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MRS. BINGGUELY'S EXHIBITION.



GINETTE BINGGUELY-LEJEUNE.

" Quelle révélation, quel magnifique succès, quelle joie pour vos compatriots "

these are the remarks which the Swiss Minister, Monsieur C. R. Paravicini, entered in Mrs. Bingguely's visitors' book when he paid a further visit to her Exhibition at the Fine Art Society's Gallery in New Bond Street.

The Exhibition, as our readers will remember, was opened three weeks ago by the Swiss Minister and through lack of space we could not report on the opening ceremony. It attracted a large gathering and the Minister in his speech remarked that he had never suspected that anything short of a commotion would keep him in London on an Ascot morning, but the occasion was such a pleasant one that he had taken the risk of being late for the opening of that famous week, as he was anxious to give Mrs. Bingguely a good send-off on this important occasion.

Her charming personality had endeared her to all of us for many years. As she was born in Paris, the Minister expressed his satisfaction that our friend Henry Bingguely had managed to capture this French artist for the Swiss Colony who could now claim her as one of their compatriots.

He gave a comprehensive outline of the different pieces of sculpture exhibited and only regretted that on this occasion time did not permit him to inspect the work in details, but he promised to make a point of coming back before the end of the Exhibition. He was particularly glad to notice Lord Nuffield who had come specially to honour the artist, as well as such a great number of Mrs. Bingguely's friends, including English, American, French and Swiss. She had just recently been once more congratulated by the President of the French Republic on the occasion of the Paris Salon, and he felt sure that they would all join with him in adding their personal congratulations, and wish her all the success she deserved. He had great pleasure in declaring the Exhibition officially open.

Mrs. Bingguely was asked to reply to the Minister's speech, and said : " I do not know how to express all I would like to say! There are moments in life when one would like to be able to stop Father Time and tell him : ' Please wait a little longer, this is so lovely.' This is just how I feel to-day and I do not know how to thank you for your appreciation of my work.

A great English sculptor named Jagger once said that sculpture is the most exacting, the most arduous and probably the least appreciated of all the Arts, but if you are prepared to work hard, to work very hard, you will reach a phase called *Self Expression*, and it would fill your life with a wonderful and absorbing passion which would remain with you to the grave.

The study of form, the shape of a swelling muscle, the curve of a bust, the searching of a profile, artists who love their work are lucky!

I have been asked what are my favourite works. It is very difficult to say because there is a little bit of my heart attached to every one, but I should say : Francis de Croisset, Rudyard Kipling and naturally my last work : the bust of Lord Nuffield.

Francis de Croisset, writer, dreamer, traveller, admirer of India and the East, and still more Parisian than any Parisian born in Paris, lover of everything that it refined and beautiful, I have the most delightful recollections of his charming personality.

Rudyard Kipling, giant of English literature, the genial poet who has glorified the servitude and the grandeur of the British Empire, the vivid painter of the jungle and the friend of the little children — how I admired him!

And it was at the Rudyard Kipling Memorial Banquet where my bust of Kipling was exhibited that I saw Lord Nuffield for the first time, and I just could not take my eyes away from him so impressed I was by the extraordinary character of his face, and I decided to make a bust of him with an inspiration that you can well imagine.

I know that Lord Nuffield is very modest, but he must forgive me if I say that I have the deepest respect and admiration for him, for his kindness and generosity. He is one of the greatest names in the British Empire to-day, he is a great patriot, he is a living flag of England and with millions of other men and women I worship his great heart and simplicity. The sittings I had from Lord Nuffield have been a wonderful experience, and I shall treasure the memory of them as long as I live.

I convey my very best thanks to His Excellency the Swiss Minister, Mr. C. R. Paravicini, for his personal appreciation of my work and for so kindly opening my Exhibition.

And I wish to thank Lord Nuffield very much indeed for his presence to-day. He is giving me again some of his very valuable time, and I wish to assure him of my undying gratiude.

And I wish to thank specially my dear Sculpture Master and his wife who are here to-day : Mr. and Mrs. Charles Doman, for years of attachment and guidance. No one ever had a better or kinder Master.

I shall continue to study and work hard, I still have plenty to learn! I think I shall study and learn all my life and I shall try to do ' good work.' If you think that so far I have not failed, I am very pleased.

Ladies and Gentlemen, my friends, all of you, I can say no more! This is a great day for me! My heart has been warmed by your presence, your flowers, your kindness to me. It is overwhelming ... God bless you all ... Thank you!

Judging by Mrs. Bingguely's visitors book the Exhibition has been very well attended, a large section of the Swiss Colony having supported her, and she has been honoured by the visit of some very important people.

We are sure our compatriots will join us, in congratulating Mrs. Bingguely on her great achievement, and we wish her continued success.

ST.



THE RT. HON. THE VISCOUNT NUFFIELD, O.B.E., M.A., D.C.L.
Bust by Ginette Bingguely-Lejeune.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

Another red letter day for the City Swiss Club was Tuesday, the 27th June, when over one hundred members and friends assembled at the Brent Bridge Hotel for the annual Summer Dinner and Dance. Even the weather was kind on that day as, after days of rain and cold, the sun shone and it helped to make this evening the perfect success it was.

The one regret of all the assembly was the absence of our beloved President, Louis Chapuis, but everyone was overjoyed at hearing the latest news from Mrs. Chapuis, and knowing that our President was now well on the way to recovery.

The Vice-President, Mr. G. Marchand, presided, and amongst a large number of guests, Mr. de Jenner and Mrs. de Jenner were again conspicuous figures showing their attachment and devotion to the Club.

The happy couples danced to the tune of an excellent band, and the evening had a typical Swiss atmosphere, thanks to Mr. Gandon and his Accordionists who excelled themselves in rendering some of our well-known Swiss tunes including some of the favourite quick waltzes. The thanks of the whole assembly go to these ambassadors of harmony who always do so much towards the happiness and good feeling of the Colony.

Midnight came all too soon, when the meeting ended, and there was a general regret that only one of these happy gatherings took place in the year.

Now we look forward to the pleasure of all meeting again on September 5th at Pagani's, and starting a most successful winter season.

Bee.

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