

Back in Time - 25 - Eccles Amateur Dramatic and Operatic Society

by John Rabbitt

Recently a new family moved into Ellesmere Park and, fortunately for us, they joined the Residents' Association soon after moving in. While restoration work was being carried out on their new home, Sameera had what is best called an 'Antiques Roadshow moment'. In the loft space workmen found some very old documents that give a fascinating insight into the life of a previous owner of the house who lived in Ellesmere Park in the 1930s.

Among the documents found, which included a diary, was a programme for a production of *The Student Prince*, performed by the Eccles Amateur Dramatic and Operatic Society, for one week only, commencing Monday, March 16th 1936 at the Broadway Theatre in Eccles. As Sameera is an avid follower of the 'Back in Time' series she has very kindly offered the programme to me so we can all share a glimpse into the sophisticated side of life in Ellesmere Park in the 1930s.

I initially thought I would scan a few pages of the programme but the more I looked at it I realised it was so unique I really should scan it in its entirety.

A picture of the President of the Society, T. H. Gardner Esq., is on page 3 of the programme. Along with his four brothers, Thomas Henry Gardner was a director of L. Gardners and Sons. This engineering company was based at the Barton Hall Engineering Works in Patricroft and they were the world leaders in the manufacture of diesel engines. The company was founded by their father, Lawrence Gardner in 1868, initially making sewing machines. Thomas Gardner lived in a number of houses in Ellesmere Park including Brackley House at the junction of Sandwich Road and Ellesmere Road. Mr. Gardner died at his home in Cavendish House on Cavendish Road in December 1937, one year after this performance of *The Student Prince*.

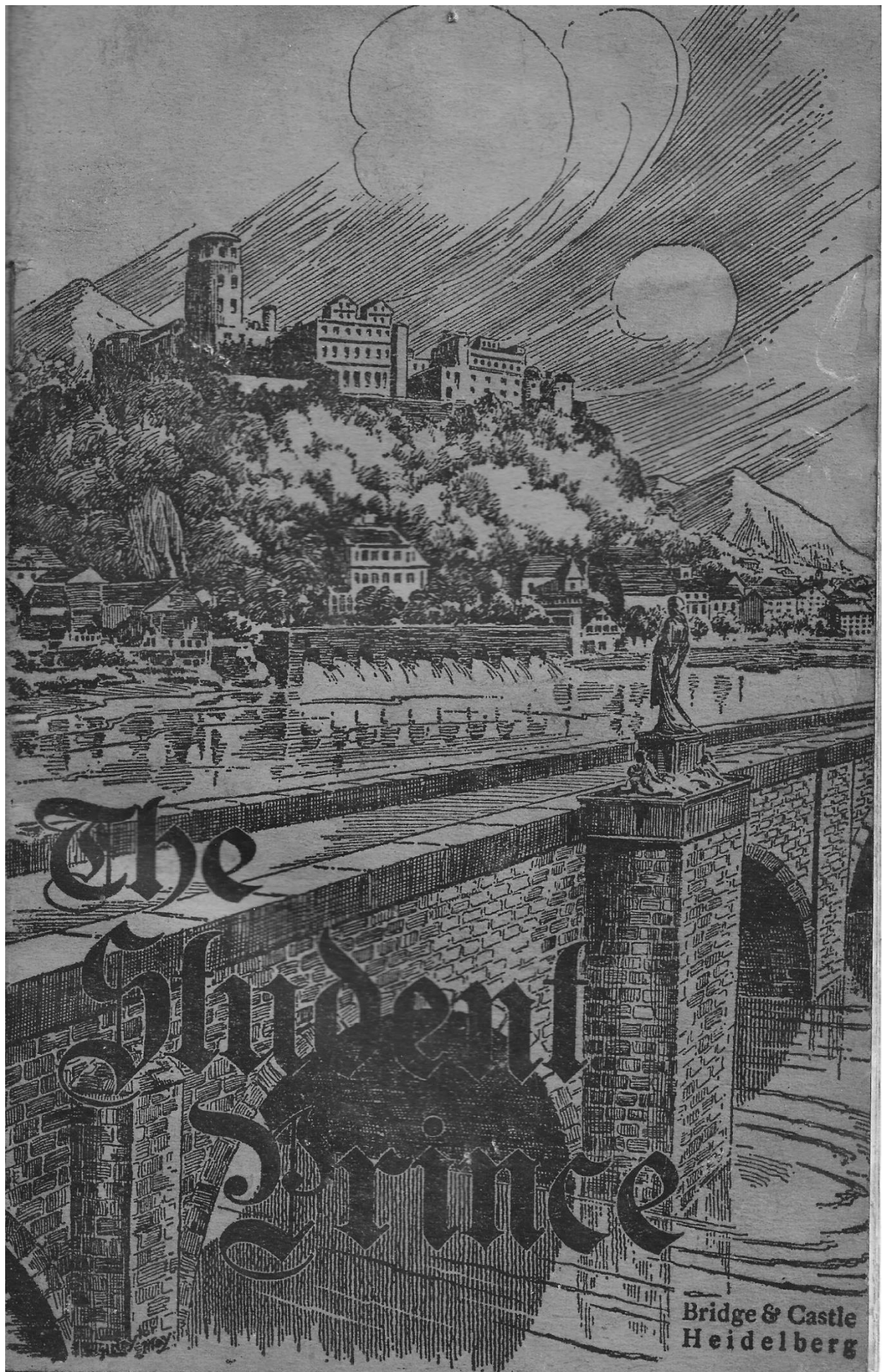
On the inside of the back cover is a list of performances by the Society from 1902 through to 1935, continuous productions only interrupted by the First World War.

One other amazing thing you will notice in the last three pages of the programme is the List of Members of the Operatic Society. On a rough count it numbers some 450 members, many of whom were the great and the good of Ellesmere Park. One of our EPRA members has identified both his father and grandfather on the List of Members, both of whom lived in Ellesmere Park.

On a personal note I spotted a lady on the Members List who lived opposite to me when I lived in Northolt, West London in the 1960s. When this neighbour knew I was coming up to Salford in 1965 to study at the RCAT (now the University of Salford) she said you must visit my parents, Mr. and Mrs. Cotterill, at our family home on Rocky Lane, Monton. I made many visits to this delightful couple who gave me an amazing insight into life in the 1920s in Eccles and Salford. Their daughter, Miss M. Cotterill on the Members List, is the very same person I knew as a child when I lived in Northolt.

If anyone else recognises any names listed in the programme I would love to know.

My thanks again to Sameera for sharing this fascinating document with us.



The Student Prince

Bridge & Castle
Heidelberg



1935—1936

The Eccles
Amateur Dramatic and
Operatic Society

presents

(By arrangement with Messrs. LEE & J. J. SHUBERT
and WILLIAM CLIFFORD GAUNT)

THE
STUDENT PRINCE

A Spectacular Light Opera

MUSIC by SIGMUND ROMBERG

Book & Lyrics by DOROTHY DONNELLY

BROADWAY THEATRE, ECCLES

For One Week commencing Monday, March 16th

Doors open 6-45 p.m. Commence 7-30 p.m.

Matinee on Saturday, March 21st
at 2-30 p.m.

PRICES OF ADMISSION :

Monday and Saturday Matinee, 9d., 1/-, 1/6, and 2/-

Tuesday to Saturday - - 1/- to 5/-

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(Affiliated to the National Association of Operatic and Dramatic Societies).

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ALINE EMMETT
as
"KATHIE."



BERNARD SHAW
as
"PRINCE KARL FRANZ."



ALINE EMMETT
as
"KATHIE."



BERNARD SHAW
as
"PRINCE KARL FRANZ."

STANLEY BIRTWISLE
as
"DR. ENGEL."



MAURICE COLLINGE
as
"LUTZ."

OSWALD UNSWORTH
as
"HUBERT."



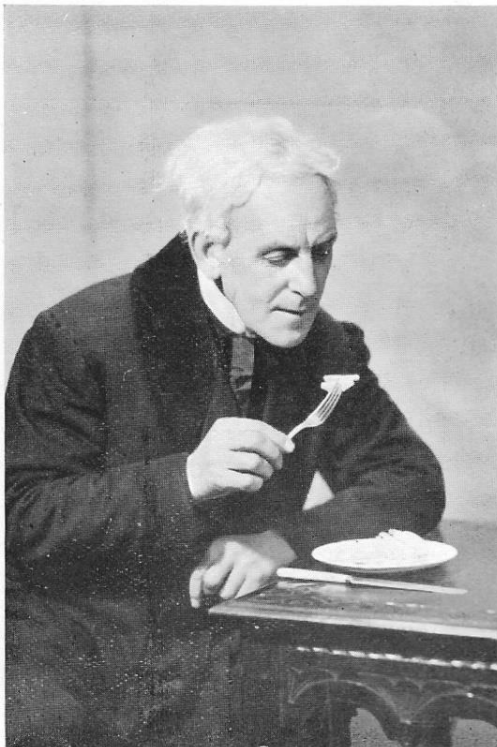
GILDA WILKINSON
as
"GRETCHEN."



WILLIAM G. K. PARKER
as "COUNT VON MARK."



WALTER H. BUTLER as "RUDER."



TOM H. ROBINSON as "TONI."



PRINCE AND KATHIE.
"Deep in my heart."

"THE STUDENT PRINCE."

STORY OF THE PLAY.

IN the Spring of 1860, Karl Franz, the twenty-year-old heir to the throne of Karlsberg, gets his first breath of carefree youth, untrammelled by court etiquette, when he enters the University of Heidelberg. Accompanied by his tutor, Dr. Engel and the valet, Lutz, he takes quarters at the Inn of the Three Golden Apples. Famed for its beer, the Inn is a rendezvous for students who foregather each evening in its garden on the banks of the Neckar to drink, sing, and adore Kathie, the Landlord's pretty niece. The Prince, encouraged by Engel to make the most of his year of freedom, enters lightheartedly into student life. He is immediately accepted as a comrade by his fellow students, and he and Kathie fall in love at first sight. Four happy months pass alternating with riotous student fun and blissful interludes with Kathie, when, like a bolt from the blue, Princess Margaret (to whom, though he has not previously seen her, Karl Franz is betrothed) calls at the Inn accompanied by her mother, The Grand Duchess Anastasia, en route for the Palace, having been summoned thereto by the dying King.

After the Duchess and the Princess have made their adieus at the Inn, the Prince declares his love for Kathie, and desires her to go away with him to Paris.

Before such a plan can materialize, Lutz announces the arrival of Count Von Mark, the Prime Minister, who acquaints Karl Franz of the King's illness, and asks for his return to Karlsberg. This the Prince refuses to do, but Dr. Engel persuades him. There is a sorrowful parting with Kathie, but he promises that he will come back for her.

Two years later, on the eve of his marriage to Margaret, Karl Franz, now King, has visions of his past short life of freedom. He resolves and hastens to fulfil his promise to return to his beloved Kathie, and once more he takes the road to Heidelberg.

The Princess, who loves him dearly, forestalls him by arriving first at the Inn. She pleads with Kathie to disillusion her lover so that he may be reconciled to his fate and will in time learn to love his royal bride. Misfortune has overtaken the Inn, no longer is it the gay centre of student life and Ruder, the landlord, is selling the place to Gretchen, his former waitress. Kathie is likely to be homeless and to please the Princess accepts her cousin Rudolf as a suitor. Thus when Karl Franz arrives, the stage is perfectly set for his disillusionment. His old friends receive him, with the respectful restraint due to a monarch, and the whole atmosphere is changed. At last he realises Margaret's beauty and devotion and turns to her as a lover.

The Eccles
Amateur Dramatic and Operatic Society

PRESENT

“THE STUDENT PRINCE”

○○○○○○

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(In order of appearance)

First Lackey	ALEC QUINN
Second Lackey	STANLEY LOFTHOUSE
Third Lackey	ALAN HALLIWELL
Fourth Lackey	FRANK GRIMSHAW
Von Mark	WILLIAM G. K. PARKER
Dr. Engel	STANLEY BIRTWISTLE
Prince Karl Franz	BERNARD SHAW
Ruder	WALTER H. BUTLER
Gretchen	GILDA WILKINSON
Toni	TOM H. ROBINSON
Detlef	BERNARD ASHTON
Lucas	THOMAS C. HUTTON
Von Asterberg	AUSTIN M. DONLAN
Nicholas	PHILIP JEFFERSON
Kathie	ALINE EMMETT
Lutz	MAURICE F. COLLINGE
Hubert	OSWALD UNSWORTH
Grand Duchess Anastasia	MARY HOLDEN
Princess Margaret	MARGARET A. MARTIN
Captain Tarnitz	F. ALBAN HARPER
Countess Leydon	ADA HAMPSON
Baron Arnheim	GEOFFREY HALL
Rudolph Winter	LEONARD J. LARMUTH
Freshman	A. STAN. M'CARDLE
Captain of the Guard	DENIS NEILD

LADIES OF THE CHORUS: L. Archbald, M. Boyle, G. Billington, M. W. Cockbain, B. Davies, A. Hampson, E. Halsall, J. H. Holiday, B. Larmuth, E. McSherry, D. Mullen, B. Mottershead, J. Ormerod, B. Pollitt, E. Todd, J. Wadsworth, F. Wharton, K. Wood.

MEMBERS OF THE BALLET: *Ballerina*: Marjorie Green; *Ballet*: D. Beardmore, L. Brabin, M. Chapman, M. Cotterill, E. Creasy, D. Foster, B. M. Gilmour, E. Jones, M. M. Owen, J. Rogerson, O. Taylor, M. Walton.

GENTLEMEN OF THE CHORUS: N. S. M'Cardle, F. C. Critchley, F. C. Eadsforth, F. Grimshaw, F. Hutchinson, A. Halliwell, F. A. Harper, G. Hall, T. F. Jones, A. R. Jones, P. Jefferson, H. Jolly, J. S. Kirkman, S. Lofthouse, L. J. Larmuth, W. Lloyd, L. H. Moorhouse, W. Newall, D. Neild, J. Poynton, A. Quinn, A. Vase, A. S. Whitham, J. H. Wooller, W. A. Wallwork.

Musical Numbers.

Full Orchestra under the direction of **HARRY WOOD.**

Act I.

Leader: **S. MERCADO.**

- 1 Prologue.
- 2 Duet (**Prince and Engel**) ... "Down where the Neckar flows" ... "Golden Days"
- 3 Change of Scene and Chorus of Girls ... "Garlands Bright"
- 3a Nicolas' Pipe (**Flute Solo**)
- 4 Entrance of Students and Kathie ... "To the Inn we're marching"
- 5 Chorus of Students and Concerted Number ... "Drinking Song"
"Drink, Drink, Drink"
- 5a Reprise ... "Drink Song"
"Drink, Drink, let the Toast Start"
- 6 Entrance of Prince and Engel ... "Heidelberg, Beloved Vision"
- 6a Unaccompanied Male Chorus ... "Gaudeamus"
"Gaudeamus Igitur"
- 6b Reprise (**Engel**) ... "Golden Days"
"Golden Days, in the Sunshine"
- 7 Duet (**Prince and Kathie**) ... "Deep in My Heart, Dear"
"Of Love I've Often Heard"
- 8 Finale ... "Come, Sir, Will You Join?"
- 8a Concerted Number ... "Serenade"
"Overhead The Moon is Beaming"

Act II.

- 9 Introduction
- 9a Opening Chorus ... "Farmer Jacob Lay A-Snoring"
- 10 Concerted Number ... "Student Life"
"Student Life is as Gay"
- 11 Incidental Music
- 11a Flute Solo
- 12 Finale ... "Thoughts Will Come Back to Me"

Act III.

- 13 Opening and Ballet
- 13a Incidental Music
- 14 Duet (**Princess and Tarnitz**) and Chorus ... "Just We Two"
"Just We Two, If They Knew"
- 15 Ensemble and Gavotte ... "The Flag that Flies Above Us"
- 15a Incidental Music
- 16 Finale ... "What Memories, Sweet Rose"
- 16a Serenade Intermezzo

Act IV.

- 17 Opening Chorus ... "Let Us Sing A Song"
- 18 Incidental Music
- 19 Finale ... "To the Inn we're marching"



The Play produced under the sole direction of ERIC POOLE.

The BALLET arranged and rehearsed by Miss E. NIELD.

Costumes by F. A. Smith, Ltd., Manchester. Scenery by Scenery Hire Service Co. Ltd.,

Perruquier: F. A. Smith. Ltd. Manchester.

Photographs in this book by Ernest J. Care, Eccles.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENERY.

Time: The Spring of 1860.

PROLOGUE. Antechamber in the Palace at Karlsberg.

ACT I. Garden of the Inn of the "Three Golden Apples" at the University of Heidelberg.

ACT II. Sitting-room of Prince Karl at the Inn. Four months later.

ACT III. A Room of State in the Royal Palace at Karlsberg. Two years later.

ACT IV. Same as Act I. The next day.



VON MARK, PRINCE, DR. ENGEL.

Prince—"I have just received your message, has your Excellency been waiting long?"



LUTZ AND HUBERT.

Lutz—"My Smelling Salts, 'Hubert.'"



PRINCESS MARGARET AND
CAPTAIN TARNITZ.
"Just We Two."



GRAND DUCHESS, LUTZ, THE FOUR LACKEYS.
Grand Duchess—"Oh, oh, thank you."



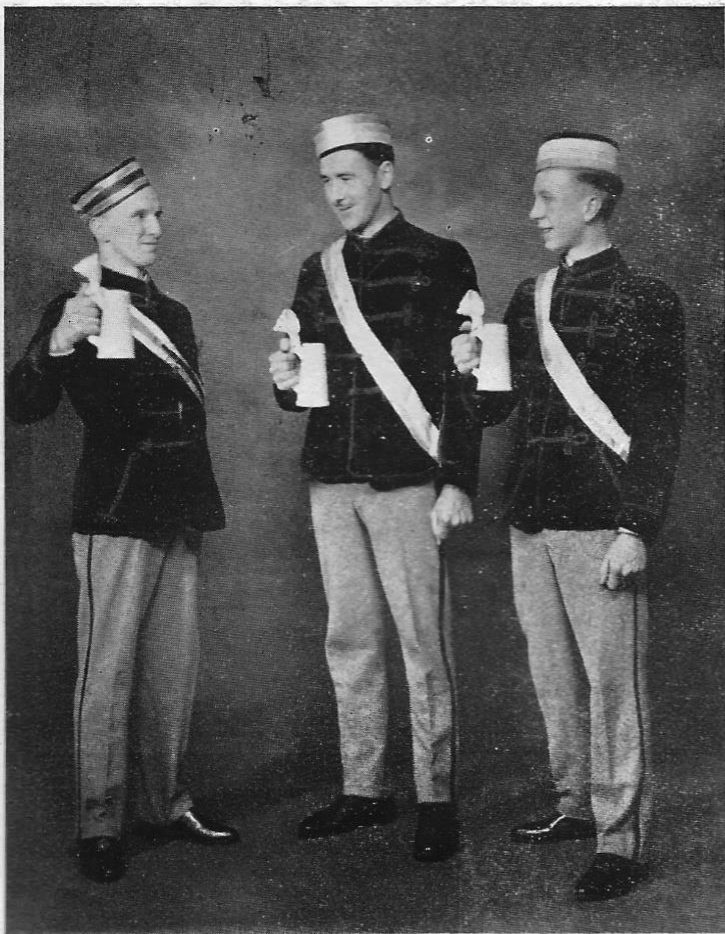
LUTZ, PRINCE, GRAND DUCHESS, PRINCESS MARGARET, CAPTAIN TARNITZ.
Prince—"I trust you are well, cousin."

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP.

Ladies and Gentlemen desirous of becoming Members are invited to communicate with the Hon. Secretary (F. W. D. Mottershead, Aysgarth, Grange Road, Worsley, Manchester).

The Committee is desirous that the Acting Membership be augmented; and applications from persons possessing histrionic and/or musical ability will be cordially welcomed.

An increase in the Non-Acting Membership will permit of considerable extension in the Society's activities and assist in our endeavour to keep alive the spirit of the Theatre in the District.



DETLEF,
VON ASTERBERG,
LUCAS.

"Drink, Drink."

KATHIE,
RUDER,
GRETCHEN.

Ruder—"The Prince is coming
here to-day."





DETLEF, VON ASTERBERG, KATIE, LUCAS.

"Luck, luck, luck."

FOR YOUR DIARY.

MARCH 27th.

○

"THE STUDENT PRINCE"
RE-UNION DANCE

WILL BE HELD AT
 THE BROADWAY CAFE, ECCLES.

TICKETS - 4/6 EACH. To be obtained from the Hon. Secretary.

*Your Committee is already engaging its attention to next
 season's activities, and has under consideration
 the presentation of a most sensational
 release for amateur production.*



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Hon. Musical Director.



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ERIC POOLE.
The Producer.



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We thank our Hon. Musical Director, Mr. HARRY WOOD, for the excellent manner in which he has officiated.

We thank Miss GLADYS WILLIAMS (Hon. Accompanist), also Mrs. L. ROADNIGHT (Hon. Deputy Accompanist), for services admirably executed;

We thank the DIRECTORS, MANAGER and STAFF of the Broadway Theatre for their valued assistance in many ways, the PRESS for publicity and the TRADESMEN who have displayed our advertising matter;

We thank our Hon. Solicitor, Mr. F. W. WATSON, for the many services rendered to the Society;

We thank our Hon. Auditors, Mr. J. R. WALKER and Mr. H. P. WILSON, for their services in auditing the Society's accounts;

We thank our ACTING MEMBERS for their enthusiasm and the sacrifices they have made to ensure the success of the production;

We also thank all those who have been so indefatigable with the sale of tickets;

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We thank the GENERAL PUBLIC for their continued support.

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1908—The Gondoliers.	1927—Sally.
1909—Yeomen of the Guard (second time).	1928—Tom Jones (second time).
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