

LUDOLF LIBERTS



over blue-green sea-lilies. Transparent shades of color reflect and shimmer in the water through which the sunbeams strike. Liberts made a dozen different designs for a piece of moving scenery for Tschaikovsky's "Sleeping Beauty." The Prince's wanderings, four hundred metres long, led through deep valleys, past fairy cities, over dizzy mountain tops and wide wildernesses. The moving scenery for Parsifal's wanderings belonging to the Bayreuth Festival is barely eighty metres long.

The ballets of Puni, Tschaikovsky, Cherepin, Stravinsky and Delibes are now unthinkable without Liberts splendid decorations. In more than four hundred costumes he creates an intoxicating medley of color, an effect that is heightened from one picture to the next, never tiring and continually surprising us afresh with pure combinations of color in perfect form. In Liberts, the opera finds an interpreter gifted with a most lively fantasy. Elementary Eastern passion floods every picture accompanying Italian, French or Russian music. From the theater of the Barock and Rococo to the modern "Jonny spielt auf" all the decorations are painted in perfect perspective. Liberts paints the scenes himself, assisted by his pupils from the Academy in the great painting rooms of the National Opera.

Since Professor Liberts is the stage manager as far as the scenic effects go, he has the vision of the complete picture, with the arrangement of the masses and the lighting effects, before him from the very beginning.

During the last ten years Liberts has set the scenes of a number of plays for theaters in Riga, Kowno, Moscow and Belgrade. After completing his studies at the Académie des Beaux-Arts in Paris and in Kasan, he made his first designs for Stanislavski's Moscow studio. He has already painted pictures of importance in Latvia, Russia, Italy and France. His pictures hang in the Luxembourg and the Musée des Arts décoratifs in Paris, in the Musée Royale de Bruxelles and in the State Museum in Riga. To-day Liberts is professor of the Art Academy and scenic director of the National Theater in Riga.

Transl. by E. T. S.

