

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Two years ago, when I assumed the presidency, I made a few rash statements about goals for our organization (see Volume XIV, No. 1 of the Journal). As I turn over the reins to my capable successor, Michael Gray, I thought it might be worth reviewing what if any progress has been made, and what we have still to do.

The first goal was to increase awareness of ARSC and its purposes among collectors and archivists, as well as among the general public. This is a slow process, though a start has been made with the establishment of a Publicity Committee. In addition, the Nashville meeting received more media attention than any in recent memory, the release of the Rigler and Deutsch Record Index has attracted much attention among domestic and foreign archives, and a lengthy article about ARSC in Goldmine was perhaps our first introduction to rock-music researchers. We have a very long way to go, however. Mention of ARSC still produces a "who?" (or "Gesundheit!") from most people. You can help by mentioning ARSC and its activities in print and to associates or fellow collectors.

The second goal, establishment of local chapters, is being realized. We now have chapters in Washington, D.C., and the San Francisco Bay area, and the promise of more. If you would like to organize one in your area, contact the Executive Director.

As for encouraging participation in ARSC by interest groups which have been outside our activities and absent from the pages of our Journal, this too is a slow process and not much progress has been made. The barriers of jealousy, snobishness and simple disinterest between different collecting groups are high. We have, however, established two "interest" committees--for Dealers and for Broadcast Collections--and hopefully these will bear fruit in time. Phonograph collectors and serious rock researchers also need to be approached, for they share many of our goals of preservation and information.

The fourth goal, a conference on the West Coast to demonstrate that ARSC is truly a national organization, will become a reality in 1985 when we meet in San Francisco. Thanks are due for the hard work of Barbara Sawka and the members of the Northern California Chapter, making possible our first West Coast meeting in nine years.

Some progress has been made toward the fifth goal, better contact with other organizations which share our objectives (collector's groups, etc.). I set about identifying such groups last year--who they are, what programs they have, when they meet. The results will be published in a subsequent Journal. Meanwhile

the International Association of Sound Archives (IASA) has formally expressed its interest in establishing a mutual affiliation with ARSC. The Board is discussing this and will make recommendations to the membership.

Finally, in regard to the goal of finding volunteers to help run our association, we are lucky to have a core of dedicated and active members who do "pitch in." Within the last year we have gained a new Executive Director, Tom Owen, and Publications Chairman, Mort Frank. Most of you read the Journal then put ARSC aside. I hope that a few who read this will become tomorrow's contributors, either via articles or participation in the association's affairs.

Two years as your president has been invigorating, challenging--and enough. I am confident that ARSC is in good hands: Michael Gray's, the Board's, and yours.

Tim Brooks
March 26, 1984