

Herbert Lincoln Clarke

(12 Sep 1867 – 30 Jan 1945)

The Evening Star, January 31, 1945, p. A12

Long Beach, Calif., Jan. 31 -- Herbert L. Clarke, 77, solo cornetist with John Philip Sousa for more than 25 years, died in a hospital last night.



Mr. Clarke, ranked by critics among the great instrumentalists of all time, was the composer of many frequently played cornet solos. Despite ill health, he was a familiar figure at school band competitions in recent years.

The Evening Star, June 4, 1948

Herbert Lincoln Clarke Monument Unveiled

A monument to the late Herbert Lincoln Clarke, band leader and composer, was unveiled yesterday in Congressional Cemetery. Erected by the Pennsylvania Bandmasters' Association and the Sousa Band Fraternal Society, the monument was designed by David P. King of York, Penn. Participating in the ceremonies was the Rev. Carter S. Gilliss, rector of Christ Church, Washington parish.

Sousa ?

P. 176 -- Herbert L. Clarke (1867-1945) had nearly every faculty a cornetist could hope for: a brilliant technique, a delicate lyric style, and extremes of range and dynamics. He joined Sousa in 1893, left after one season, and then returned to play almost continuously from 1899 until 1917. He was assistant conductor for several seasons. As the premier soloist with the Sousa Band for so many years, he became a legendary figure among cornet and trumpet players.

P. 190 -- Of those who became conductors, most chose band work rather than orchestral work. When the elite organization known as the American Bandmasters Association was founded in 1929, three Sousa alumni were among the nine charter members: Herbert L. Clarke, Frank Simon, and Arthur Pryor. A fourth, Victor J. Grabel, had played under Lt. Sousa at the Great Lakes Naval Training Station during World War I. As the ABA grew in stature to become the most prestigious band organization on this side of the Atlantic, four former Sousa men were subsequently elected to its presidency: Clarke, Simon, Howard Bronson, and Peter Buys.

...

When Herbert L. Clarke retired from the Sousa Band at the age of fifty in 1917, he no longer played cornet in public. He established himself as a conductor, first with the Anglo-Canadian Band of Huntsville, Ontario, and then, for twenty years, with the Long Beach (California) Municipal Band. The latter was a full-time professional band and was staffed by several former Sousa musicians. Several of his cornet solos became classics among brass players, and he also had several fine band transcriptions to his credit. Clarke's name will always be associated with Sousa's because the Clarke Library at the University of Illinois is adjacent to the Sousa Library and because his grave is but a few feet from Sousa's at Congressional Cemetery in Washington.

See Sousa, April 13, 1904