

# 20 th anniversary celebration of the Nouvelle société helvétique (London Group)

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# 20th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

OF THE

## NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE

(LONDON GROUP)

Mr. A. F. SUTER, *President.*



The twentieth birthday is not only an eventful happening in a man or woman's life, but equally so with a Society. Such events are invariably celebrated, and following the age long custom, the London Group of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique had arranged a little dinner party at the Foyer Suisse on Friday last, to which various guests were bidden. —

The Twentieth year is often a critical age, especially with young people; it is then that they start to become "saucy," and tell their parents that they must take a back seat now, in every domain barring "forking out" with the money. I hope the young "N.S.H. Lady" will not step from the path of maidenly virtue which she has trodden during the last 20 years. —

Previous to the dinner, Mme. Suter, the wife of the President was presented with a lovely bouquet of flowers, which she well deserved, considering that she has now for many years patiently listened to her husband's speeches with an expression of the "keenest interest," written on her face.

The dinner itself did not count twenty courses, but it was what is called a "homely" dinner, and everyone enjoyed it.

An old bachelor friend of mine, always sarcastically says to me, that when coffee is served the ladies tongues start to wag; well it is just as bad with men, because the serving of coffee started the speech-making.

First of all, the President of the Society, Mr. A. F. Suter extended a hearty welcome to M. Ch. de Jenner, Counsellor of Legation, who was representing the Swiss Minister, who was unable to the present owing to his absence on the Continent.

M. Suter also greeted the representatives of the following Societies:

Mr. C. Campart, Pres. Secours Mutuelle.  
Mr. A. Stauffer, City Swiss Club.  
Mr. R. Dupraz, Pres. Fonds-de-Secours.  
Mr. O. Gambazzi, Pres. Unione Ticinese.  
Mr. A. Steinmann, Pres. Swiss Mercantile Society.

Mr. A. Indermaur, Pres. Union Helvetia.  
Mr. P. Pellet, Pres. Swiss Institute Orchestral Society.

Mr. J. Scheuermeier, Pres. Swiss Y.M.C.A.

The President then read out various congratulatory messages which he had received and of which I give some below: —

*To the London Group of the N.S.H. on the 20th Anniversary of its Foundation.*

My dear Mr. Suter and Friends,

I wish I could be with you bodily on this day of jubilee, as I shall certainly be with you all in thoughts of friendship and gratitude.

Though I had been a member of the N.S.H. for a short time before the London Group was founded, I only realized the full possibilities of the *Ideal* when your great Colony, with its wonderful tradition of patriotism and its fine sense for the needs of modern times, decided to join the new movement. From the programme you adopted at that historic meeting I derived so much inspiration that I have been kept busy ever since. First for 4½ years in the direct and exclusive service of your Group, and then, after my return to Switzerland, working for an ever growing number of groups in all parts of the world. The seed sown in June 1916 has by far outgrown the most sanguine expectations any of the founders of the London Group may then have entertained. You certainly were not out for glory or for conquest. You were moved exclusively by the wish to stand by each other and to organize the goodwill of so many loyal Swiss in London for the service of your Old Country in time of need.

To work for such an ideal under the inspiring leadership of that dear and good man Jean Baer, assisted by the faithful friends of the Committee and the Council, was a fine task for me. I was very happy thus to be able to contribute my share to a better understanding between the two countries we all love best. We certainly were successful then, and the example

set by the London Group caught on, first in Great Britain (we had a thousand members in 1918 and allied groups at Manchester, Liverpool, Bradford, Derby, and Nottingham), then in South America (Mr. Aguet), and finally all over Europe. When the Secrétariat des Suisses à l'Etranger was founded in 1919, London handed over a bunch of 19 groups founded by us overseas. — Now their number is well over 200.

Happily you do not now need the services of a Secretary or secretaries (for a time we were two and we had three or even four typists working full speed), but the task assumed in 1916 is never done. It is one of education. In the first place education of ourselves to a full and true and sympathetic understanding of our own country's and Great Britain's character, their needs, history, and policy. In the second place, is it is your destiny to be middlemen between Switzerland and Great Britain, you will always have to watch over that inheritance of Anglo-Swiss friendship which has stood us in such good stead in the past, for — as the world goes — we may soon be in need of it again. Even if there is no need to stand ready in shining armour at present, you will do well to be always ready and wakeful, and to keep in close touch with friends at home and abroad.

I was very happy last summer to renew old friendships, and to meet your present Committee under Mr. Suter's trusted and ideal leadership, and I think it a very fine thing that our new Central President, Dr. H. P. Zschokke, will often be able to meet you for lectures or heart to heart talks. The fact that men of his type and of his generation are coming to the fore amongst us should be proof abundant to you that the N.S.H. is not only "still alive," but very much alive — and, dear friends, there is still much need of her!

You who have kept faithful through good days and bad, will, no doubt, renew and keep to the last the pledge you gave us 20 years ago: always to stand up, each in his place,

*Pro Helvetica Dignitate ac Securitate.*

With best of wishes to all and sundry, and with many kind remembrances.

Your old friend and one-time Secretary,

*Dr. A. Lüth.*

Président de la Commission des Suisses à l'Etranger, N.S.H., Basel, den 22. Juni 1936.

Herrn A. F. Suter,  
Präsident der Gruppe London der Neuen Helvetischen Gesellschaft,  
133, Fenchurch Street,  
London, E.C.3.

z.Hd. der Gruppe London der N.H.G.  
Lieber Herr Suter,

Namens des Zentralvorstandes und der ganzen Neuen Helvetischen Gesellschaft möchte ich Ihnen für die Gruppe London aus Anlass des 20 jährigen Jubiläums unsere allerherzlichsten Wünsche und unsern herzlichen Dank übermitteln.

Unsere Wünsche gehen dahin, dass die Gruppe London auch in den kommenden Jahrzehnten erfolgreich tätig sein wird und so immer weiter wirken kann im echten Geiste der Neuen Helvetischen Gesellschaft, nämlich uneigennützig und ohne blinde Parteinahme im Dienste unseres lieben Vaterlandes.

Unsern herzlichen Dank auch möchte ich Ihnen dafür im Namen der Inlands-N.H.G. aussprechen, dass in diesen vergangenen 20 Jahren die Gruppe London mit Hingebung und Begeisterung immer wieder zur Sache der Schweiz und der Neuen Helvetischen Gesellschaft gestanden ist. Es ist für uns eine grosse Beruhigung und ein dauernder Ansporn, auch in der Schweiz weiter zu arbeiten und auf dem Posten zu bleiben, wenn wir uns immer wieder sagen dürfen, dass unsere Tätigkeit bei unsern Auslandschweizern in einer Form Wiederhall

findet, wie das bei der Gruppe London der Fall ist.

Unser Dank gilt selbstverständlich auch in ganz besonderem Masse allen denjenigen Herren, die aktiv in der Gruppe mitgewirkt haben und die ihre Leitung inne hatten und noch inne haben.

Endlich darf ich an diesem Jubiläumstage der Gruppe London noch meine ganz persönlichen Worte beifügen. Es war mir eine grosse Freude, die Gruppe letztes Frühjahr besuchen zu dürfen, und die freundliche Aufnahme und das herzliche Interesse, das mir dort entgegengebracht wurde, wird sicher immer eine meiner liebsten Erinnerungen aus meinem ersten Amtsjahr als Zentralpräsident der N.H.G. bleiben.

Im Gedanken daran möchte ich gerne versprechen, dass ich immer versuchen werde, soweit es mit den zur Verfügung stehenden, leider nur zu beschränkten Mitteln mir möglich ist, das Wohl unserer Auslandsgruppen und der Gruppe London im speziellen im Auge zu behalten, und ich hoffe, dass mir auch mein zweites Amtsjahr Gelegenheit bieten wird, bei Ihrer gastlichen Gruppe einmal wieder einzukehren.

Ich verbleibe mit nochmaligen besten Wünschen und herzlichsten Grüssen namens der Neuen Helvetischen Gesellschaft und im eigenen Namen

Ihr

*Dr. H. P. Zschokke.*

Zentralpräsident der N.H.G.

Telegram, Berne, 25.6.36.

Félicitons premier groupe Nouvelle Société Helvétique à l'étranger pour 20 anniversaire. Remercions pour belle tâche accomplie en faveur Suisses à l'étranger et mère patrie et pour aide toujours plus précieuse apportée au Secrétariat de Berne, qu'il vive.

Helvosec.

Zollikon, June 20th, 1936.

The reading of these letters were acknowledged with much applause, and after having made a few closing remarks, Mr. Suter gave the word to M. de Jenner, who, on rising from his seat received a hearty ovation.

M. de Jenner said that although the Society is still of tender age there is no reason why it should not grow older and stronger, the speaker especially emphasized the splendid work done by the Society with regard to the younger generation of the Colony, by giving film shows, lectures and concerts. He mentioned that these efforts were greatly appreciated by the Legation and M. de Jenner conveyed the sincere wishes of the Minister for the future welfare of the Society. He also asked the Presidents of the different Societies who were present, to make an appeal to their respective members to take a bigger interest in the work of the N.S.H. He suggested that an appeal should be made to all Swiss Societies, to send delegates to a meeting where the future of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique could be discussed with an open mind.

M. Suter thanked the speaker for his address, and said that he fully agreed with the suggestions he had made.

M. Campart, a member of the Committee since the foundation of the Society then gave a short resumé as to the circumstances which had led to the foundation of the N.S.H., mentioning especially the endeavours which were made by Messrs. Bonnard and J. Baer. At that moment M. Suter presented Mr. Campart with a fine wallet suitably engraved for long and faithful services rendered. The latter was greatly touched by this token of appreciation and flanked in a few words the donors of this present.

Reminiscences during the last 20 years were then related by the following members: Messrs. Hoffmann-de Visme, Pfandler, Ritter, Joss, Beckmann, from which could be gathered that the membership of the Society amounted at one time to 660 in London alone, and with the groups in

the Provinces they reach a total of over 1,000 members. It was also said that one yearly budget showed an expenditure of £2,200,00 whilst the receipts for that particular year were £1,800,00. Mr. Wuthrich was especially mentioned as the man who untiringly worked to get the necessary Funds together.

The discussion about the proposed increase and extension of the Military tax was dispensed with, as in the meantime the authorities in Switzerland had withdrawn their proposal, and thus undoubtedly some excitement and outbursts were prevented. A neighbour of mine had been itching to relieve his mind on that subject, which I understand he had thoroughly studied, still he had a little drink instead, and I am sure this was more beneficial to him.

Before closing the Meeting, M. Suter informed the gathering that the "Auslandschweizertag" was being held this year at Montreux, on the 12th-13th September, and that he would represent again the London Group.

And thus ended a happy birthday party: having been present when the Society was founded I am glad to see that this institution is still alive and kicking, and I hope that the "slimming" process of the "young lady" is now over, and that she gets once again round and bonny.

ST.

#### ARRIVAL OF THE F. C. ZURICH "RUDERKLUB" TEAM.

The F.C. Ruderklub Zurich, consisting of 10 members, accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Dreyfus and Mr. Schöchlin, a former noted oarsman in Switzerland, arrived on Monday afternoon at Croydon. They travelled in a specially chartered "Swissair" Douglas machine piloted by Flight-captain W. Ackermann.

They were received at the Airport by M. P. Hilliker, representing the Swiss Minister and Mr. A. Stauffer, Editor of the Swiss Observer.

The team, which had made a good crossing, in spite of heavy winds and stormy weather conditions, was in excellent spirits. They left soon after their arrival, by special coach for Henley, where they stay until Monday next at the Five Horse Shoes Hotel.

#### THE SYMPHONIC SOCIAL CHOIR.

On Thursday June 18th, the Schweizerbund was visited by the Sängervereinigung St. Goar as the guests of the Symphonic Social Choir. The number of the German singers from the Rhine was 39, the majority of whom came from St. Goar and the remainder from Koblenz.

In the early part of the evening a Reception and Dinner took place during which the visitors were heartily welcomed by the President of the Symphonic Social Choir in the following words:—

"Als Präsident des Symphonic Social Choir und in Namen des Komites und der Mitglieder des Chors entbiete ich Ihnen ein herzlich willkommen in England. Wir hoffen, dass Ihr kurzer Aufenthalt hierzulande als unsere Gäste ein genussreicher und gemütlicher sein werde. Unsererseits soll nichts unterlassen werden, um diese Hoffnung zu verwirklichen.

Seitdem Ihre Englandreise erstmals in einem Gespräch im Juli 1935 im Café Hauser, an der ich teilnahm, erwähnt wurde, hatten Herr Neuss und ich viele Hindernisse zu bewältigen, und, nun da Sie glücklich hier angelangt sind, fühlen wir wir uns recht dankbar und, wenn ich sagen darf, auch stolz. In meiner Tätigkeit hier, die genannten Schwierigkeiten zu überwinden, bin ich vielen Leuten für deren Hilfe zu Dank verpflichtet, einschliesslich Herrn Bene, Herrn Pfarrer Schoenberger und verschiedene Mitglieder des N.S.D.A.P. und auch Herrn Suchy, der als Dolmetscher zwischen Herrn Neuss und mir amte. Es scheint mir, dass Herr Suchy alle Qualitäten eines Dolmetschers besitzt.

Das Programm, welches für Ihren Aufenthalt in England ausgearbeitet wurde, wird Ihnen bekannt gemacht. Vor allem aus Wunsch mein Chor, dass Sie sich hier behaglich und zuhause fühlen, und dass Sie nach St. Goar mit süßen Erinnerungen zurückkehren mögen; Erinnerungen, die für alle Zeiten mit Ihnen sein werden.

Zum Schlusse möchte ich noch sagen, dass ich am 1. Juli in St. Goar sein werde und hoffe das Vergnügen zu haben, Sie alle wiederzusehen."

A suitable reply was given by the President of the Sängervereinigung St. Goar, Herr Neuss, during which he presented the Symphonic Social Choir with a framed picture depicting Rhine scenery. He also presented Mr. Swan, the President of the Symphonic Social Choir, with a similar picture and also with an illuminated Address making that gentleman an Hon. member of the Sängervereinigung St. Goar.

Later in the evening both Choirs sang songs during intervals of the Dancing and these were most enthusiastically received by the large number present. A Tombola was also conducted, the value of the prizes presented being in the neighbourhood of £20. 0. 0.

The dancing continued until 12.30 a.m. next morning and it can be truly said that "Ein Lustigen Rheinischen Abend" had been enjoyed by all.



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#### FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Tuesday, July 7th — City Swiss Club — No Meeting.

Friday, July 17th — Nouvelle Société Helvétique — Supper at 6.30 p.m. (3/-), to be followed by a causerie by Monsieur M. Veillard, Docteur en droit, Lausanne, on "Coup d'oeil sur la Suisse de 1936," at the "Foyer Suisse," 12, Upper Bedford Place, W.C.1.

From July 20th - August 1st — 12th Haslemere Festival, under the direction of Arnold Dolmetsch at the Haslemere Hall, Haslemere, Surrey.

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Sonntag, den 5. Juli 1936.

11 Uhr morgens, Gottesdienst und Sonntagsschule.

Die Abendgottesdienste fallen während der Monate Juli und August aus.

Während der Ferien des Gemeindepfarrers wird Herr Pfarrer R. Kägi, von Rothrist (Aargau) amtieren. Alle Anfragen wegen Amtshandlungen sind während dieser Zeit an ihn c/o Foyer Suisse, 12, Upper Bedford Place, Russell Square, W.C.1 zu richten, oder an den Sekretär der Kirchengemeinde, Herrn F. G. Sommer, Hepple Lodge, Holly Park, Crouch Hill, N.4.

Herr Pfarrer Kägi predigt am 12. Juli.

Anfragen wegen Religions-bezw. Confirmandenstunden und Amtshandlungen sind erbeten an den Pfarrer der Gemeinde: C. Th. Hahn, 43, Priory Road, Bedford Park, W.4 (Telephon: Chiswick 4156). Sprechstunden: Dienstag 12-2 Uhr in der Kirche; Mittwoch