

Idee bandes magnetophone

DISCOURS DE M. SWEENEY A LA SEANCE D'INAUGURATION DE LA 13^{eme} ASSEMBLEE GENERALE
MUNICH JUILLET 1961

Your Excellency, Professor Mauz, Distinguished guests, Fellow members, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It was a heartwarming experience last evening to come out of a gusty sky by plane and to feel oneself in the embrace of the smiling Bavarian country side.

We members of the International Association of Art critics have had several notable welcomes to recall : for example I remember our arrival at the Golden Horn for the Istanbul meeting just at the moment when the sunset was throwing its mellowest light on that harbour, our arrival at Naples on the night of the Fiesta de Pie de Grotta, the sky alive with fireworks from Capri to the Northern Mainland but the smiling welcome of the Bavarian country side last evening had a warmth and a humanity that equals the charm of both these earliest experiences but which I am confident will remain as thoroughly fixed in my recollection for years to come as they have in the past.

Too this sense of a smiling warm humanity seemed perhaps a token, a foretaste of the general impression we would likely carry away with us from Munich and Bavaria on our departure. I had gone over carefully the program that Professor Grohmann had worked out for us. From my slight earlier acquaintance with Bavaria and Rococo, I had kept alive recollection of its gaiety and charm overlaying that exacting order which gives the base to its richest expressions, and I have always remembered the warmth and hospitality of Bavaria and particularly of its people whom I had known as friends.

To day, we members of the International Association of Art critics, are on the verge of a brief, intense and rewarding venture into a world rich in those experiences which we all particularly prize. We have already had a foretaste of the atmosphere which will invest the next several days, in the stimulating address of Dr Mauz. His words were at once rewarding and gratifying. Gratifying in the fact that they made us feel so thoroughly our welcome to Munich and Bavaria. We are most appreciative to Dr Maus for all he has said to us.

I wish to thank also His Honor Dr Fogel, the mayor of Munich for his invitation to Munich and for all he has done for the Assembly here. We are aware that the German Section has received every possible aid from the Bavarian Government and I would like to take this occasion likewise to express the Assembly's gratitude to the Government of Bavaria for the consideration that has made this Assembly in Munich possible.

Likewise our thanks go to Professor Grohmann and deeply so, to Dr. Gert Schiff and to all who collaborated in the organisation of this 13th General Assembly of AICA.

At the same time, I would like to say how deeply appreciative we are of the presence of Baron Michel Dard chief of the Division of Arts and Letters of Unesco who represents that organisation among us today. The members of AICA know how thoroughly M. Dard has always taken the interest of the Association to heart and looked after us. Each time he has joined at a meeting there has been a happy and beneficial sequel for the Association. To put it mildly he has only friends among the Art Critics.

And now for the future, two days of Association's work and discussions and the rest of our visit to be devoted to acquire a fuller acquaintance with Munich, Bavaria their arts and their people.

We look forward to Prof. Schönberger's introductory lecture this morning on Bavarian rococo. We anticipate eagerly a concert in the perfect rococo setting of the Cuvillier theater as well as our visit to that gem of Bavarian rococo, the Church of Wies and the Abbey of Ottobeuren.

I trust all these treasures of Bavarian rococo and of the past will not too completely distract our minds from the rich opportunity Prof Klaus Lankheit is going to afford us to make a thorough acquaintance with the work of the painters of the Blaue Reiter in the city of that group's nativity : Munich. Fellow members of AICA, we are truly fortunate in this opportunity which our colleagues of the German Section and the Bavarian authorities have afforded us.

In conclusion I want to take this opportunity to thank them for all of us from the bottom of our hearts for their hospitality.