

Precious Nonsense

NEWSLETTER OF THE MIDWESTERN GILBERT AND SULLIVAN SOCIETY

October 1992 -- Issue 35

If such symptoms you find In your body or head,
They're not easy to quell--
You may make up your mind You are better in bed,
For you're not at all well!

Well, S/A Cole bummed it again. She noticed in the conclusion of the last *Nosnense* she said a lot of things would happen, barring any disasters. She should stop saying that, because, when she does, she invariably *gets* disasters. This summer has probably been the most busy, and the most annoying summer of her life, and she is only now starting to go through the boxes of things to put in the *Nonsense*. In August, every expensive thing she owned that started with a "C" broke (the computer lost its memory, the cat got sick, and the car needed a bypass operation) except her CD player (which had broken in June), and by the time they were all fixed, *she* broke. She started September off by getting the flu, and has only now seemed to have shaken it. But so much for excuses. We'll certainly try to do better in the future.

In the meantime, she still has to go through the responses to the Big Quiz and the drawing from the returned address corrections, and there are no *Iolanthe* analyses this time around, but the Big Quiz answers are here, along with what *has* gone on in G&S lately, and what is expected to happen, plus Carol Cole's report of what took place at the Annual Outing. So, let's have at it.

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Oh Members, How Say You, What is it You've Done?

We missed member David Michaels at the annual outing, but he was at **The Grand Duke** just the same: we noticed his name in the program as part of the chorus. Best wishes for continued success!

The *Rochester (Minnesota) Public Library* recently received a copy the Benford G&S Lexicon and the *Rochester Community College Library* received a copy of the Lexicon and The Authentic G&S Songbook from the MGS, in honor of members **Martin and Charlotte Peterman**.

And while we're on the subject of donations, the

(Well, "ex" the MGS's donating collection, anyway)

Chicago Public Library System also recently received a copy of the Lexicon, plus copies of the Wilson Introduction to the Gilbert and Sullivan Operas and the Anna Russell Songbook. Considering the considerable strain public libraries are under these days (and those in Illinois, especially), we hope the books will come in handy.

Congratulations are in order for members **Norman and Lorna Vogt**, and especially for their daughter, who was recently married in Connecticut. We in sincerity wish them prosperity.

What Cheer! What Cheer! {Midwestern}

This one is a little late (and, as usual, it's S/A Cole's fault), but The **Savoy-Aires** (P.O. Box 126; Evanston, IL 60204; (312) 784-4866) **gave The Pirates of Penzance** over Labor Day Weekend (September 4-6, 1992). It appears the group is

going to be performing at at the Marillac High School Theater, at 315 Waukegan Road in Northfield in the future, which will be very nice. We hope to be able to mention their perofrmances **before** the fact in the future, but in the meantime, if you wnat to be sure to be on their mailing list, it probably would-n't hurt to drop them a note with your name and address on it asking to be placed on it.

Another tardy entry (again, due to S/A Cole's neglect) is from the **Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Rochester** (P.O. Box 5811; Rochester, MN 55903-5811 -- we finally have an address for them!). They presented **Patience** September 11-13 and the 18-20 at Rochester (Minnesota) Community College. While, as I say, we hope to do better in the future, do drop them a note if you want to be on their mailing list.

The Cleveland Opera (Suite 1052, 1422 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, OH 44115-1901 / (216) 575-0903) is planning to give The Yeomen of the Guard November 20-22, 1992. These are all the details we have so far, but we'll pass on anything more we hear once we hear it. You might want to call yourself if you're expecting to be in the area, because November is almost upon us.

We just heard from member Robert Dalby that the Northwest Indiana Symphony is including in its lineup this year something called "A Gilbert and Sullivan Special". The performance will be at 8:00 pm at the Radisson Star Plaza Theater (800 E. 81st Ave [Rt. 30 and I-65], Merrillville, IN 46410 / (219) 769-6600) October 22, 1992. "The Wand'ring Minstrels" and the Northwest Indiana Symphony and Chorus are supposed to present

semi-staged renditions of selections from *Pinafore*, *Pirates*, *Mikado*, *Ruddigore*, *Yeomen*, and *Gondoliers*, under the direction of the Quintet's music director Alan Bergerot. According to a flyer we received from member Robert Dalby, "The Wand'ring Minstrels" are leading performers with the New York Gilbert & Sullivan Players (some of you may remember the Annual Outing when we went to Joliet's Rialto Theater to see their touring production of *Pirates*): Kate Egan, Joy Hermalyn, Richard Slade, Stephen Quint, and Del-Bourree Bach. Judging from the line-up of selections, they appear to do what England's "The Best of Gilbert and Sullivan" (the highly entertaining group made up of former D'Oyly Carte performers): present semi-staged, concert renditions of highlights from the G&S operas. Since the Northwest Symphony Chorus will accompany them, their selections range from "Tower Warders Under Orders" and "Loudly Let the Trumpet Bray" (and other selections from *The Yeoman of the Guard* and *Trail by Jury*), to "There is Beauty in the Bellow of the Blast" and "When the Night Wind Howls". Tickets are \$23, \$20, or \$16, depending on where you sit, and are available from the Radisson Star Plaza Theater's box office, Ticketmaster, or the Northwest Indiana Symphony office (1040 Ridge Rd.; Muenster, IN 46324 / (219) 836-0525). This event sounds like it would make for an interesting evening. Judging from a reference in the September newsletter of the Austin (Texas) Gilbert and Sullivan Society, this group may be in Austin in December. But more on that when they know more about it in Austin.

The Indianapolis Civic Theater (1200 W. 38th St., Indianapolis, IL 46208) is including what appears to be *The Mikado* in its 1992-1993 season (the reason for "appears" is that the flyer we received has the names of the productions so faintly printed that they are nearly impossible to read. But the name appears to be "Mikado"). Twelve performed, between February 26 and March 14, 1993, are currently scheduled. For more information, get in touch with the company. A special thanks goes to member Thomas J. Weakley, who filled us in on this one. From what we hear, there isn't much G&S action in Indianapolis, so this ought to be quite an occasion.

The Whitewater Opera Co. (P.O. Box 633, Richmond, IN 47375) is planning on presenting Pirates April 23 and 24, 1993. We haven't heard where they will perform, or what ticket prices will be, but once we do, we'll pass that information on.

At Light Opera Works' performance of *Grand Duke*, it was announced that their 1993 season would include *The something-or-other of Luxembourg* (I want to say *Count*, but now I can't remember), *Babes in Toyland* and **Iolanthe**. For more information, Light Opera Works can be reached at 927 Noyes St., Evanston, IL 60201-2799 {(708) 869-6300}.

We hear from the Farrons that the Aldersgate Church Community Theater (Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 1301 Collingwood Road; Alexandria, VA/(703) 780-1377) is planning to give *Pirates* October 23-25, and 30-31 (with a children's matinee on Halloween). If anybody can make it, we'd love to hear how it goes.

Speaking of big G&S events, The Mansion House at Grim's Dyke (Old Redding, Harrow Weald, Middlesex HA3 6SH, England / Tel.: (081-954-4227)) is planning a number of special events to commemorate the upcoming centenary of *Utopia Limited* in 1993. Details should be forthcoming as the management (of Grim's Dyke, that is) makes them available.

The Victorial Light Opera Company (P.O. Box 10391; Rockville, MD 20849-0391 / (301) 598-3058) announced in July that their 1992-93 season was going to include **Ruddigore**, and **Patience**. **Ruddigore** will be given October 9-11 and 16-28 at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theater at the Rockville Civic Center, and **Patience** will be April 16-18 and 23-25 at the same place. More information should be available by now, so if you're interested, you should be able to call or write for it.

What Cheer! What Cheer! {Elsewhere}

The Lamplighters (2350 Turk Blvd., San Francisco, CA 94118 / Box Office: (415) 752-7755) is going to present The Yeomen of the Guard September 26-November 1, on various Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays during those periods. Individual tickets are \$21.00 and performances begin at 8:30 pm (2:30 pm on Sundays). For more information, contact the company.

The Sir Arthur Sullivan Society is hosting a Sullivan Festival October 23-25, 1992, at the Forte Crest Hotel, Hull, England. The Program is to include a reception/auction on Friday evening; a program of Sullivan-related films, videos and tapes, illustrated talks on Sullivan, and Victorian popular song, and a Gala Concert featuring the **Thespis** ballet music, Festival Te Deum, Sullivan's Cello Concerto, and a concert performance of *Trial by Jury* on Saturday. A Gala Banquet at the City Hall follows the concert. And on Sunday, a service of Matins using music exclusively by Sullivan, a song and instrumental recital, and an illustrated talk about early recordings of Sullivan's work. The weekend concludes with afternoon tea, and a vocal recital. Add-ons are a Do-It-Yourself concert at 9:00 pm on Sunday and a chance to see a dress rehearsal of the centenary revival of *Haddon Hill* on Monday. The basic cost for the festival is £148-50, which includes accommodations for the nights of October 23 and 24. It may cost more (or less), depending on how much you want to participate in. The reservation cut-off was August 31, but they may still have some space. In any event, a £30 deposit is required to hold you reservation, and for more information, do get in touch with Stephen Turnbull; Sullivan Festival 1992; Cockfield House; 48 Front Street; Cockfield, Bishop Auckland; Co. Durham DL13 5DS England (or call 01-0388-710308).

The Answers to the 1992 MGS Big Quiz

Well, just like last year, S/A Cole blew it again. She hasn't even looked at the quiz responses yet, so no prizes have been awarded yet, and we have no winners to announce. We will by the next issue, of course, but in the meantime, all we have to give on that point are the answers. If you played along at home, you can see how you did. For those who participated in the Big Quiz, don't worry: S/A Cole will get your prizes to you as soon as possible. In any event, though, here are the answers:

1. 1992 marks not only the 150th anniversary of Sullivan's birth, but the centennial of two operas that Gilbert and Sullivan wrote separately: Haddon Hall and The Mountebanks. **Sydney Grundy** wrote the libretto for Haddon Hall and **Alfred Cellier** composed the music for The Mountebanks.
2. **Rutland Barrington** created the role of Rupert

Vernon in Haddon Hall at the Savoy.

3. The music critic **Bernard Shaw** called Haddon Hall a "huge success" and wrote "I contend that Savoy opera is a genre in itself; and that Haddon Hall is the highest and most consistent expression it has yet attained".
4. Bartolo, a character in The Mountebanks, is a former would-be tragedian who was laughed off the stage for his performance as Hamlet. In order to ensure that nobody would ever laugh at him again, **He became a Clown** (and they laugh at him no more).
5. 1992 is also the centennial of another operetta with a libretto by Gilbert, this one with music by George Grossmith: **Haste to the Wedding**.
6. The two G&S characters who are Grenadier Guards are **Alexis Pointdextre** (Sorcerer) and **Private Willis** (Iolanthe).
7. **Frederic Sullivan** created the role of Apollo in Thespis.
8. Trial by Jury was originally produced together on a bill with the Offenbach opera **La Perichole**.
9. Constance Partlett is **Seventeen (or nearly Eighteen)** during the course of The Sorcerer.
10. The first ship that Sir Joseph Porter, first Lord of the Admiralty, ever saw was **A Junior Partnership**.
11. According to the chorus of daughters, it is Major-General Stanley's invariable rule to go to bed **At Half-Past Ten**.
12. The cost of a raffle ticket for the chance of becoming Bunthorne's Bride was **Half a Guinea**.
13. Captain Shaw's full name was **Eyre Massey Shaw**, and according to Ian Bradley's Annotated Gilbert and Sullivan, V. 1, he transformed London's independent firefighting teams into the country's first public fire brigade.
14. The Roman poet Juvenal is mentioned in the opera **Princess Ida** ("If you'd climb the Helicon/You should read. . .the works of Juvenal"), though the audience of girl graduates is also warned to get them Bowdlerized.
15. The last words of the suicidal tom-tit mentioned in The Mikado were "Oh, Willow, titwillow, titwillow".
16. Rose Maybud's gifts for pretty little Ruth Rowbottom and the poor orphan girl on the hill were **A Set of False Teeth** and **A Pound of Snuff**, respectively.
17. In **The Yeomen of the Guard**, someone named Warren is mentioned, and Mr. Warren's profession is **Preacher-Poet**.
18. **Three Months** elapses between Acts I and II of The Gondoliers?
19. The line "Fairy Queen's no longer young" appears in **Utopia Limited**, as a comment on how even sweet young brides soon get old and crabby.
20. The secret sign of the conspiracy to overthrow Grand Duke Rudolf of Pfennig Halbpfennig was **To eat a Sausage Roll**.
21. Coffee is mentioned in the Gilbert and Sullivan operas **HMS Pinafore** ("I'm called Little Buttercup") and **The Gondoliers** ("Rising Early in the Morning")
22. Beer is mentioned in **Patience** ("When I Go Out of Door"), **Ruddigore** (Old Adam/Gideon Crawle suggests to Sir Ruthven to poison his visitors' beer), and **The Gondoliers** (twice: "Rising Early in the Morning" and "There Lived a King")
23. Asparagus is mentioned in **The Gondoliers** ("There Lived a King").
24. Fireworks are mentioned in 3 G&S operas: **Mikado** (the festivities surrounding Nanki-Poo's beheading would include "A display of fireworks in the evening."), **Gondoliers** (one of the things the Palmieri Brothers' ideal king would do was "let of fireworks on the grand Canal, and engage all the gondolas for the occasion"), and **Grand Duke** (while Duke Rudolph is statutorially dead, he asks Ludwig not to squander his "little savings in fireworks, or any nonsense of that sort").
25. **The Duke of Plaza-Toro's** "temper was volcanic".
26. **Katisha** observes that "volcanoes have a splendour that is grim".
27. And Mount Vesuvius is mentioned in **The Gondoliers**
28. "To benefit humanity", **King Gama** compares everybody's income with the income tax returns.

29. *Sir Ruthen Murgatroyd* claims to have made a false income tax return in one of the G&S operas.
30. On the other hand, *Reginald Bunthorne* pays his taxes and cherishes the receipts?
31. in *Patience*, *The Duke of Dunstable* is described as "a great matrimonial fish"?
32. Hamlet is mentioned by name in *Patience* (in "If you want a receipt", along with just about every other important character anyone can think of offhand).
33. *Lord Tolloller* (*Iolanthe*) has "grammar and spelling for two".
34. *W.S. Gilbert* was the illustrator for Gilbert's "Bab Ballads".
35. The name of the cook in the Bab Ballad "The Yarn of the Nancy Bell" is *Tom*.
36. The foster brother of Robin Oakapple was *Richard Dauntless*, and Leonard Meryll's was *Colonel Fairfax*.
37. *Wilfred Shadbolt* claims to have "a light, airy, joysome wit".
38. *Richard Dauntless* "drinketh strong waters which do bemuse a man, and make him even as the wild beasts of the desert".
39. In Archibald Grosvenor's "daisy" of a poem, *Teasing Tom* punched his poor little sisters' heads?
40. *The Lord Chancellor* (*Iolanthe*) is the only judge "whose decrees have received the honour of a double encore",
41. *Major-General Stanley* claims to have "a pretty taste for paradox".
42. *Despard Murgatroyd* is said to have given *Mad Margaret* an Italian glance.
43. The *Three Little Maids* (*Yum-Yum, Peep-Bo, and Pitti-Sing*) state that they come "from a ladies' seminary"?
44. And *The Queen of the Fairies* is taken for "The proprietor of a Ladies' Seminary"?
45. Old Adam's last name is *Goodheart* (when his name isn't Gideon Crawle).
46. *Katisha* is described as having "a caricature of a face".
47. *The Mikado* observes that "virtue is triumphant only in theatrical performances", and it frequently appears he is right.

48. Sir Rupert Murgatroyd's hobby was *Persecuting Witches*.
49. According to Ko-Ko, by the Mikado's law, "when a married man is beheaded, his wife is buried alive. According to Ko-Ko this law had never been put into force because *Married Men Never Flirt*."
50. 1992 is not only Sullivan's 150th birthday, but the 200th anniversary of the birth of Rossini (1792-1868), whom Sullivan met in his youth (Sullivan's, not Rossini's). Rossini's birthday is *February 29th*, and he shares that birthday with *Frederic*.

Bonus question:

Friday the 13ths may be considered to be inauspicious days, but it has been a great day for us: Sullivan was born on *Friday*, May 13, 1842.

A Nice Dilemma We Have Here

Here's one that ought to be interesting to a lot of people. In thumbing through the 1990 Encyclopedia of Associations, S/A Cole came across a G&S-related society that was completely new to her. Has anyone ever heard of **The Jack Point Preservation Society**? According to the Encyclopedia, the society is currently inactive, though its activity seems to have been mainly in the South Carolina area. The name of the contact was Cheryl W. Duval, and they seemed to publish a newsletter called The Palace Peeper (at first, S/A Cole thought they might be a branch of the New York G&S Society, but it seems unlikely). Anyway, the address of this apparently-inactive group was given as P.O. Box 179; New Ellenton, SC 29809. If anyone knows anything about this group, or feels like following up on this trail, do let us know.

Let the Welkin Ring with the News

The Sullivan Sesquicentennial commemorative stamps the British Philatelic Bureau (FREEPOST, Edinburgh EH3 0HN / Tel. 031-550-8900 {and you'll probably have to put an international code on the front of that}) was going to issue have duly been issued, and they're really quite interesting. The stamps are in color, and while they are not truly magnificent (they're kind of modern-looking), they have a lot of charm. All the pictures give the impression of being on a stage through the use of a red curtain drawn back to one side or the other of the stamp. Each features a character from one of the operas, with a background suggestive of its setting. The operas honored with stamps are *Yeomen* (18 p, with a Yeoman and the Tower of London complex in the background), *Gondoliers* (24 p, with a gondolier and a Venician background), *Mikado* (28 p, with Ko-Ko and no background), *Pirates* (33 p, with the Pirate King and a seascape), and *Iolanthe* (39 p, with the Queen of the Fairies and Big Ben in the background). Special thanks to Arthur Robinson and Pat and Pete Gibbons, who provided samples to the MGS ephemera collection.

At the Annual Outing, member Hugh Locker brought an especially interesting piece of show-and-tell. It appears that Arthur Jacobs' biography of Arthur

Sullivan (Arthur Sullivan; A Victorian Musician) is into a Second Edition. At this point, I don't know that you're going to run out and replace your first edition--the price is currently over \$50.00--but it is nice to know that it is available. If you are interested in getting a copy, the ISBN is 0931340519. Give that number to your local bookstore, and they should have little trouble getting you a copy. At this point, we don't know how the second edition compares with the first, but maybe we can prevail on Hugh Locker to write up a comparison.

The Report of the 1992 Midwestern Gilbert and Sullivan Society Annual Outing {By Carol Cole}

The annual meeting of The Midwestern Gilbert and Sullivan Society was held Friday, August 28, 1992,

beginning at 6:00 P.M. The meeting was held before the presentation of **The Grand Duke** by the Light Opera Works at the Cahn Auditorium on Northwestern University campus.

Twenty members and guests gathered at *Coyote Joe's* Restaurant in Evanston, Illinois, and were directed to a loft area which was more private than the regular dining room. Drink orders were taken and we settled down to chat with the people around us. It is always good to see old friends and meet new ones.

Isn't it interesting to hear how people became interested in Gilbert and Sullivan and exchange ideas and opinions about the operas we have seen or in which we had been involved? Nostalgia time was merry. Many G&S Operas were discussed and thoughts of *Pirates*, *Gondoliers*, and "punishments that fit the crime" revolved in our heads.

We rejoiced with the gentlemen from Indianapolis, who finally found their way to Evanston and Coyote Joe's (travel directions from helpful people are not always what they ought to be). Mr. Locker helped us learn how to remember his name and Valentine told how that lovely name was given to her. We found out what other members do to make a living and generally became a "family of G&S members." Is that called Bonding?

The favors this year were large scratch pads on which were printed quotations and illustrations from Bab Ballads. The door prizes were drawn from a "hat" containing the names of the attending members only. The prizes were lovely and these donations were most welcomed. Winners this year were Robert Circle (who wound up with a record of *The Zoo and Cox and Box*), Helen Wysocki-Gezik (she received the drawing by Anne Stanyon of a pirate who looks a lot like Arthur Sullivan being apprehended by a policeman who much resembled William S. Gilbert, donated by member Jo Farrow), M.V. Faithorn (who got a record of *Yeomen*), Donna Hannay, and thanks to member Norman Vogt who declined his prize, Lijana Baehr won the copy of Benford's G&S Lexicon, donated by Harry Benford. By the way, S/A Cole promised to send somebody one of the records of Sousa's *Mikado* March at the dinner, only by the time she got home she forgot who wanted it. If that person would let her know, she'll get one right out to you.

The dinner orders were given, each member choosing from

the Southwest-ern-style cuisine listed on the menu. S/A Sarah Cole had arranged with the management to have each diner obtain his own bill and pay accordingly. The waitress, however, did not know of the special arrangements and put the whole group of dinners and drinks on one tab. The time was beginning to edge toward 7:00 P.M. with the opera starting at 8:00 P.M. At last the dinners were served about 7:15 P.M. and most of us ate in a hurry and what we didn't eat we tucked into plastic food containers provided by the management. The food was very good but would have been enjoyed more if we had been served sooner. (Editor's note: Coyote Joe's really is a darling restaurant, with a clever atmosphere and very appetizing food, but it is not the sort of place to bring 24 people who are in a hurry. If you get a chance, do go there to dine, because it is a nice place).

You can well imagine the size of the headache tablet S/A Cole needed when the bill arrived with only fifteen minutes to walk to the auditorium (FYI, she really was sicker than a dog on the way home). When we couldn't talk the man "with the long sleeved white shirt and red tie" to pay the whole bill (that's a table joke), several members helped greatly with their calculators. Money was thrust at Sarah Cole and when she went to pay the bill she had enough to cover all the expenses.

Our group made arrangements to leave our car in the parking lot with out fear of being towed away. This was a concession of the management because the dinners had not been served as fast as was promised.

After hurrying to the auditorium, and making sure that one of our group had her ticket, we settled down to the first strains of the overture. With all the rush and talk about G&S Operas and not having been responsible for buying my own ticket I suddenly could not remember the name of the production I was about to see. I asked S/A Cole in a very hushed voice "Sarah, which opera are we going to see?" She leaned to me and in a very hushed voice said, "**The Grand Duke**" which caused us to start giggling. This was unlike a mother of a S/A and a S/A should act and the proper Evanstonian lady sitting next to me taught us manners by saying in a not so very hushed voice, "Shhh!" And so I was introduced to my first attendance of the opera **The Grand Duke**. The performance, both the one on stage and the one in the audience, was quite entertaining.

Our group had fun and perhaps we will have another annual meeting which more members can attend but right now S/A Cole wants nothing to do with the planning of

such a meeting.

The Winner of the "How I Celebrated Frederic's Birthday" Drawing

S/A Cole admittedly didn't get much done this summer, but she did go through the responses for how members have celebrated Frederic's Birthday over the years. Most members who responded had held parties, where the guests ended up singing "Hail, Poetry" or the like, but the most interesting celebration was what *Arthur Robinson* did as a child. One year, he and his sisters gave a marionette production of *The Pirates of Penzance*. He said that, at the time, he was so young, he was only allowed to pull a few strings, but the occasion still is a memorable one. Arthur Robinson also was the winner of the recording of *Pirates*, which only seems appropriate. We hope it will be almost as enjoyable as that puppet *Pirates* must have been!

Where Can it Be?

The MGS has some G&S scratch pads to get rid of. For those of us who haven't seen them yet, they are 8 1/2" x 5 1/2", with a Bab illustration and quotation from either a G&S opera libretto or a Bab Ballad. The designs repeat after 28 pages, so there are about 108 sheets per pad. The pages are in a variety of colors. They are US\$5.00 each, and the price includes a package of Sullivan postcards (those cards with the picture by Anne Stanyon, of Sullivan admiring his Christmas tree, and a package of G&S-related notecards (again, illustrations by Anne Stanyon), and shipping. If you want any, just drop S/A Cole a note (and a check, if you don't mind), and she'll get some out to you ASAP. The money, of course, is used to buy G&S items to donate to libraries and such.

The Musical Heritage Society (1710 Highway 35; Ocean, NY 07712) has recently issued the (original) D'Oyly Carte's **Last Last Night** on Compact Disc for \$25.98. If you belong to the Musical Heritage Society and want that recording, the order number is 062079K. If you aren't a member, and don't want be one, the MGS can get them. The total cost, plus shipping, comes to \$29.13. If you want one, just let S/A Cole know, and she'll be glad to order one for you. (It's also available on cassette for about \$24.00 plus shipping, if you're interested and would prefer that format).

Also available, come to think of it, is **Gilbert & Sullivan Overtures**, which features the overtures of *Mikado**, *Iolanthe**, *Pinafore*+, *Pirates**

Ruddigore+ (the original one, that ends with "Having been a wicked baronet a week" rather than the "Patter Trio" business), *Gondoliers** (the original one, without the "Cachucha" on the end), *Yeomen** and *Di Ballo**, is also available on Musical Heritage Society CD now. The orchestras are those of the D'Oyly Carte Opera Co. (*) and the New Sadler's Wells Opera Co. (+). The recording was issued a few years ago under a different label, but if you didn't get one then and want one, now's a good opportunity to get one. It's \$12.99 plus shipping (coming to a grand total of \$15.09), and also available on cassette. And if you're used to listening to the complete operas, they will drive you crazy. You keep waiting for the opening chorus, and you keep getting overtures!

By the way, a couple of years ago, we had, what seemed like a useful issue: the "Shopper" issue, devoted to Where things can be. We ought to do another one of those soon, so if anyone knows of any especially G&S-sy merchandise that could use a plug, do let us know. Once things get straightened out with the next issue of the *Nonsense*, we could start working on compiling a Shopper list.

And that ought to about do it for this trip. As

usual, S/A Cole is going to try to do better in the future, so keep an eye out for a big fat *Nonsense* coming out sometime in November.

In
the
mean-
time,
though,
S/A
Cole
had,
what
sounds

like, a useful idea for future issues. Recently she was talking with somebody about a couple of Gilbert's plays. While the person she was talking with was unquestionably a G&S enthusiast, like many G&S aficionados, the person didn't know much about Gilbert's non-Sullivan or non-Bab Ballad works. It dawned on her that it might be fun to start including synopses of the plots of Gilbert's best-known plays and non-Sullivan libretti, as well as those of Sullivan's non-Gilbert works. The trouble is that, as far as S/A Cole knows, there is no collection of such *synopses* (aside from in **Masterplots**). So, she thought it might be a fun stunt for MGS members to write synopses of the works for our mutual edification. These wouldn't be any great analyses of the plots (in fact, that would probably spoil them), but, like Anna Russell's explanation of Wagner's **Ring Cycle**, intended to be the sort of thing one G&S fancier would tell another.

So, here's the deal: if you want to write a synopsis of one of these libretti, let S/A Cole know who you are and which plays/libretti you would prefer to write about. She'll sort out the preferences so everybody can have a turn, let those inclined know which one they get to write on, and then it'll be up to you to get your synopsis done. There's no rush on this one, since it'll be an ongoing thing, but the sooner you let S/A Cole know your preference, the more likely it'll be that you'll get the work of your choice. S/A Cole's all-time favorite Gilbert play is **Foggerty's Fairy**, so you can choose any play but that one. She'll (as will we all) be looking forward to hearing from you.

We've also run into a slight artistic block. Our birthday card man, Arthur Robinson, reports that we

are almost out of birthday cards, but so far S/A Cole and Anne Stanyon (who has been so kind about drawing pictures for the MGS) have had no ideas about appropriately G&Ssy illustrations for more cards. If anyone has any ideas about clever G&S birthday cards, please do let us know. You don't even have to draw them yourself: a description of an idea would be more than we have at the moment. Of course, if you want to draw it, go ahead and give it a try, but it certainly isn't essential. Either way, we'll look forward to hearing from you. (And S/A Cole is going get to work on the next *Nonsense* to try to keep the membership from having to wait too long to hear from the MGS!) If you have any news, articles, or whatever, do pass them on. We'll look forward to hearing from you!

The Midwestern Gilbert and Sullivan Society
c/o Miss Sarah Cole
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