Biblioteca nazionale centrale di Roma

LEND ME YOUR EARS:

Rome Pets Are Blessed In Annual Ceremony

DOGS, CATS, CANARIES, MONKEYS and one goldfish were brought by their masters and mistresses to Rome's Church of Sant'Eusebio yesterday for the annual blessing of the animals by Catholic priests.

This year a pony was also among the "congregation," along with a trained rooster on a leash. Several small boys hugged mysterious boxes to their chests which could have included anything from trained mice, frogs or crawling things.

The only incident occurred when a pet monkey, which was bundled up against the cold in the overcoat of its owner, escaped and clambered up the face of the church. The owner, or the cold, convinced it to return.

Happy Birthday...

... today to **Arthur J. Waterman Jr.,** personnel officer of the U.S. Embassy ... and tomorrow (Monday) to **Walter Guzzardi,** chief of the Time-Life Rome bureau ... and to Italian film director **Luciano Emmer.**

Veneto Varia

Rafik Asha, the United Arab Republic's ambassador to the United Nations, is a current visitor in Rome — at the Hotel Ambasciatori ... covering the Italian fashion shows for the Miami Herald (the first time that newspaper has had direct coverage of the shows) is **Adeline Fitzgerald,** former staff writer for the Chicago Sun-Times. Mrs Fitzgerald, whose headquarters are in Paris, is paying her first visit to Rome and is anxious to get in touch with Chicago friends **Ruth Walgreen Stephan,** who has been in Italy doing research for a book on Queen Christina of Sweden, and her husband, artist **John Stephan.** Mrs **Fitzgerald** is at the Excelsior ... TWA yesterday brought in from Frankfurt the noted Hungarian-American pianist **Andor Foldes,** who today will proceed via SAS to Karachi ... actor **Rossano Brazzi** is on his way back home. He and wife **Lidia** have sailed from New York on the liner United States, headed for a month's Rome vacation. **Brazzi** has just finished in Hollywood the comedy, "Count Your Blessings," for MGM, in which he appears with **Deborah Kerr** and **Maurice Chevalier.** After his vacation, he'll do another film for MGM — "I Thank a Fool," with **Ingrid Bergman ... Eric Adolf Berhard Praly,** director general of Ab Nordiska Kompaniet of Stockholm, was due in Rome yesterday; he'll be at the Grand ... arriving Monday will be **George Dougham,** General Electric Co. executive ... passing through Rome and stopping at the Grand are these American Export Lines officials from Genoa: **A. R. Sasseville,** director general Europe and Red Sea; **T. Conroy,** chief, solicitation and statistics; and **M. H. Allison,** assistant director of passenger traffic Europe.

Art Notes

A double-barreled exhibit — displaying **Claude Delamare's** new collection of French fabrics and portraits by the painter-decorator **Piero Aversa** — will have its vernissage tomorrow (Monday) evening at 22 Piazza di Spagna. Among the "personaggi" depicted by **Aversa** are Countess **Consuelo Crespi,** recently hailed as the "No. 1 best-dressed woman" (in a tie with Mrs **Winston Guest**); actresses **Valentina Cortese** and **Rossella Falk; Cristina** and **Francesca Paolozzi Spaulding,** daughters of Algiers-to-Capetown Rally entrant Countess **Alicia Paolozzi;** artist **Novella Parigini** and Mrs **Merle Tirado** ... on the same evening will take place another vernissage, of artists who call themselves the "Gruppo Arcobaleno" (Rainbow Group), at Il Camino Gallery on Via del Babuino. The 13 artists of the group are **Michelangelo Bedini, Saro Esterini, William Parr, Beatrice Diambrini Palazzi, Maria Carli Pugliesi, Antonio Rivitera, Saverio Ungheri, Lamberto Colonna, Angiola Persichetti,** Marchesa **Mussia Fumasoni Biondi, Tommaso Macera** and ceramists **Lino Chianese** and **Carla Giardi Mignecco** ... still another Monday opening will be the one-man show of abstractionist **Antonio Carena,** his first in Rome, at **Claudio Bruni's** La Medusa Gallery.

Mostly Military

Notes from American bases ... LEGHORN: Mrs **Sam Lewis,** wife of the vice consul of the U.S. Consulate in Florence, was guest speaker at the recent luncheon of the Camp Darby Officers' Wives Club, sponsored by wives of the U. S. Naval, Air Force and UNEF officer personnel. A white elephant sale followed the luncheon, with Mrs **Frank Patz** acting as auctioneer ... VICENZA: A recent Vicenza ceremony was the swearing-in of 14 American women as members of the American Red Cross Grey Lady Service. The welcome speech was made by Col. **M. B. Coburn,** commanding officer of the 1st USA Missile Command, and the pledge was administered by Mrs **R. J. Dunn,** chairman of the organization ... WHEELUS AIR BASE, Tripoli, Libya: Certificates of ten years service with the Office of Special Investigations, USAF, were presented to special agents **George Hilas** and **Heinz G. Grohman** by Lt. Col. **R. R. Douville** ... NAPLES: The U.S. Navy Band from Allied Forces Southern Europe headquarters, led by Chief Musician **William Shelton,** took part in a six-hour revue at the Teatro San Carlo Saturday, organized by the newspaper Il Mattino to raise funds for Naples' poor and needy.

If you have any news for "Lend Me Your Ears," please telephone Rome: 587,115 between 1 and 5 p.m. or write to 8 Via Dandolo, Rome, Italy.

Professor Praz At Home In His 'Casa Della Vita'

By **DOROTHY SANDLER**

"La Casa della Vita" (The House of Life), the most recent book of Professor Mario Praz, is a logical development from his many previous books and his interest in the 19th century. It is also the result of a careful, life-long collection of beautiful and rare Empire-style furnishings for his home in Via Giulia—from knick-knacks, fans, miniatures and upholstery to the furniture itself and works of art (among others, there is a Canova sculpture).

With infinite patience, Praz, one of Italy's first full professors of English literature and recently called one of the strongest literary personalities" by Le Monde, has furnished his "house of life" with a unique combination and harmonization of another era. Each object is mentioned in his book and each re-evokes a time of his life, whether it was a happy one or not.

Born In Rome

The life of the well-known writer-professor-collector began on Sept. 6, 1896, in Rome. His father, Luciano, worked in a bank in Switzerland, and died when Praz was four. His mother, Giulia Di Marsciano, came from Orvieto where two family palaces can still be seen. Praz grew up in Florence, where he took a degree in literature in 1920, after receiving one in law from the Universi.ty of Rome in 1918.



Prof. MARIO PRAZ

In 1923, a scholarship took him to London to work on a book on medieval poetry at the British Museum. The book "Seisentismo e Marinismo in Inghilterra" was published in 1925, and was reviewed in the Times Supplement by T. S. Eliot, with whom Praz became very friendly. From 1924 until 1932, Praz was senior lecturer in Italian at the University of Liverpool. For the next two years, because he wanted to stay in England a while longer, he took a post as professor of Italian studies at Manchester University. Called back to Rome, Praz became Professor of English language and literature at the University of Rome, where he has been since 1934, the year he moved into the old Palazzo Ricci in Via Giulia.

His scholarly-literary output has been most impressive. "One book comes of a chapter in the previous one," he says. Some of his most outstanding works (most of which have been translated into English) are: "Penisola Pentagonale" 1926; "La Carne, La Morte e il Diavolo nella Letteratura Romantica" 1930; "Studi sul Concettismo" which grew out of his interest in "emblems", 1934; "Gusto Neoclassico" (to be enlarged and republished this month) 1940. It was from a chapter on Empire style in this latter book that "La Casa della Vita" evolved. J Praz has also written many collections of essays, and in 1944 brought out a booklet on styles of furnishings. After the war, he published a bibliography of studies in 17th century imagery—the first of its kind. His "La Casa della Fama" won the Viareggio prize in 1952. In 1954, Praz wrote "La Crisi dell'Eroe nel Romanzo Vittoriano," a study on the "eclipse" of the hero in Victorian fiction. In addition, he has translated many British classics.

Honors

In 1935, Praz received the British Academy Gold Medal for studies on British-Italian literary relations. Two years ago, he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Letters degree from Cambridge, and, in 1958, he received the "Benemeriti della Cultura" from the Ministry of Education. He edits the yearly symposium, "The English Miscellany," containing studies by scholars of all nationalities. He has traveled widely, including one trip to the United States in 1952.

Erudite Professor Praz has made his life's work of his interests and hobbes an enviable state of affairs. He is completely at home in his "casa della vita."

Gypsy Band Still Blocked At Border

AHRNBACH, East Tyrol, Jan. 17 (AP) — Italian authorities are still blocking the gates to the sunny south for some 80 gypsies, marooned now for almost three days in the no-man's land between the Austrian and Italian border station in this snow-covered Alpine region.

Guarded by Austrian as well as Italian police and fed by a welfare organization of the nearby town of Lienz, the gypsies are still hopeful that the Italian border barrier for them, especially in view of the fact that two of their women folks are expecting to give birth to babies within a day or two.

If the children are born here between the two border check points, the determination of the future nationality will cause a headache for anyone that will have to deal with their legal status.

The gypsy caravan arrived here from Vienna in motor-pulled vehicles and station cars Thursday.



MARCELLA POBBE, Italian soprano of the Metropolitan, leaves Rome by Alitalia for Palermo, where she will sing in "Lohengrin" at the Teatro Massimo.

DENNIS THE MENACE



"Look how many doughnuts I can get on my slingshot handle!"



PAKISTAN AMBASSADOR to Italy and Mrs S. K. Dehlavi chat with Enrico Mattei (right), president of ENI, the Italian state-owned oil agency, at this week's reception given by S. A. H. Ahsani of the Pakistan Embassy.

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