer, tall, handsome, thin, young—**Greg Shafer**. Sir Joseph is **Leighton Phraner** (who has done the role a dozen times under my direction, including at Lincoln Center). Captain is **Jerry Palmer** and Josephine is his wife, **Kathleen Thompson**, both of whom were supportive in *YEOMEN* in the chorus while we passed the soprano lead to another newcomer. Dick is **Laurie Weissbrot** (Shadbolt), Boatswain is **Allan Church** (Lord Chancellor in *IOLANTHE*).



Bob adds: You probably already know that we have **cassette tapes available** of our recent *Golden Legend* for \$12 for anyone interested. *Actually, We didn't know! But We expect many people will want to phone 1-800-866-1606 in Connecticut, or 1-860-873-2832 elsewhere, to find out how to get copies!*

The **Spring 1999 issue of *Gilbert & Sullivan News*** (the newsletter of the Mother Society) proclaims on its cover, **"D'Oyly Dumbed-Down *PIRATES* Makes a Splash!"** An editorial within explains: When called upon to help fill a major theater at the last minute over last Christmas season, "In just five weeks [**Raymond Gubbay of D'Oyly Carte**] produced a revival of **Stuart Maunder's...** pantomime production of *PIRATES*. .. It was good to have D'Oyly Carte back in town for a short season, but this tepid, tatty confection can not have inspired new friends, or caused the Arts Council to reach for their cheque book...however, the performance contained several gems: **Gareth Jones' Sergeant of Police**, with a twinkle in the eye as well as the voice, and **Richard Suart's radical, lunatic Major-General** were the stars of the show. **Anna-Clare Monk** was a delightful spot-on eponymous [*sic*] Mabel and **Christopher Saunders** a finely sung Frederic... Visually the Italian tumbler costumes for the men and the Edwardian hand-me-down frocks for the ladies were just ghastly. Ensemble was excellent, but at times, drowned out the nine piece band... On this showing, D'Oyly Carte is in dire straits. Great things are promised in the programme, but please God, not with a nine piece band."

Yet, in the same issue, the Society's Chairman writes: "I am delighted to report that the membership of the Society is growing apace and a new surge of applications has been generated by our advertisement in the programme for *PIRATES* presented by D'Oyly Carte..." *Once again, the*

critics seem more critical than the audience. What can We do, but smile and welcome fellow G&S lovers, however inspired?!

-mlc

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Visit **The D'Oyly Carte Opera Company's** website, at <<http://www.doylycarte.org.uk/>>.

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The same issue of the **G&S News** cited above includes a review of a short film by animator **Barry Purves, *Gilbert and Sullivan - The Very Models***, which apparently in very amusing detail tells the story of the building of the partnership among G, S and D'O. C. Music added to clever animation seems to make this short a prize. The film was broadcast on Britain's Channel 4 this past winter - does anyone know where hungry Savoyards can find a copy? Will this be part of the program of G&S cartoons planned by **Don Smith** for NEGASS's upcoming season? Tell Us, Tell Us all about it! -- *mlc*



COMMENTS ON YEOMEN COMMENTS -- *A letter from a Founding Member of NEGASS always takes priority - but We must edit for space, alas:* I was delighted to see the perennial question of whether Jack Point actually dies at the end brought to the fore. You say that he indeed dies "for the love of a ladye," yet we have it on no less an authority than Katisha herself "that no one ever yet died of a broken heart." The fact is that Gilbert...ducks his responsibility to give a poor director some hint as to how the ending is to be handled by simply noting that Point is to "fall insensible" at Elsie's feet....

In my years of attending productions of *YEOMEN* I've observed all sorts of solutions... In the performance done by the **Boston U. Savoyards** some years ago, the director had the entire chorus form a semicircle around the prostrate jester and point to him as the final notes crashed through. Effective, yes, but naturalistic, certainly not. And so when you ask what I think about obviously staged effects -- with lighting or otherwise -- I say that unless you have a consummate actor in the role of Jack Point, you do what you can to give artistic verisimilitude to an otherwise bald and unconvincing narrative, and if you fail, it's nobody's fault but Gilbert's. ... And of course there is the solution of having Point actually commit suicide, a very reasonable way out of the dilemma. Katisha may have stated that no one ever dies of a broken heart, but Ko-Ko counters with his tale of the little tom-tit who plunged into the billowy wave... It takes a great actor to "fall over insensible" in a convincing manner, and I personally have only seen it done once...the actor in question was Martyn Greene. --**DEAN EDMONDS, JR.**

[Thank you, Dean - but We're confused! We have always been

told that Greene's characterization was that of a man with heart disease, who became obviously more ill as the show progressed, and actually died of his ailment as the curtain fell! - - can anyone who actually saw him help Us out? - mlc]


CALENDAR

Silent AUDITIONS: As noted on page 1 of this rag - our picnic meeting on Aug 22 involves a sing-through of *SORCERER*. Get in touch with **Rebecca Consentino** - see Our Masthead for info - if you want to take part!

Longwood Opera plans a **G&S Night** on Tuesday, 8/10 at 7:30 PM at Christ Episcopal Church, 1132 Highland Ave., Needham, MA. (*We're in it, singing that duet from GRAND DUKE again!*) Tix are \$4 and \$6. Call (781) 455-0960 for more info.

Yes, We know it's not... MITG&SP is planning a world premier production of *Crichton*, a musical adaptation of J. M. Barrie's *The Admirable Crichton*. [**Lucius Junius Brutus**, who caught a dress rehearsal, tells Us "They have a salable commodity."] Performances will be in La Sala de Puerto Rico, on the second floor of the MIT Student Center, 8/6, 7, 13 & 14 at 8:00 PM; 8/7, 8 & 15 at 2 PM. For more info, contact MITG&SP via e-mail at savoyards-request@mit.edu, call (617) 253-0190, or visit <http://www.mit.edu/activities/gsp/home.html>.

Savoyard Light Opera Co. plans auditions for Gershwin's *Of Thee I Sing* [*Yes, We know it isn't...*] 8/31 and 9/1 & 7, 7:30-9:30 PM for November performances. For lead roles, call (978) 371-SLOC and leave your name, number and preferred date & time to schedule an audition, and then prepare two pieces in English. For chorus auditions, plan to arrive at the Carlisle, MA, Congregational Church (147 School St.) at 7 PM on one of those dates - no appointment or prepared music is needed.

College Light Opera Co. (CLOC), which performs at the **Highland Theatre**, Off Depot Ave. in Falmouth, MA, plans *PINAFORE* August 17-21. Box office phone: (508) 548-0668. Or mail ticket orders to CLOC, P.O. Drawer 906, Falmouth, MA 02541. All tickets are \$20.

NYGASS (the New York society) will hold its next meeting on Saturday, 9/25, featuring a performance of *PINAFORE* [*We get to sing Josephine!*] which will include the newly-discovered song *Reflect, my child*. [*If you can't make it down to NYC for the performance, come to our NEGASS meeting on 9/26, where Bruce Miller, baritone Richard Knowlton, pianist Eric Schwartz, and representatives from Broude Brothers will provide a full introduction to the song.*] All NYGASS meetings are at **CAMI Hall**, 165 W. 57th St., NYC. Doors open at 7:30; the meeting starts at 8:00, and the Inner Brotherhood go out for coffee afterwards.

Valley Light Opera of Amherst, MA plans its 25th anniversary production, *PIRATES*, for 9/5, 6, 7, 12 and 13 at the Amherst Regional High School auditorium. Call producers **Cami Elbow** (413-549-0024) or **Al Hudson** (413-256-6950) for more info - or visit VLO's web site, www.vlo.org, provided by **BerkshireNet**.

The Connecticut G&S Society plans *PINAFORE*, 11/12 & 13 at 8 PM, 11/14 at 2:00 PM at the Middletown (CT) High School auditorium. Call 1-800-866-1606 in CT, or 1-860-873-2832 elsewhere, for more info.

If you're in Perth, Western Australia in late September, catch the

G&S Soc. of WA's production of *THE GRAND DUKE* - the first production ever in Perth!

The **Toronto-Ra** (newsletter of guess which Canadian city?) announces that the **Toronto G&S Society** will present *MIKADO* from 11/25 -12/4, returning to the stage after a several-year hiatus. For audition or other info, contact Producer **Ron Maskell** at (416) 512-1718.

The G&S Society of Hancock County (Maine) plans *SORCERER* for next season, with a new music director, **Fredric Goldrich**, joining the talented crew.

The **Actorsingers** of Nashua (NH) plan to present *PIRATES* next year.

We're looking forward to **THE MILLENNIUM SINGOUT**, to be held in **Toronto, Ontario, Canada, August 18-20, 2000** - for details, contact **Ori Siegel** <oris@interlog.com>.

THE NEW ENGLAND GILBERT AND SULLIVAN SOCIETY

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NEGASS membership dues are \$15 and up. Please send membership inquiries to Bill Mahoney C/O the above address.

The **NEGASS Web Page** is located at
<http://diamond.idbsu.edu/GaS/societies/negass.html>
The Trumpet Bray can be read on line at
http://diamond.idbsu.edu/GaS/societies/Trumpet_Bray.html