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The Chelsea Arts Ball.

The Ball originated at the turn of the century, when artists and students used to throw parties and dress up in fancy costume and move from studio to studio in Manresa Road, in Chelsea, usually at the time of Mardi Gras.

This developed, and the Ball took on a very definite form when first it went to the Chelsea Town Hall, and grew to such dimensions that in 1908 it was held in Covent Garden, and was then the largest fancy dress carnival dance that had ever been held. In 1910 it moved to the Royal Albert Hall where, with the exception of the years involving two world wars, it has been ever since. It has become recognised as the traditional way of seeing the New Year in.

Each year a special theme is chosen, and it is illuminated by prominent artists. In the past such great names as Augustus John R.A., Sir Alfred Munnings R.A., A.R. Thomson R.A., Edward Ardizzone, James Bateman R.A., have contributed freely to the decorative side of this unique function.

It is organised by a committee of artists, members of the Chelsea Arts Club - this year celebrating its Diamond Jubilee - and the production is assisted by hundreds of students from the schools of art in the greater London area, who submit designs for floats, and carry out their production. The designs for stunts or floats are the subject of competition each year, and the enthusiasm of the students and artists concerned gives this Ball a very special character.

This year Mr. John Minton designed the decor, assisted in the full size production by Alexander Bilibin and many other artists, on the theme "Huntin' Shootin' and Fishin'". A very gay decor, and artistically whimsical ideas from the schools of art involved promise that this year's Ball will be outstanding.