

The Fencer's, Dancer's, and Bearbaiter's Quarterly

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The Newsletter of the Trayn'd Bandes in North America

Vol. V, no. 2.

'Ever But in Times of Need At Hand'

April 1997

Greetings from the Trayn'd Bandes of London, a federation of living history groups for the period 1585-1645, distinguished by their pursuit of both civilian and military activities, cultivation of first-person interpretation, and fanatical devotion to historically accurate mayhem. (Only J. Singman could write such a descriptive introduction, I didn't dare replace it!)

The constituent groups are Gardener's Company (centered in Virginia-Maryland), the Tabard Inn Society (centered in Ontario-Michigan), and the Westminster Trayn'd Bandes (centered in Texas).

The FDBBQ is published quarterly in hardcopy and electronic formats, each issue by one of the TBL's constituent groups :border=3 cellpadding=5 cellspacing=2

1 January	TBL
1 April	WTB
1 July	TIS
1 October	Gardeners

(Thanks to all the contributors this quarter, especially to our first-time writers. You made this an outstanding volume! MM)

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If you have access to the World Wide Web,
don't miss our splendid site at:

<A HREF= http://www-
personal.umich.edu/~jsingman/bandes.html>
http://www-
personal.umich.edu/~jsingman/bandes.html
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Upcoming Events

['Major' Events are the most important in the calendar, and everyone is strongly encouraged to try to make it to as many of these as they reasonably can. 'Regional' Events are smaller events which people are encouraged to attend if they are close enough to make it over a normal weekend (say, a 5-hour drive or less). 'Local' Events are very small events which people are encouraged to attend only if the journey would take less than an hour.]

April 12-13 1997: Newmarket, VA. The Raid on Mousehole. One of the TBL's largest annual events, Elizabethan setting, Major. Contact Gardener's.

April 19-20 1997: Stratford, Ontario. Shakespeare's Birthday. Contact Kathryn Budge, (519) 271-7415, skbudge@golden.net

April 26-27 1997: Buescher State Park, Smithville, Texas. WTB's Spring Muster. New Finsbury Tavern opens its doors to all travelers. Oh, and there will be drill. Always a good event

full of much Elizabethan merriment! Contact WTB.

May 16-19 1997: Ethal, Ontario. Shapwick Whitsun Muster and Ale. An authentic (and therefore inevitably raucous) festival in the remote Oxfordshire village of Shapwick during the English Civil War. Major. Contact TIS.

August 1997: New Castle, PA. Seventh annual Trained Bands Elizabethan encampment at the Pennsic Wars. This year looks to be the best year yet with more drilling, more singing, more carousing -- you get the picture. Major. Contact Jeff Morgan.

September 5-7 1997: Staunton, VA. Battle of Worchester. As with the Naseby event at the same time and place in 1995, this will be a huge English Civil War battle (by North American standards), attended by several hundred re-enactors from Great Britain as well as the fullest domestic attendance of any event in North America. If you want a chance to experience a pike-and-shot battle without having to go overseas, this is your best opportunity. Contact: J. Singman.

October 3-5 1997: Shapwick Michaelmas Fair and Muster. A harvest festival in the Oxfordshire village of Shapwick during the English Civil War. Major. Contact TIS.

The Tabard Inn Society holds its weekly meetings in Toronto on Wednesday evenings.

The Westminster Trayn'd Bades hold a monthly meeting on the first Monday of each month.

Activities of the Tabard Inn Society

Nancy Crozier

The Tabard Inn Society held its annual Evening at the Tabard Inn on February 1st, at the University of Toronto. Afternoon seminars included a revisiting of our favourite songs, led by Trish Postle (a.k.a. Will Postle), followed by annual elections. Steph Diamant steps down as the long-serving (and long-suffering, we suspect) TIS (Toronto) President, leaving big shoes for Nancy Crozier to attempt to fill. Charlene Small remains Treasurer, and Phil Collman continues to serve as Education Officer. Paula Grosso was elected Secretary, and Trish Postle became Advocate.

Business over, we removed to the Tabard Inn of 1597. The food was wonderful and the company excellent; even though the University did not allow true ale to be served, we proved to be of good voice and cheer. First-person interaction was some of our best ever, and great credit goes to our newest member, Ian McGregor, and his wife Elfie.

Activities of the Westminster Trayn'd Bades

James Barnes

January had a slow start, with the first drill practice of the new year being snowed out, but the rescheduled drill had about a dozen people, with all eight pikes in use, as well as 2 drums, 1 fife, and the sergeant. The ranks were made up of some long time WTB'ers as well as some new members -- and a few folks from the Sable Band who wanted to learn pike. The rest of the WTB was sorely missed and the brand new flag stayed at the house, out of the rain. Pay was distributed, and the gaming began.

The February meeting was centered around character development. One newcomer, Samuel Piper is working on a musician's history. Additionally, the group got to listen to a tape on the pronunciation of 17c English. Later in the month, the Bades provided many fine games at a local SCA Candlemas celebration. Robin Marlowe was able to gather up many games for folks to enjoy including 2 Poch, 2 Tablero, 2 Royal Goose, 1 10-pin, 1 Quoits, 1 Tables, and some shuttlecocks. Several others were brought out to fill up 6 tables. Lots of fun most of the afternoon. On a side note, Robin has gotten tired of being called "M'Lady" so he grew a mustache. Lots of second looks, but I think he got the point across.

At the March meeting, we discussed upcoming events and some great topics for future monthly meetings. The FDBBQ was distributed and surprised several newcomers; I guess they thought this was a fly-by-night operation. We also got another opportunity to impress the public with our skill as a pike unit at a local Ren Faire. Afterwards, pay was distributed, and we played Poch and Goose. Will won the shortest game of Goose ever; he went straight from the start to the center without ever landing on anything or anyone. He also won the smallest pot ever in the game of Goose!

Vine, a small brothel/inn which before 1539 had been owned by the Sisters of St. Margaret's! Apparently Shakespeare thought well of *The Elephant*; in his *Twelfth Night*, Antonio recommends it.

The Horseshoe is one of the older messuages, going back to 1409. Around 1596 it was renamed *The Sugar Loaf Inn* -- it seems *The Horseshoe* was always referred to as just an inn, but one with a good reputation. It was also very convenient since the alley led behind to the Globe theatre. Up through 1633 the property also included a garden, orchard and bowling alley.

Further on is *The Lyon and Ram* (Leonem), going back to 1505, and across Bullied Alley is *The Beere* and *The Little Rose*. Behind these two messuages was the Rose theatre, for which Rose Alley was an entrance.

Just west of this was the impressive Bear Gardens. The main entrance, Bear Gardens Alley, was headed by the triple brothel *The Bell*, *The Barge* and *The Cock*. No doubt this was one of the most popular areas of Bankside; even Queen Elizabeth visited the Gardens to impress her foreign visitors.

The Unicorn, just beside the Bear Gardens, was one of the most famous Bankside brothels, shadowed only by *The Cardinal's Hat* and *The Holland Leaguer* farther west. John Fletcher the playwright lived in and around *The Unicorn* for a time. Near *The Unicorn* was a little tavern, *The Shipp*, mentioned in 1630 as a place for drinking.

After *The Unicorn* was a train of smaller brothels, *the fflower de lyce*, *The Boar's Head* and *The Crosse Keyes*. In this area also were the Pike Gardens. A small brothel, *The Fish Pond House*, was built over the gate to the Pike Gardens, just opposite Mason's Stairs.

The last brothel immediately in line was *The Cardinal's Hat*, in business since 1360 and rebuilt several times. In later years the messuage was frequented by a number of noblemen, including James I.

These were the main attractions along Bankside; together they were frequently referred to as the 'Bear's colledge.' If one had high tastes and the money to feed them, he could pay a visit to *The Holland Leaguer* in Paris Garden. It seems a number of Dutch whores settled there after fleeing the Low Countries, and they had a reputation for being highly skilled. Long Megg of Westminster is associated with them.

Aside from these establishments were a number of honest inns, such as *The White Hind*, *The White Lion* and another *Boar's Head*. Unfortunately I cannot place them within Bankside. As always, behind the front row of buildings the alleyways were lined by tenements. There was no shortage of people on this side of Southwark.

As a final note, I would like to point out the dark side of Bankside's brothels. We are all familiar with the shortcomings women faced in our period, but in the brothels they became brutal to the point of madness. Here is an excerpt from Burford that sums up the whore's lot:

"...treatment depended solely upon the girl's own ability and popularity with the customers and hence the money that she brought in. The life was hard, the discipline strict, the extortions vast. Within three or four years the girl would be worn out, even if she were lucky enough to avoid venereal disease. With the lack of hygiene and sanitation all diseases were a hazard, and the periodical outbreaks of the plague meant at best death, at worst a living death."

Certainly Bankside had its curses, as well as its charms.

Plays at the Rose in 1597

Jeffrey L. Singman

(Here Jeffrey provides a glimpse at the entertainment selection found at one of the theatre's in Southwark. It also demonstrates that an actor's life was far from easy -- in the words of a certain tailor's apprentice '...God's Death, that's a lot of remembering!')

1597 January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3 That Will Be Shall Be	4 Nebuchadnezzar	5 Dr Faustus	6 That Will Be Shall Be	7 Jeronimo (Spanish Tragedy)	8 Vortigern
9	10 Stukeley	11 Jeronimo (Spanish Tragedy)	12 Nebuchadnezzar	13 That Will Be Shall Be	14 Alexander and Lodowick	15 Blind Beggar of Alexandria
16	17 Jeronimo (Spanish Tragedy)	18 That Will Be Shall Be	19 Nebuchadnezzar	20 Stukeley	21 Vortigern	22 Jeronimo (Spanish Tragedy)
23	24 That Will Be Shall Be	25 Blind Beggar of Alexandria	26 Nebuchadnezzar	27 Woman Hard to Please	28 Long Meg of Westminster	29 Woman Hard to Please
30	31 Jeronimo (Spanish Tragedy)					

</table>

1597 February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Woman Hard to Please	2 That Will Be Shall Be	3 Osric	4 Woman Hard to Please	5 Vortigern
6	7 (Shrove Monday) Osric	8 Woman Hard to Please	9 Jeronimo (Spanish Tragedy)	10 Stukeley	11 Alexander and Lodowick	12 Alexander and Lodowick
	14	15	16	17	18	19
	21	22	23	24	25	26
	28	</table>				

1597 March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 That Will Be Shall Be	4	5 Alexander and Lodowick
6	7 Woman Hard to Please	8 Jeronimo (Spanish Tragedy)	9 Alexander and Lodowick	10	11	12 Vortigern
13	14 Blind Beggar of Alexandria	15 Stukeley	16	17	18	19 Guido
20	21 Alexander and Lodowick	22 Nebuchadnezzar	23 Guido	24	25	26

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valign=top>2 7	28 Woman Hard to Please	29 Alexander and Lodowick	30 Guido	31 Bellendon	</table>	
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1597 Aprilborder=3 cellpadding=5 cellspacing=2

valign=top>S unday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
valign=top>					1 Blind Beggar of Alexandria	2 Vortigern
valign=top>3	4 Guido	5 Alexander and Lodowick	6 That Will Be Shall Be	7 5 Plays in 1	8 Woman Hard to Please	9
valign=top>1 0	11 Bellendon	12 Alexander and Lodowick	13 Times	14 Stukeley	15 5 Plays in 1	16 Woman Hard to Please
valign=top>1 7	18 French Comedy	19 Bellendon	20 5 Plays in 1	21 Jeronimo (Spanish Tragedy)	22 French Comedy	23 Guido
valign=top>2 4	25 5 Plays in 1	26 French Comedy	27 Alexander and Lodowick	28 Bellendon	29 Uter Pendragon	30 That Will Be Shall Be</table>

1597 Mayborder=3 cellpadding=5 cellspacing=2

valign=top>S unday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
valign=top>1	2 French Comedy	3 Uter Pendragon	4 Jeronimo (Spanish Tragedy)	5 French Comedy	6 5 Plays in 1	7 Uter Pendragon
valign=top>8	9 Alexander and Lodowick	10 Woman Hard to Please	11 Comedy of Humours	12 Uter Pendragon	13	14 5 Plays in 1
valign=top>1 5	16 Uter Pendragon	17 Alexander and Lodowick	18 Stukeley	19 Comedy of Humours	20 Bellendon	21 French Comedy
valign=top>2 2	23 5 Plays in 1	24 Comedy of Humours	25 Jeronimo (Spanish Tragedy)	26 Henry I	27 Woman Hard to Please	28 Alexander and Lodowick
valign=top>2 9	30 Henry I	31 Comedy of Humours	</table>			

1597 Juneborder=3 cellpadding=5 cellspacing=2

valign=top>S unday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 French Comedy	2 Comedy of Humours	3 Frederick and Basilea	4 Comedy of Humours
valign=top>5	6 That Will Be Shall Be	7 Comedy of Humours	8 Henry I	9 Frederick and Basilea	10 5 Plays in 1	11 Comedy of Humours
valign=top>1 2	13 Uter Pendragon	14 Henry I	15 Bellendon	16 French Comedy	17 Comedy of Humours	18 Frederick and Basilea

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valign=top>1 9	20 Jeronimo (Spanish Tragedy)	21 Comedy of Humours	22 Hengest	23 French Comedy	24 Henry I	25 Bellendon
valign=top>2 6	27 Stukeley	28	29 Alexander and Lodowick	30 Martin Swart	</table>	

1597 Julyborder=3 cellpadding=5 cellspacing=2

valign=top>S unday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
valign=top>					1 Henry I	2 French Comedy
valign=top>3	4 Frederick and Basilea	5 That Will Be Shall Be	6 Martin Swart	7 Comedy of Humours	8 Wise Man of West Chester	9 Martin Swart
valign=top>1 0	11	12 Wise Man of West Chester	13 Comedy of Humours	14 Witch of Islington	15 Alexander and Lodowick	16 French Comedy
valign=top>1 7	18 Wise Man of West Chester	19 Jeronimo (Spanish Tragedy)	20	21	22	23
valign=top>2 4	24	26	27 5 Plays in 1	28 Witch of Islington	29	30
	</table>					

1597 Octoberborder=3 cellpadding=5 cellspacing=2

valign=top>S unday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
valign=top>						1
valign=top>2	3	4	5	6	7	8
valign=top>9	10	11 Jeronimo (Spanish Tragedy)	12 Comedy of Humours	13 Dr Faustus	14	15
valign=top>1 6	17	18	19	20 Hardicanute	21	22
	24	25	26	27	28	29
valign=top>3 0	31 Friar Spendelton	</table>				

1597 Novemberborder=3 cellpadding=5 cellspacing=2

valign=top>S unday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
valign=top>		1	2 Bourbon	3 Canute	4 Comedy of Humours	5 Friar Spendelton

valign=top>6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	14	15	16	17	18	19
	21	22	23	24	25	26
	28	29	30	</table>		

Current Events, 1597

Jeffrey L. Singman<p>

There are some 7000 English troops currently in the Netherlands helping the Dutch Protestants in their war against Spain. There is also an rebellion ongoing in Ireland, led by Hugh O'Neill, Earl of Tyrone; the Queen's principal commanders are Sir William Russell and Sir John Norris.

The harvest has been poor for several years in a row, and prices are high. France and Spain are currently at war, and Calais was taken by the Spaniards last year; some 2000 English troops have been sent to Picardy to assist the King of France.

[Note that the number of the year changes on Lady Day (25 March).]

January 1596/7

24. Word arrives of a substantial victory on the 14th by the Dutch under Count Maurice, aided by the English under Sir Francis Vere and Sir Robert Sidney, over Spanish forces at Turnhout in the Brabant.

The Admiral's Men have presented two new plays this month, Alexander and Lodovick and A Woman Hard to Please.

February

17. Two of the Jesuits kept at Wisbech in Norfolk have escaped.

24. The expeditionary force at St. Valerie in France under Sir Thomas Valerie is greatly reduced by sickness.

25. The Lord Mayor of London is rebuked by the Queen's Council for failing to enforce the restraint of killing and eating flesh in Lent; the subject is particularly sensitive in this time of dearth.

March

9. News arrives that the Spaniards have captured Amiens by a stratagem; the loss is a great blow to the king of France.

14. One Edmond Hartley has been hanged as a witch at Lancaster, having bewitched the children of a gentleman named Nicholas Starkie.

19. There is a new play at the Rose called Guido.

28. It is reported that Master Starkie's children continue in their fits.

April 1597

2. Sir Thomas Baskerville has been obliged to pawn his silver to relieve the troops under his command. A vain attempt has been made to take Arras.

8. The 2000 men levied for service in Ireland last October and dismissed are to be reassembled and sent over.

29. The Cardinal of Austria is reported to be massing troops from the Low Countries towards Boulogne; 600 troops are to be raised in Essex, Kent, and Sussex against the threat.

The new plays at the Rose this month are Five Plays in One, A French Comedy and Uther Pendragon.

May

6. There have been tumults in Kent and Sussex due to the current dearth.

9. The Commissioners for musters are to have 6000 men specially trained against the current threat from the Cardinal of Austria.

11. Chapman's An Humorous Days Mirth opens at the Rose.

23. It is reported that the Irish rebel Feogh MacHugh was slain earlier this month, and his head taken to Dublin; Lord Deputy Burgh forwards it to London.

26. The Admiral's Men premiere The Life and Death of Henry I.

30. 4000 of the newly mustered troops are to be sent to London in readiness for some employ.

June

8. The Council have written Lord Deputy Burgh commending the recent actions in Ireland, but they propose to return MacHugh's head to him, as it is improper to accord such honour to a ragtag Robin Hood.

11. Sir Thomas Baskerville has died of illness. His expeditionary force is assisting in the siege of Amiens. There are preparations for some great expedition; some say it will be to take Calais from the Spanish, others say it will attack the Azores, others say it is to meet the Spanish fleet

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wherever it can be found. The Earl of Essex is to command the force, with Lord Howard as Vice-Admiral and Sir Walter Raleigh as Rear-Admiral.

12. Sir Arthur Savage is to take command of the expeditionary force in France.

25. In spite of MacHugh's death, the revolt in Ulster is if anything worse.

July

5. The expeditions of Sir Anthony Shirley and Master William Parker return from preying upon the Spanish in the West Indies.

28. The Lord Mayor and Aldermen of London petition the Council for the suppression of the playhouses at the Theatre, Curtain, and Bankside as corrupting youth, fostering whoredom, encouraging idleness, and spreading disease. The Council order the playhouses to be torn down.

Lord Pembroke's Men have given great offense with their play, *The Isle of Dogs* by Nashe and Jonson. Jonson is imprisoned in the Marshalsea.

29. There have been border clashes with the Scots in the north. Both Queen Elizabeth and King James are determined to put an end to this unruliness.

August

19. After being driven back several times, the fleet under Essex sets out from Plymouth, bound for the West Indies.

21. The weather has improved this year, and the harvest looks to be much better. Nonetheless, steps are to be taken for the punishment of those who have taken advantage of the dearth by buying up scarce victuals for profit.

September

20. Sir John Norris is reported to have died in Ireland.

24. Some days ago two boys going to fetch their cattle from Enfield Chase found a man's head. Upon inquiry it was found to be the head of MacHugh, the Irish rebel. The head had been brought to the Earl of Essex, who sent the bearer to Master Secretary Cecil for payment, but since the head money had already been paid in Ireland, he was told that he might bestow the head where he would; the messenger tried to leave it with a landholder in Enfield, but he would not allow it to be buried in his garden; he then gave it to his boy to bury in Enfield Chase, but the boy set it upon a tree.

29. The threat of a Spanish attack seems to have subsided.

October

8. Jonson is released from the Marshalsea.

23. Lord Admiral Howard is made Earl of Nottingham.

There are reports of Spanish troops advancing on Ostend; four companies under Sir Arthur Savage are to be sent from Picardy to assist Sir Edward Norris, the governor of the town.

24. The ninth parliament of Queen Elizabeth's reign is assembled in Westminster.

26. The Spanish fleet is been reported to be making for Falmouth, to the great alarm of the country. The troops are to be withdrawn from Picardy to meet the threat.

27. The militia are called out in Devon, Cornwall, Dorset, Hampshire, Berkshire, Kent, Sussex, Surrey, Wiltshire and Somerset.

Lord Burgh, the Lord Deputy in Ireland, has died of an ague.

28. Essex has returned with the fleet, having missed the Spanish royal treasure ships, but captured some merchant vessels. The Spanish fleet is hovering off the coast, so Essex is to put to sea again at once.

A new play called *Friar Spendleton* opens at the Rose, the council having failed to follow through on its threat to shut down the playhouses.

November

5. Parliament reassembles, and hears a bill against enclosures.

30. During a prize-fight at the Swan, one Turner delivered a thrust into the eye of his opponent Dunn; the blade entering into his brain, he fell down dead at once.

December

8. It is reported that a boy has been possessed in Nottingham.

This month the Admiral's men premiered *Valteger, Stukeley, Nabuchodonozor, and That will Be Shall Be*.

The Average Nobleperson's Guide to Renaissance Music : English Consort Music

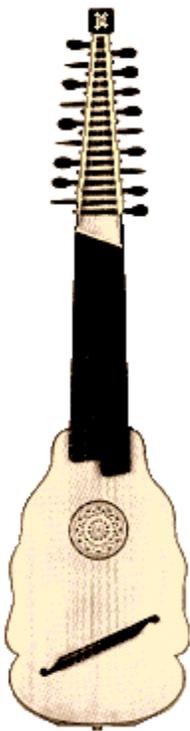
Steven Hendricks

Starting in the 1580s in Elizabethan England, theatergoers would have been treated to

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performances by a unique combination of six instruments that we now call a Broken or Mixed Consort. Those terms were not used at that time - the English seem to have merely referred to this specific group of instruments simply as a "consort," which nowadays means almost any combination of instruments.

At the theatre, in a gallery above and over the stage, behind a curtain, musicians would play music during plays and between acts. "Heavenly" or "celestial" were often mentioned in reference to this consort because of the beauty and delicacy of the blend of instruments and because the music wafted down from unseen musicians above. This heavenly group was specifically composed of treble viola da gamba or violin, flute or recorder, lute, cittern, bandora and bass viola da gamba. Treble and bass violas da gamba, or viols, are stringed instruments resembling a violin and a cello. A cittern is a small plucked or strummed instrument that has courses, or sets, of wire strings, making a sound much like that of a modern banjo. A bandora is a larger stringed instrument also with courses of metal strings.



(A Bandora)

There are a number of surviving pieces of music written or arranged for this combination of instruments, then called the "English Consort" on

the European continent, mostly in a small number of consort books. Those are the Walsingham consort manuscripts of 1588, Thomas Morley's *First Booke of Consort Lessons* of 1599 and 1611 and Philip Rosseter's *Lessons for Consort* of 1609. *The Cambridge Consort Books* circa 1595, also known as the *Matthew Holmes Consort Books*, are manuscript consort books for lute and other instruments copied by Matthew Holmes.

The Morley *Consort Lessons* survive in 2 printings, one of 1599 and one of 1611. Between the two editions, all the partbooks survive except for the lute. All of the other sources -- Walsingham, Rosseter and Cambridge -- are also missing part books. Therefore any performing edition of these works requires reconstruction of the missing instrumental lines. Performing reconstructions are usually prepared by combining the surviving consort books with versions of the pieces from other sources.

There are a couple of recordings of this repertoire that are truly excellent. The first is by the Dowland Consort and is aptly titled *Heavenly Noyse*. On this recording, 14 pieces for broken consort are presented - 10 from Morley and 4 from Rosseter. There are also 9 other pieces for various instruments on the recording. The performances are wonderful with amazing lute playing that helps you understand why all noblemen in the Renaissance aspired to play the lute.

The recording is on BIS, CD-451, so it is a little bit more expensive than a domestic CD.

The second recording of note is by the Musicians of Swanee Alley and is entitled *As I Went to Walsingham*. It contains music from the Walsingham consort books as well as other sources. This disc is dedicated to Sir Francis Walsingham, who was a great patron of the arts.

The Walsingham Consort books are manuscripts copied for use in his household and some pieces in it are named for Sir Francis and his wife. This album contains songs as well as instrumental music. The recording is on Harmonia Mundi USA, CD 905192. It also it more expensive than a traditional domestic CD.

The Baltimore Consort plans to release a CD of consort music in the fall of 1997. Since every CD they have released is well worth having, I would recommend the purchase of this disc unheard. In fact, I would recommend all

recordings made by the other two groups as well, The Musicians of Swanne Alley and the Dowland Consort. I have every recording I have ever seen by all 3 groups and I have never regretted purchasing any of them.

Standard Time?

Jeff Morgan

When asked the time it is common to express the hour as "10 o'clock" (assuming that is the time). However there is more to this expression than perhaps one would care to know. Certainly in the 16th Century it had much more significance than it does today and may have been expressed as "10 of the clock".

The reason for this is that in the 16th century there were still two primary systems for naming time. The traditional system was called Temporal or Planetary hours and divided the day into 24 hours, 12 of daylight and 12 of darkness. This was done regardless of the time of year, so in the Summer a daylight hour would be longer than one in the Winter and would be longer than a night hour on the same day. In the Winter an hour of darkness would be longer than an hour of daylight.

The more modern system used above was called Clock hours in deference to the mechanical clock and divided the day into 24 hours of equal length regardless of the time of year. But it had two different versions. In the first the numbering began at midnight and proceeded through the day to 24, which is equivalent to the system used by the military today. This system was referred to as having large hours or great hours. In the case of small or common hours the numbering also began at midnight but started over at noon, which is the system used in the civilian world today.

In addition to the length of hours, the numbering systems were only beginning to be standardized. In addition to the system (commonly used in England) just described, there were more obscure systems where the numbering began either at dawn or dusk or both. In Italian hours the numbering began at sunset and ran through 24 hours. This system was also known as the Bohemian hours. This system was fairly commonly known in England due to the trade from Italy.

Babylonian hours also ran for 24 hours, but a bit more stoically began at sunrise. In the Nuremberg system the count began at sunrise

and then again at sunset. This system was relatively rare but was not unknown in England as Nuremberg had a prolific sun dial industry.

This info has been extracted from "Ivory Diptych Sundials 1570-1750" by Steven A. Lloyd and published by Harvard University Press, 1992. In addition to good general info on time keeping in the period, there are numerous cool illustrations of, you guessed it, Ivory Diptych Sundials. These are dials which consist of two flat plates hinged along one edge which open to expose the dial face.

New Suppliers

(From Nancy Crozier)

<i>Julia Smith</i>

Julia Smith is an excellent potter and recently sent Phil and I an update and a copy of an article written about her and 2 other historical artisans (The Boston Globe, Thur. January 16, 1997). She was recently commissioned to do all of the pottery for the "Crucible". She will be putting together an updated catalogue with new items available in early June. She is always interested in hearing what pottery people would like to see reproduced. If anyone is interested they can contact her at: 32 Churchill Ave., Arlington, MA 02174; (617) 648-2875; artart@world.std.com.
