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of Theology from the Canton of Neuchâtel was unsuccessful in his attempt on Hitler's life in 1939. Arrested by the Nazi's in 1940 he was condemned to die and was executed. Announcing the rehabilitation of Bavaud, the prominent Swiss newspaper "Der Tagesanzeiger" states the following:

On behalf of the Swiss Government of 1939 and the Legation in Berlin the present Swiss Government has apologised for the lack of intervention in the case of Maurice Bavaud.

- It appears that the Swiss diplomatic service in Germany at that time avoided any involvement and the young Swiss 'criminal' had to face his predicament without any help or compassion from his country, Switzerland. The 'authorities of the day' went out of their way not to offend the Germans. Against any expectation there was no attempt made to exchange Bavaud with some German spies held by Switzerland at that time.

-With hindsight, so the Federal Council said recently, Bavaud deserves our admiration and a place of honour in the annals of Swiss history and an apology was extended to the heirs of Maurice Bavaud. In order to underline this apology, the town of Neuchâtel has with an official ceremony mounted a commemorative plaque on the house where Maurice Bavaud was born. A fitting tribute to a brave, maybe somewhat foolish young Swiss individual. Don't you think?



Paul Grüniger in old age.



Maurice Bavaud, never to grow old.

## Presidents's Message

A few weeks ago, in preparation for the AGM in Taranaki, I spent some time browsing through the "latest" Society minutes' book. With the first entry dating back to 1967 (not that much younger than me!), this book made very interesting reading. I still recognised quite a few names and sadly, a number of these people have since passed away. However, there are also many who are today still very active in their own Clubs, as well as the Society. But one name in particular did stand out - the Society Treasurer of over 30 years ago, Mrs Ruth Messmer, who is still working very hard for the Wellington Club to this day. Congratulations on your commitment, Ruth - I still have many years of catching up to do!

In reading the minutes from year to year, there was one topic which was always regularly, and, it seems, vigorously discussed - money! The major cost was producing the *Helvetia*, and in 1976 this caused much debate regarding the increase of subscriptions by 50% - from \$2 to \$3! In 1979 it increased again to \$5, and then to \$7 in 1981. Nine years later, in 1990, it climbed to \$10, followed by a 100% increase to \$20 only three years later in 1993, and finally to the current \$25 in 1995. So over the years, not much has changed.

One of my own main goals as President is to ensure that the Society's finances remain healthy and intact; to conclude each year with a reasonable profit. It is important to remember that foremost, we are a benevolent organisation, so we must always be prepared to fulfil our obli-

gation of providing financial assistance to any member should the need ever arise. To ensure this, sufficient funds must always be at hand. Along with the minutes' book, I also had a look through the Society Rules, where Rule 2.i caught my attention. Coincidentally, this was also mentioned in the President's Report from the 1989 AGM, so I, too, shall be bluntly bold in quoting this rule. It says that one objective of the Society is to "accept any trust or legacies for all or any of the purposes of the Society". Therefore, the Society may be made a benefactor if anyone so wishes. Further on, Rule 4a also includes that donations will be very much appreciated!

On a lighter note, I must remind a certain past President of a statement made in his 1990 annual report. He felt it would be a good idea to form a "Swiss Party" should proportional representation ever become a reality in New Zealand. Well, André (Schleicher), may your words come back to haunt you!!

My warmest greetings to everyone,  
Beatrice

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