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Donations

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Donations

Abstract

A summary of recent donations to the Archive of the American Institute for Verdi Studies.

Keywords

American Institute for Verdi Studies

Recent Donations to the Archive

The most significant bequest in recent years was made by Mrs. Rita Russell, in memory of her beloved husband, John Russell. A staunch supporter and one of the Institute's earliest members, John developed a huge personal library of music, and Mrs. Russell gave the entire Verdi section of this collection to the Institute. Mainly comprised of 19th century piano-vocal scores--almost every Verdi opera and several of the major revisions are present in the gift--it includes rare early prints of *Alzira*, *Attila*, *I due Foscari*, *Luisa Miller*, the first version of *Simon Boccanegra*, and a piano solo score of *Stiffelio*. Also included was a number of librettos and newspaper clippings of significant Verdi performances in New York during the middle years of the 20th century.

Another important contribution was made by Executive Board member Dorle Soria,

namely, a group of Verdi recordings and librettos which she and her husband Dario Soria acquired over the years. Dario, as many of you will remember, was head of the Metropolitan Opera Guild for many years, affiliated with RCA Victor and Cetra-Soria records, and also an enthusiastic member of AIVS. This gift is important for two reasons. Our section of recorded sound is not as strong as it should be--additional donations of video tapes, laser discs, CD's, cassettes, and LP's would be most welcome--and among the Soria librettos were three prints of *Falstaff* dating from the early 20th century and a rare libretto for *I Vespri siciliani* that appears to date from the first performance of that opera in the United States, at the Academy of Music in New York, November 1859.

A most welcome gift was also made by

the Casa Ricordi in Milan. Films of Verdi's autograph scores for *Nabucco* and *Ernani* were sent following the publication of these operas in the new complete edition. This is part of an ongoing arrangement whereby the American Institute provides films of materials from its collection for each of the volume editors of the Works of Giuseppe Verdi and Ricordi in turn gives us films of the Verdi autographs in their possession.

Advisory Board member John Nádas, first archivist of the Verdi collection at NYU, and now a member of the faculty at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, donated a film of Verdi-related documents recently made at the Archivio di Stato in Rome. Another former archivist, David Day, now Music Librarian at Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, sent us films of three manuscript copies of full scores from London.

One of our most faithful members, Louis Morda, has donated a number of opera librettos and issues of periodicals on opera and nineteenth-century music. Long-time member Nancy Ford has made her second donation of materials, including piano-vocal

scores, a book, and a program booklet for a performance of *Otello* at the Théâtre de la Monnaie, Brussels, with stunning reproductions of contemporary costume and set designs. A renowned acoustical engineer, Dr. Elvio Farello of Rome, continues his donations to the archive with a number of cassettes and videotapes of European performances. Fortunately, the Avery Fisher Center for Music and Media at Bobst Library has the equipment to view videos made with European technology. And, finally, AIVS Secretary-Treasurer David Lawton and Institute member Evan Baker have made available materials for filming that were previously lacking in the collection.

Also deserving of the Institute's thanks are Hester Diamond, Advisory Board member Annalee Newman and Ben Meiselman for their donations towards the purchase of the Institute's new computer. Their largesse encouraged Faculty of Arts and Science Dean Ann Burton to match their gifts with New York University funds, thereby providing us with vastly improved research and printing capabilities.

DISCOUNTS FOR AIVS MEMBERS (cont. on back cover)

Institute members are entitled to the reduced prices listed below. If you would like to buy any of the Norton volumes, make checks (no credit cards please) payable to the American Institute for Verdi Studies and mail to New York University, Department of Music, FAS, 268 Waverly, New York, NY 10003 with a copy of the mailing label at the bottom of this page completed. All reduced prices for Norton books include postage.

Seven Verdi Librettos translated by William Weaver (W. W. Norton, 1975) paperback ed. regularly \$12.95, available at \$8.95.

The Verdi Companion edited by William Weaver and Martin Chusid (W. W. Norton), new paperback ed., 1988, regularly \$10.95, available at \$7.65.

Verdi's Macbeth: A Sourcebook, edited by David Rosen and Andrew Porter (W. W. Norton, 1984), hardcover ed. regularly \$39.95 available at \$27.95.

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