

REGION RHINE-MAIN BURNS SUPPER FRANKFURT 2015



Serving of the haggis

The Burns Supper, celebrated by the Frankfurt Rhine-Main region for the 7th time this year, showed that there's nothing like Scottish tradition to draw a crowd. Never before have so many people signed up for the Supper within hours of the invitation going online – and, on the evening itself, never were 'Rabbie' Burns' songs and poetry more enthusiastically received by what is now almost a seasoned audience. And indeed, judging by the gusto with which several dozen kilos of haggis was consumed, never before have there been so many fans of the sausage admirably styled a "Great Chieftain of the puddin' race" by the man to whom hundreds of other suppers around the world attended by some 12 million people are dedicated: Robert Burns, himself.

Specially flown in by the evening's main sponsor, The Royal Bank of Scotland, was renowned Robert Burns authority and fellow townsman, Clark McGinn. This year it fell to him to deliver the Immortal Memory speech, in which the life and works of the "Bard of Ayrshire" is traditionally lauded, and he did so in his inimitable style, starting with anecdotes from his experiences addressing similar gatherings across the globe.

The walls of the charming Freimaurerloge zur Einigkeit, the traditional venue for this occasion, resounded to the lilting tones of Burns' much-loved verses and songs, many of which were composed in celebration of his favourite pastime – courting the ladies. The fact that he sired at least 12 children with five of them is testimony to his success. Staunch Frankfurt Burns Supper participant Craig Herbertson provided the musical accompaniment, as well as the traditional Toast to the Lassies. The haggis was piped in by a bagpiper and drummer, enveloped in eerily-lit fog and followed by a solemn procession,

but, despite all the fuss, it still suffered the usual indignity of being stabbed with a sharp knife during David Cavaye's "Address to the Haggis" – an elaborate piece of 18th century marketing for a dish that was as humble then as it is today.

Of course, an evening like this can only succeed with sponsorship, and this Burns Supper was no exception.

In addition to The Royal Bank of Scotland, we were very grateful again to Scottish Development International, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer and DZ Bank for their generous support.

HM Consul General for North Rhine-Westphalia, Susan Speller, attended and gave a spirited Reply to the Laddies in response to the Toast to the Lassies, and the loyal toast was proposed by Honorary British Consul in Frankfurt, Dr Andreas Fabritius. There were abundant supplies of fine single malt whiskies provided by Moët Hennessy (Glenmorangie), Campari (Glenfiddich) and Pernod Ricard (Aberlour), the consumption of which encouraged guests to try their skills at Scottish country dancing. A trip to Scotland was also given away, including a pair of air-tickets generously donated by British Airways and an English course by English at St Andrews. As ever, the singing of Auld Lang Syne rounded off the evening, and as guests picked up their goodie bags on the way out, you could almost hear the sound of minds happily being made up to return again next year.

Susan Tackenberg
Regional Committee Member
Rhine-Main Region



Alice and Dr Joachim Schorlemer



Dr Christian Ossig, Kerstin Gärtner



Nicole Fischer, Neville Anderson, Christina Stojanov



David Cavaye's address to the haggis



Dr Andreas Fabritius, Susan Speller



Dr Andreas Dombret saying the traditional Selkirk Grace before dinner



Neville Anderson, Susan Tackenberg, Frank Scheidig, Dr Christian Ossig



Ceilidh dancing