

Das Lied

Newsletter of the Adelaider Liedertafel 1858 Vol 1 - No 3 – June 2003

Editor: Bill van de Water Correspondents: Peter Tamm & Dieter Fischer

This edition is being written the day after we sang at the Ecumenical Church service in Riverton. Personally I thought it was a very pleasant day, we sang well considering there were a few absentees, and the people of Riverton made us feel welcome.

Herr Sekretär Carl Ascher passed me a note the other night for inclusion in this month's Das Lied. It concerns the fact that we should all be doing a bit of homework on a couple of the songs we are practicing for the Jubilee Concert, particularly Im Feuerstrom der Reben. As we know, this song moves along at a furious pace in parts, and speaking personally there are times when I just can't get my tongue around the words. A few minutes each night, speaking the words in the fast passages as quickly as possible will help the conductor, the choir and especially ourselves. This applies particularly for those members (like me) whose "mother tongue" is not German.

Bill van de Water, Editor

Report from Committee Meeting

- Hall renovations: The Club has apparently has a change of heart, and will more or less come into line with our wishes (and those of other groups) regarding the staging.
- Manfred Grafton has agreed to be "Emergency First Deputy Assistant Conductor" on the occasions that Bruno can't do it.
- We have heard from Perth that the next Sangerfest will be held over there on the weekend of 10th to 13th June, 2005. Pencil these dates in your diary!
- Sponsorship for our Jubilee concert is very thin.
- Although we have been told that the Club will "probably" be ready by September 1st, we cannot proceed with preparations for the gala ball on that basis. Peter Reeh is therefore looking around for an alternate venue.
- Dieter Fischer has advised he is conducting a complete inventory and overhaul of our music stocks.

Celebrations

Birthdays this month:

13th: Tony Howath (80)

19th: Peter Tamm (63)

If you have forthcoming personal events and celebrations let Bill, Peter T or Dieter F know and we will publish them here.

Fritz' Corner

So far, over five years as Historian I have been able to assemble a huge collection of documents up to the end of 2002. There are now 651 documents I have come across with your help, totalling 3,356 pages of information relating to our proud history. Please keep these records coming!

Naturally, a lot of these collected pieces are very special and with the opportunity that we now have with "Das Lied" I would like to share a few of these special items with the choir.

One such piece "Liedertafel", by Robert Bruz, was published by the "Deutsche Zeitung" on Friday 4th November 1859. In that year the ALT was one year old and Carl Linger was still our conductor. The poem is reproduced below. May the verses spur us all to a great many years yet, with our 145th Jubilee at our doorstep.

Fritz I Schmelzle, Historian

From the Archives

The First Royal Visit to SA

Prince Alfred, the Duke of Edinburgh and commander of the HMS "Galatea" landed in South Australia on a blazing November day in 1867. The son of Queen Victoria and her consort Prince Albert (a German), he was descended directly from the House of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha and spoke fluent German. Vast crowds had gathered at

Glenelg upon his arrival, and a number of receptions were planned. A hastily assembled choir entertained the crowd, practicing a special version of the National Anthem, to which a verse had been added which went "God Save our Gracious Prince, Long Live our Noble Prince" etc. The choir also sang the already widely-known patriotic song "Song of Australia". The Prince and his entourage must have felt ironic humour in the words, with the opening verse proclaiming "There is a Land where Summer Skies, Are gleaming with a thousand dyes" ... as the rising heat left the English visitors limp and wilting.

Later that week the Prince attended an unusual function in Victoria Square, where the State's large German

community had arranged a torchlight song festival. Led by the Adelaiders Liedertafel hundreds of marchers in German national costume tramped in military fashion into the Square, where the Prince awaited them. Here they formed up, still carrying their torches, and sang a selection of German songs. The Prince replied with a stirring speech in German (this would have been the first and last time a Royal person had addressed an Australian audience in German).

Prince Alfred College and Prince Alfred Lane carry this Royal's name to this day.

Taken from "The First Royal Tour, 1867-1878" by Brian McKinlay.

Liedertafel von Robert Bruz

Das ist der Goetter milde Gunst
Die uns das Lied gegeben
Umstrahlt vom Sonnenschein der Kunst
Verschoent sich unser Leben:
Es braust das Lied, die Leier klingt,
Die Seele fuehlt sich neu beschwingt.

O sei gesegnet alle Zeit,
Du heil'ge Liederquelle:
Gepresste Herzen machst Du weit,
Der truebe Blick wird helle;
Ja, besser schmeckt uns selbst der Wein,
Toent hell und frisch ein Lied darein.

In Deinem Namen treten wir,
Zu Deinem Dienst zusammen;
Dir rauscht das festliche Panier,
Dir gluehen uns're Flammen;
So schweb' du unsrem frohen Chor,
O Stern des Lied's auch kuenftig vor.

Und wem's im Herzen wiederklingt,
Mag auch die Lippe schweigen,
Und wem es feucht zum Auge bringt,
Wie Tau von Bluetenzweigen:
Herein, o edler Gast, Herein,
Du sollst uns Freund und Bruder sein.

Es schlingt die Kunst ein heilig Band
Um alle, die sie ehren:
Drum, Freunde, rasch das Glas zur Hand,
Es frohen Muth's zu leeren,
Es lebe jeder, Frau und Mann,
Der Singen und der Hoeren kann.

The Last Word:

Useful information: In a deck of cards the king of hearts is the only king without a moustache.