# NEWS USITT LETTER

# U. S. INSTITUTE FOR THEATRE TECHNOLOGY, INC. · BOX 291 · CATHEDRAL STATION · NEW YORK 25

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# FELIX B. GRAHAM

lith the death of Felix B. Graham on April seventh, after a sudden illness, the USITT suffers an immeasurable loss. Both in his skilfull, unstinted work in the activities of the Institute and in his cordial help as friend he won the highest place in the Institute's esteem and affection. He was past chairman of the Standing Committee on Theatre Architecture and Engineering, and currently chairman of the Standing Committee on Membership. He was also the hospitable host to the Executive Committee which held many of its meetings in the offices of Syska and Hennessy, Inc., where he was a partner of the firm in which he had worked since 1950. At his death he was forty-one years of age.

Among his many accomplishments he has aided in the lighting design for the United Nations Building, the Union Carbide Building, the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, and the 1964 New York World's Fair. He was chairman of the Electrical Code Committee of the New York Association of Consulting Engineers. His studies led to many articles published in research journals.

The Board of Directors of the USITT expresses its sympathy for his family, recalling with the deepest gratitude his services during these early years of the USITT. None served more faithfully nor in the spirit of a more sincere friendship.

# WORLD THEATRE DAY

USITT recently collaborated with the American National Theatre and Academy and the American Educational Theatre Association in the presentation of a Gala Evening of Drama, Dance, and Music, honoring World Theatre Day, March 27, at the Juilliard School, New York. USITT members will already have received copies of the program, Cocteau declaration, and Presidential, Gubernatorial, Mayoral, Senatorial, and Congressional statements honoring the occasion in which the United States joined 50 other nations in world-wide celebration of the UNESCO-ITI-sponsored event, with its themes of "Theatre and Youth" and "Theatre as an International Bond." It is generally agreed that the theatrical solidarity and scope reflected by the Gala Program and its sponsors constitute an achievement which can be looked upon with justifiable individual, organizational, and national pride. USITT is interested in determining to what extent and in what manner theatre groups throughout the country were able to observe World Theatre Day, and welcomes receipt of such information.

#### USITT SECOND ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Second Annual Conference of the USITT was held in the Ponti Auditorium, 111 W. 50th St., New York City, Saturday and Sunday, March 3 and 4, 1962. 150 persons attended and participated. The meetings were held in conjunction with the Fourth ANTA Assembly, which followed immediately thereafter. John Morse, reporting at the opening session of the USITT Conference, observed that the Committee on Theatre Architecture of the AIA assembling in New York took the occasion of the Conference to hold its first meeting. At the opening session the results of the Board of Directors election were announced as follows:

Elected to two-year terms: Howard Bay, James Browning, Bob Cahlman, Donald Crabs, Constance Eberhart, Eldon Elder, Robert Fischer, Siebolt Frieswyk, Felix Graham, Russel Johnson, Richard Leach, Charles Levy, Carolyn Lockwood, Ruth Mayleas, Edward Mendus, Hilyard Robinson, AIA, Jean Rosenthal, Stephen Skirpan, C. Ray Smith, Barrie Stavis, Shepard Traube, Helge Westermann, AIA, Harold Weston, Melvin White.

The above listed will join the following, who were elected to two-year terms at the First Annual Conference, 1961: Arthur Benline, Harold Burris-Meyer, Edward C. Cole, John Cornell, Thomas DeGaetani, Walter Diehl, David Hays, Robert Rowe Paddock, Eric Pawley, AIA, Joel Rubin, Ben Schlanger, Hans Sondheimer, Henry Wells.

The general theme of the Conference was "Building the Theatre: the Community Theatre and the Theatre in the Civic Center." In addition to the five general sessions, meetings of the standing committees were held at which their reports and projects were discussed. Throughout the Conference the active participation of the members was conspicuous. This was hardly less true of the general sessions than of the committee meetings. Inasmuch as the Committee on Publication and Research will shortly circulate addresses given at the general sessions and has already distributed the program, no summaries will be given here.

The general sessions were followed by a Board of Directors meeting at which the following officers were elected: President, Thomas DeGaetani; Vice-President, Ben Schlanger; Technical Secretary, Joel E. Rubin; Secretary-Treasurer, John Cornell. In addition to the officers as given above, the following members were elected and/or appointed to the Executive Committee: Harold Burris-Meyer, Board of Directors' Representative; Robert Cahlman, Chairman, Standing Committee on Theatrical Presentation; John Havens, Chairman, Standing Committee on Theatre Administration; Carolyn Lockwood, Board of Directors' Representative; Eric Pawley, AIA, Chairman, Standing Committee on Theatre Architecture and Engineering; Helen Marie Taylor, Chairman, Standing Committee on Public Relations and Communications; Henry W. Wells, Chairman, Standing Committee on Publication and Research Material.

#### BUHNENTECHNISCHE RUNDSCHAU (BTR) ON MICROFILM

Professor Walther Unruh, Editor, BTR (Theatre Technology Review), has made the following offer to USITT members: 72 issues of BTR, from 1950 - 1961, inclusive, on microfilm, for \$20.00 plus postage. USITT must be able to indicate a minimum order of 25 copies in order to avail itself of this most generous offer; we therefor urge all interested parties to contact USITT immediately.

## NATIONAL THEATRE SURVEY

USITT will cooperate with the American Educational Theatre Association's Theatre Architecture Project in acquiring material for its national survey of theatres. Further to this, USITT members will find, accompanying this NEWSIETTER, the AETA questionnaire; we urge our members to assist in this vital project by filling out the questionnaire and returning it to: Edward C. Cole, Theatre Dept., Yale University, New Haven, Conn. Additional forms may be secured by writing: James Jewell, 360 Sixth St., San Francisco, Calif.

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# RECENT PUBLICATIONS AND MATERIAL AVAILABLE

The following is a listing of publications and materials recently received by USITT and available to its members. In some cases the material is directly available from USITT, where not, the address for direction of inquiries is listed. ACTA SCAENOGRAPHICA, bi-monthly illustrated bulletin, in Czechoslovakian, with one page digests in English, French, Russian, and German, available from Scenograficke Laborator, Stalinova 117, Prague, Czechoslovakia, (USITT Exchange member) COMMUNITY THEATRE HANDBOOK, published by Institute of Public Affairs of the State University of Iowa, Iowa City. \$1.00 per copy. CONCERT HALL DESIGN PROCEDURE. REPORT NO. 810, by Russel Johnson. A 48 pp. illustrated report, available free from Bolt, Beranek, and Newman, 50 Moulton St., Cambridge 35, Mass. PHILHARMONIC HALL AT LINCOLN CENTER, a 12 pp. illustrated booklet, with plans and sections. Available free from USITT. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, a new periodical published monthly by Conover-Mast Publications, 205 E. 42nd St., New York 17, N. Y. Subscriptions \$10.00 per year. A SYSTEM OF BOX OFFICE OPERATION, by Jon Wiley. 21 pp., \$1.00 per copy (50¢ to ANTA members). Available from National Theatre Service, ANTA, 1545 Broadway, New York 36, New York. A THEATRE FLEXIBLE AND SPACIOUS, by Thomas DeGaetani. Essay-review of "The Theatre of the Bauhaus," Wesleyan University Press; from February, 1962, Progressive Architecture, Available from Tear Sheet Dept., Progressive Architecture, 430 Park Ave., New York 22, New York. THE IDEAL THEATRE: EIGHT CONCEPTS, illustrated 140 pp. catalog of Ford Foundation Theatre Design Exhibit. \$2.00 per copy, from American Federation of Arts, 41 E. 65th St., New York 21, New York.

MANUFACTURER'S LITERATURE (Requests for copies of these materials should be addressed directly to the manufacturer.):

HUB: NEW SCHOOL STAGES FOR OLD (Bulletin No. 105) Hub Electric Co., 2255 W. Grand Ave., Chicago 12, Ill. WARD LEONARD: SOMETHING NEW IN DIMMERS, FOR THEATRE AND TELEVISION, PART I, by Stephen Skirpan. Reprinted from <u>IATSE Journal</u>, Winter 1961 - 62. Ward Leonard

Electric Co., Mt. Vernon, New York.

# FUTURE EVENTS

With this issue of the NEWSLETTER, USITT inaugurates an informational service which will serve to inform members of future events of particular or general interest.

1. April, 1962 - February, 1 EXHIBIT, THE IDEAL THEATRE:	1964: NATIONAL TOUR OF FORD FOUNDATION THEATRE DESIGN
April 1 - 30, 1962	Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Texas.
July 15 - Sept. 15, 1962	Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, Mass.
0ct. 1 - 28, 1962	Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore, Md.
Nov. 21 - Dec. 19, 1962	Carnegie Institute, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Jan. 8 - Feb. 8, 1963	Milwaukee Art Center, Milwaukee, Wisc. 👘
March 1 - 30, 1963	University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich.
April 21 - May 21, 1963	Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, Minn.
Sept. 26 - Oct. 27, 1963	San Francisco Museum of Art, San Francisco, Calif.
Nov. 15 - Dec. 15, 1963	University of California, Los Angeles, Calif.
Jan. 13 - Feb. 5, 1964	University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, N. M.

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2. June 16 - 25, 1962, Athens, Greece. COLLOQUY ON THEATRE FOR MASS AUDIENCES. Sponsored by UNESCO and its five non-political international organizations including: International Theatre Institute, International Union of Architects, International Music Council, and International Association of the Plastic Arts. Information on the Colloquy program may be secured by writing: Mr. C. Kitsikis, President du Comite Hellenique pour l'organisation du Colloque sur le Spectacle pour le Grand Public, Office National du Tourisme Hellenique, 4 Rue Stadiou, Athenes, Grece.

3. August 20 - 22, 1962, Eugene, Oregon. 26th ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE AMERICAN EDUCATIONAL THEATRE ASSOCIATION. Will include panels on architecture, engineering, presentation, administration, etc., and a joint meeting of AETA's Theatre Architecture and Technical Developments Projects with USITT's Standing Committee on Architecture and Engineering. Further convention information may be secured by writing: Mr. Robert Schneideman, Executive Secretary-Treasurer, American Educational Theatre Association, Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill.

4. August, 1962, Seattle Worlds Fair. INTERNATIONAL THEATRE CONFERENCE. Details still vague. Further information may be secured by writing: Harold Shaw, Director of Performing Arts, Seattle Worlds Fair, Seattle, Washington.

#### THE NEWSLETTER

With this issue of the NEWSLETTER the Committee on Publication and Research inaugurates a new policy designed to meet the needs of the USITT more adequately than heretofore. Until such time as it is practical to issue a JOURNAL, the NEWSLETTER will more fully than hitherto resemble a letter of information on matters of current interest to USITT members and less a magazine on theatrical affairs. Its aim will be to supply a maximum of useful information within a modest format, while the number of releases in mimeograph circulated to the membership will in the future be considerably increased.

Distribution of USITT publications and material is made possible by individual and organizational dues, and the following sustaining members: Century Lighting, Inc., J. R. Clancy, Inc., Janson Industries, Kliegl Brothers Lighting, Syska & Hennessy, Inc., Tiffin Scenic Studios, Inc., Ward Leonard Electric Co.

Communications regarding NEWSLETTER should be addressed: Henry H. Wells, Box 73, Low Library, Columbia University, New York 27, N. Y.