Dear Friends,

So many interesting things have happened since October, when the latest edition of our Bulletin appeared. I feel very privileged to try to take care of all your ideas – everything to the good of our Clubs. I often think about our brave founder Constance Smedley, with the possibilities she had in the beginning of the previous century to have contacts with all the 28 clubs in the whole world, the clubs she had founded in 26 years. I guess that a letter was the only way and it took weeks to reach its destination. Today we can reach each other so easily! How was it possible, when a letter from Australia took weeks if not months and - were telephone calls at all possible? As late as in 2002 when I started in the Lyceum Club of Stockholm I remember using the fax, and that was the start of quick communication. Today we have a thought and within a few minutes several clubs can be reached by an email and your idea.

Thanks to Information Technology, we have been informed about the place Constance Smedley was buried and about the poor state of her grave. Indeed, we got acquainted with Helen Wilson, an English lady who contacted me through our website. I happened to meet her in Brittany last autumn and she will help us have the grave restored. Early April a group of ladies from Brittany, Paris, Bordeaux and Stockholm are meeting in West-Wycombe to see the grave and the place where Constance lived. Helen Wilson will be our guide there, she is much interested in our club and would like to set up a new club in London which we will definitely support.

(In England we have recently recovered Constance Smedley's grave west of London as was shown in pictures in the latest Bulletin. Through the interest in the grave we have got acquainted with an English lady, Helen Wilson, whom I got into touch with through our website. She has been very helpful in our efforts to restore the grave)
Early April a group of lyceinnen is traveling to London to see the grave. A decision about the future of the grave will be taken at the BCI-meeting in Berlin.

As you know we are 73 Lyceum clubs – I think it is fantastic number! We are right now working with some countries, where foundation of new Lyceum Clubs might be possible!

My aim with this writing is to promote contacts and communication possibilities – maybe you have a twinning idea, that you would like to carry out – now is the time! Except for emails and the Bulletin we also have our website, where every club can present itself in writing and pictures.

During the Cultural Days in Berlin 19-23 May many of us will meet to experience the wonderful program, that the ladies of the Berlin Club have organized for us. At this moment participation seems to reach record levels. There will be many sights, that we are really looking forward to. A BCI-meeting will take place the days before (evening 17 – 19).

Yours sincerely,

Ingrid von Rosen
International President

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Music Competition in Lausanne 2015

International Lyceum Club of Switzerland

39th International Musical Competition

Two voices and piano / Song and Melody

Lausanne

20 – 25 October 2015

www.concours.lyceumclub.ch

Information: concours.lyceum@bluewin.ch
Ad hoc cooperation between the Lyceum Clubs of Bretagne and Groningen or ‘The Myth of the Electric Guitar’, collector Luc Henzig and portraitist Oliver Jordan

The International Bulletin Editor, Mrs Anne-Marie d’Haucourt, informed me about an interesting exhibition in the Groninger Museum (see photograph). It was organised on the occasion of the annual pop festival Eurosonic Noorderslag in Groningen in January this year. The exhibition showed electric guitars that belonged to famous guitarists, e.g. Mick Taylor, Keith Richards (both Rolling Stones), B.B. King, Joe Bonamassa, Jimi Hendrix (left-handed). The guitars assembled by Luc Henzig (Luxembourg,1960) were accompanied by seven large paintings of rock stars, especially made for this exhibition by the famous German portraitist Oliver Jordan (living in Cologne/Port Blanc,1958), the rock ‘n roll Rembrandt.

According to Henzig, music and painting are the two most widely practised and appreciated art forms in existence. Both evoke and express one’s emotions, from prehistoric times to the present day. Both painter and musician are constantly searching to find the right colour to express themselves (see photograph).

Henzig's collections contain more than 600 guitars; fifty of which could be seen in Groningen, showing the history of the electric guitar. He explains that in our Western part of the world there are only a few instruments on which one can express so much, that is the piano, the violin and the guitar. Once it was possible to amplify a guitar around 1932, it became an instrument of sheer endless potential. The A-22 Electro Hawaian Guitar, made by Rickenbacher, was the first commercial successful electric guitar; a lap steel, the so-called frying pan (see photograph). Henzig is fascinated by the passion of guitar builders in finding the perfect sound and of players conveying emotions through the right sounds. He wants to find and document stories of these artists and to share these stories with the general public.*

Anne-Marie happens to know the portraitist Oliver Jordan and his charming French wife Héléna as well as the collector. She told me that both men were happy to guide the members of the Lyceum Club of Groningen through this very special exhibition. On an app the sound of all the displayed guitars could be listened to by the visitors. A film produced by the collector exposed the creative process of one of the painters’ work and of connecting this process with the recording of the sound of the guitars displayed.

Thirty Lyceum members in Groningen had a fantastic afternoon in the museum listening to two very enthusiastic and pleasant men talking about their great hobby and exclusive work! Actually it was the world première of a combined exhibition of music and painting on the phenomenon of the electric guitar, as Mr Andreas Blühm, Director of the Groninger Museum, mentioned in his opening speech the day before (see photograph).

How wonderful, pleasant and international Lyceum is!

Eltje Brill-Meijer
Lyceum Club Groningen

*Source: book published on the occasion of the exhibition and containing conversations with the collector and painter.
Australia’s five Clubs, (Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth/Karrakatta and Sydney) with a total membership of over 2,000, all have flourishing programs. Previous Bulletin articles have focussed on the Melbourne and Sydney Clubs while this one will highlight the one in Adelaide.

In the heart of the City, the Club has attractive Rooms which visitors have described “where old world charm meets new age thinking”. Often pre-dinner drinks are taken on the cast iron balcony overlooking the bustling street below.

I was very happy to accept an invitation from the Adelaide Club to talk at its first meeting of 2015 in February. The President, Committee members and all members made me very welcome. It was good to meet again Lyceum friends made over the years at AALC Conferences and IALC Congresses. My visit reinforced how much I value Lyceum friendships. At the February meeting, the meeting and dining room were overflowing and were filled with happy chatter. I was able to give members information about the AALC Triennial Conference in Brisbane in October, the soon-to-take-place Cultural Days in Berlin. IALC Vice President, Southern Hemisphere, who was also present, encouraged members to attend the May 2016 IALC Congress in Amsterdam.

The Club’s last activity for 2014 was a Christmas repast with entertainment by a well-known Adelaide cabaret performer accompanying herself on the Club’s Steinway. She sang popular songs from the sixties, capped by a 50s great, Santa Baby, the Christmas song made famous by Eartha Kitt.

Other Club activities include guest speakers on a variety of topics, Melbourne Cup celebrations (these are unique to Australia where the whole country marks one horse race with champagne parties), readings, charming Evening Meetings, high teas, members’ luncheons, drama, gatherings for new and potential members, art appreciation, history, mah jong, previews of the Annual Adelaide Writers' Week and Festival, French, Poetry, Travel, tours of art galleries, International and current events, science and technology, Literature Appreciation, Music Appreciation, lunches and live performances, and bridge.

Visit the Adelaide Club’s Facebook page www.facebook.com/LyceumAdelaide

Consider attending the AALC Triennial Conference 15–23 October 2015. Special Guest Speaker Li Cunxin (Mao’s Last Dancer) Details on AALC web page www.lyceumclubs.org.au

Marion Jones
AALC President

L ←R: Marion Jones (AALC President), Joyce Young (IALC Vice-President, Southern Hemisphere), Marguerite Wark (President Adelaide Club)
After a heartwarming summer when we hosted 180 children from institutions and large families at the Children's Summer Resort, the Lyceum Clubs of Cyprus have now resumed their annual activities.

An important event at Nicosia and Limassol was the presentation of the first register kept by the founding President of Lyceum in 1930, Mme. Maria Panayioti Ioannou, detailing the founding members and their activities. It was delivered to us by a Turkish Cypriot from our former Lyceum building in Famagusta which was looted by the Turkish forces forty years ago and to which we have been prevented from returning. On Volunteers’ Day Lyceum members visited charitable institutions to offer their services and gifts. In January once again we held the afternoon gathering for members and friends with the traditional cake with the lucky coin.

In February we held a memorial service for the Lyceum Presidents, the benefactors, the members of the Board of Directors and teachers of the School of Music. In March on Women's Day we organised a gathering of members and friends during which we honoured the former Minister of Foreign Affairs for Cyprus, Mme. Erato Markoulis, who was proclaimed an honorary Lyceum member. We also honoured the memory of our former Vice-President, Mme Joulia Toumazis, who gave Lyceum members painting lessons every Saturday for ten years. In her will, she left four of her paintings to Lyceum which are now hung in our club building.

The **Turku** Lyceum Club has passed the year having talks and lunch meetings.

One of the most interesting talks was about one of the founding members of our Club. She made her way up from being an “errand boy” to becoming the managing director of the second biggest newspaper firm in Finland. “It is not important where we start but what we achieve” was her motto in life. When she was very young her father did not want her to finish school and take any exams, though her teachers had advised her to do so. He wanted her to take a job and to contribute to the support of the family.

When she was thirteen years old she heard that the local newspaper was looking for an errand boy, and decided to apply for the job. The director told her that they were looking for a boy for the job, but she insisted that a girl would be just as good. She got the job and thus started her lifelong career in the service of the firm. She was reminded at home that a job must be taken for the rest of her life, and she answered that she was not going to remain an errand boy all her life; the main thing was to get started. When she wanted to change jobs at the age of sixteen, the director made her an office manager and gave her a much better salary. She worked closely with her director and eventually they married.

They had four children, and when her husband became ill she took over most of his work. When he died she became managing direct of the firm. She developed the firm into one of the largest newspaper employers in the country. When she took over there were about a hundred and fifty employees, and when she retired there were about two thousand.
LET'S CREATE A CLUB !!!

A. had been thinking of creating a Club for years but had not done anything about it. She often talked about it with her sister in law M.

One day they met G. who had been away from Marseille for a few years and was already a Lyceum Club Member in another town.

A. and M. were so excited by G's enthusiasm that they decided to make their long cherished dream come true.

She asked G. to be the president !

Why me ???

Because we think that you will be perfect !!

What else !!!! OK then!

We must find a secretary and a treasurer.

The secretary was already in another Club, it would be a great help.

Six other friends joined them and so the Board was created.

The president of a neighboring Club gave them a hand and some good advice.

Then, a lot of red tape and eventually...Marseille Lyceum Club was born !!

Everyone contacted their best friends who might be interested in the spirit and values of the club.

We all met for lunch.

Only two of the sixty women would not join the new club.

It works because we have a dedicated and friendly team and a good network.

In fact it was easy !!!

Why no more Lyceum clubs in France ?

You can take it from me it's very enjoyable !

Suzanne Ged
Stuttgart

In September 2014 at Castle Assumstadt in the Heilbronn region of Germany, the Lyceum Club of Stuttgart celebrated 110 years since its founding. The President of the German Association, Mrs. Marianne Ziegler, and the presidents and vice-presidents from most of the German clubs took part and spent a festive and memorable day with the ‘Lyceum Ladies’ from Stuttgart.

The tables in the round rococo hall of the castle were decorated festively with flowers in club colours and the walls adorned with portraits of former queens of Württemberg. Together with the seating in white covers, they made a perfect picture.

In her speech of welcome Gundula Joas, the president of the Stuttgart Club, reminded the guests of the Club’s origins. It started out as a ‘German Ladies’ Club’ 110 years ago, but nowadays uses the international nomenclature ‘Internationaler Lyceumclub Stuttgart e.V.’. Many presidents defined and promoted the club in Stuttgart. Indeed, Mrs. Ursula Wieland and Mrs. Marlene Burkhardt are still active at times in the Club. In 2005 it was necessary to give up the clubhouse in Panoramastrasse, but perfect new rooms were found in the city. The future of the Club is a matter close to Gundula Joas’ heart, and she promotes the Club with varied programmes to attract new members who enrich the Lyceum Club with new ideas and commitment.

After a celebratory dinner, Marianne Ziegler (Berlin), followed by Gudrun Stöckle (Frankfurt), Maria Thum-von Heyl (Karlsruhe), Renate Kromer (Constance), Dorette Schuppert (Berlin), and Sabine Ponwenger (Munich) addressed the assembly. The new vice-president of Stuttgart, Christiane Blicke, warmly thanked the Club for the organisation of this anniversary. A wonderful piano and viola concert accompanied the celebration with works by Schubert, Fauré, Tchaikovsky and Schumann, and the mere appearance of the magnificent anniversary gateau elicited a reaction of delight.

This anniversary was not only a day for members to meet one another, but also an opportunity for personal conversations and socialising. It will long remain a day treasured by everyone.

Gundula Joas
The Lyceum Club of Florence, founded in 1908, has always hosted many important art exhibitions. Even in 1910, two years after its constitution, the Club organized the first exhibition in Italy of Impressionist painters. Given this original vocation, linked to our cosmopolitan open-mindedness and our intention to promote contemporary art as of value and as an instrument in the development of relationships, unification, peace and socialization, we are currently pursuing a project dedicated to “Women Artists of the Twentieth Century at the Lyceum”. All these women were trained at the school of Felice Casorati (1883-1963), a famous Italian painter who was involved in the symbolist movement, playing an important role in the formation of the metaphysical school.

At the beginning of this year 2015, in January, the Florence Club inaugurated an important exhibition dedicated to the rediscovery of the painter Elena Salvaneschi (Pavia 1900-Florence 1961), one of Casorati’s acolytes. She was educated in Turin and trained first by Albert Rossi and later by the “magic realist” Felice Casorati in his “Free School of Painting”. She moved to Florence in 1930, where she began attending the Lyceum Club, very quickly becoming President of the Art Section. She organized many painting exhibitions at the Lyceum Club: Leonetta Cecchi Pieraccini (December 1934), the collective of Carena, Casorati, Carra, Sironi, Tosi (February 1935), Daphne Maugham, Casorati’s wife (March 1935), Gio Ponti (March 1935) and Lorenzo Viani (May 1935).

In February 1934 Elena Salvaneschi presented her own works of art, thirty-three paintings and drawings, in a solo exhibition. Some of them are also displayed in the current exhibition. During the following years, she exhibited her work in many important museums as well as at the Venice Biennale. This new exhibition of the works of art of Elena Salvaneschi, eighty years after her debut at the Lyceum Club in 1934, is full of significance. In fact, only if we know where we come from, will we be able to know where we are going, according to our motto: “A proud past and a promising future”.

![Image of Elena Salvaneschi](image1)

![Image of Florals](image2)
The Lyceum Club of Amsterdam is one of three Lyceum Clubs in The Netherlands. The Club has approximately two hundred members, a number which has been fairly constant over the last few years. By Dutch standards, ours is a large membership. The average age of the ladies is, however, high. A worrisome consequence is that it is difficult to fill functions within the Club by finding enthusiastic candidates for the Board or for committees.

The committee for organizing the triennial Congress forms a valuable exception; enough members were more than willing to exert themselves for the realisation of the Congress in Amsterdam in May 2016. The theme of the Congress will be “Meet the Dutch: below, at, and above sea level”. Both the pre- and post-Congress programmes will also focus on this theme.

So far, a lovely location in the centre of Amsterdam where the meetings will take place has been decided on. The committee is now fully occupied in approaching speakers who will present, each within his or her professional field, important aspects of The Netherlands in general and Amsterdam in particular. These are exciting times, and we look forward to the future, especially May 2016, with confidence.

As host, our Club hopes that many Lyceum ladies from all over the world will be coming to The Netherlands, to Amsterdam, to attend this, the 33rd Congress of the International Association of Lyceum Clubs, and to fall in love with Amsterdam, a city famous for its history and its trust in the future.

So long, see you in 2016!

Wieke Bosch
President, Lyceum Club of Amsterdam
Morrinsville

A wonderful opportunity to remember the happiest day of their lives was given to members of the Morrinsville Lyceum Club on 30th November 2014 when a parade of wedding gowns from old to modern was displayed. This wonderful occasion was held in the fabulous garden of a member who had gone to a lot of trouble to decorate her garden with the wedding theme.

Nineteen gowns were modelled by students from the Morrinsville College, escorted by two “fathers of the bride”. The oldest gown modelled had been worn in 1940, while the newest gown was worn in 2004. Mrs. Joan Wisely, pictured with her model bride, had kept her gown all these years in perfect condition, as had the other owners of wedding gowns used or displayed. Other gowns were displayed on mannequins; these included one sent from England, worn for a court presentation and then used as a wedding dress in New Zealand (it was too small for any of the models!), and others dated from 1937 to 2014.

There were photo boards with photos of the “original” brides for guests to view as well. Some brides were recognized instantly but others had changed considerably with the passage of time. The bouquets were all made for the occasion by a Lyceum Club member, and although the style and materials had changed over the years, these were a great talking point and there were lots of “oohs” and “aahs” as the girls paraded.

Unfortunately the weather forced everyone indoors for afternoon tea, a finger buffet which provided a wonderful opportunity for members to relax and enjoy a splendid day.

Lisbon

The International Lyceum Club of Lisbon is very pleased to share with you the event most appreciated by its members in recent months, bearing in mind its intrinsic value and the personal involvement of our Secretary, Clara Cabral.

Club members were delighted to attend an exhibition of paintings by Clara which she had promised us a long time ago. Everybody was surprised at the diversity of her collection and also the evolution of her work over time.

The exhibition took place in very beautiful surroundings in a hotel in Estoril where our members were able to enjoy a period of camaraderie and friendship.

Of course we congratulated the artist but we felt that the Club had also been distinguished by being able to count among its membership a person of such valuable talent. It is moments like this which provide us with the stimulus and courage to strive even further.
After an individual analysis of all the paintings executed by the artist Clara Cabral and before the close of our visit to the exhibition, we took a photo of our group.

Stockholm

When last writing to you in September 2014, I pointed out that the Stockholm Club was in a period of change with a new President and, what is more, new premises. A storm in August ruined our old quarters, and we are now holding our monthly membership meetings in a hall at the Stockholm Historical Museum. It is a fashionable address and, to make both ends meet, we must present an excellent programme to our members. So far our skilled programme committee has been most successful! They have mixed subjects from all fields of culture, and have been meticulous in finding excellent lecturers!

Music: In December the opera singer John Erik Eleby, through speech and song, presented a programme on Jussi Bjorling, the world-famous Swedish tenor of the 20th century. The audience was overjoyed.

An actual phenomenon in Swedish society of today: In January the author Eduardo Grutzky delivered an engaging lecture on “The way in which the culture of honour limits the lives of women in Sweden”. Immigrant families from the Middle East often raise their children according to the code of honour practised in their own countries. In most cases their young people are required to obey the will of their fathers; for example, they are not free to meet whoever they like, the girls must be in the company of a brother when seeing friends, and so on. To fall in love with a Swede is inconceivable and to do so would dishonour the whole family. These young immigrants meet young Swedes and see how free their way of life is and are influenced by it but, because of the code of honour of their families, they risk very serious consequences should they behave in the same way. The audience was deeply moved.
History and Literature: In February Marianne Molander Beyer, a historian and well-known author both in France and in Sweden, gave a lecture on “Monsieur et Madame de Stael, a Swedish-French relationship at the end of the 18th century”. The audience was fascinated.

Our members were most impressed by the presentations mentioned above, and the number of participants increased considerably.

Elvor Rabe
President, Stockholm Lyceum Club

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La Chaux-de-Fonds: Journey “Seine-Cote Fleurie”

Our journey together to Normandy in October 2014 linked the two Clubs of Neuchatel and La Chaux-de-Fonds on a visit to the Club of Caen – a successful interclub reunion.

Les Andelys, Gaillard Castle: a grandiose view of the River Seine. Rouen: the first sight of its amazing cathedral, immortalized by Claude Monet. Discovery of Old Rouen: narrow streets with timber-framed houses, the touching church of St. Joan of Arc in the shape of an upside-down ship. The old St. George's Abbey at St. Martin-de-Boscherville, the Abbey of Jumieges, “one of the most wonderful ruins of France”. We skirt the banks of the majestic river and admire its white cliffs. The mythical cliffs of Etretat viewed from a distance in the pouring rain. Crossing the striking Normandy Suspension Bridge, a real work of art.

Honfleur: a stroll through its charming old lanes lined with timber-framed houses. Deauville: a short stroll along the boardwalk. Cabourg: a visit to the Grand Hotel to taste the madeleines in memory of Marcel Proust! Caen: our Lyceum friends show us round the city, up to 70% of which was destroyed during World War II. The Caen Memorial: a museum for peace. A trip through the collective memory evoking the great conflicts from 1918 to the present day, impressive and overwhelming. Visit to a Calvados distillery and in the evening an invitation to a sumptuous buffet offered by a Lyceum friend. The Allies’ landing beaches: a strong impression of places which gave us our liberty. Bayeux: the famous tapestry dating from about 1070 A.D., a 70 m long canvas representing the rivalry between the Norman William the Conqueror and Harold of England.

Nor forgetting the delights of the table: foie gras, lobsters, mussels, different sorts of fish, pancakes, cider and calvados!

With heartfelt thanks to our competent organiser Monique Marie and excellent guide Janine Viatte, and also to Pierre-Alain and Anne-Marie Guisan for their wonderful conference with musical slideshow and printed text.
Edinburgh

It is a fact these days that, because of the ability to travel far and near, we seem to know more about the culture, art and history of other countries than we do in respect of everything around us in our own town, city or country. One of the interesting talks we had in our Edinburgh Club session confirmed this for us.

Perhaps the Scottish artist and designer, Charles Rennie Mackintosh, noted importantly for his design of Glasgow Art College, may be known to many people in other countries as well as in Britain. However, there is another artist, a woman, whose exceptional work was described to us recently.

Phoebe Anna Traquair was from Eire but married a Scottish palaeontologist in 1873 and came to live in Edinburgh. Her artistic knowledge was invaluable to her husband in the detailed illustrations she did for his research papers, interest in detail having come from her being inspired by “The Book of Kells” in Dublin. Her artistic output was prodigious and it is unbelievable that she illustrated manuscripts, produced wonderful embroidery, created enamel work and painted magnificent murals within important buildings in Edinburgh.

Having been shown so much via photographic slides during the talk that we had on this amazing artist, a visit is to be organised for members to the Mansfield Traquair Centre in Edinburgh during the summer. This Centre was originally a Catholic Apostolic Church with neo-Romanesque architecture and has undergone painstaking restoration in recent times to preserve the building. It is thought of as Edinburgh's “Sistine Chapel” because of the spectacular murals which were painted by Phoebe Anna Traquair, and a visit there is to be recommended to anyone who comes to Edinburgh.

Philadelphia

I am delighted to tell you about one of our member's incredible collection of her own art works and some of her mother's. Her home is filled wall to wall with all kinds of compositions. Although there is art everywhere, no one need feel stifled by it. She draws with pencil and pen and paints in watercolour and oils. Her subjects vary with her moods and include paintings of her children, still life and abstracts. From her mother's art works, you can tell where her talent gene comes from; they are not as varied as her own, perhaps because they were executed many years ago.
Aside from her own works, she and her husband collect Native American blankets, rugs and other artifacts which dominate her family room and her husband's office. The bathroom near the family room reflects her humour through her art as she has painted the walls from the floor up and on to the ceiling. It is unexpected and amusing as you walk into the room. Of course, her bedrooms are filled with her works as well as with the personalities of her children.

My favourite work is the doll's house in the dining room which has moveable walls to get close to the interiors of the rooms. She has furnished the interiors with all that you would find in a real house, even with the siding of the exterior and the roof. In fact, in some ways it reminds me of the Cabinet House which is central to the novel “The Miniaturist” by Jessie Burton which is set in 16th century Amsterdam. It is amusing to think that girls and women have been interested in dolls' houses from that time up to date, almost 300-400 years.

It should also be mentioned that our film, book, travel and opera circles continue with varying degrees of participation, and that our members contribute valuable volunteer work from teaching English as a second language to working in a food bank and teaching reading to veterans. We seem to be a very active club although quite small!
EDITOR: Anne-Marie d'HAUCOURT
Myrette GORDON MOORE
amdhaucourt@gmail.com
Tel.: +33637977663