

The Salvation Army *Year Book* has been published annually since 1906 with the exceptions of 1909, 1911 and 1912. Each publication has contained a section on international statistics, and the total number of band players has always been declared. The methods used to count these players is far from clear, so even though they might provide an interesting profile of trends, they should be treated with some caution. It is safe to assume that the figures were compiled from the reports of corps and territories but the accuracy of such reports is impossible to test. Some sudden shifts are especially baffling. For example, the increase in young peoples band members from 12,807 in 1979 to 26,967 in 1980 does not have an obvious explanation; neither does the apparently huge increase in senior band players between 1991 and 1992.

Most sets of figures pertain to a census point, which occurred at some time in the year previous to the publication in question. The 1914 and 1915 *Year Books* declare a census point of June the previous year. Between 1916 and 1927 the census point was December two years previous (for example the 1928 *Year Book* uses figures gathered in December 1926). The census date is not declared between 1930 and 1950. From 1951 the *Year Book* once again declares figures as at the year ending two years previous. In 1981 a census date of January 1 the previous year was adopted. The 1995 and 1996 statistics are based on information collected a full two years previous to publication.

Key

I *Year*. The date given is the year of the publication and not year to which the figures applied. The first *Year Book* was published in 1906. There were no publications in 1909, 1910 and 1911.

II *Senior band players*. Until 1914 numbers are given only for 'Bandsmen'. From 1914 the compilers distinguished between 'Senior Bandsmen' and 'Junior' or 'Youth' band players.

III *Junior or Youth Band Members*. This category was introduced in 1914 as 'Junior Bandsmen' and from 1916 it was described as 'Members of young peoples bands'

IV *Territories in which the Salvation Army was operational*. In 1906 this category was described as 'Countries, Colonies and Dependencies'. Between 1907 and 1966 it was called 'Countries and colonies'. From 1967 to 1989 'Countries' and since 1990 'Countries and other territories' The sudden decrease in the number of territories declared in 1964 is accounted for by Federation and revisions (See 1964 *Year Book* p.45).

TABLE 4

Notes.

- 1 The figures given for 1912 were published in the 1930 *Year Book* (for the purpose of illustrating growth in the Army's membership in the previous twenty years) and are spurious.
- 2 In 1937 the figures given were those for the previous year. The explanation was that detailed information could be found in the statistics for individual countries.
- 3 Between 1941 and 1944, because of the war, numbers given for senior and youth band players were those which were published in the 1940 *Year Book* (gathered in December 1938). No figures were published in respect of the number of countries in which the Army was active between 1942 and 1949.
- 4 The 1988 *Year Book* announced a new system for calculating statistics which was based on 'definitive IHQ records'.(see 1940 *Year Book* p.86)

5 In 1996 two additional new categories were introduced: 'Other musical groups' and 'Other young peoples musical groups'. The numbers recorder for the former in 1996 was 17,686 and 19,028 the following year. For the latter category the numbers were 21,011 in 1996 and 39,164 in 1997.