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them for "exciting the desire" for the objects which they contained.

Sir John noted that the etymology of the word "museum", suggesting the notion of "temple of the muses", was averse to the idea, often associated with museums, that they should serve as depositaries. "Storage" and "aggregation" of objects were principles rejected by museum managements. Depicting the psychology of museum visitors, the speaker said that, owing to its "temple" character, people tended to enter museums in a reverential frame of mind actually inhibiting their enjoyable viewing of the exhibits. Another way museums were considered was as a kind of encyclopaedia or reference work.

Sir John referred to the purchasing policy of museums, on the way prices of works of art fluctuated according to supply and trends, and on the bargains which museums have lost in the past by misappreciating the actual or future importance of certain masterpieces.

The growth of tourism and the institution of package tours had considerably increased the museum's public. This institution tended nowadays not so much to be "useful" but to provide an experience. "People expect to be seduced", said Sir John. This was an attitude which the Speaker appeared to welcome. He underlined the importance for museums to uphold the "quality of experience" which they afforded. This expression was repeated three times and it appears that Sir John's conclusion was that museums are required in the modern world, not so much for their "civilising influence", or for their practical use as agents of conservation, but for the enriching experience which they can provide for modern man.

(PMB)

## CONCERT AT THE SWISS CHURCH

A concert in aid of the Swiss Church in London arranged by Mr. Lennart Rabes, Organist of the German-speaking parish, was held at Endell Street on 3rd March. A rather small audience listened to the Welwyn Garden City Choir from the Church of St. Francis of Assisi sing a series of melodious works by old and modern English composers. It was a pity that so few parishioners managed to attend the concert, as the quality of the performance was well worth a bigger turn-up. Most soothing of all were songs by Thomas Tallis and William Byrd, two Elizabethan composers. Other works included in the programme were by Henri Purcell, William Mundy, Anthony Holbourne, to name but a few. The Organist John Marsden and the Brass Quintet from Monks Walk School played further works by Matthew Cambridge and Johann S. Bach.

When the expenses of the performers had been accounted for, the exercise brought about £25 to the Swiss churches.

## INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF YOUTH ORCHESTRAS

The Trustees of the International Festival of Youth Orchestras, the President of which is the Prime Minister, Mr. Edward Heath, held a gala reception at Christie's, King Street, on 20th March. We have already in the past written about the International Festival of Youth Orchestras. It is a recently instituted annual event, which has taken place in Lausanne on the past two occasions, and at St. Moritz previously. The SNTO and various

Swiss organisations have, among other businesses, sponsored the event.

Rarely have I attended a reception with such a high density of top brass. There were 18 ambassadors, nine gentlemen which one could not get away with without calling them "Sir", as many "Ladies", four Lords, one Dame, one Countess, a couple of Brigadiers, one Rear Admiral, one Air Commander, about three MP's and a host of distinguished businessmen, the wealthiest of whom appeared to be Mr. Paul Getty. Guests of Honour included the Lord Mayor of London, Mr. David Rockefeller, Lord Eccles, the Mayor of Lausanne, Mr. Andre Chevallaz, and Dr. Werner Kaempfen, Director of the Swiss National Tourist Office.

Guests arriving at the Reception were greeted with delightful sounds of a Mozart Flute Quartet who were playing from the minstrels' gallery. This quartet called the Aulos Quartet was specially formed for this occasion by four young ladies from the Royal College of Music.

Mr. Lionel W. Bryer, I.F.Y.O. Chairman, announced a \$25,000 grant to the International Festival of Youth Orchestras Foundation from The Chase Manhattan International Foundation, who President is Mr. David Rockefeller. Mr. Rockefeller, a well known collector of beetles, was presented with an "entomological type" British beetle specially entombed in a perspex cigarette box for his desk.

Mr. Bryer also announced the ISRAEL SIEFF VIOLIN SCHOLARSHIP which will be awarded annually at the I.F.Y.O.'s festival in Lausanne. The Scholarship has been established in the name of Lord Sieff of Brimpton, one of Britain's pioneers in modern commerce and also an amateur violinist.

A short concert was given in Christie's Main Auction Room by a combined youth orchestra made up from the Midland Youth Orchestra, who participated at last year's Festival, and the Merseyside Youth Orchestra who are representing Great Britain this year. The soloist for the Mozart Violin Concerto was 14-year-old Ruth Ferguson from Coventry. The conductor was Blyth Major, Festival Director of Music.

Dr. Werner Kaempfen, Director of the Swiss National Tourist Office, replying on behalf of Switzerland, said, "I wish to express the gratitude of the whole of Switzerland to the initiators of this brilliant idea who have today conquered the youth of the world through music".

Christie's opened their Geneva office five years ago, where approximately seven sales are held each year at Hotel Richmond. During the five years they have sold £9,052,201 worth of works of art, thereby establishing Geneva as a new art centre.



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