

The Victorian Lyric Opera Company
presents

Ruddigore

- or -

The Witch's Curse



Book and Lyrics by
W.S. Gilbert

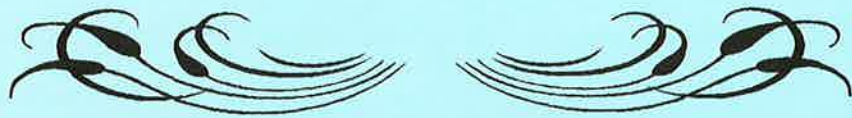
Music by
Arthur Sullivan

F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre
603 Edmonston Drive
Rockville, Maryland

June 9, 10, 16, & 17, 2000 at 8 PM
June 11 & 18, 2000 at 2 PM

Be A Member

The VICTORIAN LYRIC OPERA COMPANY, based in Rockville, is devoted to authentic productions of the comic operas of Gilbert & Sullivan and other operettas of that era and encourages the promotion of these evergreen works of the Musical Theater. The company is a community-based group and derives its operating finances from ticket sales, member dues, and individual donations. VLOC is always pleased to welcome new members to the organization. If you would like to become a member of VLOC as a performer, technical staff, or support member, or if you would just like to be kept informed of our activities, please sign our mailing list during Intermission or after the show, or call us at 301-879-0220.



Coming up next!

VLOC is pleased to present

Gilbert & Sullivan's

The Mikado

Performances February 9 – 24, 2001

* * *

Gilbert & Sullivan's

Patience

Performances June 15 – 24, 2001

For audition information or to reserve tickets,
please call 301-879-0220

Ruddigore

- or -

The Witch's Curse

Director

Catherine Huntress-Reeve

Music Director & Conductor

Jocelyn Jackson

Artistic Director

Rosalie Santilhana

Sir Ruthven Murgatroyd (*Disguised as Robin Oakapple, a Young Farmer*) ..
Joshua Paul Redmond
Richard Dauntless (*His Foster-Brother, a Man-o'-War's Man*)..... Don Corin
Sir Despard Murgatroyd (*a Wicked Baronet*) Gordon Brigham
Old Adam Goodheart (*Robin's Faithful Servant*)..... Jay Tilley
Roderic Murgatroyd (*the 21st Baronet*)..... Matthew Lepold
Rose Maybud (*a Village Maiden*)..... Ellen Kliman
Dame Hannah (*Rose's Aunt*)..... Linda Nadeau
Mad Margaret (*Disappointed in Love*)..... Shirley Santilhana Friedman
Zorah (*a Professional Bridesmaid*)..... Marilyn Macy
Ruth (*a Professional Bridesmaid*) Jill Vohr

Chorus of Professional Bridesmaids, Villagers, Gentlemen, and Ancestors

Edward Byrdy, Chris Colburn, Les Elkins, Gaye Freese, Lisa Freese
Virginia Garber, Jennifer Gavin, Barry Hilton, Alexandra Huntress-Reeve
Deborah Jacobson, Ralph Johnson, Charlie Johnston
Emily McCullough, Debbie Peetz, Shawn Perry, Christine Smit
Joe Sorge, Julie Stevens, Rusty Suter, Matthew A. Weitz, Kent Woods

Setting:

Act I: The fishing village of Rederring, in Cornwall
Act II: The picture gallery in Ruddigore Castle



Musical Numbers

Overture

Act 1

1. Fair is Rose (Opening Chorus & Solo) *Women & Zorah*
2. Sir Rupert Murgatroyd (Song) *Hannah & Chorus*
3. If somebody there chanced to be (Song) *Rose*
4. I know a youth (Duet) *Robin & Rose*
5. From the briny sea (Chorus) *Women*
6. I shipped, d'ye see (Song) *Richard*
- 6a. Hornpipe (Dance) *Richard & Women*
7. My boy, you make take it from me (Song) *Robin with Richard*
8. The battle's roar is over (Duet) *Richard & Rose*
9. If well his suit has sped (Chorus) *Women*
10. In sailing o'er life's ocean wide (Trio) *Rose, Richard, & Robin*
11. Cheerily carols the lark (Recitative & Aria) *Margaret*
12. Welcome, gentry (Chorus) *Women & Men*
13. Oh, why am I moody and sad? (Song) *Sir Despard & Chorus*
14. You understand? (Duet) *Richard & Sir Despard*
15. Hail the bride (Finale of Act I) *Ensemble*

Act 2

16. I once was as meek (Duet) *Robin & Adam*
17. Happily coupled are we (Duet & Chorus) *Richard, Rose, & Women*
18. In bygone days (Ballad) *Rose, Women, Robin, & Richard*
19. Painted emblems of a race (Chorus & Soli) *Ancestors, Robin & Sir Roderic*
20. When the night wind howls (Song) *Sir Roderic & Ancestors*
21. He yields! (Chorus) *Ancestors*
22. I once was a very abandoned person (Duet) *Despard & Margaret*
23. My eyes are fully open (Trio) *Robin, Despard, & Margaret*
24. Melodrama
25. There grew a little flower (Ballad) *Hannah & Roderic*
26. When a man has been a naughty baronet (Finale) *Ensemble*

VLOC Recycles

If you don't wish to keep your program, please leave it on the table in the lobby.
Thank you!

Production Staff

Producers Bill Rippey & Mollie Toms

Director Catherine Huntress-Reeve
Music Director & Conductor Jocelyn Jackson
Artistic Director Rosalie Santilhano
Stage Manager Pamela Hodges
Assistant Director Ira Haber
Lighting Design Ayun Fedorcha
Set Concept Catherine Huntress-Reeve
Scenic Artistic Designer Jessica Sherlock
Master Carpenter Matthew A. Weitz
Scenic Artist Elizabeth Brooks
Costumers Gaye Freese, Lisa Freese, Jennifer Gavin, Leta Hall
Deborah Jacobson, Maureen Roult, Rusty Suter, Denise Young
Light Board Operator Kerry Freese
Rehearsal Standby for Old Adam, Roderic, & Despard A.G. Murphy
Technical Director (Rockville Civic Center) Kim Haug
Technical Crew Tony Dwyer, William Kolodrubetz
Sean Perry, Bill Rippey
Rehearsal Pianists Jenny Bland, Deborah Jacobson, Gay Hill
Dave Larko, Gwen Stamper
Make-Up Renee Silverstone
Tickets and Box Office Merle Haber
Program Leta Hall
Publicity Bill Rippey
Set Construction/Painting Lynn Anslow, Ed Byrdy, Tony Dwyer
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The Story of the Opera

The village of Rederring in Cornwall possesses a corps of professional bridesmaids, but their services are not in demand due to Rose Maybud's reluctance to marry. Her aunt, Dame Hannah, is asked to get married simply to employ the bridesmaids. She refuses and relates how a witch roasted on the village green had cursed the baronets of Ruddigore - one of whom had been Hannah's suitor - so that each baronet must commit a daily crime or perish. Robin Oakapple, a young farmer in the village, loves Rose Maybud but, despite her own feelings, she refuses to declare her love due to her excessively correct behavior. Unknown to the villagers, Robin is really Sir Ruthven Murgatroyd, the true Baronet of Ruddigore. He refuses to take his title because of the curse attached to it. The only person who knows of this, apart from Robin's servant, Old Adam, is his half-brother, Richard Dauntless, a sailor who has just returned from sea. After recounting his adventures, Richard agrees to approach Rose on Robin's behalf. However, he falls in love with Rose himself and when Robin and the bridesmaids arrive, they find the two together. But when Rose learns more of Robin's and Richard's prospects, she rejects Richard and accepts Robin. Mad Margaret is also a resident of Rederring. Her madness is caused by her love for Robin's younger brother - Sir Despard Murgatroyd - who has become Baronet of Ruddigore, believing his older brother to be dead. Sir Despard rides into the village where he is approached by Richard, who informs him of Robin's true identity. The wedding of Rose and Robin is about to begin when Sir Despard interrupts and claims Robin as his elder brother and therefore the true heir to Ruddigore and its curse. Robin, now exposed, rushes off, leaving Richard to court Rose and Sir Despard to be reunited with Margaret.

Robin and Old Adam have taken up residence at Ruddigore Castle, but neither relishes the prospect. In despair at his plight, Robin appeals to his ancestors, whose ghostly forms step from the picture frames in the gallery. Sir Roderic, one of these, demands an account of Robin's daily crimes but is not impressed by the trivial list. The ancestors insist that he should kidnap a woman or perish, and Robin has no choice but to comply. He sends Adam to carry out the deed and then receives visitors, Despard and Margaret, who have begun a reformed life together. They advise Robin to desist from his life of crime and he decides to defy his ancestors and suffer the consequences. However, he has forgotten about Adam's mission and is mortified to find that Adam has carried off Dame Hannah. She proves to be a handful for the two of them and Robin calls to Sir Roderic for aid, only to be further chastised when his ancestor recognizes Dame Hannah as his former lover! The situation is rectified when Robin realizes that a Baronet of Ruddigore can only die by refusing to commit a daily crime and such a refusal is the same as suicide which is itself a crime - so the baronets had no need to die at all! Thus, the curse is lifted. Rose returns to Robin, Roderic claims Dame Hannah, Richard approaches Zorah, the chief bridesmaid, and so three weddings are planned - to the delight of the many bridesmaids!

Under the Lights

Gordon Brigham (Despard) has appeared with VLOC regularly since 1988. He was initiated into G&S years before at the Tough-Luck Trailer Park Dinner Theatre in Crownsville, Maryland. He starred in an all-heavyweight production of *Pinafore* as Butter-Damn-Cup. Every night he crashed the Bell Trio, and the production dissembled into a barroom brawl. As word got out, the show made money. In his real life, Gordon has authored three books: *Women Who Love Men Who Only Kinda Love Them*, *Fixing Toast For Your Inner Child*, and *Staring Into the Chasm With a Good Cup of Tea*. He lives with two angels and is most grateful.

Edward Byrde (Ancestor), with *Ruddigore*, brings to 9 the number of different G&S operas he has been in over the past 20 years with the Savoyards and VLOC. He has also helped build castles, towers, cottages, ruins, and even a cave in Cornwall for various shows.

Christine Colburn (Bridesmaid) is a part-time sales rep for a non-profit organization in Rockville. She has two teenage sons, enjoys playing tennis and flying small airplanes as hobbies. This is her 2nd VLOC production.

Don Corin (Richard Dauntless) is making his debut with VLOC. His extensive performing experience includes musicals, opera and oratorio. He has appeared on Broadway and with several national-touring companies, as well as in principal roles with the Cincinnati Baby Grand Opera, Aspen Opera Theater, Washington Summer Opera, and the Youngstown Symphony. Thanks to TD and Biddey for encouraging him to "follow his heart's dictates."

Les Elkins (Ancestor) is pleased to return for his 10th time on stage with VLOC. Or maybe it 9 1/3, depending on how you count.

Gaye Freese (Bridesmaid/Costumer) is not actually in this show. After making a deal with the devil, she sewed an exact duplicate of herself, which she animated, and has been sending to rehearsals in her place. Right now, Gaye is actually sitting at home wearing fuzzy slippers, watching reruns of *Friends*, and eating bonbons.

Lisa Freese (Bridesmaid/Costumer) has performed in countless VLOC productions, three of them involving the Can-Can. She has served as president and vice president of this company. When not on stage, Lisa spreads out Spagetti-O's in the sun to dry. Then she strings them, along with dried apple rings, into necklaces that she sells outside Crate and Barrel.

Shirley Santilhana Friedman (Mad Margaret) has been with VLOC since the age of 14 (it *has* been a few years now) performing most of the mezzo and contralto roles (many of them more than once, obviously) and has sung with the Washington Savoyards. Shirley is a single mother of two beautiful children, Lauren and Eric. She is a church and wedding vocalist, and also likes to play softball along with coaching her kids.

Shirley would like to thank her neighbors for watching her kids during rehearsals.

Virginia Garber (Villager/Ancestor) finds her roles in Ruddigore as mother of two bridesmaids and ancestor of Sir Ruthven Murgatroyd an interesting contrast to her life as a "maiden aunt" with lots of cats.

Jennifer Gavin (Villager/Ancestor/Costumer) last appeared with VLOC in *Pinafore*. Earlier singing forays have included writing and performing in a Denver political revue, *Politics Unusual*, in the all-Denver Post rock and soul band "The Corrections," and with the Georgetown Community Chorale.

Barry Hilton (Ancestor) leavens an otherwise Dilbertian existence by participating in community choral and theatrical activities. Recent appearances with local groups have included *Grand Duke*, *Pinafore* (twice), *Iolanthe*, *Princess Ida* and *Pirates* (twice).

Alexandra Huntress-Reeve (Flowergirl) made her operatic debut at eight months, in a carry-on role. She has since appeared as Sir Joseph's youngest relation in VLOC's 1999 *Pinafore* and as a baby fairy in the Washington Savoyards 1999 *Iolanthe*.

Deborah Jacobson (Bridesmaid) is thrilled to be in her 1st VLOC production! She has a B.Mus. from the College of Wooster and is a life-long G&S fan. Many thanks go out to VLOC's aggressive recruiting system, better known as Julie Stevens.

Charlie Johnston (Vicar/Ancestor) started his musical career at an early age as a boy soprano and has continued to a late age, including school plays, operettas, glee clubs, choirs, and quartets.

Ralph Johnson (Ancestor) has performed G&S since 1969, when he met his wife-to-be among the bridesmaids in a Durham, NC, production of *Ruddigore*. Ralph sings in a barbershop quartet, *Rendezvous*, and in the Bull Run Troubadours male chorus. He thanks Ellen and Sandra for their patient support.

Ellen Kliman (Rose Maybud), a graduate of the Maryland Opera Studio, University of Maryland and Oberlin Conservatory of Music, has performed throughout the Washington, D.C. area with organizations such as Signature Theatre, the Washington Savoyards, the In Series, and The Other Opera Company. She has been seen with the Victorian Lyric Opera Company as Constance in *The Sorcerer*, Gianetta in *The Gondoliers* and as Edith in *Pirates*. She lives in Takoma Park with her husband, writer Todd Kliman.

Matthew Lepold (Roderic) performs regularly with local orchestras (G.M.U., McLean, N.I.H.) and opera companies (Washington Opera, Opera Americana, Wolf Trap). His principal roles encompass everything from Broadway, G&S, Mozart, and Handel's *Messiah* to Verdi's *Aida* and Wagner's *Fliegende Holländer*. This is his debut with VLOC.

Marilyn Macy (Zorah) made her stage debut at 8 as a tap-dancing card in *Alice in Wonderland*. Her favorite roles include Eliza (*My Fair Lady*), Guenevere (*Camelot*), Mabel (*Pirates*), Patience (*Patience*), Aldonza (*Man of La Mancha*), and Violetta (*La Traviata*). She has performed with Opera International, Opera Americana, Potomac Valley Opera, Prince George's Opera, VLOC, Feste Productions, the Laguna Moulton Playhouse, and several dinner theatres: West End, Key Note, and Burn Brae. Marilyn won't be a bridesmaid for long, she and Matthew Lepold (Sir Roderic) are planning to wed later this year.

Emily McCullough (Bridesmaid) will be a junior next year at Sherwood and *Ruddigore* is her 2nd VLOC show. She has been in All State Chorus since 8th grade and recently in Sherwood's Rock and Roll Revival and *Oliver*. Emily loves VLOC shows and plans to be in the show next year.

Linda Nadeau (Dame Hannah) began her performing career at the age of 4 with an unsolicited tap solo during a group dance recital. Last seen here as Little Buttercup and Lady Blanche, she's performed opera and G&S roles throughout New England and Michigan. Linda loves the peculiar, so finds herself at home in a world that includes love affairs with ghosts, babies switched "at birth" (never mind the 15-year age difference), and 45-year-olds pretending to be 20.

Debbie Peetz (Bridesmaid) is happy to give up amateur status to become a "professional" bridesmaid in *Ruddigore*. Other recent musical endeavors include *Die Fledermaus* with VLOC, an All Handel concert with The Metropolitan Chorus and the Missa Criolla with the Northern Virginia Community College Chorus.

Shawn Perry (Ancestor) is delighted to appear in his 2nd VLOC show. Earlier this year, he portrayed Ivan in VLOC's *Die Fledermaus*. Recently he appeared as Bailey Barre in the Washington Savoyards' *Utopia, Ltd.*, and as a peer in *Iolanthe*.

Joshua Paul Redford (Robin) recently appeared in the Washington Savoyards *Mikado* and as Florian in VLOC's *Princess Ida*. In Connecticut he's played several leading roles including Robin Oakapple and the ever-effeminate Reginald Bunthorne in *Patience*. Joshua also enjoys doing dramas and has played the very challenging roles of the morphine-addicted Johnny Pope Jr. in *Hatful of Rain*, and the Bohemian, 80-year-old, Captain Shotover in *Heartbreak House*. Other accomplishments include his recent wedding to his lovely wife, Kristina.

Christine Smit (Bridesmaid) is in her 1st G&S production. She is proud to be a 3rd generation G&S performer and a 4th generation G&S nutcase.

Joe Sorge (Ancestor) was last seen on the VLOC stage as Dr. Blind in *Die Fledermaus*. Prior to that he appeared as Cyril in *Princess Ida*, Leonard Meryll in *Yeomen*, and in the chorus of *Orpheus*, *Pirates*, and *The Merry Widow*.

Julie Stevens (Villager/Ancestor) is in her 4th show and still can't believe it! What a wonderful way to discover there is life after 40. Thanks, Leta.

Rusty Suter (Villager) has been a member of VLOC for ... well, let's just say *several* years now and yet this is her 1st *Ruddigore*. She has done almost all of the G&S operas and she played Hebe in VLOC's 1994 production of *Pinafore*.

Jay Tilley (Old Adam) is making his debut with VLOC in his first-ever G&S production. He recently appeared as Harry the Horse in *Guys & Dolls* with American Music Stage. Other recent area stage credits include Juror No. 12 in *Twelve Angry Men* with the Reston Community Players; Bernstein, Skip Snip, and Patrick Martin in *Little Shop of Horrors* with AMS; and Mike in *Oklahoma!* with C.A.S.T. He studies voice with Peggy Molinaro and is a former member of the Carolina Alive! show choir at the University of South Carolina.

Jill Vohr (Ruth) is thrilled to be back with VLOC. She has an MBA that she uses in her current job in environmental consulting, but discovered she still had the theatre bug big time. Other area credits include Sally Bowles in *Cabaret*, *Merrily We Roll Along*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Little Women*, *Princess Ida*, Tzeitel in *Fiddler on the Roof*, and Joanne in *Godspell*. Jill would like to thank VLOC for their commitment to putting on great shows.

Matthew A. Weitz (Ancestor) is thrilled to be working on his 1st VLOC production. At the University of Pennsylvania, he was a fixture in the performing arts community. Memorable productions include two shows with significant plant problems and a cursed Irish musical.

Kent Woods (Ancestor) has appeared in many civic theater productions of G&S over the last dozen years, chiefly with VLOC, including the Judge in *Trial*, and Samuel in *Pirates* as well as many chorus roles. Kent studies voice with bass soloist Kerry Wilkerson of the US Army Chorus.

G&S Trivia

Mr. Gilbert seemed to really like some names because he used them more than once. Do you remember in which shows these characters appeared? (Hint:: In two cases, it's the show you're watching right now!) The answer can be found later in the program.

Zorah
Ruth
Kate

Members of the Orchestra

Violin

Bonnie Barrows *
David Friedlander
Carolyn Larson
Martin Brown
Otto Willem

Viola

Amanda Laudwein
Francine McCutchan

Cello

Liz Ryan
Joanna Taylor

Bass

Harry Hurt

Flute

Judy Bajema
Jackie Miller

Oboe

Jane Hughes

Clarinet

Carl Gardner
Laura Langbein

Bassoon

Bill Jokela

French Horn

Nancy Bell-Utley
Lorin Krusberg

Trumpet

Tom Gleason
Bernard Rappaport

Trombone

Frank Rusco
Bill Fraize

Percussion

Jim Sylvester

* Concertmistress

Notice

SMOKING is not permitted in the theater.

AUDIENCE MEMBERS are not permitted in the backstage area.

EMERGENCY EXITS are located at the sides of the stage and in the lobby.

Thank you.



"Leaves in autumn fade and fall
Winter is the end of all
Spring and summer team glee:
Spring and summer, then, for me!"
Act I finale

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Behind the Scenes

Jenny Craley Bland (Rehearsal Accompanist) is still spending too much of her retirement playing the piano for VLOC rehearsals, assisting with chorus practices, and wondering if there can possibly be life beyond G&S.

Catherine Huntress-Reeve (Director) has previously directed VLOC's productions of *Princess Ida*, *Orpheus in the Underworld* and a double bill of *Trial & Sorcerer*, as well as *Iolanthe* and *Pirates* for the World Bank and IMF and music directed and conducted *Pinafore*. She has also directed the Washington Savoyards' *Iolanthe*, *Pinafore* and *Yeomen* and prepared the Washington Opera Children's Chorus for 7 years. She is a member of the voice faculty of the Washington Conservatory of Music.

Ayun Fedorcha (Lighting Designer) is delighted to be working with VLOC again after having a wonderful time on *The Merry Widow* and *Die Fledermaus*. Ayun freelances in the Metro DC area and was nominated for a Helen Hayes Award for her work on Abel Lopez's *La Chunga* at Gala Hispanic Theatre. She is a frequent designer at the Round House Theatre and her work there on *Turn of the Screw* and *The Lion in Winter*, as well as for the Washington Shakespeare Company for *Metamorphosis* received a Mary Goldwater Award from the Theatre Lobby last spring.

Kerry Freese (Light Board Operator) has worked the light board for many VLOC shows and can hum more G&S tunes than he had ever hoped to know.

Ira Haber (Assistant Director) is much relieved to be on the other side of the footlights for a change. He agreed to assist the director primarily because it kept him involved in the show without having any real responsibility. However, he expects to be back under the lights for *Mikado*.

Pamela Hodges (Stage Manager) is convinced that some are simply born to tech. She sat out the 1998-1999 season, and found a new appreciation for the quiet moments, unseen by the audience, that more than make up for the absence of the glories that go with acting or performing in the orchestra.

Jocelyn Jackson (Music Director/Conductor) is making her VLOC debut. She has been in the entertainment business for almost 30 years: singing since she was 2 and acting since she was 7. Jocelyn has music directed over 25 shows and has also written music for television: National Geographic and ESPN. In her spare time she also does television and film acting. Special thanks to all of the hard working musicians, cast and crew (Mom, too). Love to RL, my husband of 1 year.

Bill Rippey (Producer) is up to 6 shows produced or co-produced (how time flies) since October 1998. He thanks the computer industry for inventing word processor and spread sheet software, computer-generated faxes, but most of all, email! Over the past six years he has also appeared

in shows with Damascus Theatre Company, VLOC, Rockville Musical Theatre, and Hexagon.

Rosalie Santilhano (Artistic Director) is an accomplished G&S performer who has sung all of the contralto and most of the soprano roles in the canon. She received her vocal and acting training in her native Holland. She has performed in VLOC's past productions of *Pirates* (Ruth), *Mikado* (Katisha), *Iolanthe* (the Fairy Queen), *Pinafore* (Buttercup), *Yeomen* (Dame Carruthers), and *Gondoliers* (the Duchess). Rosalie has served as VLOC's Artistic Director since 1991.

Jessica Sherlock (Scenic Artistic Designer) is making her VLOC debut. She has been the costume designer and co-scene designer of *The Drunkard* and University of Maryland's Experimental Theater, an assistant scenic artist and carpentry assistant for *Private Eyes* at University of Maryland's Pugliese Theater, and an assistant scenic artist for *The Good Person of Setzuan* and *The Fable of Macbeth* at University of Maryland's Tawes Theatre.

Mollie Toms (Producer), when not working behind the scenes in a VLOC show, provides day-care for three small yet active children. She wishes that they took direction as well as the cast and crew here.

* * * * *

THE G&S ARCHIVE

Did that song go by too fast? Do you have questions about G&S that you just can't get answered anywhere else? Then point your browser to the *Gilbert and Sullivan Archive* at <http://diamond.boisestate.edu/gas>. A wonderful resource for every G&S fan, it contains plot summaries, full librettos – so that you can check those words that just fly by in the patter songs – pictures of the original Savoyards, downloadable music files, and much, much more.

G&S Trivia Answer

Zorah is the chief bridesmaid in *Ruddigore* and the first name of Mrs. Partlett in *Sorcerer*. Ruth is both a professional bridesmaid in *Ruddigore* and that famous piratical maid-of-all-work in *Pirates*. And Kate, when not climbing over rocky mountains in *Pirates*, is Dame Carruthers's niece in *Yeomen*.

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Glossary

Ween [what took place, I ween]: Think, fancy, imagine, or believe – one by one, or all at once.

O'erplied [until, with guilt o'erplied]: Short for *overplied*. One meaning of *ply* is to take some form of persistent action. Sir Rupert, in short, was overcome by his guilty conscience arising from his many crimes.

Peppermint Rock (Lo, here is some peppermint rock): Peppermint flavored hard candy. It usually comes in cylindrical form, perhaps an inch in diameter and a foot long. You find them for sale as souvenirs at seaside resorts.

Fain [I would fain consult you]: Like to.

Tom-Tit [his ship the Tom-Tit]: A small bird of the tit family, possible a blue tit (something like a chickadee). As in *Pinafore*, Gilbert is deriving fun from the British Navy's inclination toward giving their fighting ships awe-inspiring names. Nelson's fleet at the battle of the Nile, for example, included ships named *Goliath*, *Audacious*, and *Majestic*. More fun is derived from the reminder of Ko-Ko's pathetic little bird.

Revenue Sloop [I shipped, d'ye see in a Revenue Sloop]: A patrol boat that cruises along the coast to discourage smugglers who are intent upon evading customs and excise duties (taxes).

Thirty-two [And fires with a thirty-two]: A cannon that fires a 32-pound cannon ball.

Amaryllis [Come Amaryllis, come, Chloe and Phyllis]: Amaryllis is a classical name for a rustic sweetheart or pretty country girl.

Bart [When I'm a bad bart]: Baronet. One of the standard abbreviations for baronet that would be appended to the full name, thus: "Sir Ruthven Murgatroyd, Bart." An alternative abbreviation is "Bt." Next time you write to a baronet be sure to keep this in mind. "Dear Bart" won't do.

Elision [With greater precision – without the elision]: An elision is the omission of a vowel, consonant, or syllable – or even an entire word or words. It can be argued that the lines "With greater precision (without the elision)" apply both to reinserting *Ruthven* between *Sir* and *Murgatroyd* and to pronouncing *Ruthven* as spelled, rather than as "Rivven." The latter pronunciation, incidentally, is considered correct in Scotland.

Valley-de-sham: *Valet-de-chambre*, i.e., personal servant. Only in comic operas do we find a pure and blameless peasant who can afford one of these.

[From *The Gilbert and Sullivan Lexicon, In Which is Gilded the Philosophic Pill* by Harry Benford, published by Sarah Jennings Press, Ann Arbor, Michigan, 1991.]

VLOC To Go

Members of VLOC recently formed a small group that we are calling "VLOC To Go". This group has to date performed four hour-long concerts of Gilbert and Sullivan selections in various parks in Fairfax County, VA in June and August of 1999. These concerts, part of Fairfax County's Arts in the Parks series, are primarily children's concerts. We view them as an opportunity to spread the works of G&S, as well as provide the members of VLOC with opportunities to perform outside the realm of our standard shows. We also performed a concert at a senior's center in Bethesda in September.

The VLOC To Go has been invited back to perform for the Fairfax County Arts in the Parks program again in 2000. Shows are Saturday mornings at 10:00 AM. Dates and locations are as follows:

June 17, Burke Lake Park

June 24, E. C. Lawrence Park

August 12, Mason District Park

August 19, Lake Fairfax Park

For further information about VLOC To Go, please call 301-879-0220



*"Let us consult one another."
Robin Oakapple, Act I*

A message from The Washington Sazoyards, Ltd.:

Greetings and best wishes to our VLOC friends!

*Our season for 2000-2001 will be
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