



The Editor's Pick

By Tony Mottola *Jersey Jazz* Editor

Denmark's Jazz Baron Returning to America

Timme Rosenkrantz and Duke Ellington dine together in Copenhagen in an undated photo.

Excerpts from the late Danish Baron Timme Rosenkrantz's Harlem memoir were published in English for the first time in *Jersey Jazz* in 2006-07, when we presented three chapters, respectively featuring Duke Ellington, Willie "The Lion" Smith and Benny Carter. Now, thanks to our International Editor, Fradley Garner, the whole work will be published, in America, this year by Scarecrow Press.

What set the "Jazz Baron" apart, wrote English jazz producer friend, Doug Dobell, "was that he LIVED the music as no other non-musician has — in fact as few musicians ever have. Take it from Ellington, Tatum, Hawkins, Holiday and Waller — who re-Christened him Honeysuckle Rosenkrantz — there was scarcely a musician he didn't know intimately."

The original Danish soft cover book had 25 chapters. The new hardcover edition, *Harlem Jazz Adventures: A European Baron's Memoir, 1934-1969*, adapted into English by Mr. Garner, has 32, with three of the Danish book's original chapters divided, and Rosenkrantz's Danish newspaper article about Coleman Hawkins's final weeks in Manhattan added. The Jazz Baron described the iconic saxophonist's lonely last days, just weeks before he himself died in a New York hospital in 1969.

The memoir will be the latest in Scarecrow's *Studies in Jazz* series. Dan Morgenstern, consultant for this series and director of Rutgers University's Institute of Jazz Studies, who knew Rosenkrantz, wrote the introduction to the new edition. He and Donald Clarke, also a jazz historian and author of leading biographies of Billie Holiday and Frank Sinatra, checked the manuscript for accuracy.

A Danish sound engineer, Jørgen Thomsen, prepared an exhaustive discography of Timme's New York recordings, many issued on the Baron's own labels. They include the first-ever recordings of Erroll Garner. Several LPs were released by Blue Note and later on many other jazz labels. Rosenkrantz also first recorded saxophonist Don Byas, trombonist Tyree Glenn, and the black singer Inez Cavanaugh, who became his life companion. Timme recorded many other galleon figures of the era, including Stuff Smith and Teddy Wilson. Mr. Garner has added quoted passages from living musicians who knew the artists portrayed, as well as footnotes, appendix and an index.

Woody Allen once famously said that showing up was the key to success in life. Add to that persistence. Fradley worked on the project for a decade and was rejected by 18 American and Canadian publishers before Scarecrow Press signed on. Here at *Jersey Jazz* we've been wanting more since we published those three tantalizing chapters four years ago, and we salute our favorite ex-pat editor's tenacity. The book is expected off press this summer, and you'll be first to read more about it here.



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