

Peter Warlock Society

President: Sir William Walton

Vice-Presidents: Malcolm Arnold, Richard Rodney Bennett, Sir Lennox Berkeley,
The Earl of Harewood, Sir Peter Pears

Newsletter No. 28. May 1982.

Editor: Anthony Ingle, 76 Gipsy Hill, London SE19 1PD. Tel. 01-761 3963

FROM THE EDITOR

This newsletter must begin with an apology that it is thirteen months after its predecessor. Both Malcolm Rudland, the Secretary, and your editor have begun to receive letters asking whether the Society is still in existence; it most certainly is, though the Committee's attention of late has been focused principally on the complete edition of Warlock's music, the first volume of which is now nearing publication (of which more below). The lapse of time since No. 27 is in part due to the change of editorial address (see above); more responsible, however, is the simple fact that there has been a dearth of news after the hectic events of 1980, and a newsletter issued in October or November last year would have been an impoverished and sad affair. News, views, theories, polemics, speculations and anything else that you think might conceivably be of interest almost certainly will be, and our thanks go to those members who have contributed since 1979. London is not the only place where interesting things happen!

1982 AGM

Following what is rapidly becoming a tradition of alternating between town and country, this year's Annual General Meeting will be held at the Antelope Tavern, Eaton Terrace, London SW1, on 12th June at 3 p.m., preceded as usual by a convivial lunch and a committee meeting. The Antelope provides excellent food from midday onwards. A reply slip is not enclosed this time, but please let Malcolm Rudland know, by 5th June, if you would like to come and whether you would like lunch, so that we can give the Antelope a rough idea of how many Warlockian trencherpersons will be descending on them.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT, 1981

After the year of the jaunt it's the year of the apologies and the thank-yous.

My first apology is for not being with you at Magpie Bottom, but it would have meant turning down a whole week's work and business is not that good. Think of me struggling with Stravinsky (in Russian) while you wrestle with Warlock. Our thanks go to David and Barbara Cox for once again offering their splendid hospitality.

I must also apologise for the delay in the publications scheme. John Bishop will have more to say on this but the Blunt book is at last actually finished. It somehow grew into a much larger project than was originally planned and it has, I think, turned out very well. The Sociable Songs are well on the way too, so we haven't been completely idle.

A most heartfelt thank-you to our most illustrious long-standing member, Dr. Copley, who has served us so well throughout the Society's existence. He has been trying to retire as Treasurer for some time but we wouldn't let him. I am glad he managed to stick it out till the Dobson saga ended and his eagerly awaited book actually appeared. Thank you Ian; I know you will still have our interests at heart and I hope we will see you on future jaunts and gatherings.

We have had to be slightly unconstitutional about appointing a successor to Dr. Copley, but the bank needed some paperwork completed before the changeover could take place. Fortunately, at our last Committee meeting, Robin Crofton agreed to take on the job. So I hope you will accept the "fait accompli" and elect him!

Our thanks are also due to Cliff Chadwick, who enabled us to put on the Purcell Room concert in December. It was most rewarding to hear so many items that are rarely performed. I must congratulate Anthony Ingle in particular and thank him for his hard work.

Concerts are ephemeral, and enjoyable though they may be one cannot help wondering if they are worth while. A far more important venture is being planned - again thanks to Cliff Chadwick. It is too early yet to say much but we are hoping to embark on a complete Warlock edition. A sub-committee is to meet shortly and details should be announced by the Autumn.

A final thank-you to all the Committee and a final apology for not being with you. I am very envious.

Fred Tomlinson

NOTES FROM THE CHAIRMAN (April 1982)

1. Warlock Society Edition

Work is proceeding apace on a complete Warlock Society Edition. A sub-committee has met several times to thrash out the broad outlines and the details of the first few volumes.

It was decided that the songs, the bulk of his output, should be divided chronologically into eight volumes of about fifteen songs each. This will enable enthusiasts to trace the development from the earliest known efforts through to the final works. In some instances two versions of a song are included to add further enlightenment.

We hope that the vocal chamber music, and the choral and instrumental works, will be included in the scheme, resulting in about fifteen volumes in all.

Volume I: Songs 1911-1917 and Volume II: Songs 1918-1919 are well under way. Production is expected this summer. Leaflets will be sent to members when details are known, and announcements will be made in The Musical Times and other journals.

2. Warlock and Lawrence

Dr. Copley has been making good use of his retirement. The Lawrence side of the story has been told so many times - DHL is virtually an industry by now - but the relationship has not been studied from the Heseltine angle since Robert Nichols contributed to Cecil Gray's biography.

Dr. Copley is in the process of redressing the balance. With the help of letters, some hitherto unpublished, he tells the story of their friendship and quarrel, which turned particularly sour at the publication of Women in Love.

One interesting fact is that we can now read both versions of the novel. It will be remembered that PH's law-suit forced many changes in the text; the new Penguin edition reverts to the original, so Puma is changed from Minette back to Pussum and regains her dark Egyptian look. Halliday (PH) gets back his fair hair and African carvings, besides the squeaky voice which so annoyed him.

This should make a most interesting booklet. Illustrations will include photographs of Puma and "Mademoiselle".

3. Researchers

Fellow nutters around the world continue to dig up new information about Warlock and his circle. Tom Clark has been beaver-ing with some success, even tracing the successors of PH's solicitors. We hope to see the results of his efforts shortly. One interesting fact already uncovered is that Nancy Cunard, not Beecham, was instrumental in fixing the Daily Mail job for PH.

E. J. Moeran has his researchers in this country and in Australia. Bernard van Dieren has been the subject of a doctoral thesis by Robert Williams and at least two more are under way in the USA. The Peter Warlock Society has been able to help with material in all these cases.

NOTES FROM THE CHAIRMAN (April 1982) continued.

4. Appeal

Finally, please let us have items for the Newsletter. Anthony Ingle is happy to be editor, but is the first to admit that he's not a forager in the way John Bishop was. So keep the items rolling in and give him something to edit.

JOHN BISHOP WRITES

Publications news

The two volumes of Warlock Sociable Songs - one for unison voices, one for men's voices - have reached final proof stage, and Thames say that copies will be available in June. Full details will be given in the next issue, but if you are interested please write to Thames now (address below) and copies will be sent immediately on publication. The music artwork for the books has been prepared by our treasurer, Robin Crofton.

Thames have recently published an important book on Percy Grainger - The Percy Grainger Companion, a comprehensive guide to all aspects of Grainger's music, marking the centenary of his birth this year. This guide, edited by Lewis Foreman and containing contributions by most of the leading Grainger authorities, is the only book about him currently available, except for John Bird's splendid biography which is to be reissued as a paperback shortly. The book, which is profusely illustrated, costs £14.95, and a descriptive leaflet including an order form is enclosed with this Newsletter.

Also newly published by Thames is a piano-duet version of C. W. Orr's Cotswold Hill Tune made by society member John Mitchell, available at £2 plus 40p post and packing.

Copies of Warlock and Blunt (not he of the spying inclination) have now been distributed to all those who ordered under the subscription scheme. But further copies are available for anyone interested; the cost is £4 plus 50p post & packing. The previous book, Warlock and van Dieren, is also still available from Thames at £5.50 (plus 50p p & p).

Two other books likely to be of interest to members are Elgar Lived Here and Elgar Country, two paperbacks by the husband-and-wife team Pauline and Barry Collett, which explore aspects of Elgar's life with knowledge and affection. They cost, respectively, £4.90 and £2.95 and are illustrated with many drawings and photos.

All the above publications are available from Thames Publishing, 14 Barlby Road, London W10 6AR.

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JOHN BISHOP WRITES (contd)

Pastiches

The composer Carey Blyton, a one-time member of the society, recently wrote a set of three parodies for piano duet. Entitled Pastiches (non-Boulangerie) it consists of 1) The Return of Bulgy Gogo (Ragtime) a tribute to Peter Warlock, 2) the Velvet Gentleman, a tribute to Erik Satie, 3) Up the Farringdon Road, a tribute to Lord Berners. John Bishop has a copy of the complete work, which can also be obtained from the composer.

Spreading the word

At least two publishers have seized on the fact that Warlock's music is, with some exceptions, now out of copyright. Oecumene (51 Eleanor Road, London N11) has issued the carol Where riches is everlastingly, and Cramer's have published an edition of Capriol Suite, 'arranged for piano by Jerry Lanning'. (The latter is not recommended - Ed.)

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Members are reminded that subscriptions for this year are now due. The annual rate remains £5, and your remittance should be sent to Malcolm Rudland, 12 Pembroke Road, London W8. Could we sway anyone who might be contemplating coming to the AGM by suggesting that you bring your sub. with you and save the stamp?

THE NEW GROVE

It is difficult to comment favourably, or otherwise, on Ernest Bradbury's entry on PW in The New Grove. Accurate as far as it goes in terms of dates and places, and notably laudatory of the music, it is still oddly uncommitted; if I knew nothing about PW, I doubt that reading it would impel me to find out more. The old warhorse of schizophrenia is neatly headed off and placated; perhaps he was, perhaps he wasn't.

The text is marred by persistent reference to Van Dieren (never accorded his Christian name), and Dr. Copley for one will, I know, want to take issue with the comment that:

"....art conceals art in the number Love for Love, where the melody of the third and fourth stanzas in an exact retrograde of that of the other three."

It is good, though, to discover that the title 'Peterisms' was taken from a brewer's advertisement.

The worst feature, however, is the list of songs, not in terms of content, (our Chairman helped) so much as in terms of layout. The list is not tabulated, but arbitrarily divided into 'paragraphs', implying links between songs of different provenance and similarly separating many belonging to the same period. Editorial policy could have done better.

A Plea to the BBC

Two recent Radio 3 recitals read as follows:

16th April 1982

11.40 Peter Warlock & Trevor Hold

MARGARET CABLE (contralto) BERNARD ROBERTS (piano)

Warlock: To the Memory of a Great Singer; Sleep;
Hey Troly Loly Lo.

Trevor Hold: Ophelia (first broadcast performance)

Warlock: The Birds; My Own Country; Ha'nacker
Mill.

23rd April 1982

English Songs

MALDWYN DAVIES (tenor)

IAIN LEDINGHAM (piano)

Quilter: Three Shakespeare Songs, Op.6

Frank Bridge: Journey's End; E'en as a lovely
flower; Love went ariding (sic)

Warlock: As ever I saw; Sleep; Pretty Ring Time

Quilter: Five Shakespeare Songs, Op. 23

In terms of Warlock, two worthy, but fairly unadventurous programmes. (When can we hear some of the altogether neglected but worthy material - Lillygay, most of the songs printed at the back of the presently available collections, Milkmaids, After two years, etc. etc.?). However, on 20th January last the following was to be heard, also on Radio 3:

Warlock: The Full Heart; All the Flowers of the
Spring; The Spring o' the Year.
BBC SINGERS; conductor SIMON JOLY

Capriol Suite: ENGLISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA,
conductor JOSE-LUIZ GARCIA.

Unfortunately, you would have searched in vain in Radio Times, as the items were played in 'Mainly for Pleasure', the 5.00 pm miscellany whose programme is even now never published in full, and sometimes not at all. This is merely symptomatic, and much fine music suffers from this policy; but it is somehow typical that neglected music which is difficult to perform, but highly worthy of a hearing, should be assisted in this way to remain neglected.

ON THE OTHER SIDE

By way of contrast with the previous item, the programme of society member James Griffett's recital on Belgian radio, previously mentioned in Newsletter No. 25, has recently come our way. The Warlock element thereof was as follows:-

I asked a thief to steal me a peach
Pretty Ring Time
Rest Sweet Nymphs
Fair and True
Cradle Song
Jillian of Berry

- all but one from the OUP First Book, but including some very seldom performed.

"HERACL(E)ITUS"?

Committee consideration of the items for the first volume of the complete edition gave rise to the sad discovery that none of those present could positively identify the marked quotation in the piano part of Heracleitus, the third of the Saudades, without research. That being the case, the meeting decided to put the matter to the membership at large. Can anyone identify the quotation? Incidentally, the 'e' is to be dropped from the title in the complete edition as it is not present in PW's original source.

EAST ANGLIAN JAUNT

It is proposed that the East Anglian day or weekend out, originally suggested in a letter of 28 March 1981 from Malcolm Rudland, should be tried again, dates at present under consideration being 11th or 18th September 1982. The plan remains the same, namely a visit to relevant hostelries in Norfolk; however, we have been fortunate enough to secure quotes for coach hire which are lower than last year's, for larger numbers at any rate, as follows:-

One day 11 seater	£170 = £15.50 for 11, £28.35 for 6
28 "	£210 = £7.50 for 28, £11.70 for 18
38 "	£240 = £6.35 for 38

contd.....

Two days 11 seater £230 = £21 for 11, £38.35 for 6
28 " £290 = £10.40 for 28, £16.15 for 18
38 " £320 = £8.45 for 38

Again, anyone interested should contact Malcolm Rudland, 12 Pembroke Road, London W8 6NT, preferably by the date of the AGM.

CODPIECES FOR SCHOOL ORCHESTRA

A letter from member Charles Paterson of Ipswich has brought to our attention an arrangement of the Codpieces for school orchestra by Denis Bloodworth, made in the first instance for Tiffin School, Kingston-on-Thames. He says that at their first performances (on July 14th and 15th 1980) they proved very popular with the audiences, and wonders if the arrangements might be of interest to others?

CAPRIOL IN PHILADELPHIA

Member William W. Marsh of Philadelphia has sent us the programme of the Delius Society's Philadelphia Branch Finzi commemorative concert on 3 May 1981, which included Capriol along with Air and Dance by Delius, and Finzi's Prelude for String Orchestra, Op. 25, Let Us Garlands Bring, Romance for String Orchestra, Op. 11, and Dies Natalis. He also anticipates that their Delius 120th anniversary concert this October will include PW's Serenade.

HERE AND THERE

Committee member David Cox and your editor wondered whether members were aware of the following short extract from Elisabeth Lutyens's autobiography A Goldfish Bowl (Cassell), from the section of the book covering the years 1948-52.

"When I'm tired I suffer acutely from telepathy, and on one occasion this led to a strange experience with Constant - strange because we were both averse to any concept of the psychic. I had a date with Constant at my 'local' and he arrived seven minutes late according to my reckoning and three minutes according to his. As we talked, I began to realize that we were both, in our turn, ordering rounds for three and after a half-hour or so I heard myself, to my surprise, saying 'He's gone now,' knowing that the third person (unmentioned by either of us) was Peter Warlock, an old friend of Constant's, whom I had never met.

"We continued chatting but it slowly dawned on me that we had made no date for that evening, still less for any specific time, and my 'local' was not a place of rendezvous with Constant who probably had not been there before. It was an eerie experience, not to be encouraged."

Are you receiving us? Do let us have lots of items for the next issue.....