

BULLETIN - 17 SEPTEMBER 1979

Report of Meeting at the British Institute of Recorded Sound 17 May 1979 at 7.30 pm.

There were twenty people present - seventeen being Members. Dick Edwards (Colchester) first gave an interesting and amusing account of his Alkan pilgrimage, speaking of the recordings he had heard and collected. He then played his own tape recording of the performance of the 'cello sonata played by Moray Welsh and Linda Bustani. Members who had not heard the two broadcasts from BBC 3 were very pleased to have this opportunity of hearing the sonata. (Dick Edwards has kindly given the tape to the Society and it is now in the Reference Library.)

Mr R N Tyrrell (Croydon) was, unfortunately, not well enough to attend the meeting and the paper he was to have given was read by the Hon Secretary. Mr Tyrrell pointed out that the introduction of LP recording had been very beneficial to the revival of interest in less-well-known composers. He outlined the characteristics of Alkan himself and his music, then attempted to give reasons for the general neglect of this remarkable composer. Finally, he bemoaned the fact that there has been so much duplication of Alkan recordings whilst so much other material is waiting to be heard eg the Concerto (twice), the Symphony (twice), the Sonatine (three times), "Le Festin" (three times).

After the coffee break, our discographer, Charles Hailstone, gave a historical record of the preparation of the Discography, noting the help that he had received and the interesting contacts he had made both by meetings and correspondence. It had been a labour of love. He then played the Ronald Smith recording of 'Ouverture' (Op 39 No 11) for which he had a very special affection.

The speakers were warmly thanked by Martin Ball and the Meeting ended at about ten o'clock.

Report of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING at Abbey Community Association 18 July 1979 at 7.30 pm

Martin Ball was in the Chair. Apologies for absence were received from Jean Bartholomew, Robert Collet, Audrey King and Richard Murphy. There were ten Members present.

The Hon Secretary read a summary of the proceedings at the last AGM held at the ACA on 21 March 1978 and then dealt with various points arising. He followed this with a brief review of the past year's achievements including the Discography, the Reference Library at the Guildhall School, "Alkan in Miniature". He then gave an outline of plans for the future.

The Hon Treasurer circulated copies of the audited accounts and answered a few questions. The accounts showed that, during the two years of the Society's existence, the amount of money handled was £223.50. All bills had been paid and a credit balance of £15.93 remained as at 31/5/79. £35 had been spent on the Reference Library, but this had been covered by special donations from Members. A vote of grateful thanks was passed to our Auditor - Keith Craft - and it was agreed that an honorarium should be sent to him in appreciation.

Then followed a discussion, led from the Chair, of several matters of interest and the Meeting closed at about 9.15 pm.

Society's Constitution

A copy of the final draft accompanies this Bulletin.

## Discography

Every Member should now have received a copy of Charles Hailstone's third edition. It is unlikely that we shall be able to afford to send out another for some while, so omissions, corrections and additions will be notified in the Bulletins.

Omission: We apologise for the omission of Malcolm Binns' recording STLPX 8017 stereo. Concert Artist Recording 1967. It contains: Alkan Op 39 No 10 (final movement of Solo Piano Concerto); Op 50 No 1 Capriccio alla Soldatesca; Op 50 No 2 Le tambour bat aux champs; Rubinstein Op 23 Six Concert Studies.

Correction: Both Knut Franke and Helmut Ganteführer have been kind enough to point out that the Draheim recording FSM 53179 (1978) is not a recording of the Esquisses Op 63 but only happens to contain one number from it - No 34 Odi profanum vulgus et arceo: favete linguis.

Additions: Mr James Methuen-Campbell tells us that he has come across a few more piano-rolls of Alkan's music. They include:

Duo-Art Rolls: 6144 "Perpetual Motion" arr Macdowell and played by Ernest Hutcheson.

6446 "Le Vent" Op 15 No 2 played by Harold Bauer.

Welte-Mignon Rolls: B520 "Ancient Melody of the Synagogue" Op 31 No 6 played by Egon Petri.

C7010 "Perpetuum Mobile" played by Austin Conradi.

## Alkan Reference Library

Additions of sheet music: Largely owing to the generosity of Knut Franke and Robert Collet the following have been acquired:

3 Improvisations Op 12; 3 Scherzi Op 16; Allelulia Op 25; Perpetuum Mobile Op 30; Trois petites Fantaisies Op 41; 3 Menuets Op 51; 3 Marches Op 40 (for four hands); Bombardo-Carillon (for four feet).

Addition of recording: Charles Hailstone has kindly presented a disc of the Bernard Ringeissen re-issue. It has nearly all the numbers in Georges Beck's "Oeuvres Choiesies" and the accompanying notes are by Georges Beck.

Additional material: Helmut Ganteführer has been good enough to send a copy of von Bulow's penetrating analysis of Alkan's Studies in the major keys Op 35 (1859) and Patrick Lee copies of three articles on Alkan.

## News Items

Our President's Q E Hall Recital has been postponed from Oct 11 to Thursday February 28. It will be an all-Chopin programme.

Jack Gibbons, one of our younger members, is giving an Alkan Recital at the Guildhall School on Friday 2 November 1979 at 7.00 pm. Admission Free. I hope the Society will support this venture. It is a testing programme: Concerto for Solo Piano (complete) from Op 39; Op 31 No 8; Allegro Barbaro from Op 35; Op 31 No 13; Op 31 No 12; Op 31 No 1; Overture Op 39 No 11.

The Guildhall School in the Barbican is not easy to find. This is the best I can do: emerging from Moorgate Underground Station on the west side of Moorgate, turn right, then right again into a short street - Moor Place - cross the road ahead and go down another side-street - New Union Street. At the end of New Union Street turn right then left into Silk Street. The entrance to the School is at the far end of Silk Street on the left hand side.

"Alkan in Miniature" is now published at £2.75. I have had several letters of approval from Members.

The Billaudot Agency has been transferred from United Music Publishers Ltd. to Universal Edition Ltd whose address is 2 Fareham Street (Dean Street), London W1V 4DU. (If one turns into Dean Street from Oxford Street, it is the first turning right.)

UMP will continue to sell what Alkan stock they have, but all orders must now be sent to UE Ltd. The Society has always met with the utmost kindness and help from the Directors and Staff of United Music Publishers Ltd. I have met Mr John Palmer, Managing Director of Universal Edition and I am hopeful that relations with the new firm will be just as cordial.

Knut Franke is a collector of medallions of famous composers and he wonders where the one shown on many of the Alkan publications comes from. He considers that replicas of it would be welcomed by Members of our Society. A bright idea, and enquiries are being made.

Knut Franke also informs me that a pianist friend of his, Dr Hanns Steger, has recorded the Mozart/Alkan Concerto No 20 (K 466) and Beethoven/Alkan C minor Concerto Op 37 1st movement. This should be available next month and Herr Franke has kindly promised to send us a disc.

The number of Members attending this year's Annual General Meeting was very disappointing. An AGM is not the most exciting of pastimes and I suppose the Committee can conclude that Members are satisfied with the way in which things are going; nevertheless, it is on this occasion that the Committee welcomes comments on the present and ideas for the future. The date of next year's Meeting is already fixed - Tuesday 15 July 1980 - at the usual place.

Annual Subscriptions for the 1979/80 Session are now due and should be sent to the Hon Treasurer - John Snelling, 19 Liskeard Gardens, Blackheath, London SE3 0PE.

Members are reminded that friends may attend any Meeting except the AGM.

#### Programme of Meetings 1979/80

November Meeting: This will be on Wednesday 7 November 1979 at 7.30 pm at the Thomas Coram Foundation, 40 Brunswick Square, London WC1. For the first half of the programme, Jean Bartholomew - who has recently spent a Sabbatical term in W Germany - will interpret for us the von Bulow (see under Alkan Reference Library) essay on Op 35 giving illustrations at the keyboard. After the coffee break, there will be a 'Spot the Alkan' exercise arranged by the Hon Secretary.

January Meeting: The probable date for this will be Friday 25 January 1980 at 7.00 pm at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama (for directions see under News Items). Richard Shaw (Vice-President) will talk on "The truth about Alkan" when he will discuss aspects of the documentary material concerning Alkan's life, including new letters recently located in Brussels and Sweden, thereby distinguishing fact from fiction. It is hoped that a tour of the School, including of course the Library, may be arranged before the talk. Details in the next Bulletin.

March Meeting: John Oxlade has promised a talk.

May Meeting: We hope to welcome our President again.

July AGM: Tuesday 15 July 1980 at the Abbey Community Association.

J H White  
Hon Secretary  
September 1979