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fetti and distributing "Zeedel" to all civilians wearing the bronze, silver or gold badge.

The subjects parsiflaged ranged from TV, the Bernese airport, the "Mirage" affair, the Beatles, the Fair Lady and Lord Arran's "friendliness", the hairdressers' congress and the failure of the Swiss gymnasts in Tokyo, the EXPO and much else. The pavements were thronged with happy onlookers, and confetti fights (called "Räppli" in Basle) raged everywhere.

In the evening, "Guggemusige", drummers and fifers marched through the streets — "Gässle" it is called, and small masked groups visited inns and restaurants to sing their "Schnitzelbängg", the witty parodies illustrated with telling pictures.

Here are just a few small samples: the first makes fun of the "Jazz Church Service" and the second of Lord Arran:

Der Kircheroot haig kirzlig lang erwooge,
ob me emänd nit d Beatles sotti frooge,
si selle doch im Martiskirchli singe,
um d Basler Jüged mehr in d Kirche z bringe.
— Oh yeh, yeh, yeh, do finde mir Schärbe-Richter:
So degenerierti Brielaffe-Fudigsichter,
so triebi Sirmel, so verbogeni Charaggtter
sinn z Basel unerwünscht. — Uns längts am "Blick"-Redaggtter!

Sin mir froh, ass is äntlig Ain
Der Spiegel hebt vor d Gosche;
S het sältén Ain so unbiwusst
Sy aige Strau usdrosche!

D'Expo isch verby! Sie duet ihr Inventar verhagge.
's Télé goht nach Wien und 's Kanapee nach Interlagge.
d'Olma in St. Galle kauft dr Sektor "Wald und Wiese",
und dass me-n-au 's Modärnschti will, isch doo dermit bewise:
Die Plaschtk byspilswys vom Rütlichswur im "Weg der Schweiz"
stoht jetz als Gläiderständer z'Uri innere Baiz!

Sy dien vo Bettige bis uff Schliere
Kaff um Käffli nummeriere,
Aifach so und ohni uns bikannte Grund.
Jetzt mien im Spiehler syni Pfyffe
au no 's Aimoolains begryffe,
und e Peschtler lehrt hit in dr erschte Stund:
8 isch Ziri, 4 isch Basel, 2 isch Neyeberg am See;
und hesch als Aaschrift nyt als Nuller, isch-es d'Poscht fir 's EMD!

Was d'EFTA bringt und d'EWG,
kasch guet in unsrem Ländli gseh:
dr Wy vo Spanie, Rys chinesisich,
vom Schwob dr Fisch, dr Schnaps franzeesisch,
dr Käs vo Holland, d'Aier dänisch,
und d'Schnitzelbängg — bald italiänisch!

On Tuesday, 9th March, it was traditional exhibition day of the lanterns in the Mustermesse. The children also had their own carnival whilst the adults prepared for

Wednesday when the Monday programme was repeated. The Basle papers were full of comments. Already a week before, they gave advice to "Foreigners of Swiss and other nationalities". Incidentally, another carnival custom is followed on Ash Wednesday when some of the guilds, in colourful pageantry, visit each other and have their traditional meals. The Basle papers reproduced some of the "Schnitzelbängg" verses and brought pages and pages of pictures from "Morgestraich" to "Gässle", and after the final merrymaking was over at the following week-end, the "Fasnachts-Comité Dangg" appeared in the papers, a witty and charming thank you.

What remains in my mind more than anything of the last Basle carnival is the unique atmosphere when, after having been listening to music and "Schnitzelbängg" and enjoying an excellent meal in one of Basle's best restaurants, we walked through the brightly lit town in the early hours of the morning, silently on the white confetti-covered street surface, but with groups and individuals everywhere following one or two drums or fifes. People had been drinking heavily as is customary during the carnival, but there were practically no drunks, and that is another characteristic of the Basle carnival — the masked Basle citizen can carry his liquor like nobody else, and rowdiness is rare, not like in Zurich, for instance, where the Police had to work overtime to cope with drunks and rowdies and a number of accidents. Now the carnival is over, but the genuine Basle burgher already dreams of next year's "Fasnacht" which will be even more successful than that of 1965 — is it possible?

Mariann.

(News items by courtesy of A.T.S., "Basler Nachrichten" and "Tages Anzeiger".)



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