

NEWSLETTER

of

The American Handel Society

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The Shaw-Hellier Collection in the University of Birmingham

The Shaw-Hellier Collection, now housed in the Music Library of the Barber Institute of Fine Arts in the University of Birmingham, is almost unique in representing in more than 600 items the broad musical interests of a well-circumstanced English amateur who grew up in the Handel era and was an ardent follower of that master. Samuel Hellier (1737–1784), of the Wodehouse estate in Wombourn, Staffordshire, was orphaned at the age of fourteen, and was subsequently looked after by a grandmother inclined to question his investment in music, particularly when, aged sixteen, he became a student in Exeter College Oxford, where he had been entered by his guardian, the Dean of Exeter Cathedral. Hellier stayed in Oxford a number of years, during which he made those acquisitions which were the foundation of his library.

Of central interest are those works of Handel which constitute the core of the Collection. These fall into three sections: published works, published works with inserted copyists' versions of omitted movements, and copies of entire scores. Of early editions of the principal published works there is a generous selection, to which should be added such collections as *Musica Belliosca*, *Musica Curiosa*, *Warlike Music*, and *Forest Harmony*, with suppositious or otherwise Handel. *Judas Maccabees*, *Messiah*, *Dettingen Te Deum*, *The Choice of Hercules*, *Samson*, *L'Allegro*, the Coronation Anthems, *Alexander's Feast*, and a volume of Italian duets and trios comprise material specially copied.

During Hellier's years in Oxford there was considerable activity in respect of Handel, promoted especially by then Professor of Music William Hayes. Complementary to the music holdings is a set of word-books, of which some relate to Oxford performances, presumably heard by Hellier, of *Joshua* (1756), *Messiah* (conducted by Hayes in 1760), and *Athalia* (1763).

As has been pointed out by Dr. Donald Burrows (*Music and Letters*, vol. 57, 1980, p. 177f), there was during the 1750s a set of Oxford copyists who appeared to have established a good working arrangement with Handel's own copyists. Those responsible

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Sir Samuel Hellier, attr. to James Shaw.

Courtesy J. W. Phillips Esq.

Current Handel Scholarship in Europe

Recent attention to coordinating Handel scholarship, which has resulted in the founding of The AHS here, has also produced two important developments in Western Europe. The London Handel Institute, developed largely to aid British scholarship in support of the Hallische Händel-Ausgabe, is nearing its official founding under president Prof. Brian Trowell and secretary Anthony Hicks. Offices will be in the Faculty of Music, King's College, Strand. In Germany, *Göttinger Händel-Beiträge*, edited by Prof. Hans Joachim Marx, has appeared in two volumes (1984 and 1986); a third is in preparation. Issued by the Göttinger Händel-Gesellschaft, *GHB* provides a welcome new forum in Handel scholarship.

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for the Hellier copies were indisputably of the Oxford group identified in Burrows's article. We are grateful to Dr. Burrows for his interim conclusions in respect of this matter.

Also in an Oxford hand are volumes of anthems by William Croft, Maurice Greene, and Henry Purcell. From the last-named there is also a fine copy of the Birthday Ode for Queen Mary of 1693.

While the Handel works in the Collection capture first interest, published works of other composers have their own significance. Among the non-English works are the statutory sonatas and concertos of Corelli and Geminiani, less familiar pieces by J. A. Hasse and the immigrants C. F. Weidemann and Cervetto, sinfonias by Chinzer, overtures by Martini, and many later pieces of J. C. Bach, Giordani, and Schroeter. Of English composers of the Handel period there are instrumental works by Thomas Arne, John Bennett, William Felton, John Gerard, John Humphries, and William Smethergell; vocal works by Arne, William Bates, William Boyce, George Hayden, and John Worgan; and theatre pieces beginning with *The Beggar's Opera* and continuing with a long line of once popular pieces by Arne, Boyce, Bates, and Howard.

Not surprisingly there are works by composers who were active in the West Midlands: Pixell of Birmingham, whose *A Collection of Songs* includes one—a setting of a Pastoral Hymn by Lichfield-born Joseph Addison—inscribed to Charles Jennens Esq.; John Alcock, Choral Vicar at Lichfield (as a chorister he sang in the first performance of Handel's Coronation Anthems), whose *Pious Soul's Heavenly Exercise* had both Jennens and Hellier among the subscribers; and Barnabas Gunn, of Birmingham, whose *Twelve English Songs* is sequel to a volume to which Handel subscribed.

After Hellier's death his estate passed to his adopted heir, the Reverend Thomas Shaw, for many years the minister of the new church of St. John in Wolverhampton, who on his succession to the estate changed his name to Shaw-Hellier. His successors made additions to the music library—some of them significant—until the middle of the nineteenth century.

Mr. J. W. Phillips has been kind enough to put into my hands for the time being a large collection of Hellier's letters to his agent John Rogers, written from London between 1766 and 1780. Largely instructions concerning the affairs of the estate, they are remarkable in the amount of space devoted to music. Here, perhaps, is the most graphic account of music as it actually was in England at that time, as experienced by a skilled amateur and devoted Handelian intent on educating his workers.

Percy Young

Internationale Händel-Akademie Karlsruhe

The Internationale Händel-Akademie Karlsruhe, similar in pattern to the Internationale Bachakademie Stuttgart but faced with totally different issues, made an auspicious start last June 2–July 4, presenting a four-week session of courses in Baroque performance, a three-week festival, and two day-long symposia, for all of which the Badisches Staatstheater, the Hochschule für Musik, and the Institut für Musikwissenschaft of the Universität Fridericiana joined forces with an international gathering of performers and scholars. Fany Solter, Rektorin of the Hochschule, serves as president, Günter Könemann, Generalintendant of the Staatstheater, as artistic director, and Siegfried Schmalzriedt, Ordinarius of the Institut, as director of research.

Könemann's opening reference to past experience of the Staatstheater in rendering new scenic interpretations of opera and oratorio to make the "Umgang mit Händel 'interessant,'" as well as the argument for the legitimacy of transferring oratorio to the stage presented in the founding address by Karl Schumann (Munich), pointed out fundamental problems. Hence the opening lecture by Jens Peter Larsen (Copenhagen) proved an all the more welcome keynote for symposia devoted to questions of genre and the castro part in modern performance. Subsequent papers were given by German, Austrian, Italian, British, and American representatives of Handel research.

The Festival program included *Orlando* (in Italian), *Julius Caesar* and *Xerxes* (in German), and various concerts. A high level of quality marked all events, due no doubt in large measure to the strong sponsorship extended to the Händel-Akademie. The state of Baden-Württemberg may take pride in lending support to two distinguished International Academies, and it is clearly the aspect of Academy that rendered this Handel Festival different from others: here performance and scholarship were joined with specialized instruction carried on in six languages. A principal challenge for future sessions is a direct exchange between students and scholars on performance questions guided by the historic division of church, theater, and chamber styles.

Alfred Mann

Research Query

For a study of the life and music of François André Danican Philidor, Prof. Gino Fletzer desires information on relations between Philidor and Handel in London. He also hopes to clarify Handel's activities in Venice during the winter of 1707–08.

Prof. Gino Fletzer
C. P. 474
Venezia (Italy)

Research under way by Dr. Percy Young (Wolverhampton, England) and Prof. Gino Fletzer (Venice) is described elsewhere in this Newsletter. Handel activity in Czechoslovakia will be treated next issue in a report by Dr. Pavel Polka (Prague), who heads an informal circle of Czech Handelianians.

Publications in progress include reports on the Halle conference and Stuttgart International Musicology Congress of 1985 as well as *Handel: A Tercentenary Collection*, edited by Stanley Sadie (R.M.A./Macmillan, 1987), based mainly on papers from the London Handel Tercentenary Conference. Other new and forthcoming works include:

- Baselt, Bernd. "Georg Friedrich Händels Pasticcio *Jupiter in Argos* und seine quellenmässige Überlieferung" (Handel's pasticcio *Jupiter in Argos* and its transmission of its source materials), *Festschrift Martin Runke zum 65. Geburtstag*. Stuttgart: Neuhausen, 1985.
- Bimberg, Guido. *Zur Dramaturgie der Händel-Oper* (Concerning the dramaturgy of the Handelian opera). *Schriften des Händel-Hauses 3*. Halle/Saale, 1985.
- Dean, Winton, and Anthony Hicks. "Handel," revised ed. trans. into Italian by L. Bianconi and A. Pompilio for the forthcoming Italian *New Grove*.
- and J. Merrill Knapp. *Handel's Operas 1704–1726*. London: Oxford University Press, 1987.
- The Gerald Coke Handel Collection. Exhibition*, ed. Vanessa Hibbert. Bentley, Hants., 1985.
- Katalog der Sammlung Anthony van Hoboken in der Musiksammlung der Österreichischen Nationalbibliothek. Band 5: C. W. Gluck. G. F. Händel*, ed. Karin Breitner. Tutzing: Schneider, 1985.
- Music and Theatre: Essays in Honour of Winton Dean*, ed. Nigel Fortune. Cambridge, 1987. Includes essays on Handelian topics by Anthony Hicks, John Roberts, and Reinhard Strohm.
- Pečman, Rudolf. *Georg Friederich Händel*. Prague: Supraphon, 1985. In Czech.
- Zur Aufführungspraxis u. Interpretation der Music von Joh. Seb. Bach u. Geo. Fr. Händel. Konferenzbericht der XII. wissenschaftlichen Arbeitstagung Blankenburg/Harz 22.–24. Juni 1984* (On performance practice and interpretation of Bach's and Handel's music. Conference report of the 12th scientific work-session...). Blankenburg: Michaelstein, 1985.

The following Handel-related doctoral projects in European institutions (or by Europeans in American institutions) are either in progress or have only recently been reported in Adkins and Dickinson's *Doctoral Dissertations in Musicology*, seventh edition and supplements.

- Butler, Malcolm. "The Manuscripts of Handel's Italian Cantatas." Ph.D. diss. (Liverpool, in prep.).
- Channan, Merlin. "Handel's Oratorios of the Late 1740s." Ph.D. diss. (Open University, Great Britain, in prep.).
- Cook, Donald. "The Life and Works of John Christoph Pepusch (1667–1752), with Special Reference to His Dramatic Works and Cantatas." Ph.D. diss. (King's College, London, 1983).
- Cummings, Graham. "Handel's *Porò*: An Edition and Critical Study." Ph.D. diss. (Birmingham, in prep.).
- Gibson, Elizabeth. "The Royal Academy of Music, 1720–1728: A Study of the Composers, Singers, Performances and Management..." Ph.D. diss. (London, 1986); postdoctoral study (Yale, USA) on Italian opera in London, 1760–1800.
- Lange, W. Ph.D. diss. (Halle/Saale, in prep.) on Handel influence on Felix Mendelssohn.
- Möller, Dirk. "Besetzung und Instrumentation in den Opern Georg

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Handel Calendar

The AHS welcomes news or leads about coming events of interest to Handelianians. If possible, please include an address where readers may obtain details.

- Joshua.** J. McCracken, C. Watkinson, L. Haywood, J. Opalach, others; cond. S. Simon. Jan. 18: John F. Kennedy Center, Washington, DC 20566.
- Acis and Galatea.** S. Leblanc, P. Butterfield, others; cond. C. Novi, B. Haynes. Jan. 18: Univ. of British Columbia School of Music, Vancouver, BC.
- Society for Textual Scholarship** conference "Continuity and Change in Contemp. Textual Scholarship." April 9-11: CUNY Grad. Ctr., NY. Info: W. S. Hill/B. Oberg, ST3, Franklin Papers, 1603-A Yale Sta., New Haven CT 06502.
- Giulio Cesare.** Revival of P. Sellars prod. of 1985. Jan. 24, 31; Feb. 1: Tri-Cities Opera, Binghamton, NY.
- Royal Music Association.** Conference on 18th-century music. Feb. 7: Cambridge, England. Rosemary Dooley, 5 Church St., Harston, Cambridge CB2 5NP.
- Solomon.** M. Martin, L. Blaser, S. Graham, A. Titus; Toronto Mendelssohn Choir, cond. E. Iseler. Feb. 22: Roy Thomson Hall, 60 Simcoe St., Toronto, ON M5J 2H5.
- Deidamia.** T. Troyanos, B. Valente, J. Marsh, L. Mabbs, M. Meredith; cond. S. Simon. March 1: Kennedy Center, Washington, DC 20566.
- Giustino.** Cond. E. Märzendorfer, dir. Kupfer. March 5, 18, 28; April 11, May 30: Volksoper, Wehringerstr. 78, 1090 Vienna.
- London Handel Festival.** April 25: *Alceste*; Gluck, *Don Juan*. April 27: Handel-Gluck concert of 1746. April 29: *Acis and Galatea*. April 30: Chamber music by London composers. May 2: *Esther* (1718). Cond. R. Goodman, D. Darlow. LHF, Francis House, Francis St., London SW10 1DE.
- Royal Music Association.** Annual Conference: Words and Music. April 10-12: Cambridge, England. R. Dooley, 5 Church Street, Harston, Cambridge CB2 5NP.
- Athalia.** J. Nelson, C. Watkinson, D. L. Ragin, S. Cornett, G. Reinhart; Handel and Haydn Society, period insts., cond. C. Hogwood. April 10, 12: Symphony Hall, Boston. H&HS, POB 4755, Boston, MA 02116.
- Tolomeo.** Univ. of Maryland Opera Theatre; Smithsonian Concerto Grosso; dir. N. McGegan. Student cast; period insts. April 11, 13, 15; April 14 (vocal-kbd.): Dept. of Music, Univ. of MD, College Park, MD 20742.
- American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies** annual meeting. Seminars incl. Dryden's *Song of St. Cecilia's Day*, lit. and opera, the perf. arts in pictures. April 22-26: Cincinnati, OH. ASECS, St. Olaf College, Northfield MN 55057.
- "**Hallelujah Handel!**" Cond. S. Simon. May 3: Kennedy Center, Washington, DC 20566.
- Acina.** In English. May 28, 30; June 3, 12, 20: Opera Theatre of St. Louis, MO 36119.
- Händel-Festspiele Karlsruhe.** Ends c June 13. D-7500 Karlsruhe, BRD.
- Händel-Festspiele der DDR.** June 12-16. G.-F.-Händel-Gesellschaft, 402 Halle/Saale, DDR.
- Göttinger Händel-Festspiel.** June 12-17. Göttinger Händel-Gesellschaft e.V., Hainholzweg 3/5, D-3400 Göttingen, BRD.
- Seventh Int'l Conference on the Enlightenment.** July 26-Aug. 2. Domokos Kosáry, Institut d'études historiques, MTA, POB 9, 1250 Budapest.
- XIV Int'l Congress of the IMS.** Incl. Handel session (H. J. Marx). Aug. 30-Sept. 4. Dipartimento di Musica e Spettacolo, Univ. degli Studi, Strada Maggiore 34, 40125 Bologna.

- Friedrich Händels" (Scoring and instrumentation in the operas of George Friedrich Handel). Ph.D. diss. (Hamburg, in prep.).
- Poppe, Gerhard. "Studien zur Biographie und schöpferischen Entwicklung Georg Friedrich Händels bis zum Beginn seiner Reise nach Italien" (Studies concerning Handel's biography and creative development up to the beginning of his journey to Italy). Ph.D. diss. (Halle/Saale, 1986).
- Schmitz, Michael. "Untersuchungen zum Opern-Duett bei G. F. Händel" (Research on Handel's opera duets). Ph.D. diss. (Bonn, in prep.).
- Taylor, Carole. "Pressures from Without: Handel's Last Years as Composer of Italian Opera." Ph.D. diss. (Syracuse, USA, in prep.).
- Werner, Edwin. "Georg Friedrich Händels *Trauer-Anthem* HWV 264. Eine Studie mit kritischer Ausgabe der Partitur im Rahmen der HHA" (Handel's Funeral Anthem, HWV 264. A study with a critical edition of the score under the auspices of the HHA). Ph.D. diss. (Halle/Saale, c 1985).

Resources for Handelians

Early Music America has been formed to foster support for and communication among all participants in the North American early-music scene. Its president is Benjamin Peck. EMA will convene at the Boston Early Music Festival in June, having by then launched its journal and trade directory. Offices are at 65 West 95th Street, Suite 1A, New York, NY 10025.

The journal *Restoration and Eighteenth-Century Theatre Research* reappeared in print with its summer 1986 issue. It is edited by Douglas H. White, English Department, Loyola University of Chicago, 6525. Sheridan Road, Chicago, IL 60626.

The former anki Library music collection is now part of the Ohki Collection, Library of the Tokyo College of Music, 3-4-5 Minami-Ikebukuro, Toshimaku, Tokyo 171. For information write Bunkazui Kenkyujo Company Ltd., 15 F Akasaka, Twin Tower 2-17-22, Akasaka, Minatoku, Tokyo 107.

Performance Materials Wanted

For a performance in May 1987, Dr. Graydon Beeks seeks a score and/or parts for Handel's cantata *Diana cacciatrice*.

Dr. Graydon Beeks
Department of Music
Pomona College
Claremont, CA 91711

The AHS Board of Directors met in Chevy Chase, Maryland on September 27. The Board acknowledged several generous donations and received news that startup funding from the University of Maryland is secure for this and next fiscal year. Membership was reported at 140 plus seventeen subscribers (it now totals 160 plus nineteen). The Board's chief actions were to ratify bylaws, which members will soon receive, and to approve AHS sponsorship of David Edelberg's discography project (see Vol. I No. 2)—the officers and Mr. Edelberg are now refining the arrangement. Minutes of the meeting may be requested from the AHS office.

Richard Brundage and Neil Ratliff have compiled *A Guide to the Jacob Coopersmith Collection of Handelianiana at the University of Maryland, College Park*, issued by the Music Library with AHS aid. Most of the items described were owned by Coopersmith (1903-1968), Handel scholar and Library of Congress music cataloguer. The part of his collection now at College Park includes literature, music, librettos, and books of diverse clippings and photocopies. Of special interest are librettos of *Esther* and *Acis and Galatea* from 1732, other early manuscripts and prints, a fine copy of Burney's *Commemoration of Handel*, sale catalogues of the Cummins and Aylesford collections, and Coopersmith's clipping books and card file. The *Guide* also describes the library's nearly complete microfilm collection of Handel's autograph manuscripts. Members and subscribers will soon receive the *Guide*.

The first AHS directory is in preparation and will be sent to all members upon completion. If you have not already returned the survey form sent with the last Newsletter, please do so, even though the deadline is past. By so doing you will help increase the reference value of our files.

Renewal Notice

It is time to renew your AHS membership. All dues are payable on the first of each calendar year. Those who have not renewed their memberships by July 1 receive no further benefits until dues are paid.

The American Handel Society

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In the last few years, scholars have come to recognize that traditional musicological studies alone cannot provide a clear picture of Handel and his world. The American Handel Society seeks the participation of all scholars—theatre historians, social historians, literary historians and all others whose subject matter is Handel's England. And of course, The American Handel Society welcomes the support and participation of all persons interested in Handel and his world. Activities of The American Handel Society will include

- publication of the *Newsletter of The American Handel Society*,
- sponsorship of meetings of the Society,
- cumulation of a computerized bibliographic data base of writings about Handel and his music and about related subjects,
- maintenance of a register of performing materials for Handel's major works,
- cumulation of a Handel discography,
- publication of an annual containing articles and reviews,
- establishment of an electronic bulletin board/conferencing network to facilitate communication among members and subscribers.

The Founding Members and the Board of Directors of The American Handel Society invite you to become a member. Wide support from scholars and those interested in Handel will help the Society make a strong start in achieving its goals. In 1987 members will receive

- the *Newsletter of the American Handel Society*,
- a 10% discount on scores and books (not restricted to Handel) through Dale Music Company of Silver Spring, Maryland, one of America's leading dealers. In addition, Dale has agreed to make available to our members four recent titles from Cambridge University Press at a 20% discount. See the order form on the last page of this newsletter.
- the AHS Membership Directory, showing members' Handel-related activities such as research, performance, and collecting.

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