

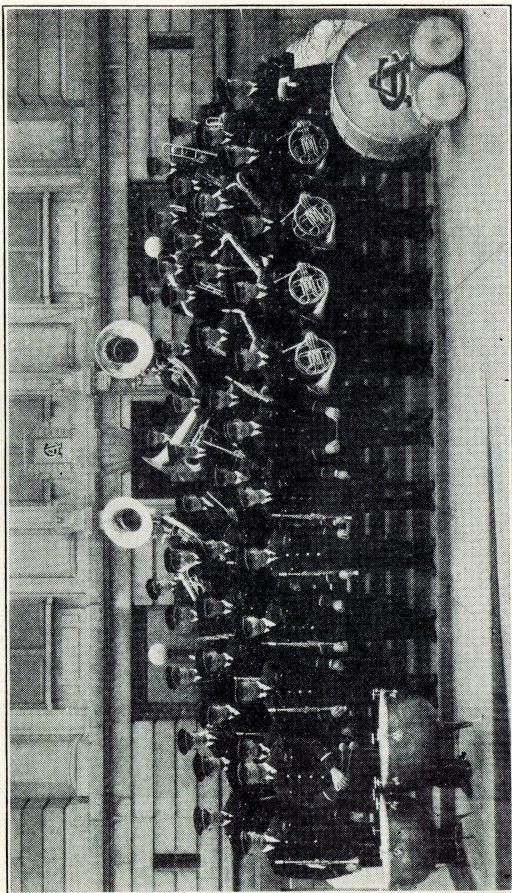
The
**Augustana Band
and Its Tour
of 1928**



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GEORGE F. HALL



THE AUGUSTANA BAND THAT TOURED EUROPE.

The Augustana Band

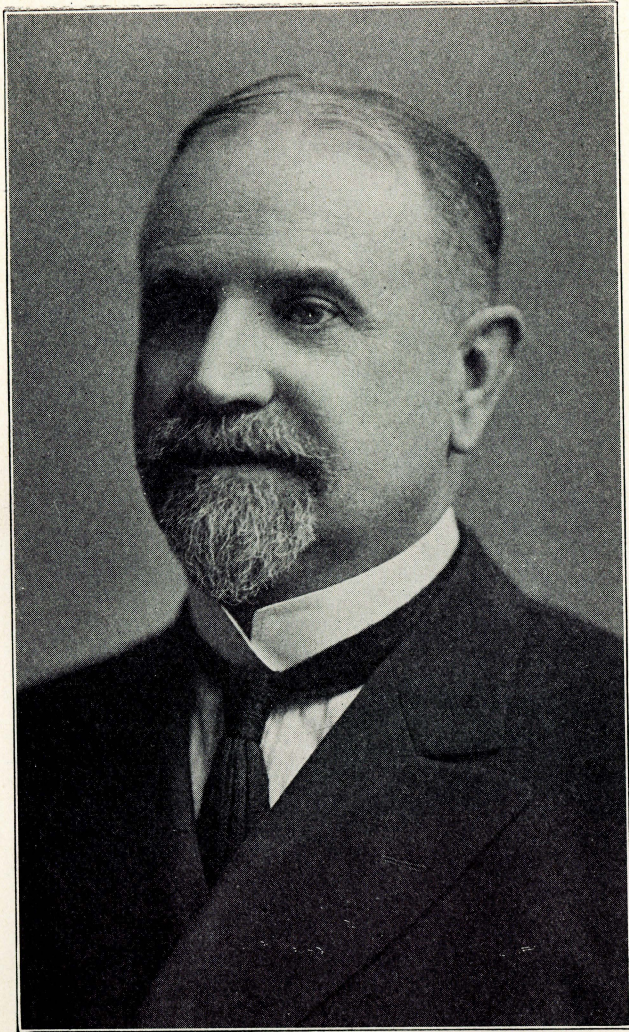
and its

Tour of 1928

*The Story of Augustana's
Greatest Brotherhood*

By
GEORGE F. HALL
Official Historian, 1928

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President of Augustana College and Theological Seminary.

DEDICATION

This account of the European Tour made by the Augustana Concert Band during the summer of nineteen hundred twenty-eight is respectfully dedicated to the numerous individuals who by their generosity and willingness to coöperate made this dream become a reality. Chief of these is our beloved College President, Dr. Gustav A. Andreen, "The Band's Best Friend"

IN EXPLANATION

*Each page a story
Between the lines
Of battles won
Behind the lines.*

*Of pleasures sweet
Within the lines
And love discreet
Not in the lines.*

*Of lack of thought
Before the lines
That makes the scribbling
On the lines.*

*So censor true
These few bold lines,
The cold, hard facts—
They are the lines.*

FOREWORD

The writer has called the Augustana Concert Band "Augustana's Greatest Brotherhood." It seems absurd that a musical organization should assume the aspects of a brotherhood, but it is nevertheless true that the "Augie" band did that very thing. The members were selected entirely upon the basis of musical ability; no special type was sought for and no special type predominated. Why, then, did the band become a genuine brotherhood?

It has been said that a man's character and personality are to a great extent determined by the experiences that have molded his life. Here is the answer to our question. Common experiences, mutual hopes and ambitions, and intense interest in a common cause are the only possible means of binding so closely together individuals who were assembled in the manner that the band was.

True it is that good fellowship would have prevailed in this organization no matter what the circumstances, but that peculiar brotherly spirit would never have gained sway had not bitter discouragements come and common interest demanded that all work as one.

It was discouraging when, in the spring of 1927, after a year of intense work and preparation, it was decided to postpone the tour for another year. Many then asserted that the morale of the band was broken—that the proposed trip would remain an unrealized dream. The scarlet fever epidemic of that year had removed one of our leaders. Even so we persisted, but on the eve of departure we met difficulties we could not surmount.

Then, next year, we went. The trip was not a success financially, and was possibly a disappointment in some other ways. But no band member will ever be sorry that he took the trip. There were experiences that far overshadowed the difficulties and the discouragements, and not the least of these

was that definite and all-pervading fellowship that will make the tour one of the happiest and most cherished memories of the band men.

So we want to tell you about "Augustana's Greatest Brotherhood," and we hope that we can make you appreciate to some extent the significance of our venture and share with us the friendship, influence, and experience it brought us.

The writer wishes to acknowledge the sources from which material has been used, and the assistance given him by individuals in compiling this booklet. The material for the text is direct from the diaries of the writer, Allen Elmquist, E. Einar Kron and contributions by the majority of band members. The photographs are representative of the snapshots taken by the group, other sources are mentioned with the photo. The appendix is in reality a synopsis of the Souvenir Program that was prepared by N. Edward Vickberg. Those who have read and criticized the manuscript with suggestions, all of which were accepted, are Dr. G. A. Andreen, F. M. Fryxell, Newell Dailey, Erland Borg, and Eldred Olson. The kind suggestions of the Augustana Book Concern, which has printed this booklet, as well as those of the Photo Art and Engraving Company, have also proven valuable and the writer expresses appreciation for the same.

Lastly, the writer wishes to express his appreciation for the advance subscriptions given by the members of the band and others, that made it possible to finance this publication.

The booklet itself should not be construed as a travelog. Should it awaken such an interest in the reader, exhaustive works on the same can be secured in any library. If you enjoy with us our everyday life, seeing historic spots with unsophisticated and naive interest, laughing over mistakes that would chagrin others, this book has fulfilled its mission, because only then can our adventure be appreciated.

GEORGE F. HALL.

Rock Island, Illinois, March 26, 1929.

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MARTIN M. JOHNSTON
Director

CHAPTER I

THE DREAM BECOMES A REALITY

Rock Island to Montreal.

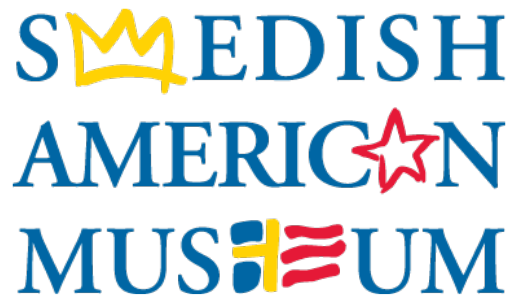
A short, gripping handshake—a good-bye kiss—a wave of the hat and we were off. Off—where to? Fame, perhaps; fortune—heh! heh! the best and happiest time of our life, and the most broadening experience of our existence. The motors of the big Blue and Gold busses roar and slowly we leave the campus.

Cameras are clicking everywhere. Nestander joins us now, carrying his movie camera that he had used but a few minutes before. As we slowly move down Seventh Avenue some are following, walking by our side telling us to be sure and greet their friend Anderson, Peterson, or Olson when we finally should come to the Old Country. Others are following us in cars.

The night before, a group of seven hundred had heard our farewell concert, which in reality was a synopsis of what we would present on our tour through the East and Europe. Dr. G. A. Andreen, our organization's best friend, speaking in behalf of the institution we would represent, wished us Godspeed and urged us to "Be like men, be strong." Rev. G. F. Andree, the excellent chaplain of our tour, was also with us from the start, uniformed like the rest of the band.

Many an eye was filled with tears and many a heart prayed for a loved one on that clear morning, the twelfth of May, when Rev. Herbert Swanson led us in a prayer for God's protection, and in the appropriate song "God Be with You Till We Meet Again."

What were our feelings, as individuals, as we sank deeper into the upholstered seats of the busses and began to realize that we were starting on the Great Adventure? As a group we hardly realized that it was true, that our dream was becoming a reality! Not an apprehensive thought clouded our



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