

Swiss Mercantile Society

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SALON CULINAIRE INTERNATIONAL DE LONDRES.

As briefly reported in our last issue, competing members of the Swiss Culinary Society have been very successful at the International Catering Exhibition, which took place at the Olympia from November 30th to December 8th. No less than 6 Gold medals and 5 Silver medals were allotted to our compatriots.

This is a splendid result, when one considers that they had to stand up against a very powerful competition especially from their French and Italian colleagues.

We heartily congratulate our countrymen on their success, which at the same time honours our country; and especially we would pay a sincere compliment to Mr. G. Th. Kummer, the energetic and untiring President of the Swiss Culinary Society, who worked very hard to get the Swiss competitors together. We are glad to see that his endeavours have been crowned with success.

Here is a list of the competitors and their awards:

Gold Medal and £5:5:0 Mr. F. Mermoud, Class 16.

Gold Medal, Mr. Rodrerino Louis, Chef of the Hungarian Restaurant, Collective Table, Class 12.

Gold Medal, Mr. R. Salzmann, Class 28.

Gold Medal and £2:10:0, Mr. V. Schild, jun., Class 15.

Gold Medal and £2:10:0, Mr. E. Eggman, Class 6.

Gold Medal, Mr. E. Eggman, Class 3.

Silver Medal, Mr. M. Gloor, Class 4.

Silver Medal, Mr. P. O. Schaffer, Class 16.

Silver Medal, Mr. W. Fillingner, Class 19.

Silver Medal, Mr. P. Aklin, Class 21.

Silver Medal, Mr. M. Beer, Class 11.

Bronze Medal and £1:1:0, Mr. M. Kuchen, Class 20.

Bronze Medal, Mr. P. Aklin, Class 3.

Bronze Medal, Mr. V. Egger, Class 5.

Bronze Medal, M. W. Ulrich, Class 8.

Bronze Medal, Mr. E. Gerber, Class 16.

Bronze Medal, Mr. A. Matile, Class 17.

Bronze Medal, Mr. S. Hanks, Class 11.

Bronze Medal, Mr. R. Steiger, Class 11.

Certificate of Merit, Mr. R. Steiger, Class 1.

Certificate of Merit, Mr. J. G. Zublin, Class 17.

Certificate of Merit, Mr. P. Zurn, Class 17.

Certificate of Merit, Mr. E. Gerber, Class 17.

Certificate of Merit, Mr. C. A. Gerber, Class 18.

Certificate of Merit, Mr. O. Stettler, Class 3.

Certificate of Merit, Mr. M. Gloor, Class 3.

Messrs. F. Seitz and R. Salzmann had exhibits at the "Table d'Honneur."

Well done Swiss Culinary Society!

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

The Monthly Meeting of the Society was held at Swiss House on Wednesday, December 8th. Mr. J. J. Boos, Vice-President, was in the Chair. Despite the vagaries of a dismal December night a large number of members were present.

As in previous years the Meeting decided to make a donation towards the Christmas collection in favour of unemployed members of the association and an amount of Frs 250.— was voted.

Mr. W. Meier, Chairman of the Education Committee, in reporting on the activities of the College, had pleasure in informing the members that the College this month for the first time in many years reached an attendance of 200 and that over 500 students have been admitted during the current year compared with 420 in 1936. He attributed this notable increase mainly to the improved economic conditions in Switzerland.

Mr. W. Fuchs, Chairman of the Philatelic Group, acquainted the Meeting with the activities of his yet small but very active group. Mr. Fuchs exhorted the philatelists to make full use of this comparatively new section of the Society and drew their attention to the unique opportunities it afforded to those interested. Members and friends wishing to attend are reminded that these Meetings take place on the first Wednesday in each month. Therefore, philatelists to the fore on Wednesday, January 5th, 1938.

The Meeting thereupon adjourned into the Lecture Room where a number of films on Winter Sports in Switzerland were shown. A large gathering including the students of the College were present and Mr. A. Tall, a member of the Swiss Mercantile Society, gave a running commentary on the films which had been kindly provided by the Swiss Federal Railways on whose behalf Mr. Tall has been lecturing all over England. The films shown were: "In the Swiss Alps," "Mosaics of Joy," "Ski-Champions" Sunday at Arosa" and "The Sun of St. Moritz." By contrast with the far from elevating weather conditions without we were taken up steep slopes and glaciers to the sunny heights of eternal snow and ice. We heard of English pioneers in Swiss winter sports and the films shown depicted the natural beauties of many famous winter resorts.

We were entertained to thrill upon thrill in exhilarating winter sports, ski-races and jumping, ice-hockey, curling, etc. The audience were able, if only in imagination, to enjoy the unrivalled excitement of a winter holiday in the Swiss Alps. Mr. Tall who is not only an expert in matters of travelling but also in winter sports made the pictures more vivid and interspersed them with humorous incidents. The films shown were an unqualified success and must have animated many of those present to spend a winter holiday in Switzerland.

The Chairman, in expressing thanks to Mr. Tall for his most interesting talk, mentioned that the lecturer was one of the first students of the College in 1923. The audience heartily endorsed the Chairman's words and thus came to a close another interesting and most enjoyable evening at Swiss House.

W.B.

L'ESCALADE A LONDRES 1937.

Qui n'a pas entendu parler de Genève? Bien peu. Mais pour entendre les Genevois c'est au Restaurant Pagani, Great Portland Street, qu'il aurait fallu se rendre le 10 Décembre dernier. Les 34 Genevois et Amis de Genève ont fait honneur au splendide dîner qui est le secret et le succès de cette vieille maison tessinoise. En quelques mots émus le président Mons. de Cintra, rappela à chacun la perte qu'éprouve notre petite assemblée en la personne de notre regretté Pasteur et Citoyen de Grand Cœur, Mons. Hoffmann de Visme. L'assemblée se leva pour rendre hommage à sa mémoire.

S'il en était parmi la compagnie piénoise de Londres, qui venaient des Antipodes ou qui ne pouvaient revendiquer d'être des purs parmi les purs, leurs sentiments de fidélité et d'amitié ne pouvaient être en doute.

Mons. Chappuis fit lecture du Procès-Verbal de l'an dernier, écrit dans un style plein de brio et d'esprit.

Lecture fut faite des noms glorieux inscrits au Temple de St. Gervais, héros de Décembre 1602. La Marmite traditionnelle fut rompue, accompagnée de la formule sacrée.

Mons. Haussauer, élu Major de Table, assumant ses fonctions avec la verve, plutôt bruyante qu'on lui connaît.

Une longue discussion eut lieu au sujet du 25me Anniversaire de ces réunions. Un Comité fut nommé qui aura charge d'organiser pour cette occasion *exceptionnelle*, un Dîner et Bal, au sujet duquel nous reviendrons en temps utile.

Une chose à regretter:

Nous connaissons tous les beautés et qualités de Genève. Les Genevois, qui l'aurait cru, préfèrent tenir cachées leurs qualités individuelles artistiques, ce qui fait que le reste de la soirée se passa en chantant les chœurs qui nous sont chers et en "racontant des histoires," le temps passa trop vite, une poignée de main, pour beaucoup l'espoir de se rencontrer à nouveau l'an prochain, pour quelque "jeunes" un souvenir agréable, espérons, de ces instants qui démontrent mieux que ces lignes, l'attachement au pays, à Genève, un des plus beaux joyaux de notre Helvétie.

"Nous Maintiendrons,"

A.R.

A BEAUTIFUL PRESENT.

Our readers will find in this issue a small pamphlet, dealing with a volume containing 88 illustrated plates in heliogravure, reproductions from the works of the famous "valdois" painter Ernest Bieler.

M. J. B. Manson, Director of the Tate Gallery, and a great authority, has written a fore-

word in which he pays homage to Bieler's great capabilities.

His great work has been to record the lives of the peasants of the canton of Valais, and although not a "valaisian" he has, like no other artist before, succeeded in understanding and portraying the character and the type of these sturdy inhabitants of Savèise, Sion and the valley of Hérens.

This beautifully produced volume contains an admirable collection of portraits of these stalwart peasants of Savèise; old men and women, young girls, wood-cutters, artisans, etc.

This volume should not only appeal to our compatriots from the canton of Valais, but to all Swiss who can appreciate the work of a truly great and sincere artist; it will be a present which will, without doubt be greatly appreciated by the recipient.

A truly fine gift, worth while acquiring.

A Few "Ticinesi" Worth Talking About.

(Continued from Page Two.)

I am glad to say that thanks to the good offices of our Federal Government the "Spartaco" has now been returned to the Ticino, and will find a place of honour in the Cantonal Library which is nearing completion at Lugano. Vela registered another great success at the Paris Exhibition of 1867 where he put on show his "Dying Napoleon." This statue which shows the great leader of armies seated in an arm-chair, supported by pillows, and look fixed at a point before him, the clenched fist of the left-hand resting on an incomplete map of Europe, brings out very well the contrast between a still latent force and utter helplessness. It is now at Versailles. Amongst his other works are fine busts of Generals Dufour and Lamarmora, of Federal Councillor Stefano Franscini; statues of Cavour, statesman, Tommaso Grossi, novelist, Gioacchino Murat, the hapless King of Naples; the double statue of the Queens Maria Adelaide and Maria Teresa at prayer, the "Desolation" and the "Ecco Homo." Replicas of all his works may be seen at his villa at Ligornetto which at his death was presented to the Confederation.

Antonio Ciseri was born at Ronco near Ascona in 1821. His father and grandfather had been decorators at Florence, so that the little Antonio had no difficulty in reaching this centre of art. Barely twenty he exhibited an historical work: "Charles V. in the act of retrieving Tiziano's brush." His luck was in it as much as in the same exhibition the master Giovanni Dupré had put on show his "Abel," a picture that aroused wide comment, and thus Ciseri's conscientious effort did not go unobserved. In 1860 he founded a "free" art school, a kind of communistic venture for art students, which was a success, lasting for over 30 years. Almost unnoticed went his "chef d'œuvre," "The Massacre of the Maccabees," which he placed above the Altar of the Church of S. Felicità at Florence in 1863, and at which he had worked several years. In the same year he finished the picture: "Give unto Caesar what is Caesar's" and "The Sale of Joseph." He was also an able portraitist. Of his later works the best are the "Transportation of Christ to the Grave," at Locarno, and the "Ecce Homo" at Florence. He died at Florence in 1891.

With the foregoing, I venture to hope, I have succeeded in presenting to you, however, inadequately the wealth of artistic talent that the Canton Ticino has given the world. Probably no Italian region, with the possible exception of Tuscany, can boast of such artistic fecundity as the shores of the Lake of Lugano.

FINIS.

ERNEST BIELER

Peintre Suisse

par

J. B. MANSON

Directeur de la Tate Gallery

Traduit de l'anglais par A. Flournoy

88 planches hors-texte.

"Nul n'a compris le caractère du pays, le type de ses habitants et le pittoresque de son folklore comme ce Maître."

Paul Fierens. "Les Debats"

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