

Times of Malta, September 11. We'll only excerpt these articles, just to give their flavor, because their best parts tend to draw heavily from sources we already know well, especially the biography *Jussi* by Mrs. Björling and Andrew Farkas.

- Hal Sokolsky's carefully transcribed 1962 WNYC interview by Walter Stegman of Jussi's publicity agent Bill Arneith, given in full with all exaggerations intact: caveat emptor! And we thank Allan Wilkinson for making available his recording of George Jellinek's fine interview of Richard Mohr, who produced many of Jussi's complete operas for RCA—we are seeking a volunteer to transcribe that program (a much simpler task than the WNYC tape, thanks to the personalities of the men involved).
- Gail Campain's carefully-translated chapters from the JB Memorybook will feature statements by three men who had much to do with presenting Jussi to his fellow countrymen in venues around Sweden: Erik Järnklev, Åke Sundborg and Gösta Berg. We understand Jussi much more clearly when we can view him through the eyes of the Swedes who knew him and worked with him over his entire career, and Gail's translations make *En Minnesbok* accessible at last. Tack, tack, dear Gail!
- An especially vivid discussion of *Manon Lescaut* recordings, by Edward Greenfield, is well worth our excerpting from *Opera on Record 3* (Alan Blyth, ed.). This fine article was brought to our attention by Lars-Henrik Österholm last summer, on the Björling e-list discussion group, and we think you'll find its special attention to Jussi's interpretation of Des Grieux enlightening, enjoyable and convincing.
- A collection of interviews, including Kristian Krogholm's introduction of the great Italian vocal conoscitore Alessandro Sciocchetti, who has helped bring a fuller appreciation of Jussi's art to his countrymen, and Kristian's own autobiographical notes (extracted with some difficulty, as one expects when dealing with a scandinavo schivo). We'll learn what Kristian does during his summers, when his cry is "Till havs!" Mati Zeiti spent six months in New York City as a visiting music student during the fall of 1959, and was clever enough to see Jussi four times in opera and once in concert during that time. Later, in 1993, he wrote of his impressions of Jussi (in Hebrew), and has now translated his article for our pleasure.

A Holiday Note to You from the JBS Board

One year ago, we'd had our first successful conference and had a sense of validation by the events of the year: good cooperation from our colleagues in Sweden and the U.K., much news of Jussi as singer of the century in various polls, and the satisfaction of meeting many of you in Washington. We felt a bit worn down financially, unable to do some of the things we wanted, so we issued an appeal, to give us some resources to make more progress, explaining what we wanted to do. Your response was more generous than any of us expected, and we have been able to make some good progress over the past year. Thank you for your confidence!

You can see in this Newsletter what our plans for the coming year are: we're optimistic that these plans will allow us to attract new members and grow. We can be small only for a while, as a new organization, but to maintain credibility we have to increase our membership base. Please help us do that during the coming year: tell your friends about us (use this Newsletter if it will help, or throw a Björling Birthday Party on February 5 for your friends!), try to join us at our June 2001 conference, or—if your means allow—consider digging deeper to help us maintain solvency. Most of all, let us know what you think we should be doing, as we grope our way into the new millennium. Our best wishes for a happy New Year—Gåd Jul!

Bill Clayton, Mickey and Bill Dove,
Tom Hines, Dan Shea

Since another opportunity for spreading the good news about Jussi is approaching, with his 90th birthday on February 5, please consider getting in touch with your local classical music station and suggesting a Jussi program.

(Incidentally, February 4 is Anders Björling's 65th birthday, so many of us will be sending our congratulations to him this year!)

