

Annual banquet and ball of the Swiss Club

Autor(en): **Brun, P.**

Objektyp: **Article**

Zeitschrift: **The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK**

Band (Jahr): - **(1935)**

Heft 701

PDF erstellt am: **30.06.2024**

Persistenter Link: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-689689>

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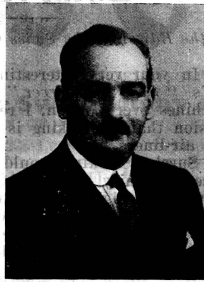
Annual Banquet and Ball

of the

Swiss Club, Birmingham

on Saturday, March 23rd, 1935, at the Midland Hotel, Birmingham.

P. BRUN,
President of the Swiss Club, Birmingham.



Once again the Swiss Club Birmingham has invited their members and friends to their Annual feast, which has by now become an event to which everyone looks forward with great expectations.

Here we have a Society, small in numbers, but what they lack in "quantity," they make up by tremendous enthusiasm; we in London hear but little of them, but once a year they like to remind us that they are in existence, and are very much alive, and that they have a message for us. This message, they convey to us at their Annual Banquet, which this year as usual was a splendid gathering. The attendance reached the respectable figure of 160, a sure sign, that the Swiss Club has a reputation of being the bulwark of Swiss thought and Swiss fraternity in the provinces.

Our Birmingham friends take a keen interest in the doings of the various Swiss Colonies, they are well informed, and their message to their compatriots near and far is, to work unitedly together for the common good of our country, to promote true friendship and comradeship, and to practise charity towards those who have been severely hit through adverse circumstances. —

The reception was held by the President, M. P. Brun, assisted by his charming wife, after which the company, who unfortunately had to be split up owing to lack of room sat down to a really princely meal provided by the excellent *cuisine* of the Midland Hotel. Lest I forget I would like to pay a well-deserved compliment to our compatriot Mr. Oehli, who in his capacity as Banqueting Manager of the Midland Hotel, saw that everything worked according to plan; he can rightly claim a large share of the success of this popular rally.

The loyal toasts having been proposed by the Chairman, M. Brun and duly honoured, Monsieur Charles de Jenner, Conseiller de Legation, representing the Swiss Minister, addressed the company, expressing his pleasure at being able to spend a few hours with his compatriots in the Midlands. The speaker reviewed briefly some of the events which are occupying the minds of our brethren across the sea, he referred to the recent result of the referendum in connection with the Swiss Army, and the "Krisenstener Initiative," he also mentioned the recent resignation of Federal Councillor Schulthess, and proposed that a telegram of appreciation, for the great services which the latter has rendered to our country for the last 23 years should be dispatched, this proposal was carried with great acclamation.

M. Brun, the popular President of the Swiss Club Birmingham then rose amongst almost tumultuous applause, and on behalf of his Society warmly welcomed Monsieur de Jenner, he then said: "I am not going to tell you a long story about the Swiss Club Birmingham, which was founded some 37 years ago, our membership has remained stationary, and we are a very happy family, and I am pleased to say we have been able to help some of our less fortunate compatriots."

The President also extended a hearty welcome to M. E. Montag, Swiss Consul at Liverpool and to Mrs. Montag, saying that the Birmingham Swiss all look upon them as old and trusted friends.

"I am more than happy," Mr. Brun continued, "to see around me so many official representatives of our sister Societies in London, we are pleased to greet the following Ladies and Gentlemen:"

M. and Mme. P. F. Boehringer, representing the City Swiss Club, London.

M. and Mme. A. F. Suter, representing the N. S. H., London.

M. Steinmann, representing the Swiss Mercantile Society, London.

M. and Mme. A. R. Stauffer, representing the Swiss Observer, London.

M. Brun also welcomed the numerous unofficial visitors from London, Goole, Bristol, Liverpool and York.

M. Montag, to whom the reply for the Guests was entrusted received a vociferous ovation on rising; in a humorous vein he thanked the Swiss Club Birmingham for their almost proverbial hospitality.

Previous to the Appeal for Charity, two presentations were made, one to the chef, M. Cadier of the Midland Hotel, who, clad in the stately garb of his calling, received from the hands of Mr. Kunzle, on behalf of the Club, a Cuckoo clock. M. Kunzle accompanied this presentation with some humorous remarks which caused great amusement.

The second presentation was destined for M. P. Duvoisin, the untiring Secretary of the Club, unfortunately the present did not arrive in time, and for the time being M. Duvoisin had to accept the promise with which M. Brun accompanied his appreciation for services well and faithfully rendered.

The last speaker on the programme was M. E. Brunner, Vice-President, who made a touching appeal for those of our countrymen who have fallen on evil times, his endeavours were accompanied with success as nearly £17 was collected.

The dining room was then vacated, and a very efficient band invited all and sundry to the dance floor, and forgotten were the troubles, tribulations and worries which are such a common occurrence in these times of anxieties. Time flew all too quickly, and by midnight the gaily decorated rooms looked gloomy and deserted, but very thoughtful arrangements had been made so that those who did not feel sleepy could stay behind, and many of the guests sat together for another 3-4 hours listening to sing-songs and yodels. —

On Sunday morning shortly after 10 o'clock, a char-à-banc, followed by a number of private cars, containing about 60 passengers, set off from the Midland Hotel on the way to Stratford-on-Avon. We reached our destination soon after 11 o'clock, and on disembarking, the entire party walked along the picturesque river Avon to have a look at the new Shakespeare Theatre. The various opinions voiced on the architectural beauty of the outside of the edifice to the greatest classic poet, were not very complimentary to the Lady who was entrusted with the design.

Back once more at the Midland Hotel the party sat down to a luncheon which was much enjoyed.

After lunch, M. Brun, the President of the Swiss Club, announced that the official part of the "Rally" had now come to an end, and he called on some of the guests to say a few words, amongst those who voiced their appreciation for the very pleasant time which they had spent in the midst of their Birmingham friends were Mr. Boehringer and Mr. Montag. After many hand-shakes and *au revoir's*, the happy gathering dissolved; at least officially.

Nearly 30 of the party adjourned to the private residence of the President at his special invitation; and a very jolly afternoon it was. Mme. Brun presided over the gathering, proving that she was an equally efficient "Chairman" (or should I say "Chairwoman"?) as her husband. Many were the bottles emptied to the health of the generous host and hostess, and to the future prosperity of the Swiss Club Birmingham, then the departing hour struck and leave was taken of the many smiling faces.

Space unfortunately does not allow one to describe any of the little episodes which made this gathering such a success, but in concluding this narrative I would like to assure our Birmingham friends that we all spent a most enjoyable time in their midst which will leave behind nothing but pleasant memories.

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There were also present, apart from those already referred to: Mr. Langlais, French Consul at B'ham; M. and Mme. Hilpert, (London); M. and Mme. Delaloye, (London); M. and Mme. Oggier, (London); M. G. Marchand, (London); M. R. Ryf, (London); M. and Mme. Seiffert, (London); M. and Mme. Pape, (London); M. and Mme. Clivaz, (London); Mr. and Miss Studer, (Goole); M. Sanger, (York); M. Filliez, (London); M. Berlemont, (London); M. and Mme. Curnew, (London); M. E. Georges, (London); M. and Mme. Tschanz, (London); M. Grandjean, (London); Miss Molinari, (London); Miss Dobson, (London); M. Horrock, (Liverpool); Miss Mantell, (Liverpool); M. and Mme. Maurer, (Bristol); Major and Mme. Athey and daughter, (B'ham); M. Calchwell, (B'ham); M. Webb and son, (B'ham); M. and Mme. Yates, (B'ham).

SCHWEIZERBUND (Swiss Club) BANQUET.

The fifty-sixth annual Banquet and Ball of the "Schweizerbund" was celebrated as usual in good spirit and a homely atmosphere at the well-known club premises in Charlotte Street on Friday, 22nd March. Barring the rather more than generous delay in starting the function, everything went off sweetly according to programme, thus affording the 130 members and guests a very pleasant evening indeed. The highly esteemed and justly popular stewards of the Club, Mr. and Mrs. Rossier, saw to it that neither the appetite nor the palate of the guests were disappointed, although the menu-card described the banquet with the modest terms of a mere "dinner."

The "Schweizerbund" had this year the special satisfaction and pleasure of entertaining Monsieur Paravicini personally as the guest of honour and president of the function. He received rousing cheers when rising to make a short speech in his very best kindly and humorous vein, during which he congratulated the Club for its very useful function of providing a social home for a multitude of compatriots and for a further successful year of existence. The Club President, Mr. Hediger, had the pleasant task of announcing that the Club has succeeded in turning its former losses into a small profit during the past year. After gracefully greeting our Minister and the other guests, amongst whom he mentioned specially the Club trustees, Mr. Joerin and Mr. Keller, and Dr. H. W. Egli, representing the "Swiss Observer" and the "Bund," Mr. Hediger expressed his regrets that owing to the continued necessity of economy the banquet had to be of an "unofficial" nature. He was delighted, nevertheless to greet the representatives of several other Swiss societies. Mr. Hediger then spoke of the success of the Club and of the valuable support it enjoys in the following terms:

Thanks to the loyal support of our members and to the hard work of our Steward and especially our stewardess, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Rossier, as well as to the help and support given by our affiliated societies who made the Swiss Club Schweizerbund their home and headquarters, namely: —

Société de Secours mutuels des Suisses à Londres.

Unione Ticinese.

Swiss Gymnastic Society London.

West End Hairdresser's Academy.

Société du Progrès de la Coiffure.

Lodges and reciprocal working with the Unione Helvetia Club;

we have succeeded — in spite of the adverse economic conditions prevailing and in spite of the absence of young Swiss due to immigration restrictions — in turning the corner and in actually showing a small balance on the right side, namely profit. If you consider the position in which we found ourselves two years ago, you will appreciate what it means to turn a heavy loss into a profit, in this short space of time. It must not be forgotten that we had heavy outlays on two occasions during the same period for delapidation, rendering the task all the more difficult. This year we shall be further supported by the newly formed London Symphonic Choir who have made the Club their headquarters and whose members, at least judging from appearances, seem to be happy and at home in our midst. On behalf of the Club, I should like to extend a hearty welcome to this newly formed choir and to wish them every success and prosperity.

We fully realise that we are not out of the wood yet, but I am happy to say that all indications point towards a better and more prosperous future for the old "Schweizerbund;" it will continue to be a home far away from our native soil for our compatriots residing or passing through these hospitable isles.

Mr. Pache concluded the speeches with a few humorous remarks and the rest of the evening was devoted to a few jovial hours of dancing and pleasant sociability, charmingly enriched by some yodel-songs by Mrs. Aebersold.

Dr. E.

EDITOR'S POSTBAG.

The Editor of the Swiss Observer

Dear Sir,

A SCAMPER ABROAD.

Once upon a time, etc., Indeed it was in the year 1889 in the lovely month of June when a honeymoon couple started upon a Scamper abroad.

The following notes cannot be of any general interest except that they may make the mouths of some of your readers water by a few examples of the cheapness of travel in Switzerland 45 years ago. — The first stop of the tour was made at Paris; it was the time of the Great Exhibition and the wonder of the world the Eiffel Tower. It received a visit and the well-known Duval res-