

Four-hundred delegates tried at one time or another to crowd into a room which could hold only 150 persons -- a problem solved finally by limiting attendance to ten representatives per country at one time and shifting places regularly on an almost hourly basis. Full reports

on the Prague Quadriennale and the OISTT Congress will appear in a special issue of the Journal THEATRE DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY in the Fall which will be edited by delegation member: John Rothgeb.

OBJECTIVES ACHIEVED

The International Liaison Committee's objectives for Prague were largely achieved. They were:

- (1) To insure the presence of a U.S. Exhibit of Theatre Architecture at the Quadriennale: USITT's Theatre Architecture Commissioner Peter H. Frink prepared a fine exhibit by augmenting the Anaheim Convention panels and mounting the whole forty panels in a most handsome way. Richard Dunham did the crucial last minute expediting.

The Exhibit was so successful it has been requested by our British Colleagues and will be mounted in the ABTT Theatre in London during March of this year.

- (2) To participate in the OISTT Commission meetings with strong representatives: We were the only member nation of OISTT able to cover meetings in depth. Special kudos here to Harold Burris-Meyer and Peter Frink for Architecture; Gary Gaiser and David Nash (JFK Center for the Performing Arts) for Technical Work; Ned A. Bowman and Tom Watson for Publications; John Bracewell, Bernhard Works, W. Oren Parker and Larry Graham for Education; Don Stowell, Van Phillips, Ming Cho Lee and Eldon Elder for Scenography; Patricia Zipprodt with Leon Brauner and Brigette Sitte for Costumes; Ned A. Bowman and Joel Rubin for Program and Executive Committees.
- (3) To participate in the OISTT Congress with significant papers: Here, we had really fine contributions by George Izenour on Training of Consultants, Gil Hemsley on Training of Technicians, Jo Mielziner on Training of Scenographers, and John Bracewell on our U. S. Educational Theatre training systems.
- (4) To insure the presence of a strong student delegation: This was the first OISTT Congress which devoted itself to training matters. Student members of the Institute benefited enormously from the discussions and from the international student meetings. Not the least important contribution the USITT made was to organize the international student representatives into the OISTT Commissions. Deborah Dixon served as Student Coordinator and did a fine job.

- (5) To prepare an exhibit of teaching materials: The only Nation to have such an exhibit, we presented over 40 volumes donated by U.S. publishers and in turn donated by us to the OISTT Library archives in Prague. Van Phillips and Don Stowell are to be commended for their work in organizing this exhibit. It was a real hit, crowded at every moment during the Congress with the delegates carefully examining the materials on display.

- (6) To give Delegate Packets: The catalog of the U. S. Scenic Exhibit "Contemporary Stage Design" donated by the International Theatre Institute of the U.S.; the catalog of the U.S. Architectural Exhibit "Theatre Design '75" donated by USITT, and the #42 issue of THEATRE DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY. It was a handsome gift and the recipients were pleased indeed.

- (7) Special kudos go to the U. S. Scenic and Costume Design Exhibit at the Quadriennale. It was a fine, strong, beautifully mounted exhibit fully representative of our best U. S. designers. The International Theatre Institute Center of the U.S. performed the core work not the least of which was raising the \$100,000 required for its presentation.

Ming Cho Lee was the Chairman of the Steering Committee for the exhibit which also included Howard Bay, Eldon Elder, the late, Donald Oenslager, Joel Rubin and the ITI Professional Staff, Rosamond Gilder and Martha Coigney of ITI. For everyone connected with this exhibit the achievement represented a labor of love.

The USITT group returned from Prague on January 12, absolutely exhausted and sublimely happy. New friends were found in 25 countries. New OISTT projects to be accomplished and new obligations were discussed. We all had a sense of frustration that the time in Prague was too short, but that we were all too exhausted to have remained away longer.

Ned Bowman went to Prague determined to give up his Chairmanship of OISTT's Publication Commission, but was unanimously re-elected. Joel Rubin swore he would retire from the OISTT Presidency, preached for a week on internal democracy and the necessity to maintain OISTT's international character, was five minutes late to the final OISTT Executive Committee meeting and upon entering was told that he had been unanimously re-elected President of the organization. Patricia Zipprodt was elected as a Vice-Chairperson of the Scenographic Commission. Everyone on the U. S. delegation made an important contribution. All in all it was a good week for the United States and for the United States Institute for Theatre Technology.