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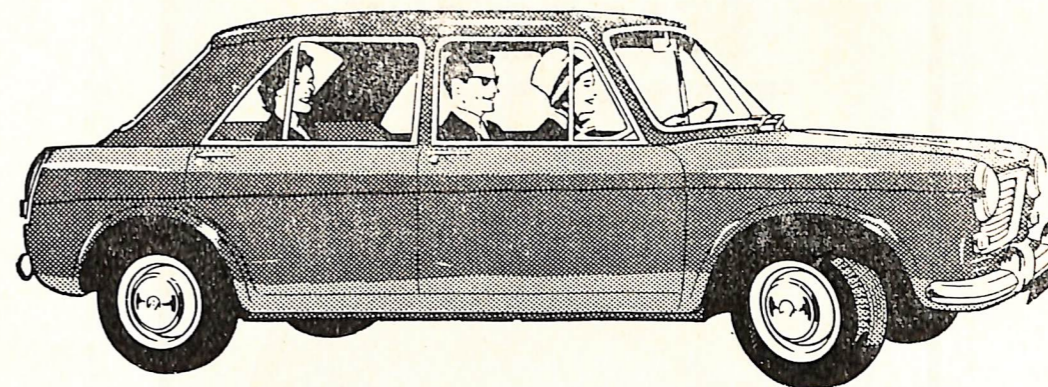
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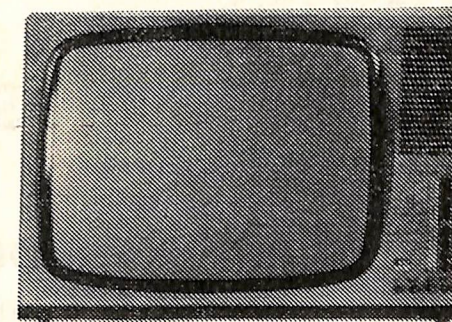
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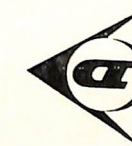
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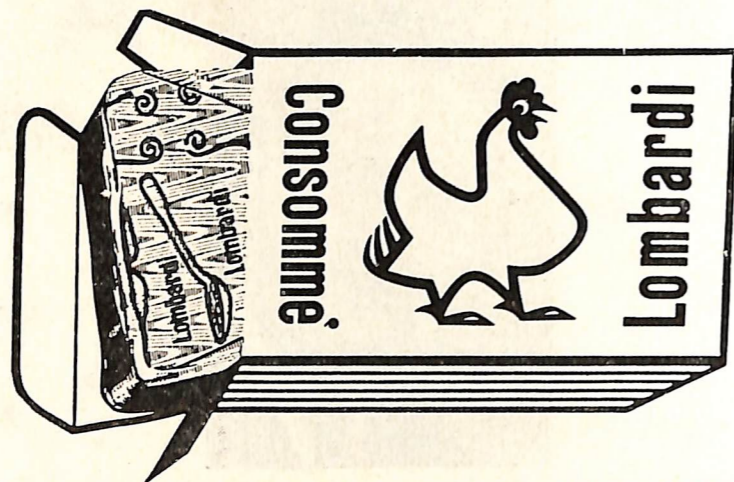


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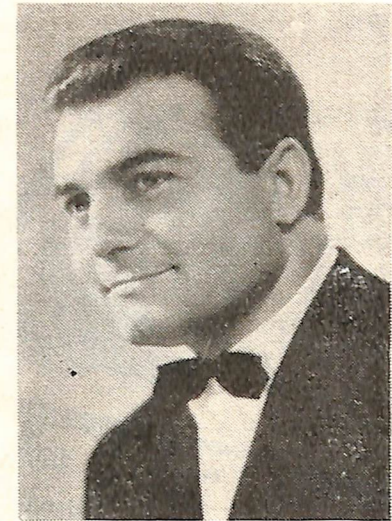
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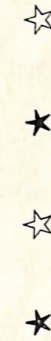
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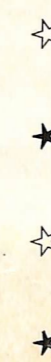
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Marcello, a Painter	OTELLO BORGONOVO
Colline, a Philosopher	GIOVANNI ANTONINI
Schaunard, a Musician	ERNESTO VEZZOSI
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LA BOHEME

SYNOPSIS

Act I

SCENE: The Bohemians' Garret on Christmas Eve.

The four Bohemians are hard up but in good spirits although their garret is dark and cold. Marcello works on a painting of the "Red Sea Passage" while Rodolfo fans the dying flame in the fireplace with the torn pages of his latest manuscript. Colline and Schaunard propose spending their last coppers by dining out at the Quartier Latin. However, old Benoit, their landlord, calls for the rent. They succeed in sending him away without the money after enticing him to make some intimate confession at which they strike a grossly shocked attitude. Marcello, Colline and Schaunard leave while Rodolfo stays behind to terminate an article for the Press. But someone knocks at the door. It is his neighbour Mimi who asks for a light as her candle has gone out. Struck by her fragile beauty, Rodolfo dallies her into conversation and both are soon aware of a mutual attraction. When the other Bohemians call the poet to join them outside, the pair have already confessed their love, and they walk out together to join the party at the Café Momus.

Act II

SCENE: A busy corner in the Latin Quarter

A lively crowd makes merry on Christmas Eve. Shopping is brisk. Noisy children surround Parpignol, the toy hawker. Rodolfo introduces his colleagues to Mimi who displays a new bonnet which the poet has just bought her. Merrily they all take a table together at the Café Momus. But trouble is in the air. Musetta, an old flame of Marcello's, comes along accompanied by Alcindoro, her present rich, but elderly, admirer. She finds, however, that Marcello can still be attracted to her again and, shamming pain in her foot, sends Alcindoro incontinently to a shoemaker's with one tiny shoe to be mended, then throws herself without loss of time in the arms of Marcello. A military band passes by and Musetta leaves in its wake with the Bohemians. On his return with a new pair of shoes, Alcindoro finds he has been left in the lurch and is presented with two bills for two suppers at neither of which he has been a party.

Act III

SCENE: At the Barriere d'Enfer in February.

A cold wintry dawn. Snow is everywhere. The customs guards are grouped round a sickly fire in the enclosure at the city gates. In a nearby café Marcello ekes a miserable living by painting soldiers on the facade while Musetta has become a teacher of singing. Rodolfo is there too, but he is very unhappy. He knows Mimi is hopelessly ill with consumption and he has been finding silly excuses of jealousy and the like in order to break with her. Mimi seeks the help of Marcello who rants Rodolfo about it so much that the latter tells him about his fears quite unaware that Mimi is there listening behind a tree. Her coughing reveals her and they are brought together again, only to bid each other a final tender farewell, while Musetta's tantrums ruin Marcello's temper, and both pairs separate once more.

Act IV

SCENE: The Bohemian's Garret. A week or two later.

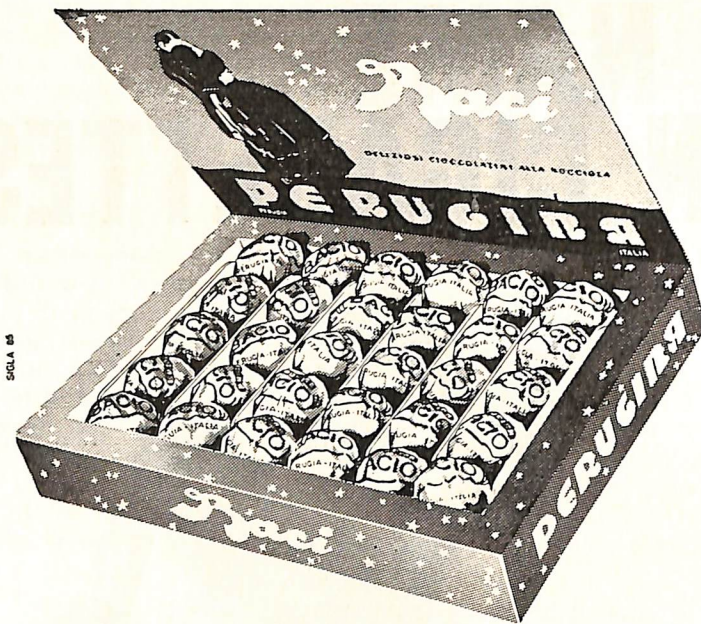
Rodolfo and Marcello are at work, but both are in the blues and find fault with pen and brush. Mimi and Musetta, though away, are still very much in their minds . . . and hearts. The other Bohemians, Colline and Schaunard, come in bringing with them their usual jollity and raillery as well as a loaf of bread, one odd herring and a bottle of . . . water, for supper. They dance and make merry, and even hold a mock duel, when suddenly, the door is thrown open and tragedy is ushered in. There is Musetta asking for help. Mimi she says, lies in a faint on the doorstep. She is at the end of her tether. All rush to help the girl in and Mimi is laid reverently in Rodolfo's rickety bed. All quarrels are at once settled. Musetta and Colline both sacrifice their belongings to help somehow the dying girl. But, despite the care and affection of them all, Mimi expires in the arms of her beloved Rodolfo.

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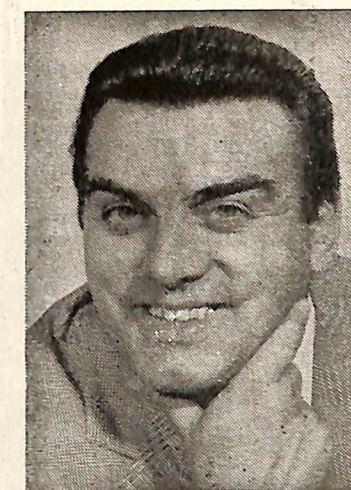
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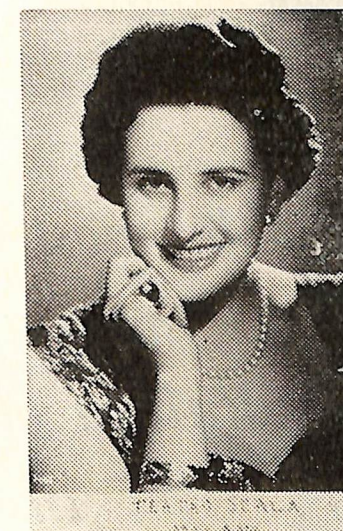
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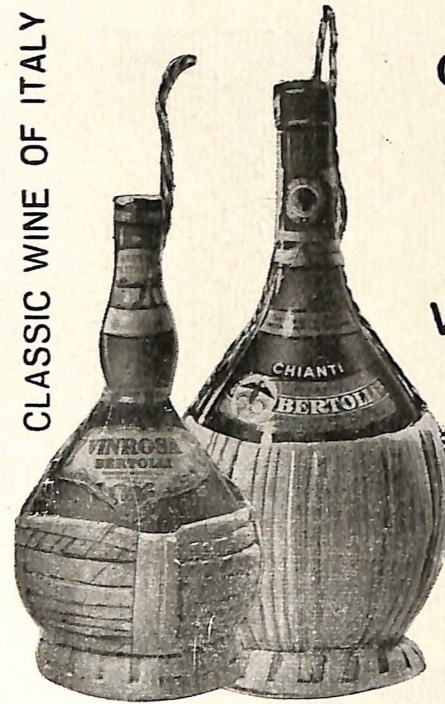


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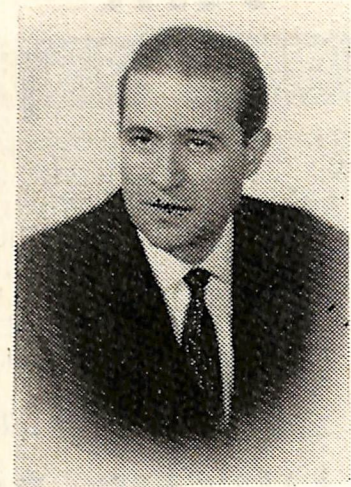
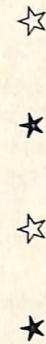


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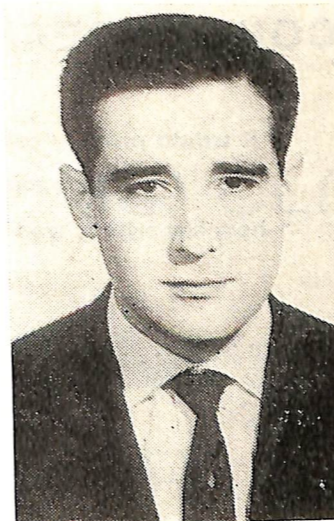
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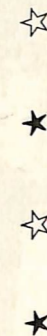
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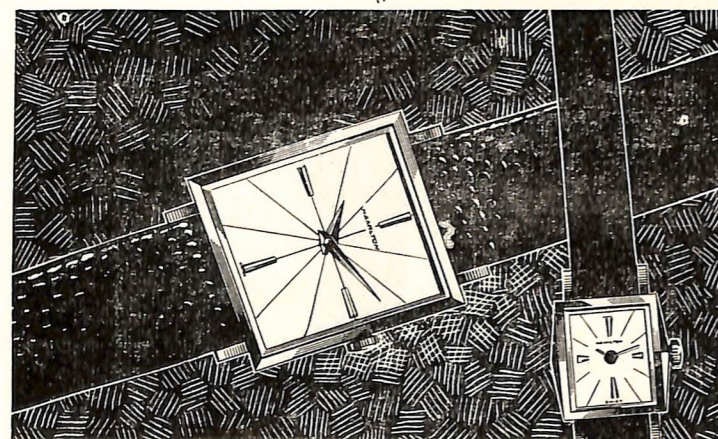
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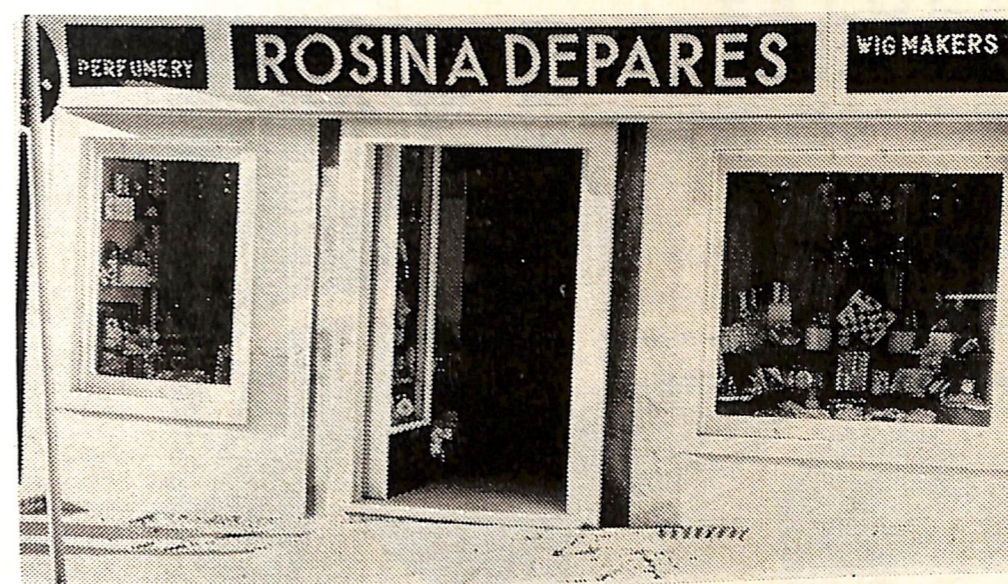
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