Letter to the Editors

In the recently published Plainsong and Mediaeval Music Society Centennial Essays, Music in the Medieval English Liturgy, edited by Susan Rankin and David Hiley (Oxford, 1993), David Hiley sketches the history of the Society from its founding in 1888 up to 1988. I wish to call your readers’ attention to a serious omission in Hiley’s account. For Hiley fails to mention his own work as founding editor of the Journal of the Plainsong & Mediaeval Music Society from its inception in 1978 to the appearance of volume 13 in 1990, during which period he himself typed, laid out, and otherwise prepared camera-ready copies of the Journal for publication. It is certain that without his initiative and without his sustained effort the JPMMS would never have come into existence; nor, probably, would the present journal have supplanted it, for there would have been nothing to supplant. The Members of the Society and especially those of us who contributed to the JPMMS (as well as all its readers) owe Hiley a debt of gratitude for his generous and selfless work on our behalf and for thus in fact reanimating the Plainsong & Mediaeval Music Society. David being altogether too modest to claim the credit due him, it falls to one of us to thank him instead.

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