

A LONDONER'S VIEW

Club managers will find this city a marvel—varied and endlessly fascinating

One of the delights that London offers to visitors is its pubs, a uniquely British tradition. Inside some you'll hear accents as varied as the mixture of people that inhabit the city itself. Or you can find one in the West End, such as **The Grenadier**, where the socially prominent hang out and the atmosphere is a bit stiffer.

What to order in a pub? Unless you want to experiment with beer, you order pretty much what you order in an American bar: gin and tonic, whiskey and water (whiskey means scotch), although you may

If you want true English beer, ask for mild or bitter. These are British beers which have more or less hop flavor. Some people prefer them mixed and order mild and bitter. These are usually dispensed from a small keg or, if it's a very old pub, from old-fashioned beer pulls.

Here is a list of some famous and interesting pubs in or near the center of London:

Dirty Dicks at 202 Bishop's Gate, is more for appearance than anything else, although it is a working pub. It boasts proudly that it hasn't been cleaned up in 200 years. It is literally enbalméd in spider webs, cat mummies and dust, and that is its trademark.

The Lamb and Flag at 33 Rose Street in the heart of the theater dis-



hear the British types near ordering gin and ginger (meaning ginger-ale), gin and orange, gin and lemon and any one of a dozen other exotic concoctions.

Unless you want to experiment with beer, remember that there are four or five basic divisions. If you want American type beer, though it may not be chilled, you will find they are usually labeled "lager" and often "export." Lagers are usually sold by the bottle as are Guinness, that is stout, and the other various makes of stout, which is a dark, thick, strong ale.

trict is a picturesque relic of Elizabethan times. You can still have hot toddy among old lamps, prints and historic notices.

At the **Sherlock Holmes**, 10 Northumberland Street, which is a modern pub, you can have normal pub fare in a sort of Sherlock Holmes museum, if you don't mind the hound of the Baskervilles staring at you from a case beside the three orange pips.

The Waterman's Arms at 1 Glenaffric Avenue (a taxi is necessary to get to this one), offers a music hall band and loud jollity every night.

The Prospect of Whitby, down by the docks, is immensely popular, offers guitar playing and an immense historic past.

For visitors who are looking for night life, night clubs (they are clubs) will for the most part admit visitors with a passport on temporary membership. Some famous ones are: **Churchill's Club**, 160 New Bond Street, which has extravagant floor shows and dancing with hostesses. **Danny LaRue's**, 17 Hanover Square, which offers the world's most famous female impersonator. **The Eve Club** at 189 Regent Street and the **Gargoyle Club**, 69 Dean Street, both of which offer high-class strip and skin shows with hostesses if you like.

For a guide to jazz clubs, folksinging clubs, pubs of all types and the infinite variety of London night life pick up a copy of "What's On in London" at a newsstand.

For a guide to the best places to eat, pick up a copy of Egon Ronay's 1971 guide to hotels, restaurants, pubs and inns.

Like any great city London offers dining at all prices and from a totally cosmopolitan choice of restaurants. Remember that it is absolutely imperative to reserve space in all leading London restaurants in advance. One note: many London restaurants close at 11 p.m. After that hour, you must go to the clubs, which incidentally allow gambling.

If you're feeling really flush you can go to the **Mirabelle** at 56 Curzon Street. The Mirabelle is one of the world's great restaurants. Try the carré d'agneau en croustade (lamb pie) with a bottle of 1959 Chateau Ducru Beaucaillou. But don't expect to have dinner for two for less than \$25 to \$30, with wine.

If your tastes are for beef, lamb and mutton in the height of British tradition, at a less stupendous price, try **Simpson's in the Strand**, which is a London institution with Londoners. It has the finest beef, lamb and mutton served from trolleys. Dinner for two is about \$15 with wine. If you're in the mood for good simple fare and pleasant swift service for a bargain price you can try **Sweeting's** at 39 Queen Victoria Street. This is a Dickensian unsophisticated restaurant with wholesome cooking and friendly service. Dinner for two is no problem, \$4 to \$6, no wine.

(Continued on page 96)

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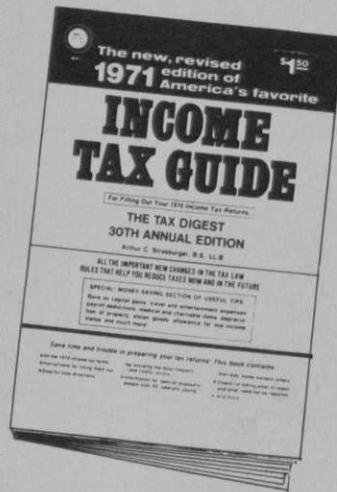
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London has all sorts of specialties, but its theater is its glory. This was Shakespeare's home throughout his productive years, and the London theater is at present in the most flourishing condition of any in the world. Fifty theaters in the West End present everything from "The Mouse-trap" by Agatha Christie (18th year) to musical theater. You can get a seat for as little as 35 cents, with top prices running to about \$2.90.

You can watch cricket at **Lords**, tennis at **Wimbledon** or see the Queen's pictures in the new gallery at Buckingham Palace.

At **Westminster Abbey** they've cleaned the interior, a job finished for the abbey's 900th birthday in 1966. Medieval paintings and gilt came to light which had been buried in grime for centuries.

You can watch a street artist draw Windsor Castle on the sidewalk or go to four race tracks. (Placing a bet British-style is an experience in itself.) You can listen to a militant pacifist at **Hyde Park Corner**.

The London markets have always been a wonder of the world. At **Covent Garden** you can come out of the opera at midnight, visit a nightclub and at 5 a. m. find the square full of wholesale fruit and vegetables. Covent Garden also has that rare pub which is open early in the morning. **Billingsgate** is a marvel of fish and profanity. **Portobello Road** on Saturday morning and **Petticoat Lane** on Sunday are street markets where whether you buy anything or not, you'll be fascinated by the spiels of the pitchmen and the incredible variety of London humanity.

Incidentally, it is not generally known that London Transport, which runs all London buses, subways and other public transportation, has a two hour guided bus tour of London which leaves from Buckingham Palace Road every hour or so on the hour.

Going to London in wintertime, you won't find the weather nearly as frigid as New York City, for example. London's climate is something like that of Nashville, Tennessee, in the winter. You will need a light coat, wool sweaters and gloves, but snow is rare and so is extremely cold weather. Warm pubs, fires and heat are not rare at all and it's a welcoming city. □