THE THIRTIETH ARSC CONFERENCE
Kansas City, Missouri, May 8-11, 1996

By now, everyone should have the information packet covering both the preliminary program and the registration procedures for the ARSC Conference to be held at The Quarterage Hotel in Kansas City, Missouri, May 8 - 11, 1996. At the moment, there isn’t any late breaking news to report.

For information, call the ARSC Conference HelpLine at (816) 235-1531; e-mail at ARSC96@SMTPCATE-UMKC.EDU, or check out the ARSC Conference Home Page at http://ectr.umkc.edu/user/tsheldon. If you haven’t registered yet, please do. And, if necessary, it will be possible to register “at the door” for the conference.

The Quarterage Hotel is located at 560 Westport Road, Kansas City, MO 64111. The phone number is (816) 931-0001; fax (816) 931-8891. Conference attendees must make arrangements for accommodations directly with the hotel. However, by the time this newsletter arrives, the Quarterage will probably not have any rooms available. Should this be the case, and a last minute reservation for the lodging is necessary, there are several alternatives that are conveniently located in the Westport area of Kansas City: Holiday Inn Express, 801 Westport Road, (816) 931-1000; Holiday Inn Crown Plaza, 4445 Main, (816) 531-3000; and the Best Western Seville Plaza, 4309 Main, (816) 561-9600.

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I am pleased to announce that ARSC now has a home page on the World Wide Web. The Anne Arundel County High Technology Council in Maryland provided funds to South River High School, where I am a Media Specialist, for students to develop Home Pages with the local business and non-profit groups (such as ARSC) in the Annapolis, Maryland area. This service, normally an expensive one, is being provided at no cost to ARSC. We are one of the first schools in the country to have this program for pre-college students who are planning careers in Computer Technology.

Presently, the ARSC Home Page consists of general information about ARSC; a list of the nominees for the 1996 ARSC Awards for Excellence; information on the ARSC Grants program; and general information about the Kansas City Conference, along with a direct link to access the Conference Home Page in Kansas City. Additional information will added soon, including highlights from recent ARSC Journals. The ARSC Home Page may be accessed at:


If you wish to add information to the ARSC Home Page, make comments or corrections, please feel free to contact me at P.O. Box 543, Annapolis, MD 21404-0543, or via e-mail at peters@umd5.umd.edu. Also, you can e-mail me via the ARSC Home Page.

I wish to thank student Amy Nye who developed our Home Page and has been working closely with me on this project. She is doing a fine job. Additionally, I would like to thank our principal, Dr. James Hamilton, who was not only instrumental in getting this program established in our school, but also has been very enthusiastic in helping ARSC with this service.

I also wish to thank ARSC members such as Steve Ramm, Barry Ashpole, Anna-Maria Manuel, David Giovanni, and other members who have publicized ARSC through the MAPS Newsletter, the Canadian Antique Phonograph Society Newsletter, Compuverse, and other Internet sources. To promote information sharing is one of the prime goals stated in the ARSC bylaws. The more we do, the more we will be enriched.

The ARSC Membership Directory is at the printer, and hopefully will reach you soon. If you recently became a member and are disappointed that you are not listed, or that the information on you is limited. Do not despair. I will try to provide this information to our readers in an upcoming Newsletter so you may add it to your Directory. It is important that all members keep me informed about address changes, etc., so they will continue to receive ARSC material in a timely fashion; so that this information may be passed along to the membership through the Newsletter. Let’s keep networking!

Peter Shambarger
Executive Director, ARSC
ARSC has just passed the thirtieth anniversary of its organizational meeting at Syracuse University in February 1966. A few days before the anniversary, the Upstate New York regional meeting on the future of ARSC was held there, and the result was encouraging.

ARSC was founded by archivists to solve one of their most pressing problems, the need for joint cataloging. Our first president, Philip Miller, effectively changed the course of the organization by opening it to general collectors by an advertisement in the fall of 1969 (the ad that I answered by joining). Since then, the cataloging problem has been addressed with the Rigler-Deutsch Index. The next big problem — storage and handling — was addressed by a series of educational efforts designed to assist not just the members, but all archivists and librarians who are faced with questions of proper storage and handling.

For the past year, we have been addressing the future balance of interests between ARSC’s professional members and its collector members: the two constituencies that have been most vocal about its agenda. I was encouraged at the Syracuse meeting to hear that today’s archivist members have no less commitment to the organization than the now-retired founding members. It’s good to be told that this is the case.

We have had some useful regional meetings this winter, despite the horrendous weather. I am leaving office with confidence that ARSC’s members — and its officers — have a clearer vision of the organization’s direction. The final report on ARSC’s visioning exercises that Elwood McKee will present at the business meeting will help all of us to clarify our own ideas. The result will be a new and clearer agenda for the next five years.

When I attended my first Conference in 1971, I was encouraged to be told by one of the more active members (not that more than thirty or so in all were present) that there was a place for me in the organization. That’s a message I’ve tried to pass on to any new members that I’ve encountered under similar circumstances. Right now we have a healthy mix of experience and new vigor among the active members. Just look through your new membership directory if you want to verify that fact.

I’ve always thought that my position in ARSC was that of a collector and researcher who appreciated the benefits to be derived from using archives and libraries. I’ve never hesitated to say how much I appreciated the facilities and personnel that enabled me to publish all my work. Don’t ever forget — they are there for all of you. See you in Kansas City.

Jerome F. Weber

ARSC member Edward Lowe passed away on October 4, 1995, and was living in Arcadia, Florida.

The following events are planned at the Edison National Historic Site in West Orange, New Jersey for this Spring:

CYLINDER RECORDING SESSION
You are invited to sit in on a wax cylinder recording session on Saturday, April 27, 1996, at the Edison Laboratory with special guests “They Might Be Giants”, using a genuine 1898 Edison recording studio phonograph. Sessions will begin at 11:00 a.m., 12:30 p.m., and 2:00 p.m. Seating is limited. Please call (201) 736-0550, ext. 42 for reservations.

EDISON HERITAGE DAY
Set aside Saturday, May 18, 1996 as a day to celebrate our community, our heritage, our future, and the creative tradition established by Thomas A. Edison, at the Edison National Historic Site. Events will include a Street Fair; a Field Day; a Young Inventor’s Poster Contest; Wax Recording Sessions featuring Patsy Stoneman; Historic Edison Motion Picture Films; a Young Film and Video-makers Festival; and an Edison Day Dance featuring Vince Giordano’s Nighthawks in the Edison Laboratory courtyard. All events except the dance are free. The tickets for the dance are $10.00 per person; $5.00 for seniors and students. Edison Heritage Day will start at 10:00 a.m. and continue until 5:00 p.m. The dance will be from 8:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. For more information, please call the Edison National Historic Site at (201) 736-0550.

DEADLINES
Classified Advertising:
No. 76, Summer 1996
No. 77, Fall 1996
No. 78, Winter 1997
No. 79, Spring 1997

July 1, 1996
October 1, 1996
January 1, 1997
April 1, 1997

Editorial Material:
No. 76, Summer 1996
No. 77, Fall 1996
No. 78, Winter 1997
No. 79, Spring 1997

July 15, 1996
October 15, 1996
January 15, 1997
April 15, 1997

The ARSC Newsletter is published seasonally four times a year. Submissions should be typed (double-spaced) and well written. You may send submissions to the editor at the following address:

Michael Devecka
71 Newman Avenue
Verona, NJ 07044 - 2111
201-857-1804
E-mail: mdevecka@aol.com
76774.2001@compuserve.com

Claims or other notification of issues not received should be addressed to the Executive Director of ARSC. His address serves as the return address of every issue of the ARSC Newsletter.

Printed on recycled paper.
The following finalists have been announced in the competition for the 1996 ARSC Awards for Excellence in Historical Recorded Sound Research. The works, representing the best published research of 1995, were chosen from a large field of nominees. The winner in each category will be selected by a seven-member Blue Ribbon Awards panel, consisting of experts in several fields of study, and will be announced at the 1996 ARSC Conference. The recipient of the ARSC Lifetime Achievement Award for research on the history of recorded sound will also be announced at the conference.

**Finalists**

**Recorded General Popular Music**


*Sinatra: The Song Is You*, by Will Friedwald (Scribner, 1995).


**Recorded Classical Music**


*Rubinstein: A Life*, by Harvey Sachs (Grove Press, 1995).

**Recorded Jazz, Blues, or Gospel**


*A Life in Ragtime: Jim Europe*, by Reid Badger (Oxford Univ. Press, 1995).


**Recorded Rock, Rhythm and Blues, or Soul**


**Recorded Country Music**


**Recorded Folk or Ethnic Music**


**Record Labels or Manufacturers**


**Best General Reference in the Field of Recorded Sound**

*America on Record: A History of Recorded Sound*, by Andre Millard (Cambridge Univ. Press, 1995).

*Scores and Recordings at the Indiana University Latin American Music Center*, by Ricardo Lorenz with Luis R. Hernandez and Gerardo Dirie (Indiana Univ. Press, 1995).
I’m producing a national radio show on the history of pop recordings from 1889-2000 and will pay for either the original recordings or tapes of them. Cylinder or 78 versions of the songs listed are acceptable. All who provide will be mentioned! Please contact Marc Christian at 3457 N. Knoll Dr. Los Angeles, CA. 90068 (213) 850-6664 e-mail :mcchristian @loop.com

MTSU Center for Popular Music Acquires Songster Treasures

The Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) Center for Popular Music recently purchased the Kenneth S. Goldstein songster collection, which rounds out the Center's acquisition of the highly prized Goldstein Collection of American Song Broadsides and Songsters.

In the spring of 1994, Mr. Goldstein and his wife, Rochelle, traveled to MTSU and officially presented his collection of broadsides, numbering over 3,000, to the Center. It was the largest private collection of its kind in the country.

The songster collection consists of approximately 1,450 items, most dating from the 19th century. This is the only sizable collection in the South; the other major collections are located in libraries primarily in the Northeast.

Whereas broadsides are single sheets with song texts on one side, songsters are pocket-sized books of few to hundreds of pages that contain texts of music-hall, patriotic, religious, and traditional songs. They were cheaply printed and widely distributed, often by manufacturers who used them as vehicles to advertise their elixirs and medicines, or by retailers, publishers, even stage entertainers.

Songsters are the most important source for genuinely popular or vernacular musical material from the latter part of the 19th century. Many songs were copyrighted only as part of these larger collections and therefore are untraceable as single pieces. Songsters are an excellent source for discovering early American slang and newer meanings of established words. In addition, they are extremely valuable to folk-song historians who are able to trace the origins of certain folk songs and ballads back to the pages of songsters.

MTSU's Center for Popular Culture was established in 1985 to promote scholarship in American popular music and an appreciation for America's diverse cultural music. Researchers from all over the world have visited the Center and accessed its extensive holdings.

National Archives Grants

The National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) met on February 27 and recommended $1,463,968 for 29 continuing documentary editions projects; $128,878 for 14 publication subversion grants; $581,086 for five state board regrant projects; and $948,581 for 14 records access projects. Also recommended was $2,616,176 for one project to improve documentary editing, the 25th annual Institute for the Editing of Historical Documents. The grant recommendations were made in response to more than $5,750,000 in requests.

During its February meeting, the Commission welcomed two new members. Dr. William Chafe, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Duke University, represents the Organization of American Historians on the Commission, while Senator Mark O. Hatfield (R-OR) returns to the Commission as the Senate's representative. Senator Hatfield previously served on the Commission from 1983 to 1988. The Commission also thanked former Commissioners Robin D. G. Kelley and Senator Paul A. Sarbanes (D-MD) for their service. The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for June 25, 1996.

Grant application materials may be requested by phone or by mail:

National Historic Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC)
Room 607
National Archives Building (Archives 1)
Washington, DC 20408
(202) 501-5610 (voice)
(202) 501-5601 (fax)
nhpcrecipients.nara.gov (e-mail)

Information concerning products from NHPRC-funded projects is also available in the Commission's newsletter, Annotation, which is published three times a year. If you would like to be placed on the mailing list to receive Annotation, contact the Commission at the above address.

Decca Discography

The Decca Labels: A Discography (6 volumes) compiled by Michel Ruppli is scheduled to be released June 1996 by Greenwood Press. This six-volume discography lists full available details (dates, titles, personnel) on all recording sessions made between 1934 and 1973 by the Decca label, as well as its subsidiary labels: Brunswick, Coral, and Vocolition. Material from other sources (Brunswick recordings of the 1920s and the Signature label, for example) reissued by Decca are covered.

Each volume contains an index of artists, with the last volume providing numerical listings of issued recordings, including sections on 78/45 singles, 45 extended plays, 33 rpm albums, and compact discs.

As a special pre-publication offer to previous buyers of Greenwood's music discography titles, the publisher is offering the entire set at a pre-publication price of $495.00; $100.00 off the list price of $595.00. Orders for this special offer must be received by May 31, 1996. Individuals should include prepayment.

For more information on this and other Greenwood Press titles visit their web site at http://www.greenwood.com.

Sound and Image Librarian Vacancy

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill has an opening for Sound and Image Librarian available July 1, 1996. As a member of the Manuscripts Department, the Sound and Image Librarian administers extensive archival audio and image collections consisting of audio tape, disc, video tape, film, and other related formats (nearly 100,000 items); produced commercially and in the field. These materials include portions of the Southern Folklife Collection, Southern Oral History Program, Florentine Film Archives, the Southern Historical Collection, and University Archives.

For additional information refer to following web site: http://www.unc.edu/lib/msn/msn/siojob.html. Send application letter, resume, and the names of three references to Barbara DeLon, Personnel Officer, CB#8900, Davis Library, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC 27514-8990.

Also...

For those that have C-band satellite receiving sets, the Rigler and Deutsch sponsored "Classic Arts Showcase" TV channel is located on Galaxy 1R, transponder 5. Time audio subcarriers to 6.22 MHz and 6.80 MHz for stereo. Programming is on 24 hours, seven days a week available non-scrambled and free of charge.

Gramophone Adventures announces their web site. As far as we know, it is the first web site dedicated to vintage recordings and audio restoration. Included is information about publications, questions to stimulate interest, a listing of archival supplies, and non-profit organizations. Access the site at the following web address: http://ourworld.compuserve.com/80/homepages/fin_Powell_Grame.

Check out Feedback, a quarterly newsletter of the Experience Music Project™, a non-profit organization celebrating creativity and innovation as expressed through American popular music and culture and exemplified by rock ‘n’ roll. Here is a small extract: "Country-western legend Willie Nelson was just one of the many struggling musicians who got their starts on the Northwest's burgeoning club scene in the 1950s. Nelson also found work as a DJ at Tacoma's KVAN, and he cut his now ultra-rare debut 45, 'The Lumberjack', at an unknown Portland studio in 1957." (For the Record, Feedback, Spring 1996.) Access via the web: http://www.experience.org; Internet: feedback@experience.org.
PAID ADVERTISING

FOR SALE: The Victor Library of Recorded Music, ca. 1930. Approximately 100 78 rpm albums that skim the cream of Victor’s classical and semi-classical catalog, complete and intact — except for about ten broken discs. A landmark. Minimum bid: $500.00. You can pick up in Iowa or ship. Send SASE for details. Closing date: 90 days after the ad appears. Saul Diamond, 1123 Franklin Street, Cedar Falls, IA, 50613.

LISTS: Occasional Lists of rare 78s, cylinders, and other items of interest. Lane Audio & Records, 1782 Manor Drive, Vista, CA 92084.

SOUND LIBRARIAN: The music cataloging tool for Windows. The best, most comprehensive for home, institutional, and professional collections. Classify and shelve all types of recordings and sheet music using Windows, or Windows 95. Excellent report and hyperlink search capabilities. Five Points Technology, Box 33571, Dayton, OH 45433. Call/Fax (513) 879-0343; or call (800) 456-0800 for a free brochure.

LPs WANTED: Seek recordings of complete operas on LP (only). I already have about 5,000; but will, at a reasonable price, purchase any titles I do not already have. In quoting these records for sale, please include condition of the LPs, of the box/jackets, and shipping costs. All quotes will be answered. Contact Edward F. Durbeck III, The Durbeck Archive, P.O. Box 586129, Oceanside, CA 92058-6129. Call (619) 724-3366; Fax (619) 726-5850; e-mail: RareLP@aol.com.

LPs FOR SALE: CLASSICAL (all types), JAZZ POPULAR, SHOWS, SHOWBIZ, SOUNDTRACKS, PERSONALITIES, BAND, & MILITARY. LPs only. Fixed price lists — no auctions. 100,000 LP inventory. Free sample lists available. Send specific wants or specialty. RoundSound West, P.O. Box 586129, Oceanside CA 92058-6129. Call (619) 724-3366; Fax (619) 726-5850; e-mail: RareLP@aol.com.

600,000 RECORDS – LPs/45s in all musical categories. Free Lists; but kindly state your interests. International service since 1972. Craig Moerer, P.O. Box 42546-ARSC, Portland, OR 97242.


LISTS: Free Auction Lists of Operatic 78s, books, and catalogs. Arthur E. Knight, Highland Court Ste. 209, 101 Highland Avenue, Providence, RI, 02906.

Wear a Lapel Pin with the ARSC logo! Proudly identify yourself to your fellow members, and to others who may learn about us in this way. Five - eighths - inch in diameter, the pin features the ARSC logo in gold on a red background with a narrow gold rim, and is very attractive. Price is $5.00 postpaid in the U.S.; $6.00 to foreign addresses. Send check or money order made payable to ARSC (U.S. funds only, please) to Phillip Rochlin, 11200 Lockwood Drive, Apt. 1805, Silver Spring, MD 20901.