

# Peter Warlock Society

President : Sir William Walton

Vice-Presidents : Malcolm Arnold Richard Rodney Bennett Lennox Berkeley Lord Harewood Peter Pears



NEWSLETTER NO 17      September 1975

Editor    John Bishop    14 Barlby Road    London W10 6AR    (01 - 969 3579)

2

#### GOOD TURN-OUT AT THE AGM

Our AGM, back in April, was an enjoyable if somewhat unorthodox affair. Attracted no doubt by the prospect of some music and entertainment to temper the rhetoric of the speakers, members turned up from London, the home counties and further afield. The atmosphere was decidedly unstuffy and altogether a great deal of variety was packed into a couple of hours. The idea of making the event something of an 'occasion' is certainly one we will pursue in future years.

The chairman preceded his report (printed elsewhere in this newsletter) by singing to us. Fearing that he might lose his voice by later in the afternoon, he decided to get his vocal contribution in early. This consisted of two items: the recently discovered Bumpkin's Boom, an 'exercise in bucolic joviality' written in the 1920s by Patrick Beynon, and a goodish parody of the heartier kind of Warlock song, and Sir Eglamour. This latter was a clever anthology of Warlock quotations put together by one of our society members, Tony Ingle, who played the near virtuosic piano part with considerable aplomb.

Later, after the business of the meeting had been cleared away, another society member, tenor John Potter, sang a selection of lesser-known Warlock and van Dieren songs in excellent style. Jennifer Partridge provided her usual sensitive accompaniment - in this case on a far from ingratiating piano.

The chairman presented an ingenious illustrated quiz on Warlock and associated composers, and your editor played selections from recent - and not so recent - recordings of Warlock.

#### SUBSCRIPTION INCREASED

The committee decided recently that the subscription must be raised to £2 for 1976, or £15 for life membership. We hope you will agree that in these extreme inflationary times these are reasonable increases, made necessary by the huge increase in postal charges and printing costs.

#### WARLOCK AND DELIUS

We have been invited to present a programme to the Delius Society on January 29 next year. Our chairman will be speaking on the relationship between PW and Delius, with numerous quotations from the very revealing correspondence between them. PW Society members will be very welcome at the meeting, which will be held in the excellent hall at Holborn Library where the Delius Society holds most of its meetings. We'll make sure you have full details nearer the time.

#### THE ENGLISH AYRE

We have been trying hard to interest a publisher in reprinting Warlock's book The English Ayre, for which we think, with the great burst of interest that there is in early music, there would be a considerable public. A promising lead came to nothing, but we'll keep trying.

## RECORDS: GOOD NEWS

There is some good news from the recording front. The all-Warlock LP to be made by EMI looks all set, although recording won't be until next summer. Ian Partridge and his sister Jennifer, with a soprano and a string quartet, will combine in a programme of Warlock songs and transcriptions, nearly all of them hitherto unrecorded. Our chairman has already had discussions with EMI on the details of the programme.

Stocks of the Peter Warlock Merry-go-down record issued by Unicorn several years ago are now exhausted and Unicorn are not repressing. However, we are pleased to announce that Pearl records will be reissuing the disc in November this year. Watch their advert in the Gramophone.

We have had lengthy discussions with Stainer and Bell recently about the record they issued some years ago with David Johnston as the singer of 22 Warlock songs and Candlelight. This record has been repressed by them once but stocks were running low and they decided not to repress. We were trying to arrange reissue of the record by another company but negotiations could not be brought to a satisfactory conclusion. Instead we bought up Stainer and Bell's outstanding stock - of 12 copies. These are now available from me at 14 Barby Road London W10 6AR, first come first served. The price is £2.50 each, cheque made out to the Society please.

## PHOTO COLLECTION AVAILABLE SOON

One of our backroom jobs over the years has been assembling photos of Warlock and his friends and associates. This collection now numbers nearly 50, and in the next newsletter we expect to publish a detailed list. We hold negatives of all the pictures and will be able to make copies available to members at a modest charge.

## HANDBOOK - THE NEXT STAGE

As we reported in the last newsletter, Fred Tomlinson's A Peter Warlock Handbook Volume I has now sold out and will not be reprinted: second-hand copies are already being sought.

The original plan was that a second, and final, volume would be published this year, but Fred now finds that he has so much material that he has decided there should be two more volumes. In the next newsletter we will announce full details of what Vols 2 and 3 will contain and the expected publication dates.

## DR COPLEY'S BOOK

The saga of the non-publication of Dr Copley's book is one that will need a book to itself in due course. Meanwhile the almost unbelievable news is that the printer of the book went into liquidation recently and all the type was destroyed! However, we understand printing is in hand elsewhere by photographic means from the proofs. We dare not name a date.....

## CONGRATULATIONS

- to our founder, Pat Mills, who has recently got married.

THAMES PUBLICATIONS

Most readers will be aware that over the last three or four years, Thames Publishing have issued five Warlock publications. The current availability of these is -

- Two Cod-pieces (piano duet) 75p
- Two carols (A Cornish Carol; The Rich Cavalcade) 24p
- Hommages (PW's The First Nowell and Bernard van Dieren's The Long Barrow) 60p
- Candlelight out of print
- 8 Songs out of print

Only about 10 copies of Hommages remain and it is highly unlikely that there will be a reprint - as is the case with the two out-of-print items.

Orders for those items still available should be sent to 14 Barlby Road London W10 6AR. No need to include money - you will be invoiced.

Thames have plans for two other Warlock publications in 1976 - see next newsletter.

SECOND-HAND MUSIC FOR SALE

Second-hand copies of published Warlock music have come into our hands recently from a number of sources. The items are listed elsewhere in this newsletter and are available on a first come, first served basis. Please don't send money if you are interested - merely let us know which items and we'll invoice you if they are still available.

We intend to run a 'for sale' column of Warlock music in the newsletter in future. If you have any items surplus to requirements, please let us know: other members may be very keen to have them.

RUTTERKIN OVERTURE

Composer Trevor Hold's interest in Warlock is wide-ranging. One manifestation of it is an article he has written which, we understand, is to appear in the November issue of Music Review.

Another is Rutterkin, an overture for recorders after Warlock's song of that name. The overture was commissioned by the Northampton Recorder Consort (now the Nene Consort) to celebrate the group's 10th anniversary in 1968/9. The work has been played by the group 'up and down the country', says Mr Hold, and is soon to be published by Tomus, a north of England firm who specialise in recorder music.

WARLOCK IN TURKEY

Society member David Lane, who is currently British Counsellor in Ankara, sends us the programme of a recital of English songs given there in April this year by the English soprano Ruth Allsebrook, with her husband, pianist Murray Brown. She included the whole of Lilligay.

C W ORR

Composer C W Orr, now 82, has been made an honorary member of the society. In June, Robertson Publications announced that seven of his songs were 'now reissued or available in this country for the first time'.

TALKING WITH NIGEL HESELTINE

Warlock's son Nigel Heseltine ( he is British Resident Commissioner for Rodrigues) has been in England again on a short business trip. Your chairman and the editor spent a convivial evening with him and members of his family. Mr Heseltine, author of a number of travel books, has not hitherto been well acquainted with his father's music, but with the aid of two special cassette tapes prepared for him by the society has been catching up fast.

During our chat Mr Heseltine let slip one tantalising fact: he has written a book about his father's relationship with the poet Robert Nichols. But the manuscript is in the hands of a London solicitor and there are no plans for publication.

WARLOCK FROM BRECON

Issued in time for last Christmas was 'Sing Noel', an LP made by the Brecon Cathedral Choir and Cathedral Singers ( Decca SKL 5184). Their programme includes three Warlock items - Adam lay ybounden, Balulalow and Where richesis everlastingly.

IN THE 'GRAMOPHONE'

We are currently advertising in the 'Societies' column of the Gramophone, hoping to attract new members.

MUSIC FOR SALE

- Ha'nacker mill
- As ever I saw (Eb)
- As ever I saw (Db)
- Twelve oxen
- Whereas the rye (low voice)
- Good ale ( Ab)
- Autumn twilight
- The countryman (Ab)
- The singer
- My little sweet darling(high)
- One more river (low)
- The toper's song (medium)
- The birds (Gb)
- Sleep
- Piggesnie(G)
- Consider

We also have some new copies of Bethlehem Down ( solo version)

6

FURTHER NOTES FROM THE CHAIRMAN

I would like to add a report on one or two developments since the AGM.

A. WARLOCK MANUSCRIPTS FOR SALE

Three important MSS are at present at Sotheby's and unless previously sold will be included in an auction later this year. These are The Frostbound Wood ( voice and piano), The Rich Cavalcade (SATB) and a Tune for Carol or Hymn ( short score).

They were originally owned by C Henry Warren and are now the property of Frank Baker, who wrote about PH in The Chesterian, November 1936.

Warren was the editor who asked PH to set The Rich Cavalcade ( words by Frank Kendon, a friend of his) for a special Christmas edition of Radio Times. Having set it, PH was apparently dissatisfied, or saw the opportunity of getting another fee for Bruce Blunt, and suggested The Frostbound Wood. This was printed in an extraordinary pseudo-archaic hand - not nearly as clear as PH's script - and with a number of errors, not all of which were corrected by OUP when they printed it in 1931.

The Kendon poem was included elsewhere in the issue, but the music of The Rich Cavalcade remained unpublished until 1973, when Thames Publishing brought out Two Carols.

The hymn-tune remains unpublished. Dr Copley describes it as 'neither a good hymn-tune nor yet good Warlock' but it has a curiosity value.

Anyone interested in acquiring all or any of these MSS should contact me for more information.

B. MORE WARLOCK MSS

Items continue to turn up, notably an autograph score of The Curlew, which mysteriously found its way into the archives of Boosey and Hawkes after being used for engraving by Stainer and Bell. The score exhibited at the Royal Festival Hall last year was lent by Richard Rodney Bennett, who has kindly loaned it to us again. I plan to make a careful study of the two scores and will report findings in the next newsletter.

C. BERNARD VAN DIEREN

The B van D situation is gradually becoming clearer. We now know the whereabouts of a number of important items, including the opera The Tailor and the 'Chinese' Symphony, but there are still one or two absences. It doesn't help that some works existed in at least three versions, and were given contradictory opus numbers by the composer himself. What published lists there are ( eg, Grove) contain so many inaccuracies and discrepancies as to be virtually useless. However, things seem to be sorting themselves out, thanks to the members of the special sub-committee. We hope to be able to report quite soon.

D. HANDBOOK

The Bernard van Dieren activities have not only delayed work on my volume 2 but have added so much to an already large amount of information that it has become necessary to think in terms of three volumes - like a Victorian novel !

Volume II, now almost complete, will include details of transcriptions ( vocal, instrumental, Delius, van Dieren, etc) and literary works ( books, articles, prefaces, etc), leaving information on MSS ( music, letters, etc), the historical discography and other sections for Volume III.

As there is so much information not readily available elsewhere, I

think it worth taking the extra trouble. The reactions to Volume I have been most gratifying, and show the need for such compilations.

5. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Purely for my own convenience I have compiled a PW bibliography in rather more detail than can be included in the Handbook. It occurs to me there may be others equally nutty who might like a copy, so I am prepared to do photocopies if need be. Over 100 books are listed, with page-numbers of PH/PW references and brief synopses. There are 6 sections: I - Books (and theses) solely on PH/PW; IIa Books on Delius IIb Other musical books; IIIa Books on Lawrence; IIIb Other non-musical books IV O and S.

The details at present fill 12 large sheets (14 ins by 18 ins), which will reduce to wide foolscap for convenience. I will be happy to do Xerox copies for 75p inclusive for anyone interested.

6. WARLOCKIANA IN CAPE TOWN

I was intending to add a note on the Colin Taylor correspondence, but as our secretary, Malcolm Rudland, has recently been able to visit Capetown and add to our knowledge of their Warlockiana, this will be held over until the next issue.

\*\*\*\*\*

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT AT THE AGM

First I must record our deep regret at the death of three people who served on our committee at various times. First, Kenneth Wright, who was with us in the early years of the society until ill-health forced him to cut down on his activities. Second, Bernard van Dieren, junior, our secretary for several years and a committee member up to his death. Finally, Sir Arthur Bliss, an active vice-president in the first years of our existence. Their loss will be felt by all of us, and our sympathy goes to their families.

Last year I had to report on an astonishing year. The appearance of large quantities of MSS and the successful end to our 10-year struggle to get The Curlew back in print led me to fear there might be an anti-climax. Far from it.

Our exhibition at the Festival Hall last April was a great success. Besides being enjoyed by old members and encouraging several new ones, it led to even more MSS turning up from unexpected sources. Those of us who helped were thanked most effusively by the Festival Hall staff, and the society gained some useful display material. In my turn I must express my gratitude to them, to the staff of the British Library, who were most cooperative, and to the individuals who lent us exhibits.

There is no need to duplicate information given in various newsletters by reporting on Warlock performances round the world, from Derby to Arizona. But I hope I may be forgiven for singling out our 80th birthday concert. In spite of the press, who seemed to think the whole programme was about beer, a long evening was enjoyed to the end by a very enthusiastic gathering. I have myself never known an audience join in as confidently and competently as on this occasion.

Regarding publishing, the situation is much the same as last year. Again our thanks are due to John Bishop. It is encouraging to know that the Warlock items published by his Thames company have sold well and in some cases have gone to a second printing. Even Hommages, which might be considered somewhat esoteric, has almost sold out. Incidentally, this was the first Bernard van Dieren composition published for 39 years. I'm sorry I copied his date of birth from the reference books because they are all wrong - it should be 1887.

Also sold out is Volume I of my Handbook. Volume 2 is well on the way, but I've been rather delayed by the van Dieren situation - more about that later. The same applies to a short biography we were hoping to produce this year.

We have acquired one other book which most people will not know of - a doctoral thesis for the University of Illinois by one Vernon Lee Yonne on three 20th-century English song composers - Warlock, Moeran and Ireland. This is quite a sizable work - over 300 pages - and as there are so few books on Warlock we thought we ought to have a copy. Needless to say, the biographical information is largely second-hand Gray - sometimes even more distorted. Anyone wanting to borrow it please let me know: I've started a list of corrigenda to which other readers are invited to add!

The record situation is also fairly healthy. The four LPs are still available and we can add Ian Partridge's The Curlew and the first-ever recording of the Folk-Song Preludes on a very interesting piano recital by John McCabe. David Johnston's LP should be rather more accessible in future.

As you probably know, Bernard van Dieren junior - or, to give him his full name, Bernard Hans Jean Jules Maximilian Navarre Benvenuto van Dieren - succeeded his mother, Frieda Kindler, as copyright holder of Warlock and van Dieren works. His death last December was not reported to us and I only found out a month later. Fortunately I was in time to rescue many items which had been dismissed as 'nothing but a lot of old books and music' and impress on the solicitors the importance of the remaining MSS. There are few Warlock ones that we didn't know about but the van Dieren aspect needs a lot of sorting out. We have formed a sub-committee to decide what has to be done.

Finally may I say how pleased I am to see some new faces. Our membership is in a fairly healthy state and it is particularly gratifying to see younger people bitten by the Warlock bug. It has long been our tradition to coopt on to the committee members turning up for the AGM, so if you are willing and able please let me know.

Fred Tomlinson