

## OUR FAR-FLUNG CORRESPONDENTS

## THE BLACK FELT HAT

ONE day in 1900, the biographer Eugenio Checchi reports, Giuseppe Verdi was asked by a friend which of his works he liked best. Verdi was eighty-seven at the time, and had a formidable array of compositions to his credit—the operas “Oberto,” “Un Giorno di Regno,” “Nabucco,” “I Lombardi,” “Ernani,” “Giovanna d’Arco,” “I Due Foscari,” “Alzira,” “Attila,” “Macbeth,” “I Masnadieri,” “Jérusalem,” “Il Corsaro,” “La Battaglia di Legnano,” “Luisa Miller,” “Stiffelio,” “Rigoletto,” “Il Trovatore,” “La Traviata,” “Les Vêpres Siciliennes,” “Simon Boccanegra,” “Aroldo,” “Un Ballo in Maschera,” “La Forza del Destino,” “Don Carlos,” “Aïda,” “Otello,” and “Falstaff,” as well as a Great Mass, three Tantum Ergos, a Stabat Mater, the Requiem, the four Sacred Pieces, the String Quartet in E Minor, several cantatas and hymns, and innumerable arias, serenades, duets, and ballads. In answer to his friend, however, Verdi didn’t name any of these. “Of all my works, the one that is dearest to me is the Home I had built in Milan for old artists who were not favored by fortune and not endowed with the virtue

of thrift,” he said. “Poor, dear companions of my life! Believe me, friend, this Home is really my most beautiful opera.”

Verdi was referring to the Casa di Riposo per Musicisti, or House of Rest for Musicians, where more than five hundred men and women—all of them, in accordance with Verdi’s instructions, “Italian citizens who have reached the age of sixty-five, have practiced the art of music professionally, and find themselves in a state of poverty”—have spent the last years of their lives in peace and without having to worry about money, thanks to the benevolence of Giuseppe Verdi, who paid for the project and is buried on its grounds. When I visited Milan not long ago, I hoped to listen to some of Verdi’s magnificent music—the final passages of “La Traviata” or “Aïda,” say, or the fourth act of “Don Carlos”—in La Scala, which was Verdi’s favorite opera house and the scene of both his worst trials and his greatest triumphs, but, unfortunately, La Scala was closed, and by way of compensation I decided to pay a visit to what Verdi considered his “most beautiful opera.”

The Casa Verdi, as it is called by the

Milanese, is on the Piazza Michelangelo Buonarroti, in a quiet, out-of-the-way section of Milan, where the streets, in sharp contrast to the drab, hopelessly congested center of town, are wide, sunny, and lined with trees. The Piazza is a large and pleasant one, and it is dominated by the Casa—a fine three-story structure of red and gray stone, with a Romanesque-Lombard façade, such as one sees on many medieval *palazzi* and churches in northern Italy. As I approached the building, I noticed, to the left of the entrance, a marble plaque with an inscription, in Italian, that began:

ITALIANS LOOK  
THE WHOLE WORLD  
REVERENTLY LOOKS  
AT THESE HONORED REMAINS  
OF  
GIUSEPPE VERDI

As I was reading this, two old men in dark suits came out of the building. They had on black felt hats with wide brims and crushed-down crowns, and these struck me as somehow familiar, although I couldn’t recall where I had seen anything like them before. The two men started singing, as many Italians do when they step outdoors. They had booming basses, the voices of professional singers, and they strode past me with long, exaggerated steps, as if they were walking across a stage; they might have been the conspirators in “Un Ballo in Maschera.” But the song these superannuated basses were singing was nothing from Verdi; it was “La Vie en Rose.”

When I went inside, I found myself in a large entrance hall, and there I saw another marble plaque, on which was inscribed “FONDATARE GIUSEPPE VERDI” and, below this, a list of some fifty of the Casa’s other benefactors, starting with Arrigo Boito, who was Verdi’s most famous librettist, and including the Metropolitan Opera Company, Giulio Gatti-Casazza, Arturo Toscanini, Giacomo Lauri Volpi, Elisa Bruno, Beniamino Gigli, and Edward Johnson. At the rear of the hall there was an open door, and I went through it, coming out into a peaceful courtyard with a well-kept lawn, gravelled paths, and rosebushes. The court was completely enclosed, on three sides by the walls of the building and in



“Take your time about deciding. They’re on fifteen-day trial.”



the back by a small structure that looked like a chapel.

Two shrivelled old ladies in deep black, who carried themselves with the stateliness of prima donnas, were walking among the rosebushes, discussing the merits of a Western movie they had seen the night before. They thought very highly of it. I waited for a lull in the conversation, but there was none, so I broke in to ask if they could tell me where Verdi's grave was. The one who wasn't talking at the moment pointed grandly to a stairway off to one side. This, I soon discovered, led not to Verdi's grave but to a musty-smelling office, where a sad-looking elderly man was standing behind an old-fashioned high desk, making careful entries in a large ledger. He wore a high, starched collar and he had black cloth sleeves on over the sleeves of his jacket. Before I had a chance to speak, he looked up and announced that he was the Casa's secretary and bookkeeper, and was not authorized to talk to visitors. He asked me to wait for the manager, who would arrive in a *momentino*.

Knowing that in Italy a *momentino* may stretch into a whole morning, I asked if I might look for the manager in his office. The bookkeeper said no, the manager wasn't there *adesso* (now) but would be *subito* (right away). In the meantime, if I cared to visit the crypt... Without waiting for me to answer, he rang a bell. A white-haired man in a blue uniform, who turned out to be the caretaker, appeared promptly, and the bookkeeper told him to show me the crypt. The caretaker looked me over glumly, and then escorted me down the stairs and back across the courtyard, where the ladies in black were now talking to a bearded old fellow wearing a black felt hat like the ones I had seen earlier. The caretaker led me to the small building at the back, unlocked its door with a large key, and motioned to me to step in.

Entering, I found myself looking down over a balustrade at two marble slabs. On one was a simple plaque bearing the name "GIUSEPPE VERDI" in large gold letters. On the other, a similar plaque bore the name "GIUSEPPINA STREPPONI;" Signora Strepponi was the composer's second wife, and a celebrated soprano. Against a wall of the crypt was still another plaque, this one inscribed with the names of Verdi's first wife, Margherita Barezzi, and their two children, Icilio and Virginia. The three died, in quick succession, in 1838, 1839, and 1840, and this

**Cafe Glace**—Newest Tobler Bar offers the bracing flavor and aroma of crushed, fresh roasted coffee beans blended in a mocha cream center, with a coating of fine Swiss Milk Chocolate.



**you must taste...**

**all those unusual**

**Tobler**

**CHOCOLATE BARS**

**Coblerone—Triangular Bar**  
Honey and finely crushed almonds combine with Swiss Milk Chocolate to create an incomparable experience for your "sweet tooth."

**Berna**—Enjoy real full-flavored chocolate taste, pure and satisfying, in this Extra Bittersweet Chocolate Bar.

Also Swiss Milk, Semi-Sweet, Hazelnut, Orange, other TOBLER bars and gift assortments, at better confectionery counters. Chocolat Tobler Ltd., Berne



**WONDERLAND**

comes in the

**FREE Fabulous**

**F. A. O. Schwarz**

**Catalog**



**Dr. L. Joseph Stone**  
Head of the Department of Child Study at Vassar College.  
"Play is fun but it can be more. By choosing the right toys, skills are developed and imagination stimulated."

Here, in one beautiful book, are hundreds of quality toys from every corner of the world... carefully chosen by F. A. O. SCHWARZ to enchant and educate your children, and they are competitively priced. This wonderland of toys comes to you FREE, enabling you to shop the world's most famous toy store in the convenience and comfort of your own home.

**Fill out and mail this coupon today!**

F. A. O. SCHWARZ Dept. N.Y.  
745 Fifth Avenue, New York 22, N.Y.

Please send me the 1955 FREE CATALOG

My Name is \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ Zone \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_





If your man prefers a pocket secretary, give him a smart one. Above is Rumpp's newest version in golden russet *California Saddle Leather*. This is our saddle-slick, natural leather whose healed over barbed wire scratches and fly bites tell the steer's life story. The finest bill-folds, luggage, handbags, briefcases, belts and other leather goods are stamped: *California Saddle Leather*. At Lord & Taylor, Carson Pirie Scott & Co., Bullocks and other quality stores.

\*Trademark reg. A. K. Salz Co., Tanners, Santa Cruz, Calif.



from the bush...  
to the bean...  
to the bottle...  
there's no flavor  
like COFFEE!

...and there's no coffee liqueur like

**KAHLÚA**  
COFFEE LIQUEUR

an "acquired taste" at your first sip... straight or mixed. The finest of coffees... distilled to the finest of liqueurs... with exceptional versatility as a principal ingredient in both beverages and desserts.

write for free **KAHLÚA** recipe folder

VAN MUNCHING  
IMPORTS, INC.  
6 West 48th Street  
New York 36, N.Y.

KAHLUA, LTD.  
257 N. Robertson Bl.  
Beverly Hills,  
California

was the great tragedy of Verdi's life.

The crypt was cold and dimly lit—a cheerless marble tomb—and it seemed hardly appropriate for Verdi, a man of great simplicity and warmth who disliked any sort of pomp. I would have preferred to find his grave out-of-doors, under the deep-blue sky of Italy, in a grove of pines, and among flowers. I turned and left. As the caretaker locked the door, I asked him why the crypt was kept locked, but he was plainly not inclined toward conversation. "It's a house rule," he said curtly, and shuffled away. The ladies in black were having a fine time telling the old man the plot of the Western in great detail, and I eavesdropped on them for a while. Then the caretaker returned to inform me that the manager had returned and would see me *subitissimo*. Ten minutes later I was ushered into his office.

Dottore Pierino Fracchia, the manager, was a tall, angular, harassed-looking man. He put aside a file of papers and invited me to sit down. What was it I wished, he asked when I had introduced myself. Nothing in particular, I said. I had just come by to see the Home that had been so dear to Verdi. As I spoke, I noticed a photograph of Verdi on the wall, and at once I realized why those black felt hats had seemed so familiar; they were modelled after the hat Verdi wore in most of his photographs—a style he adopted from the peasants in his native Parma. I mentioned the matter to the manager, and he told me that one of the Casa's house rules is that all the male pensioners must wear "Verdi hats."

The manager leaned back in his chair. "You may be interested to know that Verdi first thought of establishing something along the lines of this Home as early as 1888," he said. "He talked about it with Professor Camillo Boito—the brother of his librettist, Arrigo Boito—who was an architect, and with Emilio Seletti, his lawyer. Verdi was very thorough in his thinking about financial affairs. He knew that the Home had to have a sound financial basis. At the outset, his idea was to set up a hospital and convalescent home, but later he changed his mind in favor of an old people's home. In 1895, Camillo Boito showed him the first plans, and Verdi immediately put a hundred and fifty thousand lire—gold lire, mind you, worth about thirty thousand dollars—into a special account in the Banco Popolare for the Home. That was a great deal of money in those days. The house was started the following year and finished in 1899. But there was some

Superb  
**HIGH FIDELITY**  
performance



"The BERKSHIRE" AM-FM Radio-Phonograph has 15 in. and 12 in. bass speakers, two wide-angle high frequency horns, 20 watt high fidelity amplifier. Genuine Mahogany, Blond, Cherry and Ebony, \$595.00.

The magnificent  
**Magnavox**  
television • radio-phonographs

PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

#### Milton's Crew Neck Shetland

Imported from Shetland Islands, made to our specifications, full fashioned and hand-framed, in longer, fuller cut. Colors: Black heather, black-brown, light gray heather, light tan heather, lovat blue, lovat green, forest green, olive, charcoal gray.

Sizes 38-46.....\$11.95

Mail orders filled promptly. Add 40¢ for postage. Send for new free 32-page catalog

**Milton's** Clothing Cupboard  
CHAPEL HILL, NORTH CAROLINA

Lake  
Shore  
Drive HOTEL

Rooms, Suites,  
and Apartments

181 East Lake Shore Drive, CHICAGO

COCKTAILS • LUNCHEON • DINNER  
**La Reine**

139 East 52nd St., N.Y.C.  
For Reservations Call RENÉ

Plaza  
3-3394



delay about getting it into operation, and Verdi died before it was officially opened, on October 10, 1902—the eighty-ninth anniversary of his birth. We haven't had an empty room here since. Verdi had the idea that the pensioners would want to share double rooms, to keep from getting lonely, but as it has turned out, they have all preferred to live alone. That has made it hard to fit everybody in, especially since the building originally consisted of only two stories. In 1937, we added the third floor. Now we have a hundred rooms, occupied by sixty men and forty women—the precise ratio that Verdi stipulated. He also set up an order of preference by which people were to be admitted—composers first, then singers, and then conductors, choir leaders, orchestra players, and so on. Regrettably, we always have a long waiting list.”

The manager sighed, and went on, “In his will, Verdi left certain royalties to the Home in *perpetuum*. At first, this income was quite sufficient, but after a while, war, inflation, and currency devaluation began to raise havoc with our finances. Nowadays, it takes thirty million lire, or fifty thousand dollars, to cover our annual operating expenses, and Verdi's royalties simply don't amount to that. I don't know what we'd do without the help of private benefactors. One of the most generous is Arturo Toscanini. As you may know, he played the cello in the La Scala orchestra on the night of February 5, 1887—when ‘Otello’ was first performed. Anyway, Toscanini has given us over forty million lire and conducted many benefit concerts for us. We're dreading the arrival of 1957—the year when the copyrights on all of Verdi's works except ‘Otello’ and ‘Falstaff’ will expire. Fortunately, those two will be protected until 1974.”

THERE was a sharp rap on the door, and an old man with white hair, a cherubic face, and twinkling eyes came in and greeted the manager effusively. The manager introduced him to me as Maestro Enrico Molinari, one of the pensioners, and added warmly, “Maestro Molinari was a great baritone in his day.”

“That's high praise, coming from our manager,” Molinari said, in a sonorous voice. He was carrying a Verdi hat and now he tossed it on a chair and flung out his arms majestically. “There's nothing wrong with my voice right now, even though I am seventy-two,” he said. “My heart and my wind give me some trouble, but I still know how

you can always tell...

DAKS®

no other slacks have  
that well-bred dash  
that English quality look...

From \$29.50 at fine stores. Write Dept. N,  
Simpson Imports, Inc., 9 East 37th Street, N. Y.



Coffee by Starlight!

CHARM... IN COPPER AND WROUGHT IRON



by SILEX

As modern as today are the new “Starlight” carafes and coffee warmers by Silex. Eight and twelve cup sizes available at all leading stores. Also individual 2-cup carafes with warmers in sets of two and four. Other perfect Silex gifts: Freeze-O-Tray (electric ice cream maker) and famous Silex coffemakers.

ACCESSORIES BY BLACK, STARR & GORHAM



## EVENING ELEGANCE



Truly feminine dress in silk peau de soie.

Lovely Colors—claret, Pagoda, blue, Electra blue, black and navy.

Sizes 10-40

Price  
155.00

*Kathleen Inc.*

118 East 60th St., New York 22, N. Y.

88 Main St., New Canaan, Conn.

Smartest way to protect your jewelry



*St. Thomas*

ORGANIZER® STUD BOX

Hinged top Stud Box featuring the new Organizer® unit to prevent scrambled links, pins. Made of Fine Saddle Cowhide, lined with Deerskin Suede. \$7.50\*; others from \$5\*. Just one of many St. Thomas coordinated leather accessories.

\*Plus Federal Tax

At fine stores everywhere.

ST. THOMAS, INC. • GLOVERSVILLE, N.Y.  
Fine Leather Accessories Since 1898

to sing." He thereupon stepped to the middle of the room, made an elegant bow to a large invisible audience, and launched into the prologue to "Pagliacci"—"Si può, si può..." His voice had plenty of schmalz and timbre, and it carried so well that a vase of flowers on the manager's desk began to tremble.

The manager shook his head. "If you have to sing at all, you might at least sing something by Verdi," he said.

"What would you like to hear?" Molinari asked us. "The 'Stretta' from 'Rigoletto'? 'King Philip'? Iago's drinking song? Or the 'Credo'? Before either of us could answer, the old man started booming, "Credo in un Dio crudel che m'ha creato simile a sè!"

The "Credo" sounded as if it might be too much for Maestro Molinari's heart, and I interrupted him to ask whether he had ever met Verdi.

"I certainly did," Molinari replied. "I must have been about eighteen at the time. I was standing at the stage door of La Scala when he came out. *Un gran maestro. Un grand' uomo.* He wrote some wonderful baritone arias. I sang the Father in 'La Traviata' at La Scala in 1924, under Toscanini. I sang in 'Lohengrin' and 'Andrea Chénier' under Gui, and in 'Aida' under Panizza. I sang with Pertile, Dalla Rizza, Casazza, Menescaldi. We sang in those days, gentlemen. We didn't just make noises, as so many of them do now."

Molinari picked up his hat. He was off to play cards with some friends, he said. Some of the pensioners earn a little money by giving singing lessons, he told me, but he wouldn't be bothered with that sort of thing; there was too much else in life—not only cards but the radio and, above all, the movies. "I haven't missed one of Gina's films," he said proudly.

"He means the Lollobrigida," the manager remarked dryly. "They're all crazy about her." Molinari beamed, bowed to his invisible audience, and departed.

"He's a good man," said the manager. "They're all good people, even though they live in a world filled with memories of their own great pasts. Few of them have a very clear picture of how the Home came into being. Verdi means little more to them than any other composer. If you want to talk to someone who really knew Verdi, you must meet Maestro Carlo Gatti, the great Verdi biographer. I'll be glad to introduce you." I said I'd appreciate it very much, and the manager picked up the telephone and called Maestro Gatti. After

## PROJECT-O-MATIC

A WONDERFUL  
NEW WAY  
TO SHOW  
SLIDES  
AUTOMATICALLY

\$59.95

Including  
Slip-On Aircraft  
Luggage Type Case



35-01 Queens Boulevard  
Long Island City, N. Y.

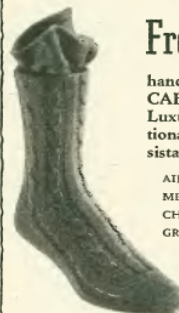


## From Scotland

hand-frame knitted in  
CABLE STITCH  
Luxurious, long-wearing traditional Scotch hose—shrink resistant—10½ to 13.

AIR-FORCE BLUE	RED BLACK
MEDIUM GREY	HUNTER GREEN
CHARCOAL GREY	MAROON
GREEN BLACK	HEATHER
NAVY BLUE	

\$4.00 pr.



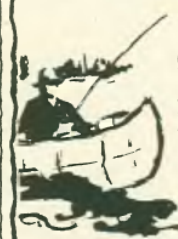
Mail orders,  
state size and  
color, add 35c  
postage.

**Fenn-Feinstein**  
of NEW HAVEN  
Tailors and Furnishers  
9 EAST 49th ST. NEW YORK  
264 YORK ST. NEW HAVEN

## gifts

Just out... Field & Fireside's new catalog—crammed full from Weejuns to Wedgwood, rifles to reamers. Write for your copy today.

**FIELD & FIRESIDE**  
26 13th Street  
Columbus, Georgia



IN PHILADELPHIA, IT'S

*Helen Sigel's*

1523 WALNUT ST.

RESTAURANT

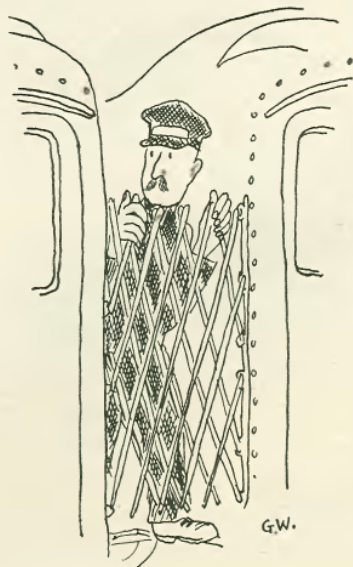
BAR



a brief conversation, he covered the mouthpiece with his hand and said to me, "He's going out to Parma tomorrow. Out to the Verdi country. He says he'd be delighted to have you go along."

I said it sounded like a fine idea, and offered to drive Gatti in my car. The manager made a date for me and hung up. When I left the office, a few minutes later, the two old ladies in black were still walking around the courtyard and chattering away as brightly as ever.

THE next morning, Maestro Gatti, a small, tranquil-looking man with a fine face, a high forehead, and an aquiline nose, received me in the living room of his apartment, in the Viale Bianca Maria—a museumlike place, crammed with statues, paintings, clocks, and old books. He is almost seventy-nine, I was told later, but his voice is full of resonance and his gestures are quick and forceful. When he talked about Verdi, which was most of the time, he frequently went into an outburst of enthusiasm, underscoring his points by shooting his right hand up in a spiral and by punctuating every sentence with an "Eh!" or a "Hah!" that sounded like a pistol shot. For more than half a century before his retirement, seven years ago, he was professor of harmony and counterpoint at the Milan Conservatory, where a chair of Studii Verdiane had been established expressly for him, and he is widely known as the author of the best biography of Verdi. When it was first published—in Italy, in 1931—it won critical acclaim but had no large sale. Since then, however, there has been a revival of interest in Verdi—in the opera houses



CONNOISSEURS  
CHOOSE **CHURCH'S** SHOES



Made in England. Available in such fine stores as:

*Cupper & Cupper*

WABASH AVE. AT MADISON ST., CHICAGO



## How does a barometer make a great Sherry?

When the time comes to broach the ancient Duff Gordon casks, the bottler keeps his eye on the barometer. For this great sherry is bottled only on bright, clear days, to protect its native clarity and brilliance.

The memory of a fine dinner lingers long; that of a noble wine, even longer. Let the

heart-warming bouquet and flavor of Duff Gordon Cream Sherry contribute to the success of your next dinner party. Also try No. 28 (moderately sweet), Nina (medium dry), Pinta (very dry) and Amontillado. Sole United States representatives, Munson G. Shaw Company, Inc., New York, N. Y.



**TSS OLYMPIA****Convenient connections to EGYPT and TURKEY**

Begin or end your Grand Tour in Greece, gateway to Europe, and the colorful Near East. Cruise liner comfort on the magnificent TSS OLYMPIA . . . over 90% of space is reserved for Tourist passengers. From New York to LISBON • NAPLES • PIRAEUS

Also Greek Line service from New York, Boston and Quebec to EIRE • FRANCE • ENGLAND • GERMANY

See Your Travel Agent or

**GREEK LINE**

General Steam Navigation Co. Ltd. of Greece  
NEW YORK • BOSTON • CLEVELAND • CHICAGO  
LOS ANGELES • TORONTO • MONTREAL



No two figures  
are exactly alike!

Now you can be fitted  
individually, comfortably,  
fashionably with the

**J. Berlé**  
DELINEATOR ©

for true figure beauty

Once you have experienced the heavenly comfort of a Berlé Delineator exactly fitted to your own contours, you'll never be satisfied with any other. From \$17.50 in the finest materials available.

Consultation welcomed.

**J. BERLÉ** 26 W. 58th St.  
New York 19

of Milan, Vienna, New York, and other great cities, Verdi's works are being performed more often than those of any other composer—and as Verdi has prospered, so has his biographer. Gatti's book has been reissued in a popular edition that is now selling briskly in Italy, and translations of it have been published in many countries, including the United States.

"Verdi is essentially a modern composer," Gatti said to me almost at once. "His heroes and villains wear costumes of the past, but their conflicts and emotions are modern and the melodies they sing are of timeless beauty. Let us go to my study and talk Verdi." Calling out to his housekeeper to prepare some coffee, he took me into the study. Its walls were decorated with photographs and drawings of Verdi, the bookshelves were crowded with books about Verdi, the tables were covered with souvenirs of Verdi. Gatti told me that he had known Verdi quite well. He would never forget the day he first saw him, he said. That was in 1892, when Verdi was seventy-nine and Gatti sixteen. "I was the leader of the boys' section of the chorus of the Milan Conservatory," he said. "We were going to take part in a performance of Rossini's oratorio 'Mosè in Egitto'—that year was the hundredth anniversary of his birth—and Verdi was to be the conductor. Well, in the very first rehearsal something went wrong with the boys' section. Verdi became very angry. And when Verdi was angry—" Gatti puffed out his cheeks and spiraled his right hand upward. "He called me front and center, and bawled me out. I was afraid he was going to throw his baton at me. Verdi was very understanding when it came to the problems of an orchestra, but he was not very patient with singers. He used to say that singers—especially the famous ones—made no effort to penetrate the spirit of his work."

Gatti stood up and dramatically raised his right arm. "Verdi was a wonderful-looking man," he said, and sat down again. "Frail and elegant, with wonderful bearing. He had a fine head, with long white hair, and a proud nose, and there was fire in his eyes, though his face was serene. His manner was never intimate. Even his close friends would never think of putting an arm around his shoulder—and you know how informal we Italians usually are. Verdi just wasn't that kind of man. He had the pride of a peasant from Parma, and he wanted to be one of those peasants. That is why he is so utterly different from Wagner. Wagner was a bour-

*In Perfect Comfort*  
**ENJOY YOUR SUN**  
*at this beautiful resort hotel*

# ARIZONA



# BILTMORE

You and your family will love it here with everything for a good time and all on the hotel's own 1400 acres.

Walk out the door to hotel's own private and uncrowded 18-hole championship golf course; tennis; riding. Lunch at the pool is when everyone suns and meets. Cocktail and dinner parties! Yet hotel's so spacious if you care to be by yourselves, it's easy.

Just write for pictorial folder

Mr. George Lindholm, Manager

ARIZONA BILTMORE HOTEL  
Box 82, PHOENIX, ARIZONA

## Protect Your LP Records



### H.R.S. LP CASE NO. 7

Deluxe dust-proof cases to hold 10 LP records. Available in Red, Blue, Green and Tan and in two sizes for either 10" or 12" records. Rich book-like binding of simulated Levant leather is stamped with 23 k. genuine goldleaf. See your dealer; if not available order direct. Please specify size and color. 10-inch \$2.75 and 12-inch \$2.95 (10-inch \$3 and 12-inch \$3.25 W. of Miss. and in Ala., Fla., La., Miss., Minn.). Two or more cases postpaid in U.S.: add 25¢ for one case. No COD's please.

H. ROYER SMITH CO.

Philadelphia 7, Pa.



**HOTEL del PRADO** Mexico City



ANGEL RECORDS

**DAME EDITH EVANS and  
MICHAEL REDGRAVE in  
Shakespeare**

Scenes from "As You Like It"  
20 of the Sonnets  
Angel 35220



geois. Verdi was a peasant. Wagner wrote leitmotifs. Verdi wrote melody. Eh!"

The housekeeper came in with the coffee, and for a while Gatti and I sipped it in silence. Then Gatti said, "After the death of his second wife, in 1897, Verdi moved to the Grand Hotel Milan, because he couldn't stand the solitude in his house in Sant' Agata, and that's when I started seeing a lot of him. At the hotel, he lived in Apartment Number 107, on the second floor. He had a salon with a piano, and two bedrooms—one for himself and the other for his cousin, Maria Filomena Verdi, whom he had adopted. Great artists would gather in the apartment every afternoon, and sometimes I would go up to listen to them talk. Verdi was loved wherever he went. On the street, men would take off their hats when he walked by. Once when he was sick, the police had straw mats placed on the street outside the hotel, to mute the sound of the horses' hoofs. You would think that such signs of respect would have pleased the old man, but he wasn't happy. He was lonely."

Gatti sighed, and cast about for another approach to his favorite subject. "The blessed music came out of him as fresh water pours out of a mountain spring," he said presently. "Verdi was obliged to work fast. After the tremendous success of 'Nabucco,' in 1842, there was an enormous demand for his work. Every opera house in Italy wanted to present a new Verdi opera. There is a line in one of his contracts—'Four months prior to the première, the composer will receive the libretto.' Four months to finish an operatic score. Eh! Considering the physical effort alone, it is a staggering task." Gatti jumped up, riffled through a stack of papers on a table, and came up with a bulky document. It was a photostatic copy of one of Verdi's early drafts of "La Traviata," and he triumphantly showed me Violetta's aria at the end of the first act. After jotting down the first bars of the Allegro Brillante—"Sempre libera degg'io folleggiare di gioia in gioia"—Verdi hadn't bothered to write the rest of the melody; he had merely noted, in his fine, precise hand, "*Alla fine et cetera.*"

"Here is one of the greatest melodies ever composed, and Verdi just writes, 'To the end, et cetera,' as if everyone knew it already!" Gatti exclaimed, roaring with laughter. "Et cetera for whom, I ask you! Eh! Not for you and not for me and not for anyone else except a genius like Verdi. Happily, in a

## For Resident New York City or Visitor

This little book lists in pocket size a wealth of information about New York City. Selected hotels, restaurants, clubs, picture galleries, museums, places of interest, garages, railroads, theatres, movie-houses, universities and other vital information. AND 96 pages for your own addresses and telephone numbers. With that smart blue paper and soft flexible Cross Grain leather from England. Real Gold edges. \$1.50.

At better Stores and Stationers.

*Leathersmith*

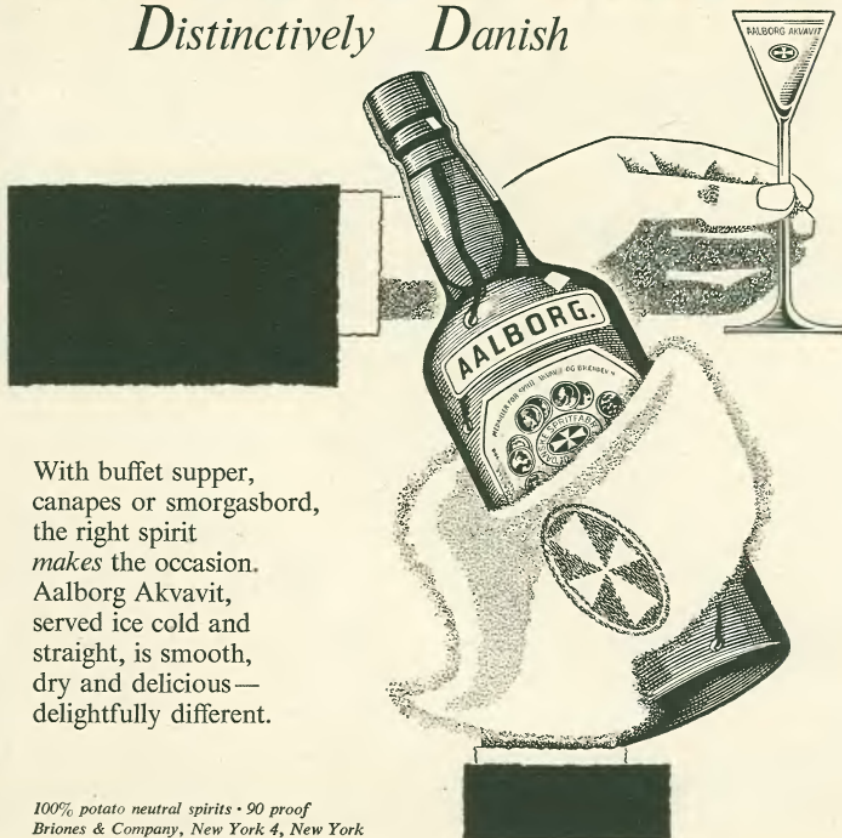
LONDON

NEW YORK

LEATHERSMITH OF LONDON LTD. 516 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, 36, NY.

## AALBORG AKVAVIT

*Distinctively Danish*



With buffet supper, canapes or smorgasbord, the right spirit makes the occasion. Aalborg Akvavit, served ice cold and straight, is smooth, dry and delicious—delightfully different.

100% potato neutral spirits • 90 proof  
Briones & Company, New York 4, New York





### "Emperor" Matched Ensemble in Sterling Mounted Mahogany

Sets a distinctively modern tempo for smart entertaining—makes a most distinguished gift. Each piece comes in choice of Colonial or Ebonized mahogany. Ice Bucket, 1½ qt., cap. Vacuum lining with mitred crystal top. Sterling rim and knob, \$62.50. (Tax incl.) Lighter is a tall 16¾ ins., sterling mounted, \$35.00. (Tax incl.) Ash Tray has removable metal ash receiver and piano wire grid. Dia., 6 ins., ht., 2½ ins. Each \$19.50. (Tax incl.)

Sent Express Collect  
**Plummer**  
LTD

734 Fifth Ave., at 57th St., N. Y. C.  
ST 4-5625 New York

## MUMM'S

THE WORD FOR CHAMPAGNE



CORDON ROUGE AND EXTRA DRY

Sole U. S. Distributors, Browne Vintners Co., Inc., N.Y.C.

later draft he took time to write out the entire melody."

Gatti put the score back on the table, and said, "As often as I can, I make a pilgrimage to the land he loved so much. One can't understand Verdi without understanding Parma. Let's be off!"

TWO hours later, we were in the flat, fertile farmland of Parma, with its quiet brooks, and its olive groves, fruit trees, and clean fields bordered by wooden fences. It was a Sunday, and the church bells were ringing in the villages we drove through. All the male inhabitants of each of them seemed to have gathered in the market square, where they stood about in small groups and carried on spirited arguments, while the young girls strolled past in threes and fours, their arms interlocked behind their backs. Sometimes we would meet a two-wheeled cart drawn slowly by a lazy mule, with a sleepy peasant sitting on top of a load of maize. These peasants all wore battered felt hats pressed into the shape that I now knew so well. As we drove along, Gatti told me that we would stop first in Sant' Agata to have a look at the house that Verdi bought in 1848 and spent the fifty best years of his life in. Verdi left the house to his adopted cousin, who married a man named Alberto Carrara, Gatti said, and its present owner is a son of the Carraras—Angiolo Carrara Verdi. (He uses both surnames, as his mother did.) He is the notary of the nearby town of Busseto, and claims to be the composer's only living relative. The people of Sant' Agata call the house "the palace," Gatti told me. Verdi called it "the hut."

Some fifty miles from Milan, we came to a small road sign reading, "S. AGATA—VILLA VERDI—1 KM."

"We turn off to the right here," said Gatti.

The turn put us on a dirt lane leading past dilapidated farmhouses and small vegetable gardens. Sant' Agata turned out to consist of only a dozen houses, a small school, and a tiny church with a tall steeple. Ten or twelve little boys were playing in the dust in the middle of the road. A little farther on, we drew up in front of a small door in a high stone wall. Gatti walked up to the door and pulled a bell cord hanging beside it. After a while, the door was opened by the caretaker, a slight, graying man, who shook hands warmly with Gatti and informed him that Signor Carrara Verdi was in a hospital in Turin, recuperating from an operation. But we

## Supreme OF CHICKEN UNDER GLASS

is just what the name implies: the finest parts of roast chicken... garnished with ham and a fabulous sauce of whipped cream and hollandaise... served in a setting of luxury. Perhaps you've heard about the wonderful violin music of Henri Gold. Phone CI 6-5800.

*Café*  
**Louis XIV**  
15 West 49th Street

IN ROCKEFELLER CENTER

Operated by *The Main Menu Company* Est. 1864

The  
**Café Lounge**  
and Bar

LUNCHEON  
COCKTAILS • DINNER  
DANCING DAILY  
5:30 P.M. to 1:30 A.M.  
Sundays 5 P.M. to Midnight

**SAVOY-PLAZA**  
5th Ave. at 58th St.

**Le Ruban Bleu**

Continuous Entertainment Nightly  
from 9:30 to 3 A.M. (Except Sunday)  
4 East 56 St., N. Y. C. PL 3-6426  
Caterers to Italian Air Lines (L.A.I.)  
Visit Mele's Pavilion—Centerport, L. I.

IN BROOKLYN IT'S

**Sears**  
FOR OVER 30 YEARS

MEMBER  
DINER'S CLUB

1621 CHURCH AVE. BU 2-4204

LUNCHEON • COCKTAILS • DINNER



were welcome of course; Maestro Gatti was welcome any time. Inside the wall, surrounded by the neglected remains of a private park, was an austere, heavy, square building of gray stone, three stories high, its walls discolored by a century of weather. Moss was growing on the stone benches in the park, and ivy was entwined around the trunks of the old trees. Verdi loved those trees, Gatti said; every time he finished an opera, he planted another tree by way of celebration. Gatti, who seemed completely at home, showed me the plane tree that Verdi had planted after the premiere of "Rigoletto," the oak that commemorated "Il Trovatore," the willow for "La Traviata," and so on. At one end of the park was an avenue, formed by two rows of tall poplars, down which Verdi, accompanied by his hunting dog, used to walk on his way to his fields, where he might shoot a hare or woodcock.

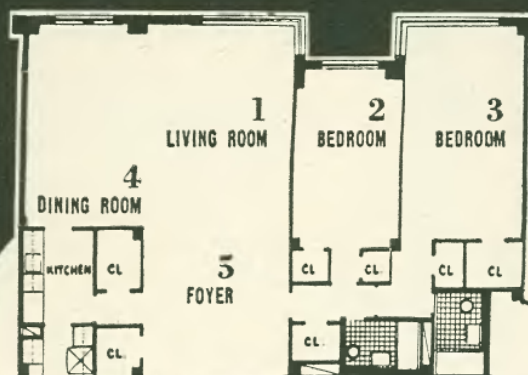
"Verdi adored this place," Gatti said. "In his will, he requested that nothing be changed either in the house or in the grounds. He knew a lot about farming, and kept putting money into his property. He had irrigation canals built, bought threshing machines, bred horses, and started a dairy farm. In those days, people were emigrating from Italy by the millions, in search of jobs. Verdi was proud that no one left Sant' Agata. There was no need to. He provided jobs for all. Hah!"

We had walked around to the rear of the house, and now the caretaker opened the back door and led us through a hall to Verdi's bedroom. It was spacious and high-ceilinged, and the heavy lace curtains at its windows gave it the peculiar half dimness that Franz Werfel, a great Verdi enthusiast, once called "sunny darkness." Verdi's bed stood off to one side, under a lace canopy, and across the room from it was



# 1025 fifth avenue

CO-OPERATIVE OWNERSHIP



## YOU CAN SEE

this apartment masterpiece today!

See these dream dimensions: (1) Living room: 15x25; (2) Bedroom: 11x17; (3) Master Bedroom: 12x20; (4) Dining Room: 12x19; (5) Foyer: 8x15. Plus an efficiently equipped kitchen and pantry with service entrance. The financial advantages of co-operative ownership are also easy to see. The monthly carrying charge for this apartment is \$292.41; it is possible to deduct \$183 of this amount for tax benefits. Cash Investment is only \$15,730.

### IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY

- Visit exhibit of furnished model apartments
- 3½ to 7 room suites • Garage on Premises
- Opposite Metropolitan Museum of Art
- Lobby & Gardens created by Raymond Loewy Associates
- Architect: H. I. Feldman, A.I.A.
- Offered to residents of N. Y. State
- Write for tax advantage booklet

Sales Offices on Premises  
Viewing Hours  
From 10 A.M. to 8 P.M.  
and by Appointment  
REgent 7-3937



Agent:  
HERBERT CHARLES & CO., INC.  
4 E. 46 St. MUrray Hill 2-1133

The Sponsors are pleased to announce that apartment sales already exceed the quota required to make the co-operative ownership plan effective.

## COME TO BUCK HILL

Beautiful Year-Round Resort  
in the lovely Poconos

6,000 acre estate with every  
facility for rest and recreation.  
300 Fireproof rooms. All sports.  
Advance Reservations Necessary

ONLY 3 HOURS AWAY  
New York Reservation Office  
630 Fifth Ave. • Circle 5-5620



NIGHTLY  
EXCEPT  
MONDAY

MICHAEL ZARIN  
and his Ensemble  
at COCKTAIL TIME

Oversized Cocktails  
Gracious Service  
Hot and cold hors d'oeuvres

Café de la Paix

50 Central Park South



Make sure it's a

# Slimline®

ANCIENT BRONZE



\$10.

There's only one Ancient Bronze . . . the one that's featured in a smart, sophisticated Thomas Begg Slimline. Rich as ever, this distinctive off-beat shade is the perfect foil for all dark tones. Another outstanding Slimline value . . . with luxurious hand-felted edge . . . modestly priced at \$10.

Other exclusive Slimline colors: Charcoal Grey, Charcoal Brown, Tuscan Brown, Black Chestnut, English Grey and Black.

## Thomas Begg

GENTLEMEN'S HATTER

400 Madison Ave., N. Y. (at 47th Street)  
1427 Broadway, N. Y. (Met. Opera Bldg.)

Madison Ave. store open Thurs. eve.  
Broadway store open evenings.

TAKE ENTERTAINMENT  
WHEREVER YOU GO with the

# Regency

ALL  
TRANSISTOR  
POCKET  
RADIO

(USES NO TUBES)

Enjoy news, sports,  
music and other  
entertainment—anywhere  
—with the beautifully  
engineered REGENCY,  
WORLD'S SMALLEST  
STANDARD RADIO (only 3" x 5" x  
1 1/4"—only 12 ounces). Black, ivory, red,  
green, mottled mahogany—all with  
brushed dials. Wonderful for yourself—  
or as a gift.

\$49.95 battery \$1.25

Also available in pearlescent de luxe finish . . .  
pearl white, lavender, pink, lime, \$54.95  
meridian blue at . . . plus battery.

Leather carrying case, \$3.95; Feather-light  
earphone \$7.50; battery-saver kit  
(\$5 batteries in case)  
\$6.25

## LIBERTY Music Shops

450

975 Madison at 76th

228 East Post Road, White Plains, N. Y.

MADISON AVENUE  
at 50th St., New York  
795 Madison at 67th

Send ☐ Regency Radio ☐ case ☐ earphone ☐ kit  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Free delivery in Met. area (add 3% tax) P.P. and  
ins. add 55c E. — \$1.50 W. of Miss.

Payment enclosed ☐ Charge my account ☐

a large black piano. "This is where Verdi created almost all his works," Gatti said in a low, reverent voice. "It was on this piano that he played for the first time the wonderful melodies of 'Trovatore,' 'Traviata,' 'La Forza del Destino,' 'Aida,' and 'Otello.'"

WE thanked the caretaker, Gatti said he hoped Signor Carrara Verdi would soon be well again, and we left. Now, Gatti told me, we would go to the house Verdi was born in. We went through Busseto, where Verdi went to school—a small town of old stone houses—and as we drove through the dull, flat countryside beyond, Gatti began to reminisce again. "I remember Verdi's funeral very well," he said. "It was in the Milan city cemetery. He had left instructions that there must be neither music nor singing. He wanted it all very simple, with only a small cross for a marker. The day was dark and damp and foggy. Half the people of Milan were there. No one was permitted to approach the grave, and we all stood at a distance, silently crying. Verdi had decreed that there should be no music, but he couldn't decree that there should be no weeping. Then, suddenly, there rose from among the crowd a chorale—soft at first, then louder and louder as it swept through the throng. It was the 'Va, pensiero'—the heart-stirring chorus of the Jews from 'Nabucco,' which had given hope to the people of Italy in their fight against Austria and made Verdi a national symbol." Gatti cleared his throat. "Well, we had to obey his will," he went on. "But a month later, on February 28, 1901, the coffin was taken out of its modest grave and buried in the crypt of the Casa Verdi, and the second funeral was an impressive demonstration of Italy's devotion to its dead Master. Toscanini conducted nine hundred voices in the 'Va, pensiero' while the bodies of Verdi and Giuseppina Strepponi were carried from the cemetery to the Casa. The people of Italy had done as Verdi wished, but now they did what they felt they had to do."

Four miles from Busseto, we came upon a faded road sign: "CASA NATALE DI G. VERDI." Turning off the highway, we followed a rough and dusty dirt road a short distance to the village of Le Roncole. It was much like Sant'Agata—a huddle of a few farmhouses, a church, a parish school, and a post office. Verdi's birthplace was originally a combination barn and house, with two attic rooms under its high, gabled roof to provide quarters for its human occu-

The Maisonnette

# FERNANDA MONTEL

AND HER SONGS

MILT SHAW  
and his Orchestra  
and  
The Ray Bari  
Ensemble

Special Theatre Dinner  
6 to 8 P.M. \$4.50  
(no entertainment tax)

Hotel  
**St. Regis**  
Fifth Avenue  
at 55th Street

# Pygmalion House

10 West 55th St.—N. Y. C.  
Circle 5-4285

DECORATIVE  
ACCESSORIES

Exclusive Italian  
Chiavari side chair  
Black lacquer  
or natural  
\$22.50

with brass shoes  
Size 20 x 60 inches  
This Pygmalion House Design  
Black Formica COFFEE TABLE \$74

# hayden's hollandaise

is marvelous!  
(so is their sauce béarnaise)

Your grocer should have them — if not, write  
Hayden's Hollandaise, College Point 56, N. Y.

# Cheval Blanc

"A Gaybit of Paris in New York"

Mussels Cheval Blanc    Crepes Suzette  
Coq Au Vin

145 EAST 45TH STREET  
Dinner from \$3.00    Luncheon from \$1.75  
Tel. EL 5-9352



pants; since Verdi's time, some additional rooms have been added to one side of the structure, and these and the barn proper are now owned by a peasant family, but the two attic rooms have been taken over by the government, and so have the grounds around the building—a yard with trees and flowers and gravelled paths, surrounded by a carefully trimmed hedge. As Gatti and I walked to the barn, we heard a radio blaring; a sports announcer with a high-pitched voice was describing a soccer game. Above the entrance to a crude stone stairway leading up to the attic was the inevitable marble plaque; the inscription on this one began, "In this house, the musical genius Verdi drew his first breath."

At the head of the stairs there was a small room, and directly behind it was a larger room in which a half-dozen visitors were engaged in a hot debate, shouting, gesticulating, and trampling on the very spot where, according to a sign, Verdi was born. One man was contending that Signor Carrara Verdi had no right to call himself Verdi's only living relative; his (the man's) wife's second cousin was related just as closely to the composer. Another man said that this was nonsense. I glanced at Gatti, the expert, but he merely shrugged. In the larger room was a table on which picture postcards and souvenirs were laid out for sale. A woman in a black uniform stood behind it, and she kept calling vainly for quiet and asking the embattled sightseers to sign their names in the visitors' book. Presently, the argument came to an abrupt end, as arguments often do in Italy, and everybody began to laugh. The visitors signed the book and left without a single glance at the spot where Verdi was born.

When we were alone with the woman in black, she sighed deeply. Gatti shook hands with her, and asked whether she had had many visitors that day. "Just a few," she said. "People no longer remember Verdi. They're too busy listening to soccer games." The radio downstairs was still going full-blast, and she put her hands to her ears for an instant. "There are plenty of hard-surfaced highways all around Parma," she went on. "But do you think the government would improve the dirt road that goes through Le Roncole and past Verdi's house? No! The rich country of Italy can't afford to build a half kilometre of road to the house of one of its greatest sons. And they call this a national monument!"

"Hah!" said Gatti bitterly, and

## PORTS

*from Portugal*



## SHERRIES

*from Spain*

# SANDEMAN®

ESTABLISHED IN THE YEAR 1790

Imported by W. A. TAYLOR & COMPANY, NEW YORK, N. Y. Sole Distributors for the U. S. A.

## Brentano's catalog of SCULPTURE MASTERPIECES in replica

Select your own museum sculpture in exact replica from this handsome catalog. Contains over 108 striking photographs of modestly priced sculpture to own . . . hand-cast by master craftsmen in Alcastone or metal . . . authorized by the famous museums containing the originals . . . a richly annotated guide of permanent interest. Also contains selected museum jewelry for men and women.

Send name, address and, to  
cover postage and handling, **25¢** in  
coin

**brentano's** booksellers to the world  
Dept. N-4, 586 Fifth Ave., New York 36, N. Y.



The  
BRENTANO  
collection of  
SCULPTURE  
ma to pieces  
in replica

SMART TRAVELERS STAY AT

## Beekman Tower Hotel



home of  
Top of the Tower  
cocktail lounge

**NEW YORK'S** only hotel overlooking the East River and the United Nations. Close to midtown shops and theatres. 400 sunny outside rooms...magnificent views. Restaurant and Coffee Shop. Write for reservations and illustrated booklet. (Please mention The New Yorker.)

Single \$6.50-\$9, Double \$9-\$16, Suite \$14-\$25

East 49th St. at 1st Ave., New York 17



WELCOME TO  
CARACAS

Luxury and excellent service await you at this beautiful modern hotel . . . on the highest and coolest point in the city. Magnificent swimming pool. American management. In N. Y. call Circle 5-6727. Carter L. Gardner, Manager

**HOTEL AVILA**  
CARACAS • VENEZUELA





**Opens Tuesday, Nov. 1  
Through Nov. 8**

Matinee & Evening Daily & Sunday

**INTERNATIONAL  
JUMPING CONTESTS**  
Every Evening and at 5 Matinees

**Arthur Godfrey in Person,**  
riding Goldie, will demonstrate  
exact art of dressage  
every afternoon & evening

Fri. & Sat. Evgs.: \$1.50, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6  
Other Evgs.: \$1.50, 2.50, 3, 4.50, 6  
Mats.: \$1.50, 2.50, 3.50 (tax incl.)

**Mail Orders Promptly Filled**  
Add 25c per order for handling and mailing

**MADISON SQ. GARDEN**

see  
the  
newest

**Aquascutum's**  
at  
**BRITISH AMERICAN  
HOUSE**

200 Fifth Avenue, New York • OR 5-0470  
the shop famous for fine casuals and rainwear  
send for our men's and women's catalog



from a new group of fixtures employing  
Rotaflex for maximum light diffusion.  
At fine stores or through your deco-  
rator. Rotaflex U.S. Patent Pending.

the heifetz co., 16 east 53, nyc

turned to look at a picture of Verdi on the wall.

"Last week, a diplomat from Uruguay was here," the woman continued. "He was shocked at such a state of affairs. Heaven knows, I can't do more than I'm doing already. I keep the trees trimmed and the flowers watered, and I look after the hedge and the paths, but do they expect me to build a road with my own hands?" She paused for a moment, and then she said softly, "Tell me, Maestro Gatti, have the people forgotten about Verdi?"

Gatti continued to gaze worshipfully at the picture on the wall. "No, they haven't forgotten him," he said. "People love Verdi. To me, this has always seemed to be the difference between Verdi and Wagner. People admire Wagner. People love Verdi."

We signed our names in the book and left. The radio in the barn was now playing jazz. Gatti lifted both arms in a gesture of frustration—the spiralling mood had deserted him—and opened his mouth as if to say something, but then he apparently thought better of it. We walked back to the car in silence.

—JOSEPH WECHSBERG

#### THE GOOD OLD DAYS

[From "The Lincoln Reader"]

His [Lincoln's] campaigns were carried on almost entirely without expense. Joshua Speed told the writers that on one occasion some of the Whigs contributed a purse of two hundred dollars which Speed handed to Lincoln to pay his personal expenses in the canvass. After the election was over, the successful candidate handed Speed \$199.25, with the request that he return it to the subscribers. "I did not need the money," he said. "I made the canvass on my own horse; my entertainment, being at the houses of friends, cost me nothing; and my only outlay was seventy-five cents for a barrel of cider, which some farm hands insisted I should treat them to."

Their Outboard Cruisers are built in two models. Truly a luxury liner is the 21 ft. Cruiser, offering the utmost in comfort and convenience. The spacious cabin with big picture windows in sides, glass screened front window that opens, sliding door in cabin with glass and screen, flying bridge, driver and companion seats, full stern cross seat with backrest, are all standard equipment. Extras—such as mattresses for bunks, steering equipment, convertible top, mooring cover, lights and deck hardware, can be purchased and installed when ordered.—*Hunting & Fishing in Canada.*

Who wants to steer, for heaven's sake?

*Mutton Chop...like  
nowhere else in the world...  
to be memorably relished with  
a mug of 'arf 'n 'arf...followed  
by leisurely puffs on your  
"churchwarden" pipe while  
savoring the companionship of  
congenial friends.*

**Keen's**

ENGLISH CHOP HOUSE  
72 West 36th Street

**THE GOURMET'S  
FAVORITE in  
63 NATIONS!**

**Hero** IMPORTED FROM  
SWITZERLAND

on sale at  
**Maison Glass**  
15 East 47th St., N. Y. C.  
Plaza 5-3316

**BLACK  
CHERRY  
JAM**

Send for Fine Foods Catalog

**NEW KIND OF FALL HOLIDAY!**

Relax on the banks of the Shrewsbury River—just 45 miles from New York. Quiet, refined atmosphere of a charming, colonial Inn! 100 beautifully furnished modern, fireproof rooms, with bath. Cocktail Lounge, Bar, Colonial dining room. Your hideaway for a week or a weekend. Write Miss Smith for illustrated booklet and rates.

**MOLLY PITCHER HOTEL, Red Bank, N.J.**

**CERUTTI**

RESTAURANT  
LUNCHEON • DINNER  
COCKTAIL LOUNGE

Open after theatre 'til 4 A.M. Air Cond.  
643 Madison—bet. 59th and 60th. EL 5-4194  
Established 1920