

Arms of Valais

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EDITOR'S POST-BAG.

(The columns of the Swiss Observer are at all times open to correspondents, but the views expressed by the latter, do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Editor.)

29th January, 1936.

The Swiss Observer,
London, E.C.2.

My dear Editor,

Coupled with my hearty and sincere congratulation on the beautifully got up issue of last week's Swiss Observer, I regret to voice an equally sincere criticism, addressed, however, not to you, but to the Swiss Authorities.

Moving, as I do, almost exclusively in English circles, I have been deeply pained and embarrassed by the absence, apart from the Swiss President's telegram of condolence which appeared in "The Times," a paper which is anyhow not read by the "man in the street," of any mention of Switzerland's sympathy in England's National Loss.

Over and over again I have had to pull out that issue of the Swiss Observer to prove to enquiring friends that Switzerland really does sympathize, and over and over again I had to answer questions arising out of the fact that nothing appeared in the English Press.

Lack of imagination on the part of our Authorities seems to me the cause of this. A few telephone calls, in addition, perhaps, to reports sent out, but withheld from publication, would surely have resulted in our country's name being mentioned, as were countries far less important. On occasions like this, "the man in the street" matters and matters probably more than the high officials and exalted personages, for he forms what is called "public opinion" and thereby the basis of friendly relations or otherwise.

I am deeply grieved to bring this discordant note into your paper. If I do it, it is because I know I am voicing the feelings of many, and because I trust that it may do some good.

Yours faithfully,
Kyburg.

London, 29th January, 1936.

The Editor,
The Swiss Observer,
E.C.2.

Dear Sir,

I deeply regret that the Swiss Government has not sent any special representative for the funeral of the late King George V. Almost every country of the world was represented. The programme of the King's funeral, published by the "Daily Telegraph" gives a long list of countries with their respective representatives. Switzerland is the only country, I could notice, is not included in that list. The official representative who followed Her Majesty the Queen's carriage, was, we notice, our Minister, Monsieur Paravicini. For those who have the pleasure to know M. Paravicini, this means that Switzerland was represented, although the name of Switzerland was not mentioned.

I have been asked on various occasions by Englishmen why it is that my country did not send a Delegation. The only answer was the one which a friend of mine received from the Legation itself, that Switzerland never sends official representatives abroad for such an occasion. Personally I consider "die Ausnahme bestätigt die Regel," and this occasion would certainly have been a good reason to make an exception.

The Swiss Colony in England is extremely large, considering the size and population of our country, and we are all well treated, and have always received all the consideration of the Government and the public, and we most certainly all dislike very much, that on an occasion like this, a wrong impression may be, or is created by not doing what, as it seems every other country has done, that means to say, send a Delegation of various important personalities in the political, as well as, military world.

I would like it very much if something could be mentioned in the next edition of "The Swiss Observer" about the feelings of many of the Swiss Colony, of which we hope the Government in Berne, will, in due course, be duly informed.

Thanking you for your attention,

I am, Yours very truly,
Sig. S. M. Bruggisser.

ES PAECKLI.

Es Päckli schick ech z'Neujahr vo dahei
Drin besti Gruess u chly Schwyzerluft —
Chli chräschehligs Laub, a moosige Stei,
A Hampfele Chries voll Tannenduft
No as Schübeli Miesch mit Aerde dra —
U dr Sunnestrahl wo grad ine isch gwütscht
Dä mer zeigt mit sym hälle glänzige Schy,
Wo für all die guet Wunsch für Säge u Glück
Im Neujahrspäckli no viel schöni Eggeli sy.

H.E.

The Editor,
The Swiss Observer,
E.C.2.

29th January, 1936.

Dear Sir,

I have been scanning the newspapers, until my eyes absolutely ached, to find the name of the Delegates from Switzerland, at the funeral of the late King George V.

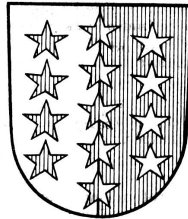
To my surprise and great regret, I could not find one, and I cannot understand why Switzerland alone, amongst the many big, and small nations, did not send a special envoy?

Surely the relations between the two countries are amicable enough to have warranted such an act of courtesy, without speaking of the greatness of the late Monarch.

Please excuse my liberty.

Yours faithfully,
Jules Weil.

ARMS OF VALAIS.



Per pale argent and gules, five mullets in pale between on either side four such mullets in pale, all counterchanged.

The arms of Valais are modern and represent both the bishopric of Sion and the thirteen districts forming the canton. The ancient white and red banner of Valais was the simplified arms of the bishop whose bearings are gules, a sword and crosier in saltire argent.

Subsequent to the dispute with the Chapter of Sion in 1613, when the sovereign rights of the bishop were transferred to the districts of Upper Valais, seven stars or mullets* were added to the white and red emblem of ecclesiastical dignity.

The stars represent the districts of Conches, Sierre, Loèche, Raron, Viège, Brigue, and Sion. In 1801, five new stars were added to mark the sovereignty of Hérens, Martigny, Entremont, Saint Maurice and Monthey in Lower Valais. With the formation of the district of Conthey in 1815, one year after joining the Swiss Confederation as 20th canton, the arms were yet charged with another star, forming the actual arms with thirteen stars of equal size, typifying the absolute equality of each district and the bond of unity among them.

* From the French *mulette*, a spur-rowell. In English heraldry, this figure is always styled a mullet and when it has six or more points it is blazoned *estoile*. The five-pointed star of the Continent represents the heavenly body so called, though not distinguishable from the mullet.

P.S.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

Messieurs les membres sont avisés que

L'ASSEMBLEE MENSUELLE

aura lieu mardi 4 Février au Restaurant PAGANI, 42, Great Portland Street, W.1. et sera précédée d'un souper à 7h 15 précises (prix 5/-).

ORDRE DU JOUR:

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Le Comité.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Tuesday, February 4th — City Swiss Club — Monthly Meeting — (preceded by dinner 7.15 sharp) at Pagani's Restaurant, Great Portland Street, W.

Saturday, February 22nd, 1936 — Annual Banquet and Ball — Swiss Mercantile Society — at the Trocadero Restaurant, Piccadilly, W. Provisional Date.

Saturday, February 29th, at 7 o'clock sharp — City Swiss Club — Dinner and Dance, at the Hyde Park Hotel, Knightsbridge, S.W.1.

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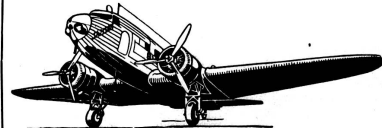
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Dimanche 2 Février,

11h. — Prédication — M. R. Saaty.

6h.30. — Prédication — M. R. Saaty.

7h.30. — Répétition du chœur.

Dimanche 9 Février. M. Roulet, missionnaire.
Collecte pour les Missions.

Cécile Claire Marguerite Isoz née le 28 septembre 1935. Fille de Fernand Charles Isoz, originaire de Château d'Oex (Vaud et de Mary Francis Isoz, née Sola.

SCHWEIZERKIRCHE

(Deutschsprachige Gemeinde).

St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2.

(near General Post Office.)

Sonntag, den 2. Februar 1936.

11 Uhr morgens, Gottesdienst und Sonntagsschule.

7 Uhr abends, Gottesdienst.

8 Uhr, Chorprobe.

Dienstag, den 4. Februar 1936.

3 Uhr nachm., Nähverein im "Foyer Suisse."

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