

First impressions of Cologne, December 1971

By KEVIN MCKINNEY

Arriving in Cologne by train in the evening, one is first struck by the immense spires of the superb Gothic Cathedral stretching in illuminated tension into the mists and fog of the December sky. One disembarks at the railway station, adjacent to the cathedral, amidst throngs of hustlers, pimps, ordinary travelers, and Spanish and Italian youths who have migrated to the Rhine Valley in search of jobs and better pay.

From the main concourse of the station one can ascend to the square of the cathedral with its surrounding shops, restaurants and hotels, or descend to a very clean and logically designed underground tram stop. You must purchase tram tickets, three for two marks, in advance and stamp them on machines when entering a bus or a tram, so that normally no money passes hands on the public service vehicles themselves. The honor system is used, but the transit Authority employs plain clothes spot checkers who may demand to be shown a validly stamped ticket. Public transportation is, on the whole, efficient and well run.

At first glance, Cologne is much like any modern European or North American City. There is a preponderance of modern

buildings, due in large part to the destruction of 75 per cent of the city during the last war. Miraculously, the Cathedral survived with no extensive damage, and many other historically important buildings remain. The overall impression, though, is one of modernity. The central shopping district is a maze of pedestrian walkways, formerly streets, that have sensibly been barred to vehicular traffic. The Newmarket Square at the center of the shopping district becomes a Christmas Bazaar in December, with wooden and canvas booths clustered together in carnival effect, dealing in bric a brac, antiques, novelty items, a vast assortment of wursts, breads, and pastries and complemented by ferris wheel and merry-go-round rides for the kids.

To a maritimer, part of the charm of the city is the array of items available that one simply never sees here. As one would expect, there are great quantities and varieties of beer. There is Kölsch, a local specialty, Alt, a dare variety and slightly bitter, Pils, and many other beers from all over the country. Each German city and region has its own beer varying in sweetness, color, consistency, and taste, of course. Variety in wine is, Perhaps, even greater than in beer, and the natives of the Rhine Valley are known

for their love of wine. An old drinking song declares: "If the Rhine were wine, I would rather be a fish." Rhine wines, Mosel, Liebfraumilch, literally "Virgin's Milk", are among the favourite white wines.

There are as many types of wursts, sausages and meat pastes or spreads as the imagination can conjure. The complete spectrum of edible meat products is blended with vegetables, broth, truffles, mushrooms, pickles, schmalz and many other palatable and not so palatable food products in an endless variety of concoctions that are then stuffed into sausages, rolled into loaves or packed into jars to be dealt to the consuming public. There is obvious delight in good food and good drink among the German people which is again

apparent in the abundance of fresh breads and pastries to be found in the many bakeries and food stores of Cologne. The variety is once more striking to the North American, as one is tempted by black bread, pumpernickel, combinations of the different wheats and spices, cookies, rolls, pies and tarts made with fresh fruit and cream and seasonal specialties such as Christmas stollen and spice cookies. The partaking of these baked goods is complemented with generous measures of filtered mocha coffee, so rich and full-bodied as to shame our watered down version of the same drink. The tea is equally various, running the gamut from peppermint to a thorough inventory of flower, fruit and herb teas.

Of the many musical events

available, I chose to see J.S. Bach's Weihnacht Soratorium, a powerful Christmas piece performed by full orchestra and chorus in the acoustically excellent trinitatiskirche. There was a very fine graphics exhibition at the Wallraf-Richartz Museum, and in another gallery of the same museum I was surprised to find New Brunswick artist Alex Colville's "Truck Stop" as well as Malcolm Morley's "St. John's Yellow Pages".

Shopping bargains in the city include the famous 4711 Eau de Cologne and the related flower essences which have become a world famous trademark of the city. Finally, cameras and photographic equipment are excellent bargains, and even Japanese cameras can be got at very good prices, as they must compete with the fine German products.

'71 yearbook all sold out

By MARIA WAWER

Yearbook '71 - all sold out! According to Mr. Wayne Charters, SRC Business Administrator, the 210 books still up in the SRC offices have all been pre-paid by students, but not as yet picked up.

"We're advertising in the Bruns and on CHSR to have them picked up. Last year, a total of 30 books were not called for. We tried to contact those who had ordered them, but were unable to do so. We dare not dispose of them in case some of these people do reach us, so we're keeping them in storage for such an eventuality."

Each year, as well as the 1,500 or so books pre-ordered by student, 100 extra are brought in and then sold at cost. Mr. Charters said that these are disposed of easily. Students who ordered the '71 yearbook in advance paid \$5, a saving of \$3 over the cost price, the SRC subsidizing the test. Buyers who did not order early dished out the full print-

ing price of \$8.

The total number of '71 books brought to UNB was 1,550, which means about one third of the student body showed an interest in obtaining one.

Mr. Charters went on to say the '72 book will be a slimmer volume, at a lower cost. A contract has already been made with National School Services for 1,500 copies at \$6,325. He expressed the hope that this yearbook will almost be able to break even, what with students paying \$3 per copy, and advertisements. Subsidization would be needed only to cover yearbook expenses. However, the other form of subsidization not often thought of by students is the

free mailing of books to graduates. This comes to about 60 cents per book.

The forthcoming book, although it will have fewer pages, should carry a broader coverage of student activities - social and club activities. There will be a greater emphasis on cut-lines. Sports pictures, for example, might include the location and date of the game pictured.

But that's next year's book... At the moment, the SRC office staff is interested in seeing last year's yearbooks disappear from the office. If you have ordered one, and have not yet picked it up, why not help them out. Trot up to the SRC offices, second floor of the SUB. They are waiting for you.

CHSR is air pollution

notice:

ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

TUESDAY, JANUARY 25, 1972

8:00 P.M. S.U.B. ROOM 26



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