

The Eagle Waltzes

Jan. 23—The Viennese Opera Ball, which benefits the Margit Bokor-Norman Scott Fund for Cancer Research at Columbia University, is the American prototype of Vienna's Opera Ball, one of the most important of the 204 dances held during the Fasching season (New Year's to Ash Wednesday), which keep Viennese dance shoes in good repair. The 21st annual at the Waldorf-Astoria is called "Austria Salutes the U.S.A.—the 150th Birthday of Johann Strauss." That's Johann the younger, the Waltz King, one of the three sons of the jealous Johann the elder, whom their mother sneaked off for secret music instruction. And as the young Strauss made a visit to Boston and New York in 1872, it's not stretching the eagle's wings too hard. The ball is always a long evening of pageantry, carefully chosen food, diversissements and fun. At 11 P.M., a Johann Strauss medley will be sung on stage by members of the New York City Opera followed by a short ballet, "The Blue Danube." After midnight a Heuriger (Viennese wine garden) will open in the Jade Room with more food and wine, as well as dancing to schrammel-musik for as long as you hold out. Tickets, \$70 or \$135 a couple.

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