



Lend me your Ears

By SAMUL STEINMAN

SAD BUT TRUE: An American who thinks he can make an Italian think like an American has that other guess coming. Have you ever compared a small panetone package and a large one? Divide the price of each by the quantity and you will find the price per gram never differs; Italians do not offer the large economy size. Here's additional testimony . . . Step up, Errol Flynn and have your say . . . E. F.: "We thought we would rent a hotel suite by the year to save money so we asked first what the daily price would be. Then we asked for the price by the year and they multiplied the daily price by three hundred and sixty-five. Of course, leap years would be slightly higher" . . . And you, Carol Dannel . . . C. D.: "The apartment had been empty for eight months so when the landlady quoted the price I suggested that I might take a two-year lease and I asked what the monthly rate would be under those circumstances. It came to twenty-four times the same rate, no discount. It's been empty for six months more, but she's still holding in."

IN THE ROMAN GLOAMING: The horse's mouth was open and out came the news that John Huston and George Raft will be working together in Rome soon . . . The Gloria-Leopold Stokowski rift could be just so much publicity if our facts jibe—an Italian moviemaker wants her for a picture and Stoksy is scheduled to bathe in Cecilia April 9 and 13 (Beethoven's IX, the latter date) . . . Barbara Shelley and Lux are both happy with a new five-year contract . . . Dubbing of "The Widow," John Nash's flicker starring Patricia Roc and Massimo Serrato, made here, begins in London Feb. 14. Why? . . . George Freedland's laurels are shining in five places . . . in the past year he directed films in New York, Paris, Berlin, Rio de Janeiro and now for Luotto in Rome . . . Pert actress Anna Maria Francis, the closest thing to Audrey Hepburn outside of Audrey Hepburn, can also boast of Dutch parentage, having been born in Java. She learned her English from Americans in Rome and it's mighty good . . . Sarah Churchill is at the Grand until Wednesday while she dubs her own part in Daniele Cortis made here four years ago.

RELATED THANKS: At a soiree at the Mike Chingio's, Col. Gordon Dawson, military attache, met a Mr. Montague. He asked him if his first name was Ted and upon receiving a reply in the affirmative he proceeded to tell him a story, "After I was graduated from Wisconsin I got married and began my law practice in Madison. It was the depression and things were slow. In a few years I had two babies but not too much law prac-

tion. We needed a lot of milk and it was delivered every day, but we were never bothered for unpaid bills. And this continued for a couple of years until I managed to hit a few good fees and then I paid all of my bills. But in all that time the company never once bothered me or demanded payment. I was very grateful because it enabled me to give my children the milk they required. The company was the Kennedy Dairy Co. and you were the president at that time. I want to thank you now for what you did them." (Montague is now the head of the huge Eorden Dairy organization in the U.S.)

VIAWISE: Screenwriter Lou Stevens delighted his friends by appearing for a walk for the first time in weeks yesterday. He is still remaining at the Blue Sisters Hospital for the present . . . Wonder what the mail snag with Christmas cards could have been? Americans have been deluged these past two days with cards mailed as much as six weeks ago . . . It may be warmer in Cairo but Ambassador Jefferson Caffrey (U.S. to Egypt) is vacationing at the Grand . . . Yoka Beretti, back from Paris, is seeking a new apartment. She was ousted from her Via Margutta aerie after a few friends dropped in to start a party one night—there were about fifty of them . . . NBC's Jack Begon and lady returned to Rome via the Conte Biancamano Tuesday . . . Tuesday is final day for reservations for luncheon (1 p.m.) of American Chamber of Commerce for Italy at the Hassler Wednesday, Jan. 26 . . . Princess Alessandra Torlonia, daughter of the Infanta Beatrice of Spain, took the TWAY to Madrid and Lisbon to prepare for the wedding of Maria Pia of Savoy, daughter of ex-King Umberto of Italy, on Feb. 12th.

FOR THE BOOKS: Tinka Engel, New York psychiatrist, in "Jany" the Conte Biancamano, which reached Naples on Tuesday after hitting Lisbon, Casablanca, Barcelona and Palermo. She took the train to Rome, spent an hour seeing the city via taxicab and then made for Ciampino where she took a plane for home. She had never been in Rome or in Italy before her brief visit. Can you top this?

STYLIST FOLK: Billy Gordon of Beverly Hills who has designed clothes for Lucille Ball, Judy Garland and Irene Dunne, to name a few of the stars, is at the Excelsior. For the past two or three seasons he has been freelancing in New York, but he is now planning a new line of Billy Gordon originals which may be worked out in cooperation with the Italian market. (Textileman Aaron Rosenstein calls him the American Christian Dior) Sid Luft, who used to be his errand boy, first saw Judy Garland in his salon and decided then and there he would like to marry her—a wish which eventually came true . . . That is not George Washington in the jewel-enclosed frame which Marian Spottiswoode, London designer who has whipped up the Ferdinand collection, wears. It is an ancestor several generations back of her great-grandfather, Lt. Col. Charles Herries who was in the Light-Foot Guards circa 1760 and who is buried in Westminster Abbey.

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Crumbling Colosseum Needs Repairs Fast

By JAMES M. LONG
(AP Staff Writer)

Rome has started spending a quarter of a million dollars—to save the world. The ancient saying here goes: "When the Colosseum falls, Rome will fall; and when Rome falls, so will the world." The almost 2,000-year-old landmark of ancient Rome

has started falling again, two to three ton blocks of time-worn travertine have been crashing down from the four-story heights of the ancient stadium of gladiator games.

Greatest cause of the new crumbling, according to Prof. Carlo Ceschl, superintendent of monuments for Rome, is the rumble and vibration of modern street traffic. "Steadily this vibration is causing ruin, qualling that of the earthquakes which in the second and fourth centuries after Christ made the great stadium unusable.

"There is much to be done," Professor Ceschl said. "And it must be done quickly. It is a matter of alarming urgency."

Work to hold the Colosseum together was started a few days ago and will take two and a half years to complete—plus more money 000 (\$66,000) is so far available.

Of the estimated 150,000,000 lire (\$30,000) for the job, only 40,000,000 (\$86,000) is so far available.

"But we will raise the rest. We must," said Professors Ceschl. "After all, the Colosseum is the greatest tourist attraction in Rome . . ."

He did not need to build a word castle on top of that. Rome's tourist "take" last year was estimated at \$350,000,000 from 9,000,000 tourists who stayed here an average of five days each.

The relentless erosion of wind, water and cold have pocked the ancient Colosseum, but oddly enough birds have contributed much to the steady destruction.

They carry fig seeds. The young trees sprout 157 feet above the Street of the Imperial Forums, and thrust their roots down for dirt accumulated between the great rock blocks that were fitted together in 80 AD without cement.

The fig trees grow to three or four feet of height, and the groping roots wedge the massive stones apart until they hang in precarious balance.

For all its presently imposing structure—a favorite view for every tourist photographer who visits Rome—only a third of the vast original structure remains.

Much was looted away in the Dark Ages to build other Rome palaces. Many of the stones for St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican were "mined" from the slowly crumbling ruin.

In its heyday, the Colosseum, then known as the Flavian amphitheater, was half again as big as Yankee stadium in New York City.

It's 80,000 seated or 100,000 maximum crowds were admitted free, with 80 entrances which could empty the vast throng in half an hour.

Thousands of old Roman sailors got the top tier standing room. It was their job when it rained, to stretch over the 573-year-long amphitheater a canvas cover bigger than the largest tent of modern circuses.

Flooded by ten feet of water, the great bowl often served as a scene of naval battles between Roman bremes.

The Colosseum, which took its later name from a nearby colossal statue of Nero, was inaugurated by 100 days of gladiatorial games.

Records show 5,000 wild animals killed in that time. None of the ancient scribes thought it worth mentioning how many of the thousands of gladiators also were carried out through the southern "Gate of the Dead."

Despite some versions, there is no record that any Christians were put to death there. That happened, instead, at the Circus Maximus.



MEDEA AT THE OPERA—Famed Maria Meneghini Callas, Brooklyn-born soprano whose American debut last year in Chicago caused critical raves, appears Saturday night in Cherubini's "Medea" at the Teatro dell'Opera. Miss Callas first sang "Medea" at Florence's "Maggio Musicale" in 1953, later sang it at La Scala in Milan under Leonard Bernstein's direction. The above photograph shows her in costume for "La Traviata." (Photo Seno)

What's Going On In Rome

MUSIC
TEATRO DELL'OPERA — "Medea," by Cherubini; Gabriele Santini, conductor; Saturday night at 9 . . . "Madame Butterfly," by Puccini; Angelo Quasta, conductor; Sunday afternoon at 5.
SALA ACCADEMICA, 17 Via del Greco — Chamber music concert by the RAI wind-instrument quintet (works of Haydn, Ibert, Danzi, Milhaud, Rossini); tomorrow afternoon at 5:30.
AULA MAGNA, Rome University — Recital by Albert Neumann, pianist (works of Bach, Schumann, Chopin, etc.); Saturday afternoon at 5.
FORO ITALICO — Symphony concert by the RAI orchestra; Antonio Pedrotti, conductor (works of Frescobaldi, Haydn, Milhaud, Ravel); Saturday night at 9:30.
TEATRO VALLE — Recital by Marisa Candeloro, pianist (works of Beethoven, Bach-Busoni, Schumann, Debussy, Bartok, Porphino, Prokofietz); this afternoon at 5.
TEATRO ARGENTINA — Symphony concert; Artur Rodzinski, conductor (works of Pizzetti, Mozart, Stravinsky); Sunday afternoon at 5:30 and Monday afternoon at 6:30.
SALA PIO VI, 70 Via della Scrofa — Recital by Ruben Varga, violinist (works of Beethoven, Bach, Debussy, Mendelssohn, etc.); Saturday night at 9.

EXHIBITS
PALAZZO BARBERINI, Via Quattro Fontane — Dutch and Flemish masters of the 17th century. Hours: 9:30-4 weekdays; 9:30-1 Sundays. Till the end of January.
PALAZZO DELLE ESPOSIZIONI, Via Nazionale — International exhibit of contemporary art. Hours: 10-1, 4-8, Till Jan. 31.
SCHNEIDER GALLERY, 10 Rampa Mignanelli — Group show of young Italian painters, sponsored by Nello Ponente. Opens today at 6.
SAN MARCO GALLERY, 24 Via del Babuino — Paintings by Giorgio Hinna. Till tomorrow.
OBELISCO GALLERY, 146 Via Sistina — Works of American painter Hector Escobedo. Opens today at 6.
LA MEDUSA, 124 Via del Babuino — Paintings by Carlo Quaglia. Opens today at 6.
GALLERIA LAURELIANA, 29 Via Sardegna — Watercolors by Luigi Bartolini. Till Jan. 31.

AMERICAN - ENGLISH FILMS
FIAMMETTA THEATER, 3 Via San Nicola da Tolentino. Telephone 470.454.
ARCOBALENO THEATER, off Via XX Settembre. Telephone 470.470.

CLUB MEETINGS
ROTARY CLUB meets every Tuesday at 8:30 p.m.; dinner at the Excelsior.

CIRCUS
TOGNI CIRCUS, at Via Sannio (San Giovanni), daily at 3:45 and 9. Telephone 779.181.

LECTURES
BRITISH CIRCUS, 20 Via Quattro Fontane — Thomas Frank on "The Pteromantic Myth," tomorrow afternoon at 8.

NIGHT CLUBS
GROTTE DEL PICCIONE, 37 Via della Vite — Nightly floor show. Telephone 65.336.
LA BIBLIOTECA, 9 Largo Teatro Valle — Dancing. Two orchestras. Telephone 451.292.
KIT-KAT CLUB, 23 Via Liguria — Nightly entertainment. Tel. 487.242.
LA BOITE PIGALLE, 77 Via dell'Umbra — Nightly floor show. Telephone 62.274.
NIRVANETTA, 27 Via Marconi (Largo Tritone) — Nightly shows. Telephone 631.933.
OPEN GATE CLUB, 3 Via San Nicola da Tolentino — Dancing. Entertainment. Telephone 431.625.
RUPE TARPEA - JICKY CLUB, 13 Via Veneto — Dancing. Entertainment. Telephone 470.491.
WHIP CLUB, 73 Via Sistina — Dancing. Telephone 633.212.

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Blown Fuse Fatal
BUFFALO, Jan. 19 (AP)—A fuse blew today and snuffed out the life of a man who had been kept alive in an iron lung for five years. Henry Ciesla died after the respirator stopped because of the blown fuse.

Phones For Milan Train
Radio-telephone service was inaugurated today for passengers on the crack Milan-Rome express train.

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