

C&R DIPPER

COLIN AND ROSALIE Dipper certainly need no introduction here, and it goes without saying that they have been busier than ever, especially in the production of challenging "one-off" concertinas at the request of specific customers.

The Dippers have long been noted not only for the extraordinary beauty of all their instruments, but for their willingness to attempt the difficult; basses of both common systems, and double-reeded Anglos, to name but two. I have been particularly intrigued, during my recent conversations with Colin, about the miniature Anglos built for a Swiss circus performer! (Howabout some pix, Colin?)

We print here a photograph of the most recent Dipper triumph; an English version of the famed *Shantyman* Anglo. This is a 44-key model with red grenadilla ends and red morocco bellows made to the order of lucky subscriber Ricky Rackin of San Francisco; a unique creation—in other words, do not expect to see this model in standard production. Note the unusual circular fretwork reminiscent of the earliest Wheatstone concertinas. Unfortunately, the photograph (like that on our cover!) cannot do justice to the beautiful coloring of this instrument, or to the scrimshaw-like nautical engravings on the quick-release thumbstraps—

but it may be taken for granted that it has a fantastic sound. Colin says: *as ordered it was to have a very mellow tone. The trouble with this sort of specification is that you are inclined to get carried away with the idea of a nice mellow tone, and give people a nasty scare when it produces a very cello-like, throaty tone.....* However, Ricky simply raves and raves about it—and Jenny Cox has called this concertina "utterly beautiful". Hardly

surprising! If you're prepared to wait, Colin & Rosalie can make the concertina of your dreams; for more information, write them at:

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To conclude our tour, a few comments about availability and how to order an instrument from one of the makers featured in this issue:

Practically all of the makers currently in production will send you a catalogue or price list upon request, as well as details and costs of deposits or such extras as elaborately decorated bellows or unusual timbers that may be desired in construction. It is a very good idea to have a fairly firm idea of what you want, and it is polite to send along something for their postal expenses. Be generous—catalogues cost a lot to print and mail, especially by Airmail. Common international stamps are available at face value at most stamp collectors' shops; or buy a couple of International Postal Reply Coupons at your post



C&R Dipper Shantyman English