



Stratford-upon-Avon. 1932 forestage two steps below main stage and with enclosed assembly areas either side.

enthusiastic ones but rather with the changes to the theatre's auditorium which have assisted this achievement. For example, there was Baliol Holloway's complaint of acting difficulties in the same book.

"The acreage of blank walls between the proscenium arch and the ends of the circles, coupled with the immense distance between the lower edge of the stage proper and the front row of the stalls (which in an ordinary theatre would about correspond to the first row of the pit*), completely destroys all contact between actors and audience. It is doubly hard on the actor that the audience does not realise this, and is aware only of the actor's comparative ineffectiveness."

This was tackled after the war in 1951 under Anthony Quayle by extending the dress circle along as small balconies (boxes†)

*Pit was the term for the rear stalls in the days when they had a separate entrance and were classed with the gallery as the cheap seats.

†"Boxes" known to some others as "loges".

towards the stage and a vertical lighting slot appeared in each wall over the side entrances. Six spots were carried here each side nicely masked from the audience and with access from outside the auditorium. The sides of the forestage were altered mainly by removing those architectural enclosures with their "assembly spaces" within and Juliet balconies atop. In their place walls in the form of wings were built, and often used covered with material giving the effect of giant curtain legs. The four Stelmar spots in the roof became six and with the other new or increased positions there were now at least 46 spots in front of the curtain. Exact figures are hard to come by due to the movable nature of much lighting equipment; in which connection one notes that the number of stage dip plugs' dimmers increased from four a side to sixteen.

The cyclorama was in 1950 still very much in favour and its lighting was increased both at the top and by provision of