

November 2003

Double Pen

A Publication of
the New York City Chapter of
the American Guild of Organists



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site to see City organs
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and concert information
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The New York City Chapter of the American Guild of Organists was established 9 October 1950 when it was made independent of the former Headquarters Chapter, tracing its history to the founding of the AGO in 1896. With more than 550 members, it is one of the largest Chapters in the Guild.

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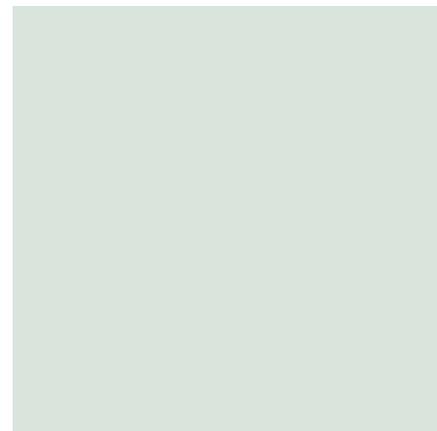
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Conductor of the
Long Island Choral Society since 1979
<http://www.lics.org>



The First Word

Dear friends and colleagues,

Writing a column for the New York AGO Chapter month after month takes a great deal of thought. You should know that I wrestle with this column and write and rewrite the Dean's Bench many times before sending it to the newsletter editor. My plan for this month's column was to discuss the merit of pipe organs and digital organs and discuss what APOBA has to say about the subject which is just how much digital sound is acceptable within a pipe organ before it no longer merits being called an organ.

Then, I was going to put this into context of the recent installation of the electronic organ at Trinity Church on Wall Street, but then thought that what other institutions do or don't do really isn't any of my business. After all, I am not in charge of quality control. I am very fortunate to have a magnificent Rieger pipe organ as well as a fine Schlicker pipe organ here at Holy Trinity, so

if I discuss why an institution would install an extravagant one-of-a-kind electronic organ (even only as an interim instrument) only makes me sound inquiring and I'm not! So, I scrapped those hours of writing and have settled for this.

As we move into Thanksgiving and Christmas and a New Year, remember the words of one of my favorite anthems, "Christmas is the harvest time of love." Play well.

Sincerely,



Stephen Hamilton, Dean



David Lloyd ben Yaacov Yehuda Klepper

Synagogue Caretaker
(Gabbai-Shamish)
Student Cantor (Hazzan)
Author on Building Acoustics
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The Brooklyn Chapter
American Guild of Organists

presents

IAIN QUINN

In a Lecture and Recital
on Russian Music for the Organ

The Tsar of Instruments

November 11, 2003

Lecture (\$5) at 5:00 pm - Recital (\$10) at 8:00 pm

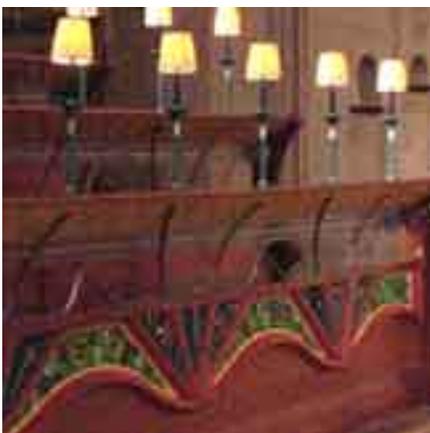
1925 E.M. Skinner Organ, Opus 524
St. Ann & the Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
Corner of Clinton and Montague Streets
Brooklyn Heights, New York
(718) 875-6960

Mr. Quinn, a student of Thomas Murray at Yale University, has released a CD on the Chandos label, *The Tsar of Instruments*, and is a recognized expert in the field of Russian music.

From the Editor

We continue our emphasis on communicating not just to, but with, one another in this issue. Look for the responses that faculty and chaperones and others had to our POE. Take note of some of what is said: one parish paid for two young people to attend. Perhaps this will inspire some to, as the Bible says, "Go, and do likewise." But I say communicating with, because these messages you will read are the thank you's to the dozens of people who came together and gave shape to Dr. D'Agostino's vision for the Encounter.

I recently wrote to members of the faculty, asking them what they learned after being part of what may have been the largest (so far) of the Pipe Organ Encounters. I'm still waiting to hear from some of you, but I did get a wonderful response from Mollie Nichols, who wrote, "I found it expanded my knowledge of repertoire for young/beginning organists as many of their teachers back home had chosen books or repertoire that was new to me. Also, it was great to see the



focus of these young students and refreshing to see their excitement about the instrument." More to come!

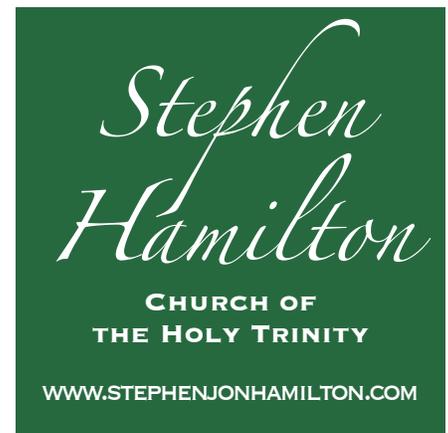
Dr. Hamilton writes a most thought-provoking column this month. I know how much care he puts into them, as we often talk about what's on the mind of the profession from week to week. What may seem like a great topic at the beginning of the month sometimes is no longer relevant when it comes time to write. In a way, it's not too dissimilar when that choral selection or organ piece that seemed just right back in July suddenly needs replacement. The best-laid plans of musicians and deans....

Thanksgiving is upon us and that can mean only one thing: Christmas decorations go on clearance so that space can be made for Valentines chocolates on shelves by the 1st of December. But take time, as the pace of life picks up in the coming weeks, to give thanks to G-d, Jesus, Allah, to your Higher Power, for the music that we are blessed to bring to the lives of so many even when that gift we is not always accepted as we'd like. Blessed are you; rejoice and be glad: great is your reward. *SDG!*

Write to me:

Ken Sybesma
55 Monroe Boulevard
Long Beach NY 11561-4363

doubleopen@optonline.net



Minister of Music: St. John's Episcopal Church in downtown Stamford, Connecticut is accepting applications for a full-time organist/choir director, to begin in 2004 as soon as is suitable for the winning candidate.

This individual creates a worshipful environment in sacred services and concerts, participates in parish administration, recruits and conducts a choir of accomplished volunteers led by paid professionals, introduces diverse music styles for parishioners of all ages, and is able to make use of the full range of this 116-rank organ. St. John's is a diverse congregation of about 150 worshipping each Sunday in two morning services.

The successful candidate should demonstrate a breadth of imagination to explore new and creative approaches to the musical expression of religious faith for all members of the community, regardless of age and education; be able to articulate a faith commitment; have had at least three years of experience with the Episcopal service, preferably as Music Director with a proven record of success in previous positions; be able to organize and direct a multi-cultural, musically diverse childrens, adult and possibly youth choir; plan and direct a full season of musical performances including at least four major choral works with orchestral accompaniment within or outside of the Sunday morning service; have earned at least a Bachelor's degree. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

Send cover letter and resume to:

Music Search
St. John's Episcopal Church
628 Main Street
Stamford CT 06901

Advertise in our Annual Membership Directory!

The Annual Directory of the New York City Chapter of the AGO is presently in preparation, with publication expected by January 1, 2004. Distributed to both primary and dual members, the Directory circulates throughout the New York metropolitan area, as well as most of the 50 states and several foreign countries.

You are invited to take advantage of the opportunity to reach this large and influential market by placing your advertisement in the 2003/04 Directory. Your advertisement will bring your message to a wide readership and at the same time support the chapter by helping to defray the cost of the Directory. Because the Directory serves as a primary resource for AGO chapter membership, your advertisement will be readily at hand in a reference frequently consulted throughout the year. Advertisers who purchase 1/2 page or larger will be entitled to five copies of the Directory, upon request.

Advertising rates include creation of the advertisement to your basic design by our graphic artists. Any artwork must be submitted electronically (PDF, JPG, TIF, etc.) over the internet or on a 3.5" disk, Zip disk or CD. Any artwork submitted in printed form requires scanning, the fee for which will be quoted based upon individ-

ual circumstance as well as any other special requests; all artwork submitted in printed form is non-returnable, and is considered to be consumed in the production process. Every effort will be made to keep the running page number out of advertising but this cannot be guaranteed. If an ad exceeds specified size, it may be reduced to fit.

All materials in final form and payment in full must be received by November 15, 2003. Checks should be made payable to "NYC AGO". To reserve space for an advertisement, please contact Terence J. Flanagan, at directory@nycago.org or at 914-524-7334.

The Directory is printed in portrait format and is doubled-folded and stapled on 11" by 17" quality stock. Pages are 8-1/2" wide by 11" high with printable area of 7-1/2" wide by 10" high. Advertisements which do not take up the full width or height of the printable page will be surrounded by a 1/4" 'white space' or gutter. A border may be added for purpose of separation.

AD TYPE, COST, DIMENSIONS

Full page	\$250
7.5" wide by 10.0" high	
1/2 page	\$150
7.5" wide by 4.75" high -or-	
3.5" wide by 10.0" high	
1/4 page	\$100
7.5" wide by 2.25" high -or-	
2.5" wide by 4.75" high	
1/8 page	\$ 75
7.5" wide by 1.25" high	

PERSONAL LISTING \$50
3.5" wide by 1.75" high

Personal Listings may include up to nine (9) lines of information, with font selection made by our graphic artists unless specified and supplied by the advertiser. A personal listing may include professional information but may not advertise a product, service or event.

Disclaimer: The Directory Editors reserve sole discretion to accept copy or to reject any and all advertising information and/or copy and/or photographs which they determine do not advance the mission and message of the New York City Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

Arthur Lawrence

D.M.A., A.A.G.O.

Faculty

Manhattan School of Music

Interim Director of Music

Grace Lutheran Church

Lancaster, Pennsylvania

www.GraceLutheranChurch.com

**SAINT THOMAS CHURCH FIFTH AVENUE
AT FIFTY-THIRD STREET**

CONCERT SERIES

TUESDAY EVENINGS AT 7:30PM

THE SAINT THOMAS CHOIR
OF MEN AND BOYS

Gerre Hancock

Organist and Master of Choristers

TICKETS & INFORMATION: 212-664-9360
or e-mail to concerts@saintthomaschurch.org

ORGAN RECITAL SERIES

SUNDAY EVENINGS AT 5:15PM

Mid-September through November,
January through May

INFORMATION: 212-757-7013

RECORDINGS OF THE SAINT THOMAS CHOIR AND ORGANS

A CAPPELLA II. (New recording) Music for a cappella voices and music for solo organ. The Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys. Gerre Hancock, *Master of Choristers*, with Judith Hancock, *Organist*. A Koch International Digital Recording, available on CD only, \$20.

THE SAINT THOMAS TRADITION. Music for a cappella voices and music for solo organ. The Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys directed by Gerre Hancock, organ solos by Judith Hancock, *Associate Organist*. A Priory Records Recording, available on CD only, \$20.

CHRIST THE FAIR GLORY. A journey through the liturgical year in Hymns and Psalms with masterworks for the Organ. The Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys. Gerre Hancock, *Master of Choristers*. Judith Hancock and Patrick Allen, *Organists*. A Koch International Digital Recording, available on 2-CD album for \$36.

SUNDAY MUSIC. Judith Hancock playing the Arents Organ of Saint Thomas Church. Fifteen Pieces founded on Antiphons, Op. 18, *Marcel Dupré*; Sunday Music, *Petr Eben*. A Gothic Digital Recording, available on CD only, \$20.

Other titles available on CD, Cassette and LP

INFORMATION: 212-757-7013

Or write to: The Music Office
Saint Thomas Church
1 West 53rd Street
New York, NY 10019-5496

For all Concert Series, Organ Recital Series,
and Recordings information,
please see our website at
www.saintthomaschurch.org

Chapter Program and Masterclass Reminder

at Church of St Ignatius Loyola
980 Park Avenue at 84th Street
9 November 2003, 4.00 pm

In Recital: John Grew
University Organist at McGill University, Montreal, Quebec
Members free; others \$15

10 November 2003, 7.30 pm
Professor John Grew in a masterclass on French Classic repertory.
Members free; others \$15

About the Artist

John Grew is a leading figure among Canadian organists. He is University Organist at McGill University and chair of the organ area of the Faculty of Music. He is also artistic director of the McGill Summer Organ Academy. John Grew's teaching career has spanned twenty-nine years at McGill University, where he took over the organ class of Kenneth Meek, and the harpsichord class of Kenneth Gilbert. He also established the University's Early Music program, the largest of its kind in Canada. John Grew has been at the forefront of the mechanical-action organ



revival in North America. Among his many accomplishments at McGill University was his collaboration with Hellmuth Wolff in the planning of the French classical organ at Redpath Hall, one of Montreal's most important concert venues. John Grew was Dean of the Faculty of Music at McGill University from 1991 to 1996.

John Grew's teachers have included Maitland Farmer, Marilyn Mason, Kenneth Gilbert, Marie-Claire Alain, and Luigi Ferdinando Tagliavini. In 1970 he was unanimously awarded the First Medal at the Geneva International Organ Competition. He has made numerous broadcast recordings for both the English and French networks of the CBC, as well as RTBF (Belgium), Radio-France and German Radio.

John Grew has appeared as soloist with such distinguished chamber orchestras as Tafelmusik and the Alberta Baroque Ensemble, and with the Montreal Symphony Orchestra. He has served on numerous international competition juries, and has given recitals throughout Europe and North America.

John Grew has most recently recorded the complete works of Nicolas de Grigny on the ATMA Classique label. In addition, he has recorded works by Dietrich Buxtehude, J.S. Bach, and Bengt Hambraeus for McGill Records. Upcoming releases will be the Livre d'orgue by Bengt Hambraeus, and Symphonies 5 and 9 by Charles-Marie Widor.

John Grew's artistry is best described by a critic for London's Daily Telegraph who wrote "...it takes an artist of Mr. Grew's exceptional quality to stress the scale, variety and eloquence of Couperin...he relishes the music's gravity and boldly-questioning manner."



News & Notes of Chapter Members & Friends

Chapter member J. David Williams is presenting a concert of organ music by Bach, Bohm, Elmore, Dupré and Elgar. It will be 16 November, 3.00 pm, at LaFayette Avenue Presbyterian Church, Brooklyn, home of a 1910 Austin housed in the 1886 Hook and Hastings casework. See the NYC Chapter web site for a stoplist of the instrument as it presently stands.



Joe Vitacco has come out with yet another must-have collectable compact disk recording, this time with Gerre Hancock at the marvelous E.M. Skinner (and more) at Washington's Cathedral Church of Sts Peter and Paul. Not only does Dr. Hancock perform works of Bach and Sowerby, he gives not just one of his memorable improvisations, but two: both an organ symphony and in French Classic style on "Victimæ Paschali laudes" in alternatim with the men of the cathedral choir. The booklet accompanying the disk includes an interview conducted by Craig Whitney, assisting managing editor for The New York Times, and author of the recent acclaimed book about the organ, "All the Stops". This interview alone, about Dr. Hancock's life in choral and organ music, what goes through his mind while improvising, and other topics, would make this a worth-while purchase. Check it out at <http://www.pipeorgancds.com/>



2 November offers an excellent opportunity to hear several choral masterpieces in two of the upper east side's more impressive houses of worship. Begin at 3.00 pm at St Jean Baptiste, Lexington Avenue and 76th Street, where Kyler Brown conducts the Fauré "Requiem" and Poulenc "Gloria." Then head over to Heavenly Rest, 5th Avenue and 90th Street, for the Duruflé "Requiem" at 5.00 pm, with organist Steven E. Lawson and instrumentalists conducted by Mollie Nichols. Just two of many events in a typical musically-rich Sunday afternoon in Manhattan. Check the NYC Chapter calendar for even more opportunities: www.nycago.org



Chapter member Cherry Rhodes will appear in concert on the recent large Dobson organ in the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels, Los Angeles, on Saturday, 22 November, 8.00 pm. I mention this long-distance occasion in the event your travel plans have you in southern California that weekend. You do not want to pass up the opportunity to hear an internationally acclaimed performer on a spectacular new instrument in a visually breath-taking space. The program will include works by Grieg, Scarlatti, Liszt, Mendelssohn, Larry King's "Revelations of Saint John the Divine" for organ and electronic tape, and Calvin Hampton's "Five Dances," a work Ms. Rhodes has long championed. What a fabulous way to observe St Cecilia Day!



Where In the World is Clarabella Van De Echo?

Our friend Clarabella gets herself some interesting seating at organ recitals. The first three correct guesses to doubleopen@optonline.net as to where Clarabella was when she got these snaps get a mention in the next issue of DO.



Get Out the Word! New "cyber" NYC Chapter newsletter has formally made its debut

Advertise your concert, recital, institution, studio or other services to more than 550 of your colleagues, plus the unknown numbers who will download the cyberletter from the Chapter website. Now, your advertisement can have the added attraction of color, including photographs in full, glorious color.

Advertising rates include creation of the advertisement to your basic design by our graphic artists. Any artwork must be submitted electronically (PDF, JPG, TIF) over the internet or on standard floppy disk or CD. Any artwork submitted in printed form requires scanning, the fee for which will be quoted based upon individual circumstance as well as any other special requests; all artwork submitted in printed form is non-returnable, and is considered to be consumed in the production process. Every effort will be made to keep the running page number out of advertising but this cannot be guaranteed. If an ad exceeds specified size, it may be reduced to fit.

All advertisements must be in final form by the 20th of the month preceding publication.

To place an advertisement, please contact Nicholas White, at advertising@nycago.org or at 212 222 2700.

Advertisement sizes are based on a square with dimensions of 2-1/4" by 2-1/4" (5.0625 square inches). Advertisement sizes larger than a single square will incorporate the 2-1/4" by 1/4" 'white space' that would ordinarily separate those squares.

Full page

(7-1/4" by 9-3/4") is \$250.00

2/3 page

(4-3/4" by 9-3/4") is \$175.00

1/3 page

(4-3/4" by 4-3/4" -or- 2-1/4" by 9-3/4") is \$100.00

1/6 page

(4-3/4" by 2-1/4" -or- 2-1/4" by 4-3/4") is \$60.00

Personal Listing

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Publisher and Editor reserve sole discretion to accept copy or to reject any and all advertising information and/or copy and/or photographs which they determine to not advance the mission and message of the New York City Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

Next issue is combined for December 2003/January 2004.

POE Testimonials

At the invitation of the editor, I have gathered together a few thoughts and testimonials from our amazing Pipe Organ Encounter this past summer. This month's article concentrates on the words of volunteers, faculty, and fellow AGO members.

I wish to thank again Stephen Hamilton and the entire board of the NYC AGO. Special thanks to Gerre Hancock and St. Thomas Church, who provided us with a lovely and accommodating home at the Choir School. Lastly, I am deeply grateful to our many teachers, volunteers, donors, parents and students who lovingly gave of their passion, commitment, and support for the instrument which has meant so much to us all. When I look back at the event just three months ago and review the words of those touched by this program, I am truly humbled and thankful that it was the success we hoped it to be. We did a wonderful thing together, and these words of congratulations are to be shared by all.

Thank you,
Gregory D'Agostino
POE Director



This is just a quick note to thank you for all the passion, energy, and love you poured into this past week and its preparations. It was a huge inspiration to me. Even back in the midst of ordinary life back home, the energy and excitement of last week is still strong. You did a fantastic job! It was a great privilege to spend this past week with you, and I thank you very deeply for the privilege of being able to do so. I volunteered to be a live-in chaperone as a way of making a small gesture in support of the development of future church musicians. What I did not anticipate was how thoroughly I would relish the chance to watch many of the faculty at work, usually tenderly and sometimes forcefully,



imparting musical wisdom and spiritual grace. Thanks for all you gave of yourselves to make this week such a blessing for the students—and for me.

Bob Moore, chaperone

The POE was a wonderful experience for my student, and she reviewed each day with



great enthusiasm and interest. I am so grateful to you and to all who planned and provided such a terrific program for our students. Olivia is planning already to attend next year's POE! That says it all, I suppose. Many thanks and congratulations.

Kathleen Adams, organist

I just wanted to thank you for all you did to organize the POE. I know all the kids really enjoyed themselves and I certainly had a good time also.

Dale Bonenberger, chaperone

Congratulations on your leadership and organization in the NY City POE last week! One of my students attended. Over lunch yesterday, Mike described many of the events. The mission is obviously to light a fire under these kids. I would say, at least with one young man from New Hampshire, mission accomplished! Thank you so much for your involvement in the POE!

Bruce Adami, former Dean
New Hampshire Chapter

It was a pleasure and a willing commitment to the future of church music and the organ. Thanks for letting me be part of this special program.

Joel Kuznik, chaperone



Congratulations and thanks for planning a successful POE. I had two students attending and they had a blast and



gained invaluable experience. I was able to attend the recital at Riverside and couldn't believe the talent of the group of kids that came from all over the country.

Jason Asbury



On July 12, the student recital closed the Pipe Organ Encounter hosted by the New York City chapter. Two of the students were from my church (Christ the King in Yonkers), and I'm pleased to say that the parish paid their registration fees. It was their introduction to the organ, and they had a wonderful time. I think we've started them down the right path. It was great to see such a large number of teenagers taking an interest in the organ,



and to hear their musicianship. Kudos to Gregory D'Agostino and his team from the...chapter for making this possible.

Kevin Walsh



Many thanks for all that you did to make my little contribution to POE a wonderful experience (at least, for me, and I hope the students.) You did a great job in organizing everything so beautifully. Please express my thanks to those great kids for their close attention, enthusiasm and great spirit during the Monday afternoon sessions. Again, many thanks for asking me to do this.

Jim Litton, faculty



Congratulations on putting together a fantastic experience for these young students!

Donald Sutherland



Congratulations on the extraordinary work you have done for the NYC POE and for the organ! I do admire you for having undertaken this huge job. You stayed on top of every-

thing for all the right reasons. I know you're thinking of the organ and its future. That's much more than worthy!

Jon Gillock



Thank you for all you did to ensure the success of the recent NYC POE. Forty-four students is an impressive enrollment, and I congratulate you on the enormous amount of time put into coordinating such an event! On behalf of Region II..., thank you for promoting the art of organ playing!

Allison Evans Henry,
Councillor for Region II



We are so glad that we were able to be of help to our beloved Guild in this vitally important area of our work together. ...I am thrilled to hear the good news from those precious few days together. Judith joins me in sending to you our admiring and affectionate best wishes. Ever,

Gerre Hancock



See www.nycago.org for more of these great pictures by Steve Lawson and George Davey



Print this page, enter the required information, and mail it off with your payment to reserve your advertising space in the 2004 NYC Chapter Directory. Do it today!

**NEW YORK CITY CHAPTER, AGO
2003/04 Directory Advertisement Order Form**

Terence J. Flanagan
330 South Broadway / F7
Tarrytown, NY 10591

Please place my advertisement in the 2003/04 Directory of the New York City Chapter of the AGO as follows:

QUANTITY	AD TYPE	DIMENSIONS	COST
	Full page	7.5" wide by 10.0" high	\$250
	Inside covers	7.5" wide by 10.0" high	\$300
	Back cover	7.5" wide by 10.0" high	\$350
	Center Spread	2 pages: 7.5" wide by 10.0" high	\$500
	1/2 page	7.5" wide by 4.75" high -or- 3.5" wide by 10.0" high	\$150
	1/4 page	7.5" wide by 2.25" high -or- 2.5" wide by 4.75" high	\$100
	1/8 page	7.5" wide by 1.25" high	\$75
	*Personal Listing	3.5" wide by 1.75" high	\$50
<small>*Personal Listings may include up to nine (9) lines of information, with font selection made by our graphic artists unless specified and supplied by the advertiser. A personal listing may include professional information but may not advertise a product, service or event.</small>			

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A check in the amount of _____, payable to the New York City Chapter, AGO, is enclosed with this order form. I am submitting copy as follows:

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