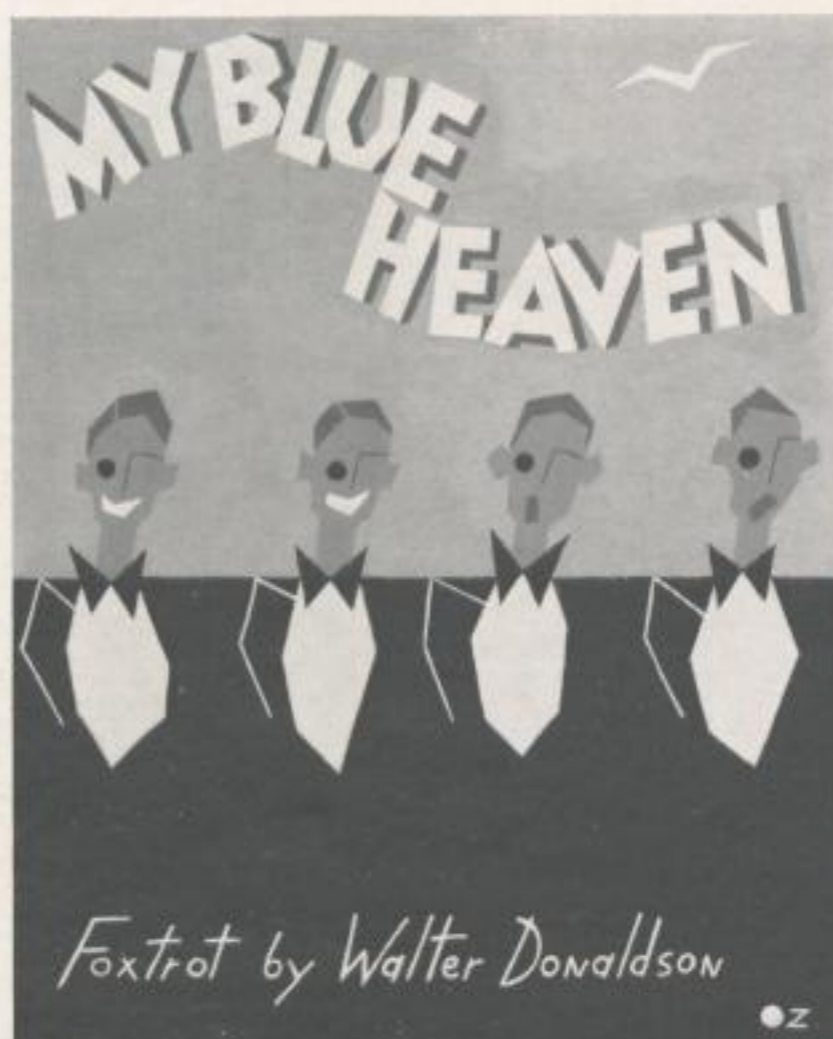Notentitel   OLEG ZINGHER   Music Book Frontispieces

OLEG ZINGHER BY NIKOLAI SARETZKI

IT was pure chance that led to me meeting with Oleg Zingher. I was in the Zoo, and was struck by a young man who stood sketching in front of the monkey's cage. He was quite absorbed in his work and took no notice of the passers-by. Involuntarily I took a glance at his sketch-book and was so surprised at the technique and quality of the work that I made up my mind to speak to him.

It was a difficult resolution, for I could only make myself understood with difficulty in the German language. I put him some question and received an answer in Russian! We soon got into conversation. I observed that this young man had seen a great deal and had understood how to digest what he saw.

Later I had an opportunity of seeing his work as a whole. It reveals an unusual path to progress, one that will carry him far.

Zingher has a genuine artistic temperament and endurance and a passion for work which are unusual at his age. The life of the great city interests him, the ever-changing stream of traffic, the street happenings. He is captivated by life in all its forms. Illuminated advertisements, revues, variety shows, Jazz bands are all sources of inspiration for him. His compositions are simple and clear, his painter's instinct very sure. He almost always makes use of only two or three colors and achieves startling effects by the use of patches.

The tendency of his work is that of Coulon, A. M. Cassandre, and yet we recognize a strong note of individuality.

Zingher was born in Russia. His father is a well-known-scholar, his mother an actress at the Artists' Theater in Moscow. His training began in Moscow and led by way of Paris and Italy to the Academy of Arts in Berlin.

In addition to numerous posters, illustrations and music-covers, Zingher has also designed settings for the 'Blue Bird" cabaret. His development up to the present gives us the right to expect great things from his in the future.

<div align="right">Translated by E. T. Scheffauer</div>

<div align="center">9</div>