



Newsletter of the Pacifica Chapter of the Viola da Gamba Society of America

Volume 4, Number 7
October 1991

October Meeting

Our next meeting will be held October 12 at Zion Lutheran Church, 5201 Park Blvd., Piedmont: near the top of Park Bl. on the north side. Ample parking in the lot. Plan to arrive at 9:30 for coffee and socializing. Please send your return cards to Julie Jeffrey as soon as possible. Bring lunch or eat locally.

September Meeting

We had a successful first meeting, with enough attendance to furnish three 4 - 6 part groups. We welcomed back Virginia and Dick Janes after a long absence: we are glad to see Virginia looking well again, and that the Janeses will be taking the SFEMS Viol Consort Evening Class that began on October 2. Two of our Nevada members, Pamela Dallas and Neil Hendricks, made the long trip to be with us.

Send in your Dues!

Dalton Cantey, our Treasurer, reports that 22 playing members have renewed their membership, and eleven Newsletter members. So there are still a few out there who haven't renewed yet! Please send your dues (\$15 for playing members, \$25 for two at the same address, \$5 for Newsletter only) to Dalton at 10462 Noel Avenue, Cupertino, CA 95014.

Forthcoming Events

Oriana Consort of Viols with Gregory Wait, tenor, in Music of Elizabethan England: Palo Alto Cultural Center (Newell at Embarcadero), November 16, 8:00 pm. \$7/ students & seniors, \$5. Oriana includes /Pacifica members Dalton Cantey, Jane Johnson, Hazelle Miloradovitch, and Lois Nisbet.

Medical Problems for Gambists

John Dornenburg sent us a copy of a letter, too long to print in its entirety, which appeared in *Journal of the American Medical Association*, September 11, 1991, p 1360. It concerned a gamba playing physician who attended a week-long workshop, playing 6-8 hours a day, instead of his normal 2 hours a week (sounds familiar?). He developed an impressive list of symptoms with intimidating Latin names, which amounted to intense pain in the forearm on flexing the third and fourth fingers, caused by a tear of a flexor muscle, and pressure on a nerve. He had to wear a splint for 5 weeks, needed another four months of graduated hand exercises, before he could resume playing! In a *comment* on the letter, other alarming symptoms, including viol paraesthesia, and Gamba leg, were referenced. Medically qualified readers are urged to refer to this letter and the cited references: we'll be glad to print a further account of the dangers of playing our instrument without the recommended gradual and systematic training.

Results of Elections

We were asked to print the names of the newly elected officers of our Chapter: since there were seven nominations for member-at-large, all seven were adopted without the necessity of an election, as the revised By-laws permit 5-7 members-at-large.

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT:	Peter Ballinger
VICE-PRESIDENT:	Lee McRae
SECRETARY:	Marilyn Cantey
TREASURER:	Dalton Cantey

The complete list is: John Dornenburg, John Mark, Alvin Roper, Glenna Houle, Jane Johnson, Elizabeth Nichols and Todd Wetherwax. The other officers are not due for election until 1992.

Vital Statistics

Seven-string Bass modeled on and slightly smaller than the one by Nicholas Bertrand in the Brussels Museum. Maker: François Bodart, Belgium, August 1991. Acquired by Glenna Houle.

Quotation of the Month

"The pieces [Purcell's Fantasias] possess many marvelous passages. At times one might be listening to the sweet

polyphony of Byrd; at others to the hard, rasping counterpoint of Heinrich Kaminski or Busoni. Certain passages have the poetry of Schumann, others the rhythmical vigour of Beethoven, or . . . a shower of intricate scholastic fireworks, equalled only by Bach in his *Kunst der Fuge*."

A. Eaglefield Hull, in Cobbett's Cyclopedic Survey of Chamber Music, OUP, London, 1930

[the Fantasias had been republished, in transpositions for modern strings, in 1927].

Advertisement

Westover Treble Viol & Bow, Hard Case for rent or purchase at \$500 or offer. Elizabeth Finlayson (510)653-0445.

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LAST
NEWSLETTER!

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