

Dec 1985

THE Worcester Organist

NEWSLETTER OF THE WORCESTER CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS... VOL. III No. 1

LONG, Stephen F.
18 Merriam Avenue
Shrewsbury, MA 01545

1685-1985
BACH
HANDEL
SCARLATTI
1585-1985: SCHÜTZ

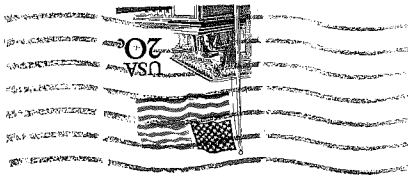
FROM THE EDITOR...

THE JUBILEE YEAR HAS FINALLY COME! In terms of chronological seniority, the lineup should read SCHÜTZ, HANDEL, BACH, SCARLATTI. Although weeks or mere months separate the last three names, Scarlatti nevertheless is the baby of the family. We are not a prophet, and indeed the gift of prophecy is not required to say that the music of this baby is going to get little more than a baby-sized portion of performance in our Chapter's own particular area—the organ and sacred choral music. The pickings are slim. While Domenico Scarlatti wrote out organ registration on a handful of his hundreds of keyboard sonatas, thereby showing them to be suitable for that instrument as well as the harpsichord, organist-choir directors who plan to pay Scarlatti frequent tribute through the performance of his music will soon find out that they have run out gas. (We would hope that no colleague of ours would think of trotting out the church music of the father, Alessandro, as a consolation birthday present for the son. That would be aesthetically invalid. Artistic heresy.)

We do happen to have one of those 'organ' sonatas in an anthology of organ music and we will dig it out and play it at some point this year [yawn]. That, we expect, will be the total extent of our laudatory appreciation of Scarlatti this year— in music, that is. In print, we intend to pay him tribute right here and now.

On the next page we have reprinted a passage from what we consider to be a very great novel. While it cannot be said that Domenico Scarlatti is the main topic of the excerpt, nevertheless, to be talked about by Proust—even if only briefly and with deadly humor—is a form of immortality to those of us who, with respect to art in general, would place Proust the novelist on the same plane with Bach the musician.

AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS
WORCESTER CHAPTER
MECHANICS HALL
321 MAIN STREET
WORCESTER, MA 01608



SCARLATTI*

* Happy 300th Birthday

