

Many Walks of Life

Originally restricted to text writers, tune composers, and hymnal editors, the membership of The Hymn Society broadened in stages to welcome all who affirm the organization's purposes. Since the early 1940s this has included individuals whose occupations vary widely. Those noted here are drawn from information forms provided to THS, the greater number of them collected in preparation for the 1945 *Guide to the Membership of The Hymn Society*.

The most common vocation is that of church musician, but even this group is diverse. Some are full-time; others, part-time. Some have extensive professional training, while others identify themselves as amateurs. A few of the organists note that they also play theater organs—though only one self-identified as a theater organist and scientific translator.

There are priests, pastors, and ministers in many roles, parish educators, and missionaries with a range of responsibilities in varied settings. Professors are numerous, but their fields are diverse, extending far beyond church music and practical theology. At least eight presidents of educational institutions have been among the ranks. Several members have been employed in editing and publishing, but these are not limited to those who edit music. Members published books and articles in such fields as acoustics, psychology, horticulture, and natural history. One reported having had more poems in the *Congressional Record* than any other person.

There are a few librarians; there are lawyers, attorneys, barristers, and at least one magistrate and an officer of the court. One member was a neurosurgeon, another an otologist, and three were dentists—one the subject of a biographical brochure titled "Dentist and Priest."

Members identified themselves as:

secretary in steel warehouse office
social worker
self-employed carpenter
high school Latin teacher
bank cashier
public health laboratory scientist
retired foreign service officer
municipal court, city of New York
magician
manager of heating and air conditioning contractors
newspaper reporter and bank clerk
research botanist
assistant treasurer, contract engineering firm
insurance official
Socialist congressional candidate
industrial management engineer
math teacher
retired manufacturing chemist
music critic

retail furniture salesman
high school science teacher
treasurer of an advertising agency
electrical engineer
secretary to director of engineering
vice president of a bank and theramin player
education specialist, Veterans Administration
civil technician
coordinator of credit and noncredit programs, division of continuing studies
government clerk-stenographer
employment manager
assistant director of training, chaplain corps
secretary to the mental health unit, US Children's bureau, department of labor
employment officer, Library of Congress
historian and dairy farmer
government official
treasurer of a publishing firm
senior vice-president, finance corporation
director cooperative recreation service
vice-president for public relations, Chung Chi College
executive secretary, national board of fire underwriters
office employee, US Steel
millwright
tax preparer
school music teacher and administrator
railroad rate clerk
president of advertising firm
chemist
teacher of homemaking and senior problems
journalist and publicist
investment broker
field representative, life insurance
town clerk

Some can best be described by quoting from their membership forms:

“retired banker, active insurance agent and citrus grower”

“research ‘antiquity and up’”

“Only a church layman, trying to do my best, promoting a campaign to get our church a pipe organ.”

“highly available”

“peony farm chiefly, also income tax, real est and ins. music my hobby”

“a mandolinist who has appeared in many concerts in the eastern states.”

“cellerman, F & S Brewing Co., . . . clarinet player, member of concert band, director of Sunday school orchestra”

“Mistress of the Manse”

