

# BANQUETING HALL MASQUE

## QUEST NEWS NO 18: 12 October 1964

On November 17th, at the invitation of the Georgian Society, we are to present a short masque at a party to celebrate the restoration of the Whitehall Banqueting Chamber, built by Inigo Jones, with its ceiling painted by Rubens. This will be a royal occasion, as the Queen Mother is to be present, and it is a considerable honour to have been asked to do this. Kit is producing and George Benn is Stage Director.

## QUEST NEWS NO 19: 18 January 1965

The Questors played before the Queen Mother for the second time when at the request of the Georgian Group we performed a Masque at a reception in the marvelous and recently restored Whitehall Banqueting Chamber. This made a glorious setting for a beautifully dressed show. The acoustics of the Hall are so terrible that very few words could be distinguished except by the distinguished front rows. One could not help wondering how the 17th Century masques had fared.

### SEEN BY QUEEN MOTHER

NINE members of Ealing's Questors were on stage in London on Tuesday night with, among other things, furniture which was insured for £15,000, a silver cup which once belonged to Charles the First, 17th Century Mortlake tapestries loaned from the Victoria and Albert museum, and three copies of The Times of 1890!

The Questors were performing a masque, specially written for them by Angus Aeworth, at a reception at the Banqueting Hall at Whitehall, on the occasion of the return of the hall into use as a banqueting hall. It has been a museum for some time.

#### THE AUDIENCE

The masque, which was in three parts, was watched by the Queen Mother; Nubar Gulbenkian, the multi-millionaire; and many other distinguished guests.

The three parts of the masque were connected with the building, painting and use of the hall. Twenty Questors were involved including backstage people. The masque was produced by Barbara Emmet, known to the Questors as Barbara Hutchins.

The actors concerned were Neville Bradbury, Vincent McQueen, Myles McDowell, John Howard, Dorothy Boyd Taylor, Sylvia Estop, Diana Benn, Michael Langridge and Peter Faintey.