Mrs. Helen Dyar King, a generous daughter of the Stearns family

Mrs. Helen Dyar King was born Helen Maynard Dyar in 1915 in Grosse Point Farms, Michigan. Her mother, Helen Stearns Dyar, was the daughter of Frederick Kimball Stearns, son of Frederick Stearns. Her father, Ralph Dyar, was a Detroit businessman, not active in the Stearns family drug business. In 1919 the Dyars moved to Beverly Hills, California, to live near Frederick Kimball Stearns who had retired there previously.

Mrs. King described her childhood in the Southern California of the 1920s and 1930s as idyllic. She was an active lady who preferred horse riding on the family ranch in San Diego County to the more genteel pursuits advocated by her mother: throughout her life, she was an active lover of outdoor life. After attending UCLA, she married, in 1937, Don L. Clark of Seattle, a commercial building contractor. She returned to Michigan in 1941 for a year when Mr. Clark’s new naval career brought him to Centerline to supervise construction of an ordnance plant.

In 1958, she married Mr. George T. King, and resided in North Idaho and San Diego before retiring to Phoenix, Arizona in 1972. They particularly enjoyed traveling throughout the southwest by car, fishing, sightseeing, and making new friends. Though she did not considered herself musical, Mrs. King liked music, and especially dance music. In

Generous gifts, historical instruments, exciting activities, and enthusiastic patrons and friends

BY JOSEPH S. C. LAM, DIRECTOR, STEARNS COLLECTION OF MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

Greetings from Ann Arbor! Many good things have happened to the Collection since April 1998 when the last issue the Stearns Newsletter was sent to you. With the addition of a new endowment and several historical instruments, and with a series of exciting lectures and displays, the Collection begins the new academic year of 1998-99 with vigor and confidence. The Collection has gone blue and its future is as clear as the bright and clear sky Ann Arbor experiences these days. In addition to reports about recent and current events, I have decided to present short articles on some of the patrons and friends of the Collection. While their financial and intellectual support sustains and develops the Collection, their personal connections to it make historical and cultural meanings. The Collection is not only a repository of old musical instruments but also a site of memories about people and their musical and cultural pursuit.

The highlight of the last six months was a generous donation from Mrs. Helen Dyar King. A great-grand daughter of Frederick Stearns, she has bequeathed $190,000 to the Collection. (For more details about Mrs. King, see featured article.) The money is now set up as the King Endowment, the income of which will be used to fund various Stearns activities, including those expensive and time-consuming tasks of maintaining and repairing musical instruments in the Collection. Until now, the Collection has no steady funds for such tasks, and efforts to keep precious instruments in their best conditions have been curtailed. From now on, we can schedule maintenance and preservation tasks more regularly: ideally, such tasks should never stop, but that would not be possible until the Collection has a much bigger budget.

In addition to Mrs. King’s major gift, many other patrons and friends contributed monies and instruments. Their membership dues and donations help cover basic expenses, ranging from the purchase of cotton gloves and other supplies...see Generous gifts on page 2
needed in the handling of the instruments to the purchase of Korean drums to support students’ performance and research activities.

A number of enthusiastic friends gave historical instruments. For example, Mr. Wally Just of Wisconsin brought over a wonderful York tuba, and Professor Regine Reynolds-Cornell sent a historical Japanese noh drum and an early 20th century shamisen (lute) with an ivory pick. Mr. Just’s gift is significant because it helps the Collection build an assemblage of brass instruments produced by the now defunct company of Grand Rapids, Michigan. Highly esteemed by Arnold Jacobs, the tuba virtuoso, and other leading musicians, York brass instruments are not only wonderful samples of musical instruments but revealing evidence of Michigan history and technology. (See feature article on Mr. Just).

By the same token, Professor Reynolds-Cornell’s gift help refurbish the Collection’s Asian musical instruments, some of which have been worn by heavy use. The Collection has renewed its policy of collecting representative Asian musical instruments. The renewal is an effort to support research and teaching of the current ethnomusicology faculty of the School of Music. Specializing in Australian, Chinese, Indonesian, Japanese, Oceanic and Southeast Asian musics, the ethnomusicology faculty constitutes an unique (by American or international standard) team of specialists whose research and teaching cover a comprehensive spectrum of musics from the Pacific Rim countries. Professor Reynolds-Cornell’s gift is noteworthy in that it not only represents the maturation of an intention that first occurred in the early 1980s but also the ways friends think of the Collection over long periods of time. (See feature article.)

A particularly noteworthy activity of the last six months is the short-term loan of the Eb Alto Ophicleide (Stearns no. 933) to Professor Daniel Burdick who took the instrument to the Early Brass Festival (July 30-Aug. 3, 1998) in Amherst, MA. (See feature article.) The instrument was a hit: it was the only keyed low brass instrument present in the festival. This musical and scholarly interest on the ophicleide confirms the mission of the Collection: by preserving and making old instruments available to qualified researchers and performers, the Collection preserves music artifacts and promotes research about them.

For the fall of 1998, the Virginia Martin Howard Lectures series will present two lectures. On October 11, 1998, Mr. Mike Montgomery of the Montgomery Archive will give a talk entitled “Louis Elbel and The Victors: What Really Happened 100 Years ago?” Mr. Montgomery is an University of Michigan Alumni who recently retired from Michigan Bell. He has been collecting and researching on University of Michigan sheet music for decades. His lecture will provide not only fascinating details about the genesis of The Victors.

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Mrs. Helen Dyar King ... continued from page 1

Arizona, Mrs. King lived in a comfortable but modest home filled with her parents’ and grandparents’ furnishings dating from the turn of the century.

At her death in 1997, Mrs. King had left a charitable trust to benefit primarily Arizona charitable causes. She, of course, bequeathed an amount of $190,000 to the Stearns Collection of Musical Instruments, a money that makes a difference in the Collection’s future.

Mrs. King is survived by her two sons, Mr. Christopher and Jeffery Clark, who now reside in Seattle and manage the Clark Construction Company. With their Michigan connections renewed, they plan to participate in the Centennial Celebration and explore the family heritage of their devoted and caring mother.

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**Stearns Ophicleide shined in Early Brass Festival in Amherst, MA.**

Instrument 933 (Eb Alto Ophicleide) of the Stearns Collection of Musical Instruments made an impressive appearance at the Early Brass Festival which was held from July 30 through August 3, 1998, in Amherst, Massachusetts. Professor Daniel Burdick of the Edinboro University of Pennsylvania took the ophicleide there and showed it to many low brass specialists. Being the only keyed low brass instrument present in the festival, Instrument 933 attracted a lot of attention; under the supervision of Professor Burdick, it was tested and played by many low brass specialists.

Professor Burdick is an University of Michigan alumni and a former student of Professor Fritz Kaenzig who teaches tuba and euphonium performance at the School of Music. Professor Burdick learned to play the ophicleide during 1992-93 when he was a recipient along with Professor Kaenzig of a Research Partnership Grant from the Rackham School of Graduate Studies of the University of Michigan. Performing tuba duet music throughout the Midwest, Professors Burdick and Kaenzig also played ophicleide and Russian bassoon duets in their many concerts. An active scholar and performer, Professor Burdick plans to do more research with low brass instruments in the Collection.
**STEARNS 100**

With your help, we can reach our goal of raising $10,000 to cover the expenses for the Centennial Celebration and the publication of a celebratory volume, entitled *The Stearns Collection of Musical Instruments: The First Century, 1899 to 1998*. We have established the following categories for this once-in-a-century donation: names of all donors will be published in the appropriate categories in the official program of the Centennial Celebration:

- **Benefactor** $1000
- **Patron** $500
- **Sustaining** $100
- **Friends** $30

I (We) want to support the Centennial Celebration of the Stearns Collection of Musical Instruments.
I (We) enclose my check for $___________ made payable to: The University of Michigan Stearns Collection. Please write “Stearns 100” in the lower left corner of the check.

Mr. / Mrs. / Dr. / Miss / Ms. ____________

Please circle title(s) and print your name above as you would like it to appear on donor lists.

Benefactor $1000  Patron $500  Sustaining $100  Friends $30

An old intention realized

In July 1998, Professor Regine Reynolds-Cornell sent to the Collection a historical noh drum and an early 20th century shamisen with an ivory pick. The instruments belonged to Professor John B. Cornell, an University of Michigan alumnus and an anthropologist of Japanese culture and history. He did fieldwork, in the late 1940s and 1950s, in Okayama Prefecture in Japan, and purchased the shamisen there. The origin of the drum has yet to be identified. Sometime in the early 1980s, or before, Professor William Malm, the former director, visited Professor Cornell—they were classmates—and requested that the precious musical instruments be eventually donated to the Collection; presumably, Professor Cornell liked the idea and intended to send the instruments in due time. Eighteen or more years later, the intention materialized. Professor Cornell passed away in 1994, and Mrs. Reynolds-Cornell, his devoted wife, took care of his estate, and sent the instruments to Ann Arbor where they can be studied and played.

Mr. Wally Just, A Friend from Wisconsin

On August 25, 1998, Mr. Wally Just, a 76 years young friend of the Collection delivered a beautiful York tuba. For that delivery, he and his friend, Mr. Branko Latinovich, left their home in Milwaukee, WI, early in the morning, drove 7 hours to get to Ann Arbor, presented the instrument, and drove another 7 hours back home. What motivated such support of the Collection is a life-long interest in music and a recognition of the importance of not only the York instruments but also of the Collection. Mr. Just was a professional tuba player who had performed extensively in American and Europe.
How Do I Get To The Stearns?

The Stearns Collection of Musical Instruments is located in the Margaret Dow Towsley wing at the south end of the Earl V. Moore School of Music on Bautz Drive in the University of Michigan North Campus area. Enter through the doors nearest to the parking lot. The MacIntosh Vocal Arts Center is just across the hall and to the right of the entrance. The Stearns galleries are down the stairs at the end of the hall to the right.

ADMISSION: Free at all times.

EXHIBIT HOURS: Tuesday to Friday 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

GROUP VISITS AND TOURS: To arrange for group visits or guided tours by members of The Stearns Collection staff, please call (313) 763-4389.

PARKING: Metered parking is available south of the entrance doors.

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Generous gifts

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and its composer, but also play historical recordings of Elbel’s playing. On November 1, 1998, Professor Bonnie Wade of the University of California, Berkeley, will speak on “Music for the Mughals: What Miniature Paintings Show Us to Hear?” Holder of the Jerry and Evelyn Chambers Chair in Music, Professor Wade is a leading scholar of Indian music, and has recently published a book on 16th century Indian music and its pictorial representations: Imaging Sound: An Ethnomusicological Study of Music, Art, and Culture in Mughal India (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1998).

On September 30, 1998, the Vesta Mills Gallery of the Collection will open an exhibition of guitars and a number of 20th century electronic musical instruments. More than 20 guitars of various shapes and sizes will be displayed, demonstrating the instrument’s wide use in a variety of Western folk and popular musics. Due to technical and scheduling difficulties, the original plan of displaying only 20th century electronic musical instruments was aborted.

Preparations for the Centennial Celebration are proceeding smoothly. On April 23, the Collection will host a reception and a short program of music performances with pianoforte, Japanese shakuhachi, Korean drums, and Javanese gamelan. The celebratory publication will include scholarly articles, lists of significant facts about the Collection, and many pictures of its precious instruments. A special budget of $10,000 has been established for this celebratory project, and almost $2000 has been raised. Patrons and Friends of the Collection, please support this unique event which can only once in a century. Send in your specially marked donations and have your names inscribed in the official program. See details in the Stearns 100 Fundraising.

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B E C O M E  A  F R I E N D  O F  T H E  S T E A R N S

With your help, additional instruments may be restored, played, displayed and appreciated by the musical public. Friends receive The Stearns Newsletter, invitations to the Virginia Martin Howard Lectures and announcements of upcoming exhibits and performances. Your contribution will help support all activities of the Stearns Collection.

Membership in the Friends of The Stearns Collection is available in the following categories:

☐ Benefactor $1000
☐ Patron $500  ☐ Sustaining $100  ☐ Friends $30
☐ Student / Senior Citizen / Beyond 200 miles $15

I (We) want to support the Stearns Collection of Musical Instruments.

I enclose my check for $__________ made payable to: The University of Michigan Stearns Collection

Mr. / Mrs. / Dr. / Miss / Ms. ____________________________

Please circle title(s) and print your name above as you would like it to appear on donor lists.

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