

THE INTERNATIONAL CONCERTINA ASSOCIATION

No. 294

NEWSLETTER

March

1982

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President: Rev. Kenneth Loveless, V.R.D., F.S.A., F.S.A Scot.,  
Hon. R.N.R.

Secretary: M. Barr-Hamilton, 75A Charlton Church Lane, London SE7 7AB

Treasurer: J. Entract, 52, Elm Grove, Brighton BN2 3DD

Notices

The next meeting will be on Saturday 27th March 1982 at the Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, Holborn, London from 3.00pm to 5.00pm. The nearest tube station is Holborn(Kingsway) or Russell Square. There will be a committee meeting beforehand from 2.00pm.

For those of you who will not be able to come to the next meeting because you have been too late, get your diaries out. Future meetings are as follows: 24th April, 22nd May and 26th June, all at the Conway Hall. I hope that we shall see more members at these meetings.

Subscriptions - all those who have paid for this year can skip the next bit. If you haven't paid, then it is only £2.50, but you only have until the end of next month. After that, goodbye. Send your money to John Entract, address above.

Festival - as you will have seen in the last Newsletter, the Festival has had to be postponed because of the hiatus in the continuation of the Association. The church where we had booked the hall have kindly allowed us to re-book, so the deposit money was not wasted, and we are now hoping to hold the Festival in autumn 1983'

News

First of all, two changes of address:

Steve Turner, 41 Bedford Row, Foul Anchor, Tydd St. Giles, Wisbech,  
Cambs.

Harry Hatton, 29 Greenwell Road, Haydock, Lancs.

Tim Laycock writes to let any member in the East Anglia area know that meetings are being held every two months at The Railway Inn, Mellis, near Diss in Suffolk. The next meeting is on Sunday 25th April starting around 12.30pm. Everyone is welcome, whatever the level of playing ability. If you want further details, contact Tim at 14 Beaconsfield Rd., Wood-bridge, Suffolk, 'phone 039-435014.

Dorothy Tutt writes that for two months recently her concertina and manuscript for folk dancing was displayed in her local museum. This was set up by members of the English Folk Dance and Song Society of which she was a member for some thirty years.

Longer standing members will probably be interested to hear that I recently visited Mr. W. Realf in his home in Bognor Regis. I'm sorry to say that Mr. Realf is not well, and is house-bound all the time and bedridden for a good part of it. He is also unable to play his concertina any more. However, he is still very interested in hearing about all his friends from the time when he was an active player, and I'm sure he would be pleased to hear from them.

Finally, but not least, I have received the following letter from Goran Rahm in Uppsala, Sweden:

I was actually hoping at my return here last spring that I could set up a branch in Sweden, but although I have come into contact with some players, there hasn't yet been enough solid ground for starting a society.

Up till now there are two different small groups of concertina people here. I have been in contact with half a dozen Salvation Army officers aged 70-80 who started to play when they joined the S.A. in the 1920s. Some of them still play on a few occasions. In the S.A. there seem to be a few younger ones also interested in the concertina.

Then there are some younger people who have been inspired and influenced by the folk-music wave during the last decade and they use the Anglo concertina sometimes in folk groups or they have some British or Irish

guest playing concertina with them.

Recently I came into contact with, as I believe at least, probably the most experienced player in Sweden, Sven Sundquist, member of a numerous musically-talented family who toured regularly from about 1910 to 1950. One of his uncles, Ragnar Sundquist (1892-1952) was a world-famous accordionist. He and one of his brothers made a recording in London with concertina, probably 1911, As I have been told they were inspired by Alexander Prince. In their show the Sundquist group used 3 concertinas & several other instruments: clarinet, saxophone, cello, clocks, saw (!), accordion and violin.

One reason that the concertina has not become more spread here before now could be that there-has been no indoor playing tradition here as in England where you have the pubs for example. Here most tradition is open air (except concerts of course) and there the accordion is extremely popular (or rather was, before the electronic era) and the accordion is much louder than the concertina.

#### The February Meeting

This was held in the club room of the Conway Hall on Saturday 27th February. Mr. Blakeman opened the playing with Homage to Bach and another piece.

The concerted music started with A Little Romance by Woodhouse.

Mr, Robson was next with Caminito.

We had more concerted music next: the Minuet & Trio from Haydn's Surprise Symphony.

John Entract then played his version of Donna Wellen on his Anglo, then Howard Rosenblum played another version of the same tune on his English.

Malcolm Barr-Hamilton changed pace with Princess Royal.

Vena McDougall was the next soloist, and did a neat trick by accompanying herself on piano. The accompaniment was recorded on cassette. The music was Romance by Svendsen.

Mac followed with To A Wild Rose by MacDowell.

More concerted music was played: a Minuet from Don Giovanni by Mozart.

Charlie Jeffrey played his medley: Ah Sweet Mystery of Life, Moonlight and Roses, Waltzing Matilda and Lili Marlene.

John Hutcherson played his own arrangement of Elizabethan Serenade.

The meeting finished with more concerted music: Heart's Ease by Macbeth and five waltzes by Schubert.

#### Doris Butler

Our members will, I'm sure be grieved and saddened by the news in the last Newsletter of the passing of Mrs. Doris Butler, especially if they had known her over the years. She will be long remembered for her services as Treasurer over the 15 years that Frank Butler was Secretary. The I.C.A. owe a lot to the Butlers. Mrs. Butler specialised in bass and I think baritone parts, and played regularly in the large and very proficient groups that Frank Butler was able to attract.

I remember she was the first person in the I.C.A. that I had the pleasure of meeting. She was in charge of the entrance at a Festival, welcoming members and newcomers like me, back in the '50s.

I'm sure we out again our deepest sympathy to Frank Butler and his family.

John Hutcherson

Father Loveless conducted the funeral service at the request of Mr. Butler. In order to get the news into the last Newsletter, I confess I was forced to write about the funeral before it had actually happened.

Apologies to all those who sent items which have not been published. They will appear in the next issue. Others - follow this example!

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