

The Madrid Scene

ABOUT THE TOWN

INSURANCE: Britain's Ministry of Commerce has granted the Spanish insurance company Ocaso SA permission to take part in insurance and reinsurance activities in the United Kingdom through a branch. This is the first time that this permission has been given to a Spanish insurance company and means the recognition of the prestige and technical level reached by the company in one of the most important insurance centres of the world.

HUNGER: The 19th Campaign Against Hunger appeal brought in 346,483,780 pesetas, six per cent more than the previous year. Average contributions were 9.66 pesetas per person. The largest absolute collection was in Madrid-Alcalá with 49.5



Mrs. LEA DONADE, charg e d'affaires of the Finnish consulate, is the new dean of the Madrid Consular Corps. It is the first time that a woman has held this position.

Art exhibitions

GALERIA KREISLER
(Serrano 18, Tel: 2765338. Paintings Salon: ZIM-MEERMANN oils, Sculpture's Salon: Pereda de Castro.

GALERIA KREISLER DOS
(Hermosilla 8 - Tel: 2264264). Contemporary art, paintings, sculptures, graphics. Now showing: JUAN ROMERO: 'Zodiac Signs' and other paintings.

GALERIA NOVART
(Monte Esquinza, 46. Madrid. Tel: 4187968): JOSE SALGUERO, paintings and drawings. Until 29 May.
Permanent exhibition: Ballester, Natalio Bayo, Brilo, J.L. de Dios, A. Duco, Gallego, Goniola, G. Monmel, Jim nez Casas, Kaydeda, E. Lastres, Lareko, L pez-Soldado, Vctor Mira, Montajes, Muziz, Orellana, Pav n, P rez ellas, E. Prieto, J. Quesada, Sarrey, Vicena, A. Villa B. Mardoste, Brackland, Rinaldi, S. Shima, Luis Ming.

million pesetas, followed by Valencia with 24.1 million and Barcelona with 24 million. The highest donations per capita came from Minorca, where the average was 26.79 pesetas, followed by Pamplona - Tudela with 24.78 and Huesca with 20.18. Of the total amount collected, 1.83 per cent goes on advertising and propaganda and 0.99 per cent on expenses. Four million pesetas go to the emergency fund, 1.45 million to promoting works in Spain and the rest is divided among the 436 projects approved for this year's campaign.

RADIO: All European radio stations will have to readjust to the frequencies granted under a new European plan which comes into force on November 23. The problem is a serious one for Spain because of the high number of stations. At the international meeting in Geneva, Spain and the Balearics were awarded 33 frequencies and the Canary Islands 19.

MEETING: The European Economy Foundation will hold a plenary meeting in Madrid in December. The theme will be 'the new responsibilities of businessmen in Europe.'

BUSINESS: A total of 531 firms, with assets of more than 65,071 million pesetas and liabilities of 51,034 million, suspended payments in Spain last year, according to the National Institute of Statistics. Barcelona topped the list with 189 firms, followed by Madrid with 67. The number of firms suspending payments in 1976 was 386 with assets of 52,000 pesetas and liabilities of 82,000 million.

EXPENSES: According to a report in the magazine Fomento de la Producci n, the Spanish Royal Household is cutting down on its expenses which dropped from more than 185 million pesetas in 1976 to 116.4 million in 1977.

FILMS: El Puente by Juan Antonio Bardem has opened a Spanish Film Week in Prague. Other films which will be shown include El Alifio, La Casa Grande, La Joven Casada and El Libro de Buen Amor.

MERRY-GO-ROUND

by Baroness of Saint George

Busy, very busy, is the description of the diplomatic social calendar of Madrid. How to keep up with it, that is the question. Ladies of diplomats usually wear shoes one size above their need, so the long standing is more bearable. The tall young Ambassador of Jordan and lovely Mrs Taher Maari celebrated their official annual reception at the Castellana Hotel with a tremendous number of guests. There has always been one of the favourite Embassies of this town. By this we mean that everyone goes. Absolutely everyone. For example, present were the Charg e of the Syrian Embassy, Wafik Ismail; the Counsellor of the Embassy of Iraq, Tarig A. Al-Marouf; Mr Bashir Kurdi of the Saudi Arabian Embassy; the Charg e of the Moroccan Embassy, Mohamed Boucetta; the Charg e of the Philippine Embassy, Constantino L. Alavarado; the actress Maria Cuadra; Mr Rolando Zamaria and his English wife Joan; and other ultra socials. Also present was the Polish Prince Malek Lubomirski, who is said to be Rockefeller's best friend. The Prince is working on a book he is writing. His chic wife Joan will do the preface. It's all a big secret as yet, which makes her laugh.

Mr ALBERTUS Lambertud Hattinh is the new Ambassador of South Africa to Spain. Several days ago, 100 people trekked to the Ritz for cocktails with His Excellency and Mrs Hattinh. South Africa celebrated its National Day. A huge bouquet of protea - the national flower - cheered up the room. Mr Sahd, director of South African Airways, had seen to that, just as he saw about the South African champagne, wines and sherris served at this reception by suspicious waiters.

Many Madrid society ladies, such as the Duchess of Darniux, the Duchess of Medinasidonia, the Marquesa del Romeral, Mrs Rosillo and others, displayed their charms, with Angel Gil acting as "charneur" to all of them. It's his destination in life. Lord and Lady Acland (representing Great Britain) enjoyed long talks with Ambassador Hugh Gilchrist from Australia. (Remember the book he is writing on Australian-Greek historical relationship). Sr Jorge Pacheco Areco, Ambassador of Uruguay since 1972, and former President of his country, young Mr Serrano Su er, considered the best-looking man in town, and Count of Orsich representing the Order of Malta, all arrived without their wives. Also present was the Ambassador of Austria, Dr Gerald Hinteregger. Those, and other lovely people, met once more at this affair.

THE YOUNG and attractive Mrs Marcelino Oreja (Silvia to her friends) represented her husband, the Spanish Foreign Minister (in New York at the time) at the Tunisian Embassy. Ambassador Nejb Bouziri and his hospitable wife took advantage of the fine weather and set up their gardens for a splendid get-together. Several new faces were on the scene, such as the charming Count Smoggi of Perlac (father of Francesco of the Meli  Don Pepe hotel), the popular Marquesa de Prat de Nantouillet (who will spend the summer in Majorca this year), the tireless bridge player Blanca Magaz and her husband Jaime. Mrs de Reina from Ecuador, young Prince Michel de Orleans Braganza and his well-dressed wife Beatriz, the second head of protocol, don Manuel de Aguilar, and his stunning wife, Marquesa de Zelada and Marquesa, and so on.

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