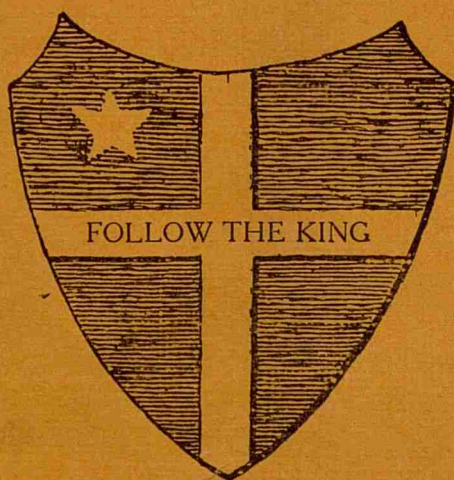


THE ROUND TABLE ANNUAL 1926



THE ORGAN OF AN INTERNATIONAL
ORDER FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Price 1/- (1/3 post free)

From

T. P. H. BOOK SHOPS

or

CHIEF SECRETARY ROUND TABLE
2 UPPER WOBURN PLACE, LONDON, W.C.1

AE
ARCHIVOS
ESTATALES

REV. 183
10

The Round Table Annual

June, 1926

The Organ of an International League
of Young People banded
together for Service



"A Table Round
That was to be for love of God and man
And noble deeds, the flower of all the world."



LONDON:
PUBLISHED BY THE ROUND TABLE
2 UPPER WOBURN PLACE, W.C.1

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CURRENT NEWS

OUR ANNUAL this year appears in one language only—this is an experiment, the purpose of which is to find out whether a smaller, and therefore cheaper magazine will reach more of our members than a larger magazine in two languages. In an international Order like ours it is good to be able to reach at least two sets of readers—English speaking, and French speaking—therefore it seems a pity that sufficient copies are not sold to allow us to continue printing in two languages. Happily the Latin Countries where our Order exists have the capital little *Bolletino* edited by the chief Knight for Italy, and through our Annual whilst it stands in one language only, we send hearty greetings to the Tables in every country, drawing them closely with ourselves into one Golden Chain of loving service in the worlds where there are no barriers of space or language.

CHRISTMAS 1925 marked an epoch in the history of our Order, for on that day at Adyar, India, there assembled a more international gathering than we have ever held, and one presided over, to the joy of all, by our venerable Senior Knight himself.

I use the word "venerable" which perhaps conjures up in the minds of some of you younger ones a picture of a very old man—Our Senior Knight truly is "old," as the world counts years, but if you met him I don't think what would strike you would be his *age*—much more, likely would you be to think "What a kind smile, and how pleased he seems to see me!" or "What glorious eyes flaming with love and power." At any rate we use the word "Venerable" as the one which best expresses our feeling of reverence and gratitude to him who ceaselessly pours out for us the priceless treasures of his knowledge and his love.

OUR CONSTITUTION.—There were other meetings also at Adyar where representatives of our Order discussed the reform proposals which you have all been considering for the last two years. And they agreed upon certain things which most of you will now know about through your own leading Knights. Perhaps the most important decisions were: first, the declaration that our Order is specially intended to tell boys and girls more than they already know about the great Elder Brothers of our Race Who guide our world, and to help Round Table Companions to train themselves to become true Knights, working in conscious touch with those Supermen or Masters Who all the time are carrying out the behests of THE KING.

KNIGHTS COUNSELLORS.—Many of you will be glad to

know that your older knights and friends are not going to become "Invisible" (as was at first suggested), but that they remain, when over 30, as Knights Counsellors, ready at any moment to pass on their work to a younger Knight who is prepared to take it, but standing by to give him such support and counsel as he may need.

GRADES RENAMED.—Carrying out the suggestion made by our Knights of Honour the Senior Council formally abolished the grade *Companion*. So that the grades of the Order below the rank of Knights of Honour stand as:

Knights Counsellor

Honorary Knights (of one Country—title given in rare cases to a Knight whom the Country wishes to honour)

Knights Errant

Knights

Squires (over 11 years old)

Pages.

The name *Companion*, loved by many from the early days of our Order, remains as a general term by which a member of any grade may be designated. Thus in the termination of the long pledge the words "May we be true Companions" stand as before.

OUR ROUND TABLE TREE.—All Companions will be glad to know that a tree was planted in the name of our Order in the beautiful grounds of Adyar. The little ceremony was held in the presence of Knight of Honour Raja and Knight Dorothy Jinarajadasa, Honorary Knight of the American Section, and of Knights from various countries. So that now we have a visible link, not only with the Star Amphitheatre in Sydney where Lancelot's seat is at the Disposal of any Companion who likes to claim it, but also in Adyar the home of our Protector, where this growing life will symbolize the spreading of protection and beauty for which the Order stands.

INDIA'S CHIEF KNIGHT.—In spite of the fact that the conception of the Round Table is rather Western than Eastern, applications have been received from time to time from young Indians for admission to the Order. The acquisition of Mrs. Arundale (who with Bishop Wedgwood was elected by the Senior Council as a Knight of Honour) makes it probable that actual Tables will be started, Knight of Honour Galahad of India (Shrimati Rukmini Arundale) being Chief Knight for India. A beginning was made when at Adyar three Knights were received so that they might start work in Ceylon, and since then news has come from Hyderabad Sindh, from Karachi and from Shüklatirth (a school in Gujerat Province) of work begun.

OMMEN.—At the Star Congress in July Round Table meetings will be held—the Senior Council should contrive to meet, and a Ceremonial meeting will be arranged by the Dutch Round Table.

Try your very hardest—Knights, Squires, and Pages who read this!—to get Ommen. But if you cannot get there this year, remember that no effort is ever wasted, so that if you wish strongly enough you *will* sooner or later find yourself at Ommen, or at some other of these international Assemblies of people with Round Table ideals, which our Protector or others of our Knights of Honour make joyous and inspiring by their presence.

NOTES OF TWO ADDRESSES

COMPARATIVELY few Companions of our Order were able to be present at Adyar last Christmastide when several international meetings were held. The following notes will give them some little idea of what was said: (1) by our Senior Knight, at a general gathering, where he talked quite informally, expressing his views as to the lines on which this Order is intended to work; (2) by Knight of Honour Parsifal of India, at a Ceremonial Meeting where he admitted Knights to work in Ceylon, Poland, Australia and elsewhere.

THE ROUND TABLE

NOTES OF THE SENIOR KNIGHT'S TALK TO ROUND TABLE COMPANIONS

BISHOP LEADBEATER spoke of the founding of the Order by Herbert Whyte, and continued: "It seems to have had varied success in several countries. It did very well in Australia for a time, but it seemed to get rather crowded out later.

"We have not been quite as efficient an instrument in the Master's hands as I should like. I think we may take this opportunity of bringing new life into the Order. It is a question of determining what is the best plan, and then offering recommendations to the Senior Council."

The original idea was that the Order should exist for young people, to help and train them in the best and noblest path for them. It formed a kind of intermediate stage between the Lotus Circle and the

Theosophical Society. The former taught the rudiments of Theosophy, and when the children got beyond that, they came into the Round Table. Here they found, as well as instruction, a beautiful ceremony. So the Order fulfilled a very useful purpose, and on the whole it went fairly well, "though not with the swing of enthusiasm I should have liked."

There were so many other activities and the same people in all of them, and the feeling arose that we should try to get all the children's movements united in one.

The Senior Knight then referred to the criticisms made at Vienna, and asked some of those present what exactly had happened.

Knight of Honour Oscar rising to speak took on his own shoulders the responsibility of the proposed reforms, which, he said, were the outcome of some discussions as to the means of improving the Order.

Referring to the suggestion of making the Order of the Round Table a popular movement more on the lines of the Boy Scouts' organization, the Senior Knight said it was not the kind of organization the Masters intended the Round Table to be. He had ventured on one occasion to ask his own Master if the Round Table could be used in Their work, and the reply he received was that the Order was capable of being made a very efficient instrument.

Because of this reply the Senior Knight had not taken much notice of the various suggestions for changes in the Order. The original idea was that the leading Knight drew round him a "Table," and taught it. If the Order were turned into a children's society only it would hardly be possible to keep up the dignity of the teacher. There must of course be elasticity, but the main idea was to instruct the young people.

Sometimes of course you get exceptional cases of advanced souls coming into incarnation, and when this happens the boy or girl is not quite like other children. (The case of Knight of Honour Krishnaji was cited, who asked our Protector if he might form a class, and gaining her approval, had for his pupils the Principal of the C.H.C. and several Brahmins with high degrees, and *he did teach*, so that they came out of his classes marvelling at what they had learned.)

We all want to do the best for our Order, and we must decide what it is to be. If it is to remain a movement for Theosophical instruction, and be thought of as existing for THEIR use, then it would probably be well to preserve something of the original form.

It is for us to think out some scheme by which we can carry out the purpose for which the Order was founded.

ADYAR, December 25, 1925

THE ROUND TABLE

ADDRESS BY
BISHOP ARUNDALE
TO NEWLY ADMITTED KNIGHTS

THIS Order will have a big Future! For what we are doing is but the beginning of things. We hope to make it more and more worthy of our great Teacher when He comes among us.

As I speak to you this afternoon I seem to have some little glimpse of what this Order may become, giving service among all nations, and amongst all faiths, forming one united Brotherhood.

This ceremony of initiation into Knighthood brings you, more than some of you realize, into touch with the greater Ceremonies on the inner planes. Some of the phrases used in it have been taken out of those Ceremonies. It has seemed right to give to the young a little touch with the future that awaits them.

Membership of the Round Table means membership, now or in the future, of that Great Brotherhood. Your admission Ceremony makes a link with the real Ceremonies through which many of you *should* pass in this incarnation.

Steadily follow the Motto: LIVE PURE, SPEAK TRUE, RIGHT WRONG, AND FOLLOW THE KING.

Throw yourselves with your whole heart into the Service; each with all his capacities, with all his resources, be they great or be they small; the Brotherhood will add to what you give.

Working steadily and enthusiastically you will find yourselves able to do great work in the future. You *can* achieve, never mind what you are, nor how incapable you seem to be, never mind the obstacles in your path. In other lives you can do ordinary things but in this life you have to do big things. You can reach Them with the help of the great Teacher. You must not be partly His and partly your own. Give yourselves at once, determine your WILL. Be wholly HIS.

You have taken a step to-day which leads you nearer to the great Master. Follow in His footsteps as you promised. Be absolutely true, as you have pledged yourselves. Then in work for your brothers do not rest until you can say to yourselves: "Now I can feel as others feel." For you must UNDERSTAND. Maybe you have a great many mistakes before you, but understand and sympathize strongly, so there will arise goodwill and unity between yourself and others.

The successful can manage for himself, you have to turn to those whom you find in trouble. As for yourselves, whenever you fail, that failure will give you strength—you should realize that it is for your own good every time that happens. Try to practise self-recollectedness.

This is a true Order of Knighthood. I urge you to press forward to take the next step that awaits you. Look up to that with enthusiasm.

It is your happiness and privilege to be Servants of THE KING!

ADYAR, December 30, 1925

OUR ORDER IN MANY LANDS

AUSTRALIA.—This short review of our Order during the past year must begin with the country where our Senior Knight lives. Any Table which has the good fortune to have his presence at its meetings is naturally very much alive.

The Chief Knight for Australia reports a slight reduction in membership, the total being 23 Knights and 114 Squires and Pages.

Fine service has again been done in Adelaide, by raising money for a Free Kindergarten and the Baby's Aid Society, and in Brisbane by a variety of activities, including a Christmas party for some 100 children of soldiers who had died in the war; collecting money for a Children's Playground, a Free Kindergarten, the Junior Red Cross, and £6 for the building fund of the local T.S. The leading Knight of this Table reports their great regret at the resignation from the position of State Knight of Miss Marcella Clarke who was the life and soul of the Brisbane Table for so many years, adding however, that every third month the whole Table including Knights Counsellors assembles for the Bread and Salt Ceremony.

Melbourne has again made one of its chief activities the sending of invalid boys to the country, 11 boys having been given an average of 17 days, besides collecting £30 for the Free Kindergarten, and presenting a number of garments to this Institution on our Protector's birthday.

Other Tables in Perth and Launceston show a fine record of service which lack of space unfortunately prevents our chronicling. One very promising feature is that several R. T. Companions are taking charge of Lotus Circles, and helping in different ways the work carried on by Theosophical Lodges and Star Groups.

ENGLAND, where our Order was founded, has for some years past had to report only small increases in numbers, but recently new activity has shown itself. The eight existing Tables have added two to their number and at the time of writing three other possible Tables are in sight. Whilst the old country may not have much to show in numbers we must not forget that it is the steady and persevering work of some of the oldest "Companions" belonging to the London (Camelot) Table that maintain the organization of our whole Order, for they carry out the drudgery connected with printing, finance and general administrative work. A great deal of hard work was done in the past year by these Knights who carefully examined all the proposals for reform, and embodied in one general recommendation to the Senior Council the essence of the wished for changes. From them came also the proposal to plant in the name of the Round Table a tree in Adyar.

On another page will be found an article from a Knight of the St. Christopher Table (Letchworth), whilst various items from other active Tables in the Provinces would doubtless interest our readers if space allowed us to print them.

THE UNITED STATES.—The Round Table in America still leads the way in numbers, and its magazine *The Round Table Quest* is full of ideas which other Tables might find useful. Both Douglas Fairbanks and Mary Pickford are now Knights of the Order, and they appear to be as much pleased to be associated with it as the boys and girls of the Tables in California and elsewhere are to know these familiar figures as fellow Knights. The *Quest* records how Douglas Fairbanks when a boy started a Society* in Colorado. And to-day the Squires and Knights who are championing the cause of the under dog and get taunted sometimes by their companions, find they have a weapon by which these taunts are often changed into a desire to join the Order, when the scoffer hears that Mr. Fairbanks is a member of it! Thus does the spirit of true manliness and enthusiasm which Knight Douglas displays act as an inspiration to boys and girls to live nobly.

FRANCE AND SWEDEN, in both of which countries out-door activities play a large part, have something to say about their work in articles which follow.

HOLLAND sends a capital report chronicling the formation of their 24th Table at Huizen where a photograph was taken. The formation of Groups of Knights for interchange of ideas on R. T. work is a new feature. Our Dutch companions will rejoice in the restoration to health of their energetic Chief Knight.

SOUTH AFRICA reports "the larger centres keep going fairly steadily and we have a total membership of 75 among the white population." The Tables of Africans have their own Knight Errant, the latest number of their membership being given as over 300. A distance of 1000 miles separates the Chief Knight from the Knight Errant in charge of these Tables.

* In opposition to a gang of boys "who brazenly proclaimed themselves the *Dirty Dozen* and did full justice to their title. Cruelty to animals and the suffering they inflicted upon younger children and old people aroused the knightly blood of little Douglas. . . . Soon he was leading a band of regular fellows, in a manner startlingly similar to the spirit of our Round Table Order . . . protecting the weak and righting wrongs with all the true manly spirit of King Arthur's knights of old."

SCOTLAND reports active work and increasing enthusiasm at its Tables in Edinburgh and Glasgow.

The National Council welcomes with special pleasure the resolution passed at Adyar defining the real purpose of the Round Table.

Scottish Companions are having the joy of seeing their Protector this year when she visits Edinburgh.

ITALY.—To spread Beauty is one of the special works of the Italian Round Table, and it is shown amongst other ways in the composing of Ceremonies which the companions perform. On Easter Sunday a large gathering of Knights and Squires assembled at Turin, at which the Chief Secretary had the pleasure of meeting many Italian companions. The little Ceremony of Consecrating the Sword is one of Italy's contributions. As we go to Press three charming coloured sketches of the Italian R. T. costume have been received; unfortunately we cannot reproduce the colour.

BELGIUM.—The Chief Knight records a year of good work, the companions being "few but faithful" and interested especially in Ceremonial. Their activities included raising money for the sufferers from the floods in Belgium, and also for the support of the R. T. *Bulletin* printed in Rome for the Gallic speaking countries.

The organization of our Correspondence Bureau—a report of which appears on another page—has been carried on by the Belgian Chief Knight.

Steady progress is reported from SPAIN, AUSTRIA, FINLAND, GERMANY, HUNGARY.

So far no reports have reached us from CANADA, NEW ZEALAND or DENMARK, but no doubt the work is being steadily carried on in these countries.

We look for great things in the future from POLAND, for which two new Knights were consecrated at Adyar; from INDIA and CEYLON,



Costume worn by Italian Ceremonial Knight Errant

where the work has started; and from YUGO-SLAVIA, where a good beginning was made this year under its enthusiastic Chief Knight.

There is a prospect of the Round Table being started in Wales. Who will help to get it going in Ireland?

THE SACRAMENTAL SIDE OF THE ROUND TABLE

UNCORRECTED NOTES OF AN ADDRESS BY THE
REV. OSCAR KOLLERSTROM

KNIGHT OF HONOUR OSCAR, speaking to the Round Table at Ommen last August, said that the vital side of our Order is its sacramental nature. We are a *body corporate*. The Round Table is a definite unity, just as are our physical bodies. Each "Companion" is a cell in this body. Our members as a whole do not realize this, still less do they realize that this body has a Soul.

It is for us all to make this Body a perfect vehicle for the Perfect Man to use. We are trying to lay the foundations for the coming of the World Teacher. Let us feel ourselves as sharing in that. This Body will be used by HIM. Do not let us limit our thought about the bodies HE will use. Just as He will use the body of a single individual, so will HE use different Movements. These Movements may be regarded as centres (chakrams) in HIS body.

Just in proportion as we make it possible for HIM to come in the Round Table shall we be able to recognize HIS coming in ourselves. All this involves a great deal: it means:—

That we have to realize the Round Table as one united whole, each member bearing his commission from The King.

We have each our own function to perform as separate organs. Each one must lead the dedicated life. If this is to be an acceptable Body every member must carry out his dedication also to the Round Table as a whole. When we realize the unity then shall we find our own work.

To-day we have not the visible reminders of our Knighthood and Squireship which they had in King Arthur's Table; but what counts is that we make our membership a great burning Reality—not one hour a week but all the days and all the weeks should be dedicated to THE KING.

Let us think constantly that the Lord Christ HIMSELF will incarnate in our Body if we make that Body clean enough!

KING VOLMER AND ELSIE

A STORY OF DENMARK

ONE summer's evening in the little town of Vordingborg King Volmer sat in an idle mood with his courtiers around him seeking to pass the time with jest and talk. Above them towered the citadel of Valdemur crowned by its famous golden goose, while below stretched pleasant fields of waving corn.

"Henrik," said the King teasingly to his trusty Squire, "you think all the world of that maid Elsie of yours, but I don't suppose she would give you another thought if someone rich and powerful came along and offered to wed her."

"Sire," replied Henrik, "I'd stake my life on Elsie's faithfulness. She wouldn't look at anyone but me. There's no one like her in all Denmark."

"Ho-ho!" cried the King laughingly, "we'll just see about that. I'll go myself to-morrow and woo her. I don't believe there's any maid would resist what I am able to offer her."

Accordingly the following day a little laughing group of cavaliers might have been seen riding carelessly through the golden corn on their way to the cottage where the fair Elsie dwelt. She, all unconscious of the impending visit, sat in her father's garden bending over her spinning wheel, lost in her day dreams and enjoying the beauty of the morning. In the distance she heard the clatter of horses' hoofs and gay voices, and then to her astonishment the little cavalcade stopped at her gate and the riders dismounted and came towards her.

Elsie was only a simple maiden and she blushed in some confusion at the sight of the courtiers in their rich apparel.

"Fair Elsie," said the King bowing low in greeting, "I have noticed your gentle beauty from afar and have come to ask your hand in marriage."

Elsie gazed at him with steady blue eyes. "Sir," she said, "What you ask could never be, I am only a humble maiden and you are a noble lord."

"Wait Elsie, until you hear what I have to offer you! When you are clothed in the beautiful dresses I will give you, and adorned with costly jewels you will be the equal of the loveliest lady in the land. Houses and gardens will be yours to roam about in, servants will run to your call, your smallest wish will be as law to me. Say only the word and all this shall be yours to-morrow."

Elsie thought a moment, then turned a roguish glance upon him. "Sir!" she said, "though I had all the jewels and lands in the world it would not make me happy, for I should pine for the simple homely life I am used to. If you would prove to me that your love is real there is something else you must do for me."

"Let us hear it, Elsie. I am ready to do your bidding."

"If you would wed me you must cease to be a lord and become a peasant too. I bid you hang your tried and trusty sword upon a nail in the cottage wall."

"To please you, Elsie, I will lay aside keen Dynadal and wield instead a scythe to cut your father's hay."

"And will you change your gallant scarlet cloak for plain grey homespun to match your change of life?"

"Yea, that will I right gladly. My scarlet cloak shall be laid as a gift on the altar of the Lord."

"Then there is your noble horse, unfitting for my peasant love to ride. Henceforth must you be content to lead the steer which draws the plough."

"Very well," said the knight looking affectionately at his steed, "for your sake that too will I do. He shall wander free for I could not bear for any other man to ride him."

"And you must be content to quench your thirst with the mead that I shall brew and not let your thoughts dwell on the sparkling wines in the cellars of your castle."

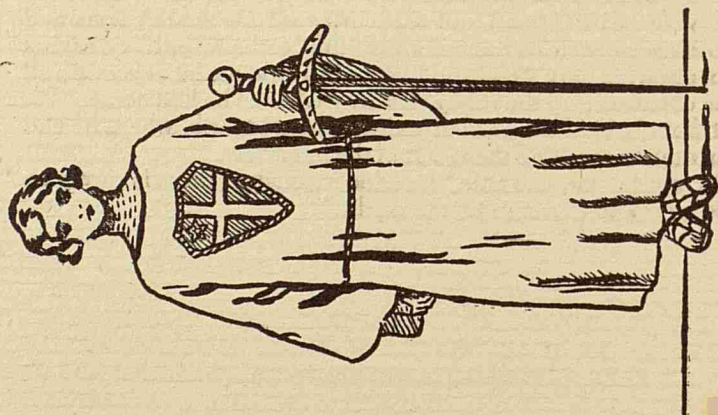
"To that too do I agree. The wines shall be left for my followers."

"It is well. Now break your shield across your knee and shatter the tokens embossed upon it, for they are meaningless to the peasant you will be. Then pull down the walls of your stately castle, clear away the ruins and let the plough trace furrows where formerly it stood. That done I am ready."

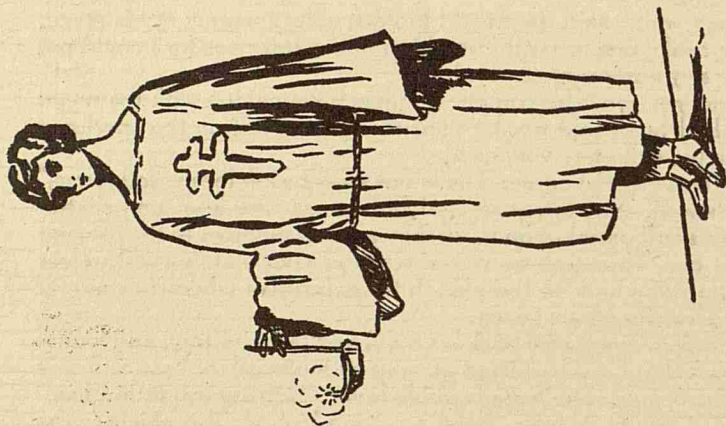
Then the King threw back his head and laughed long and loudly for he saw that Elsie had been playing with him all the time and was true to the promise she had given her lover. "Oh roguish little Elsie," he cried, "You have won. For I am King Volmer, this shield is the sign of Denmark's honour and my castle guards her fair lands. Never may either be destroyed while I live. I will tempt you no more for I know your heart is good and true. May all Denmark's sons and daughters ever remain as staunch and faithful to their word!" So saying he leapt upon his fiery steed and like a whirlwind swept away with all his little cavalcade up the rocky pathway whence he had come.

But from behind the garden hedge sprang Henrik, where he had been anxiously awaiting the result of the interview.

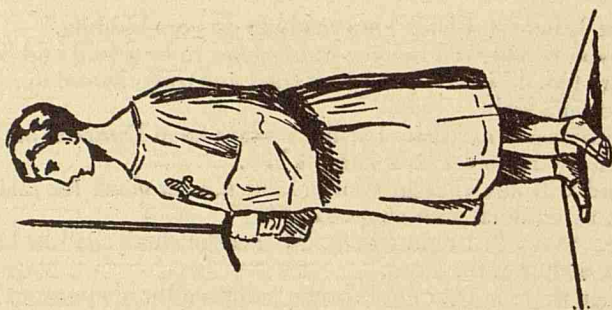
"Oh faithful one and true," he cried joyously, "there is surely no maid so wise and clever in all the world!"



Knight



Squire



Page

Costumes worn by the Companions of the CAVALLIERE IDEALE (Italian Section of the Round Table)

KING SOLOMON AND THE ANTS

A LEGEND

UPON a glorious day of sunshine in the brave days of old a wonderful cavalcade might have been seen winding its way along one of the roads leading from the city of Jerusalem. At its head rode the wise and mighty King Solomon with the dusky Queen of Sheba by his side. She it was who having heard of his fame in her distant home had travelled many many leagues for the privilege of meeting him face to face and hearing words of wisdom fall like jewels from his lips. Surely she too in a smaller way must have had wisdom in her heart or she would not have sought him so eagerly in those far-off days when travelling was not the easy thing it is now.

Behind this royal pair followed the great lords and mighty warriors belonging to their train, with all their attendant men-at-arms and humbler followers. The bright sunshine glittered on their shining armour and flashed on their rich jewels and dresses, making a dazzling picture of pomp and power.

Now King Solomon possessed among his many other accomplishments the gift of understanding the language of the birds and beasts, and it so happened that on this occasion he overheard some tiny ants by the wayside talking together. "Alas!" they cried, "here comes the King whom men call great and wise, but directly in his path lies our loved home and he will surely trample it in the dust with his heedless feet. We cannot even reach it quickly enough to warn our friends and neighbours to save themselves from destruction."

The King looked ahead and there sure enough was a little mound which he recognized as an ant-hill lying directly in the path of the horses' feet. He turned to the Queen and told her what the ants had said. She, thinking to please him, replied "Oh King, how happy must they be to meet such a fate! All living things sing thy praises and men kneel in the dust before thee. Shall not these vile insects rejoice at perishing beneath thy gracious feet?"

"Nay, fair Queen," rebuked the King gently. "The great are only great if they use their power to protect the weak and not to oppress them." And so saying he turned his horse's head and guided him so as to make a little detour and avoid the home of the ants. Quick to notice every action of their leader all the attendant lords and men-at-arms also guided their horses aside in the train of the King and thus a wide curve was formed and not an ant was hurt.

The Queen bowed her head in true humility, "Oh, Sire," she said, "now I know the secret of your greatness. I have learnt what I came so far to seek. Happy indeed must be the kingdom which is ruled over by one who heeds the murmurs of the weak more than the flatteries of the great!"

OUR CONSTITUTION

THE following "Resolutions" passed by the Senior Council at Adyar last December and approved by the Senior Knight will be embodied in the new edition of the Round Table Rules which it is expected will be authorized at the Senior Council Meeting at Ommen in July.

1. That the Round Table should uncompromisingly continue to be a Theosophical Movement for the purpose of training young people for the service of the world, with a view to Discipleship.

2. The grade of Companion shall be abolished, but the name shall be retained to designate all ranks. Knights over 30 shall be called Knights Counsellors. The grades to be:—

Protector
Senior Knight
Knights of Honour

Knights Counsellors Honorary Knights of one country
Knights Errant

Knights
Squires
Pages

3. AGE OF KNIGHTS

Knights may be consecrated from the age of 18 upwards, or from 16 in recognition of work done. The National Council has the power, in very special cases, to make Knights at the age of 14.

4. As a *general rule* no one over the age of 30 shall in the future be admitted to the Order. Knights Counsellors shall not lead Tables unless invited by the Table in question to do so.

Exceptions to both these rules may be made where need arises.

5. STATUS OF PAGES

Pages may be full members of the Order, but should not take part in the Bread and Salt Ceremony before 7 years of age.

6. STANDARDIZATION OF DRESS

The Council recommended that in the future the three original colours should be adhered to, viz.:—

Crimson, for Knights
Blue, for Squires
Green, for Pages

but that no existing costumes are required to be altered to conform

with this recommendation. The colour may be introduced in any way chosen by the Country.

7. BADGE

It was agreed that the Badge, however carried out, must include the shield, the cross, the star and the motto "Follow the King," the original colours of blue and silver being recommended.

BECOME A KNIGHT!

BY THE CHIEF KNIGHT FOR SWEDEN

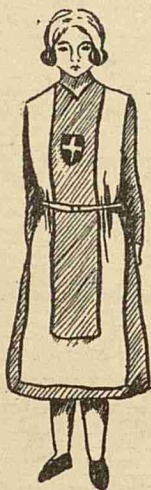
I THINK that everyone who joins the Order of the Round Table should do that with the firm determination not only to become a real knight but also to become a Knight of the Round Table.

The ideal which we set before ourselves is the Knight, not the Squire or Page, because the Knight is the leader, the strong warrior in the King's service who goes at the head of the band and is able to go alone if that is needed. Generally it is, for to be a good leader does not mean that you should tell other people to do things which you really should do yourself. To be a good leader, you must yourself go first, perhaps alone, doing the whole work and bearing the whole burden. Then other people are willing to follow you. You must not let yourself feel tired, you must not give up, you must not just make a big effort one bright day when you feel enthusiastic and full of power, but you must go on with your work continuously on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday in the grey week of workdays. You must work in the same manner whether you are successful or not, work gladly because all work in the service of the King is a great joy, and work as if you each moment expected that the King were coming to look at your work.

Work in that manner and you will become a real Knight. That is a life full of joy and happiness which is not affected by outer circumstances but which comes from the inner self.

The world needs leaders. There are so many people who are willing to follow if only someone is brave enough to lead. There are a great many people

who are willing to work if they are only told what to do. Members of The Round Table we should all be capable of becoming such leaders, we should all march forward and follow the King. Let us therefore immediately begin to prepare ourselves to be leaders in the King's



Swedish R. T.
Ceremonial
Dress

army, to be Ideal Knights. The world is in great need of such people! That is the only way to reach our goal, the only way to follow the King.

But do not think it is therefore necessary for us to stand up before large crowds of people commanding them to do this or that. On the contrary, each of us can be a leader only by the manner in which he lives his ordinary life, in which he does his ordinary duties. Each one of us can be an Ideal Knight, though we may be quite ordinary people, if we only remember the three rules of our Order: Something to remember, Something to do, Something to be.

You all know, Companions of the Order, that the statutes of The Round Table have been changed so that young people can become knights earlier than before. By that a great opportunity is given to you all. May you all make use of it. We are working to spread the ideals of The Round Table among all young people. We are working to gather them under the badge of our Order with the motto and the silver shield, the blue field on which shines the Star of The King. But our Order cannot grow without leaders. Let us therefore strive to become leaders each one of us, let us strive to become Ideal Knights!

GUNNAR KNOS (*Chief Knight for Sweden*)



Swedish R. T.
Sporting Dress

THE ROUND TABLE IN AMERICA

[As we go to press another interesting report of the work in America reaches us, from which the following is extracted.]

Our work in America seems to be developing largely outside of the T.S. We have a splendid Table in a School for Crippled Children in Columbus, Ohio; several Tables in orphanages; one in a home for the friendless; also Tables in several churches and public schools. The National Humane Society has become interested in our Order and has adapted parts of our ceremonies to fit their organization. Just last week we organized a negro Table in the South. Two of the knights in this Table are workers in the Boy Scouts movement and one is a negro Minister. Some of our Tables are organized in bands of mercy in co-operation with the humane society of America. One of our leaders is developing a plan to build farm camp schools for boys who have been in trouble through the juvenile courts. Kt. Douglas Fairbanks is interested in his plan and will donate money to it as the work progresses.

VIDA STONE (*Chief Knight for U.S.A.*)

PERSEUS THE SAVIOUR

[The following account of how the young hero Perseus, who was to become a World Saviour, first met the "Goddess" who was to be his great Invisible Helper, his MASTER, through all his trials and adventures, is taken from our Protector's collection of ancient legends* a book which is full of interest for Round Table companions.]

Now they called the lad, so strangely saved from the sea, Perseus, and Dictys trained him in all knowledge and wisdom, and in all manly exercises, for the Greeks loved strength and swiftness and the bold heart, and trained their young men sternly and right well. And Perseus grew towards manhood, beautiful and strong and gentle, and obeyed Dictys in all things and worshipped Danae his mother, as did all true sons of Hellas in those simple noble days.

Now Perseus was sent to Samos in a trading vessel, and while he waited there one fair summer day, he rambled on the white cliffs, and lying on the grass there he gazed across the sea which laughed below. And as he looked, behold a wonder! For swiftly through the air, as though her feet trod the solid earth, glided without step a woman, tall and beautiful; on her head was a burnished helm and she carried a long sharp spear in her left hand, while her right hand bore a shield that shone in the sunlight as she came, and beside her floated the sacred birds. Then Perseus knew her for Pallas Athene, and he fell on his face and worshipped her. Then Pallas spake, and her voice rang like a silver clarion across the sea: "Perseus, two paths lie before you; choose you which you will tread. On the one walk men base and low, careless of all save themselves. Like swine they live in plenty and in sloth; like swine they fatten, lying idly in the sun; like swine they die and go down to Hades, and their names are forgotten ere they have crossed the Styx. On the other walk the heroes, beloved of Gods and men; they fight all monsters and all evil things, and rid the land of all tyrants and oppressors; they are wounded, and they suffer heat and cold, hunger and thirst, weariness and pain; but at last, when the Fates cut their life-thread, they go open-eyed and fearless to their end, and their names shine as the stars for ever, to lighten the hearts of living men with the brilliance of noble deeds. Now choose you Perseus of Argos, choose you which path you will tread."

Then Perseus sprang to his feet with joy, as do all brave young souls touched by the fire of aspiration, and he stretched out his arms to Pallas Athene, and cried aloud: "Let me tread the path of suffering and toil and glory, O Athene, wisest of the Immortals, for to live the life of the swine is not for men; but the hero who toils for man and

* *Lotus Leaves for the Young*, No. 1 *Legends and Tales* by Annie Besant.

wars against all evil things is noble in his life and honoured in his death. Give me work, O Pallas Athene, and prove me now, whether I be hero or a swine, at heart." Then Pallas smiled gently and gravely on the youth, and again her words rang out: "Go home Perseus, and learn a hero's work in doing the labour that is nearest to hand, and in your sorest need cry aloud to me, and I will aid you."

And as he bowed his head at her feet, she passed away, and when he looked up she had vanished, and only a gleam of sunshine over the broad blue sea seemed to mark the road where-over she had gone.

Then Perseus rose slowly, and went silently back to his ship, but his grey eyes were steady and his mouth was firm, and as the sailors saw that the boy had passed into the man, and beheld the grey eyes looking steadfastly out to sea, they whispered among themselves: "Surely the son of Zeus has seen of his kindred, and will prove not unworthy of his Sire."

INTERNATIONAL ROUND TABLE CORRESPONDENCE BUREAU

REPORT TO JANUARY 1926

THE INTERNATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE BUREAU was started after Vienna's Congress of August 1923, the Chief Knight for Belgium being appointed as Hon. Secretary. Here is her report:—

International Secretary:

Serge Brisy, 7 Rue de la Bonté, Brussels

National Secretaries:

America: Mrs. Irma Starret, Chicago

Scotland: Mr. Hood Scott, 45 Dinart Street, Riddrie, Glasgow

France: Mlle. J. Vrinat, 78 Rue de l'Assomption, Paris 16ème

Italy: Mlle. Marcault, 9 Via Solferino, Milan

Spain: Madame Guyard, Travesi de Trujilles, Madrid 12

Holland: Mlle. L. de Vries, 39 Alex Boerstraat, Amsterdam

Australia: W. C. Pollard, 280 Amess Street, North Carlton, Melbourne

England: Boris Mousman, Esq., 2 Upper Woburn Place, London, W.C.1

We managed to find National Secretaries in 8 countries. Mrs. Irma Starret has done beautiful work, sending over 94 forms of application.

We received 92 forms of application for different countries and

were able to provide 51 correspondents. The following shows the applications received and the response met with:—

	Application Forms	Correspondents Found
From England	20	20
Canada	4	1
Spain	8	5
France	14	12
Holland	4	3
India	14	7
Belgium	1	1
America	2	2
<i>Total</i>	<hr/> 67	<hr/> 51

There were 25 further applicants from 9 other countries who could not be supplied with correspondents, there being no more volunteers for this work in the countries with which they desired to correspond.
S.B.

It will be seen from Knight Brisy's report that an opportunity for service here offers itself. Six letters a year (or even one a term) would not be a great burden even on hard-working school or college students, and who knows what valuable links might be forged with a fellow Knight? Will not more R. T. companions come forward for this work? Names of those willing to correspond should be sent to the R. T. International Correspondence Secretary. This will be—

Mrs. Irma Starret,
5304 Cornell Avenue,
Chicago,
Illinois, U. S. A.

to whom Mlle. Brisy, who so well started the Bureau has now passed over the direction.—[Ed.]

THE ST. CHRISTOPHER TABLE, LETCHWORTH

BY ALEX ELMORE, LATE LEADING KNIGHT

"LEITCHWORTH ROUND TABLE—oh how interesting. Do tell me all about it."

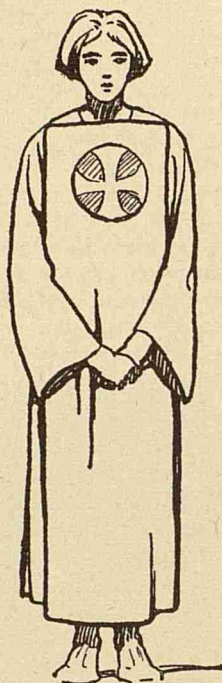
How often have we Letchworth members heard these words? How often have we replied that we "have not done anything yet"? People have said over and over again "It really is time the Letchworth

Round Table did something." My dear friends, believe me, we have not been altogether idle. All Tables must know that everything does not always run smoothly, therefore it is rather unfair to ask too much of a "young" Table, especially one of an experimental nature such as ours. But now to give a brief idea of our work.

The Table was started by Knight of Hon. Oscar Kollerstrom in 1924 with Knight Brigit (Miss King) as leading Knight. We consisted of about 20 members. People in St. Christopher School and also others became interested, and after one term the Letchworth Round Table under Knight Hermes (Mrs. I. A. Hawliczek) decided to amalgamate with us. This they did, bringing into the Table some very valuable people. After performing the ceremonies several times, we came to the conclusion that they needed a little alteration in some places. This sounds cool, and unkindly to those honoured people who originated them, but our intentions were strictly constructive, and we aimed at making these rituals even more beautiful. Later on in 1924-5 we made several suggestions to the Council concerning both the ceremonial and the constitutional sides of the Order. I believe the majority of these have been now adopted.

After a short period of office, during and after which she did more valuable work for the Table than I can even hint at, Knight Brigit wished to hand the leadership to some younger person. Knight Midir (Alex Elmore) was then elected as leading Knight. We concentrated on the "Light" ceremony during this period, and after much rehearsing, performed it in London.

The word "rehearsing" reminds me of the two plays we performed during the summer of 1925. We produced "Michael" by Tolstoy and Mylles Malleson and an original play especially written, called "The Gramophone" by E. C. Elmore. We played them in the school hall, and they were a great success. "Michael" is a play I strongly advise to any Table interested in dramatic work. Some of the Knights did noble work in the picnic line during this summer. Last winter term (being a school we always live in "terms") the Table had a few little ups and downs, but nothing serious. This spring Knight Midir, having taken on other work, resigned his post, which has been filled very ably by Knight of the White Torch (Vera Cocker). More attention



Costume worn by the
St. Christopher R. T.

is now focussed on the Squires and Pages of the Table, who, I am glad to say, constitute a very large part of it.

We have been fortunate enough to have had two Knights of Honour, Bishop Arundale and Mr. Krishnamurti, down to speak to us. It was Kt. Parsifal of India, (Bishop Arundale) who gave us our key-note of "Efficiency." A very good one, but terribly hard to live up to. There have been times, alas, when any other word but efficiency appeared to be our motto.

Our dress and colours would probably interest some people. The colours are the same as those of St. Christopher School, namely green and gold, the only difference being that we have a touch of blue. The ceremonial costume consists of a long old gold under piece reaching to the feet; it has broad bell shaped sleeves lined with blue. Over this is worn a tabard of green with a Maltese cross of gold on a blue circle on the breast. This also is long and is caught in at the waist. Both boys and girls wear this costume, and there is a special Knight of the wardrobe. This history and summary of work is probably interesting to some, but the real ideals and aims have not yet been spoken of.

St. Christopher School stands for "Service." Service to the community, city, nation and eventually the whole world and universe. The St. Christopher Table aims at being "Efficient in Service." Service to THE KING is what this Table is trying to carry out, and the best kind of service is that done in a competent efficient manner, always with an eye to giving the most perfect part of ourselves as a group or individually. Each Knight, with his Squire and Pages, has his Quest, the Quest of Sympathy perhaps, or the Quest of Joy. He must make himself strong in the characteristic he chooses. As he gets stronger so does he give forth the bright light of his chosen quality. Serve your fellow creatures from the mineral to the human kingdoms, and not only human but the great Angel world. This latter we help when we perform our rituals, the fairies and angels respond and send out glowing colours in which we may bathe and expand.

When we realize the wonderful opportunities we are given each second of our lives, there is bound to be a continual urge to serve within each of us. We must not neglect that urge and worry over trifling personal troubles and so lose sight of the King's presence. Try to bring your strongest and most helpful characteristic into your daily life: if it is Sympathy, try to be one great ocean of sympathy, if Joy, try to be one great flame of joy, and so with all the qualities.

These are some of the things the St. Christopher Table has been trying to realize and live. They have specially been trying to "live" these ideals and ideas, for we all realize here in Letchworth the absolute necessity for so doing. To conclude, the St. Christopher Table sends its very sincerest greetings to all Tables of the World, and to all groups and individuals who have consciously and unconsciously dedicated themselves to "Follow the King."

[The following notes are added by the present Knight Secretary of St. Christopher Table and bring this brief record up to date.—Ed.]

We celebrated Whitsunday by joining some members of the Guild of the Citizens of Tomorrow for a pic nic. Altogether there were 42 of us. We lit a fire, and after the principal meal while the older ones sat round it and drank tea and talked, the younger members frolic-ed and climbed trees. One small boy spent most of the time collecting snails! We returned home quite tired, very happy and extremely dirty!

One Sunday this (Summer) term the Chief Secretary, Knight Libra, attended our meeting and told us of some of the doings and customs of other Tables. And on May 30 Knight of Honour Krishnaji visited our Table and gave a short and intimate address, exhorting us to take the happiness of youth with us all through life.

CONSECRATION OF THE SWORD

CEREMONY FOR WHITSUNDAY

BY THE CHIEF KNIGHT FOR ITALY

Officiating Knight rises: Why does the Light shine on the Round Table?

Knight of Love: Because the Light, symbol of the Love which should be ever in our hearts, shines always and everywhere.

Officiant: Why is there the Salt in the Cup?

Kt. of Wisdom: That the Salt symbol of Wisdom may always move us to speak true.

Officiant: Brothers, what have we to symbolize the Strength which all need in order to right wrong?

A moment of silence.

Officiant (continuing): On this day King Arthur received this symbol. May we hold it also; not as an expression of offence, but of the power which constantly urges us to generous work.

A knock at the door.

Officiant: Knight Guardian, go and ask who knocks.

Knight Guardian goes to the door and asks: Who is knocking?

Nobody answers.

Kt. G.: All is silent, O Knight.

Officiant: See who it is.

Kt. G. throws the door open and on the doorway a veiled Knight appears.

Kt. G.: Who art thou?

Silence.

Kt. G.: He remains silent, O Knight.

Officiant: In the name of the King ask him why he does not answer.

Kt. G.: Why do you not answer, unknown Knight?

The veiled Knight, softly: How can the voice of the true Strength reach you if it is not joined with Love and Wisdom?

Officiant: Knights of Love and Wisdom, go and welcome the veiled Knight.

The two Knights take the Lamp and the Cup from the Round Table, go each to one side of the veiled Knight and all three make three steps forward, then they unveil him: he appears holding a sword upright in his hands.

Knight of Strength: I am the Strength. You have called me, and I bring you my gift and symbol that you may consecrate it to the Service of the King.

Officiant: Strength, whom Love and Wisdom illuminate, we receive Thee in our hearts and we will consecrate Thy shining symbol to the Service of the King. Lay it on our Round Table.

Kt. of St.: Knights, you truly received me with Love and Wisdom, but it is fit that I should remind you that I never gave myself to selfish or greedy hearts, nor to those who wish to possess me in order to gain riches, to attack others or to oppress the weak. Tell me what you want of me.

Officiant: Strength, we desire Thee to use for defence and not for offence, to shelter the unhappy, to protect the weak.

All: We want the Strength that grows by giving, the Strength that gives what it has received.

The Knights of Strength, of Love and of Wisdom and the Officiating Knight go each to one side of the Round Table. The Knight of Strength gives the Sword to the Officiating Knight who takes it and holding it above the Round Table says: In the name of the King, thou shalt be filled with Strength.

Kt. of W.: Strength that is Wisdom.

Kt. of St.: Strength that is Power.

Kt. of Love: Strength that is Love.

The Knights of Wisdom and of Love lay the Cup and the Lamp on the Table; then, with Knight of Strength, they resume their places.

Officiant (turning to the King's Chair) with his arms extended holds the

Sword out towards It and says: O King, we offer Thee this Sword, that through it Thy powerful, wise and loving Strength may flow out upon Thy Servants. We shall hold this Strength in our hearts to serve Thy creatures. To-day, when the symbol of Thy Strength has been given to us, we repeat our pledge.

A Page comes forward with a cushion on which the Sword is placed by the Officiating Knight; then each Knight, Squire and Page, in his turn, passes before the Chair, takes up the Sword, holding it at the carry, and repeats the pledge of his own degree.

The Officiating Knight lays the Sword on its cushion before the Chair and looking steadily at it, says: Sword, be ever to us the symbol of the Strength of the King, of that Strength which is Wisdom and infinite Love.

AN AUTUMN RAMBLE OF TABLE "ARTUS" (HAMBURG)

It is the time of nature's decline! Bright red, over ripe hips hang in the hedges; the birds have ceased to sing; the mist rises damp and cold, covering all with its grey shroud, and we have only rare glimpses of the sun.

But to-day when we members of the Round Table "Artus" sally forth into the country it seems as if a belated summer had returned, bringing with it beautiful butterflies. We know this glory is fleeting, and will soon be gone, but nevertheless it brings us joy and makes us glad in the midst of the decay about us. So we trudge onward along the road bordered by Chestnut trees in their brown autumn dress, and our banner flutters above our heads, with its Cross and Star on a shield of blue.

How the little ones enjoy picking up the round bright chestnuts. It is a good thing that we have gone out to-day, for though summer is beautiful, this autumn day seems to us to have a special beauty of its own!

We go on through the wood and over the meadow, on which the sunbeams rest from their struggle with the cold damp mist. Here on the meadow the late wild flowers are blooming. Here the ants are running through the grass-wood which is turning yellow. Here once more diligent little bees are humming, carrying home the last honey from asters and dahlias. Also the grasshopper tunes its violin for a gay little song, and a belated frog jumps with a loud croak into the near pond. Perhaps it is an enchanted prince who has waited so long for his release. Yes, this would be a fine place for telling fairy stories.

We go on further. There is a village nestling in the valley. In the river is a lock. Through the old, moss-covered lock which is overgrown with convolvuluses the water runs with a low gurgle. Do you see down below the black depth? There lives the water-man who only comes to the surface on still, full-moon nights and sings his melancholy song.

We have arrived and throw ourselves down on the river-bank. In front of us the water murmurs and rushes, and the yellow sand glitters in the bright sunshine. The gay foliage of an acacia is reflected in the water. It is good to be here. Lowly murmuring water, softly moving reeds, and above us the eternal rustling of the trees. The autumn leaves are falling, softly floating, resigned to die on the ground. They must. The water is running, flowing away. Where to? Why? It must, O great, eternal Law.

At the other side of the river is a young maple-tree; it reflects its gaily coloured foliage in the clear water. There, a leaf falls off and softly floating, drops into the water. The vision of the tree disappears. Here, a young chestnut tree bears its first fruit. Be proud, young tree, and grow big and strong!

We must leave. Good-bye, beautiful spot. We wander through villages at even. Evening—peace! On the village green children are playing; their clear laughter rings out far in the still air. There an old peasant drives home his cows. And softly, softly, the day dies. Night comes over the land. Over the trees is a faint shimmer, and in the branches hangs the Moon. Slowly, slowly, hardly noticeably, it detaches itself and rises up into the clear night air. There it stands, big and ghostly, and fills the air with a faint light. Far and near become one. On the pastures the cattle stand big and shadow-like. In the distance a light appears, familiar and enticing. Soon we are home again.

I send my thoughts back, and the words of our heather poet come to my mind:—

“Let your eyes be open,
Your mouth closed,
And wander quietly, then
Many hidden things shall become
Known to you.”

KNIGHT MARTIN BOYKEN
(*Table “Artus,” Hamburg*)



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