

Looking Toward the Future

Less dramatic but nevertheless interesting, our Sunday morning business meeting led to many good suggestions for possible locations and speakers for our next forum, either in 2000 or 2001 (both are anniversary years for Jussi). We also discussed our application for tax-deductible status (reported on elsewhere in this Journal) and other needs of JBS: tracking down and preserving "missing" recordings (our experts on this include Don Goldberg, Harald Henrysson, and Phil Curtis - but anyone is welcome to assist), developing publicity for the Society, assisting with the development of educational programs, and serving on various key committees.

But the best parts of the conference, at least for me, were the opportunities to talk with people like our esteemed translator Gail Campaign, our web-meister John Gee, our marvelous advisors and speakers, and members from all over the world. Yes, this conference was a great idea!

Conference Questionnaire

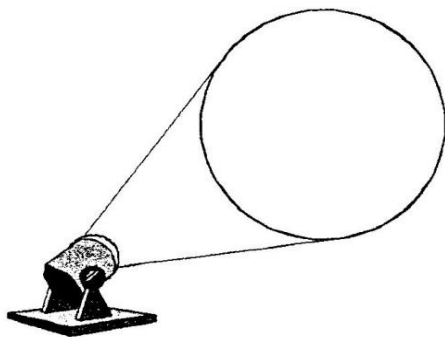
We have received only a few responses to our questionnaire soliciting conference attendees' opinions and feedback. Therefore we've decided to wait before publishing a summary of results to provide additional time for responses. Please send your questionnaire, comments, and/or ideas (either via Email or regular post) to:

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In The Spotlight: Arthur H. Patrick Darrow

It is with great pleasure that we bring you member Patrick Darrow's "Jussi" story. Imagine if you would what it might be like to have your own private voice lesson with Jussi. Mr. Darrow describes precisely that.

"In February, 1950, at the age of 19, I had the experience of my life up to that date. I met Jussi Björling. For the previous ten years I had been an admirer of Jussi, but it never occurred to me that I would ever meet him.



By the time I was twelve years old, I had a lot of songs and arias memorized from listening to the Metropolitan Opera Broadcasts on radio. I sang along with them, mostly the tenors and baritones, fascinated by the sounds of the voices. I sang along with Jussi. By the age of nineteen, I was fairly well-versed in opera. I'd gone to a concert in Kansas City in 1948 or 1949 and had seen a performance by Jussi.

In 1950 I was standing on the corner of 11th and Walnut in Kansas City, Missouri, waiting for a streetcar and whistling "Questa o quella" from *Rigoletto*. I was approached by a man asking for directions to the Plaza Theater. He spoke to me in a Swedish accent. Curious, I asked if