

Bells ring at six [continued]

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Objektyp: **Article**

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

Band (Jahr): - **(1937)**

Heft 804

PDF erstellt am: **12.07.2024**

Persistenter Link: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-692371>

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CITY SWISS CLUB.

Assemblée Générale Annuelle.

6 Avril 1937.



P. F. BOEHRINGER

President

CITY SWISS CLUB.



Tout le monde était présent, y compris le meilleur danseur de la Colonie et le plus grand rouspéteur. Quarante-cinq membres ordinaires étaient également présents.

La soirée fut longue, car on discutait beaucoup suivant la tradition, on discutait, et en fin de compte, le résultat fut assez maigre.

A la fin du dîner on a bu à la santé de Mr. Pagani (Meschini) et en réponse Mr. Pagani a prononcé quelques paroles émouvantes. Ensuite on a bu à la santé de M. Schobinger qui vient d'atteindre sa 25ème année comme membre du Club. On a bu aussi à la santé de M. Paschoud qui est ici pour un court séjour. M. Paschoud a répondu brièvement. Après ces toasts on a entamé le programme officiel de la soirée.

Quatre admissions. Deux démissions. Rapport du Président. On a fait circuler des copies imprimées et sans doute ce rapport qui résume les activités du Club pendant l'année qui vient de s'écouler, paraîtra dans les colonnes du Swiss Observer.

Vérificateur des Comptes.

Suivant la tradition, on épluche les comptes et malgré les efforts de plusieurs de nos meilleurs experts en matière de finance, on finit par accepter les comptes et en donner décharge à notre grand argentier. M. Boehringer, après avoir remercié ses collègues pour tout leur dévouement, quitte la chaire et M. Gattiker devient Président intérimaire afin de procéder à l'élection du nouveau bureau suivant les us et coutumes du Club.

Election du Bureau.

Afin d'éviter un travail presque inutile plusieurs membres ont exprimé le désir de voter le nouveau bureau en bloc, mais le règlement est inexorable et un de nos membres expert en matière de procédure ayant fait opposition, nous avons été obligés d'avoir recours au scrutin secret prévu par le Règlement.

Sont élus :

Président : M. P. F. Boehringer.
 Vice-Président : M. Louis Chapuis.
 Trésorier : M. R. de Cintra.
 Secrétaire : M. G. Marchand.
 Trésorier adjoint : M. W. Deutsch.
 Secrétaire adjoint : M. A. Stauffer.
 Bibliothécaire : M. H. Binggueli.

Vérificateurs des comptes : MM. G. Jenne et H. Pfirter.

Fideli-commissaires du Club House Fund : MM. Ch. Barbezat, A. Baume et F. Zogg.

Press Reporter : Dr. K. Eckenstein.

Lorsque tout est fini, M. Boehringer reprend la Chaire présidentielle et remercie les membres du Club. On discute brièvement plusieurs "faits divers" et à onze heures le Président lève la séance. Chacun s'en va, conscient d'avoir enfin mené à bien le travail minutieux de la réunion générale de 1937.

ck.

NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE.
(London Group.)

It is a thousand pities that the arrangements made to receive Dr. A. Latt, the President of the "Swiss Abroad," fell on a Saturday. It is a most inconvenient day, as many of our countrymen have acclimatised themselves to the English week-end habit, and the result was, that the attendance was a very poor one.

This is very much to be regretted, because Dr. Latt would have deserved a hundred per cent. attendance, not only on account of the splendid *exposé* of Swiss affairs which he gave us, but also

for the untiring and unselfish services which he renders to the "Auslandschweizer" work.

I do not think that we Swiss abroad have a more capable or more earnest champion at home for the manifold problems with which we are confronted, than our old friend Dr. Latt. His enthusiasm and his untiring labours simply baffle me; I met him some twenty years ago, when he rendered such valuable services in the capacity of Secretary to the Nouvelle Société Helvétique. His undiminished ardour and his keenness to work in the interest for the Swiss abroad has not relaxed since his departure from London 17 years ago; he is still fighting with the same tenacity for our interests, and if the "Auslandschweizer" have been by now recognised as an important unit in our national life, Dr. Latt can rightly claim a big share in this achievement.

On this occasion I also might mention, that Dr. Latt has been the first Editor of our paper, which was founded in 1921, and I am proud that we are still able to carry on the good work for which he laid such an excellent foundation.

I am glad to report that Dr. Latt had a wonderful success at the Students Congress at Cambridge, which has just come to an end, where he fought very bravely for a cause, which, alas, is more than often called a "lost cause," namely the existence of the League of Nations. In spite of all the bitter criticism with which this institution meets from almost all quarters, I still maintain, that if the obligations, which the members had undertaken to carry out at the time, would be faithfully observed, the world would be a better and safer place to live in.

Dr. Latt intimated that he had no wish to give a lecture, and his remarks about News and Personalities from home were given as a sort of "causerie." It goes without saying, that we Swiss abroad are at all times interested to hear about the men, who are directing the destiny of our homeland. The speaker gave us a few short biographical glimpses about the work and the personality of the men who are at the helm of the Swiss Confederation.

He paid a great tribute to M. Motta, the President of the Swiss Confederation, whom he termed as one of the greatest statesmen Switzerland has ever possessed. A no less flattering tribute he paid to Federal-Councillor R. Minger, head of the Federal Military Dept., who occupies one of the most important offices in the Government, namely the one to keep our Army up to the scratch against all eventualities.

In turn, he acquainted the company with the work of the other members of the Federal Council, viz. M. Obrecht, who has to tackle many of the most difficult economic problems with which our country is confronted with. Dr. Meyer, the Finance Minister, who after a great struggle, and not a little against his own conviction, agreed to the devaluation of the franc. M. Pilet-Golaz, who has the almost impossible and least pleasant task to put our State Railways on a sound foundation. M. Baumann, Minister of Justice, who is responsible to maintain law and order, and M. Etter, who as "Kultur" Minister is indirectly closely connected with the "Auslandschweizer" work.

Dr. Latt also named two of our countrymen, namely Dr. Scherrer from St. Gall and M. Musso, President of the "Pro Ticino" for their great efforts for getting the Federal authorities to allot the 1st of August "Brüdesfeier" collection in 1938 for the "Auslandschweizer" work. A special tribute was also paid to Dr. H. P. Zschokke, Central President of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique in Switzerland, who recently lectured in London.

After the address an animated discussion took place amongst the members present. Very valuable suggestions were made by Messrs. A. F. Suter, President of the London Group, Ch. de Jenner, Councillor of Legation, P. Walser, J. J. Schneider, P. Savoie, Th. Ritter and A. Stauffer.

Before closing the meeting, M. A. F. Suter, President, thanked Dr. Latt for his very interesting *exposé* assuring him of the faithful collaboration of the London Group of the N.S.H., he also thanked M. de Jenner for having attended the gathering, which he considered had fulfilled a most useful purpose.

ST.

LONDON SWISS RIFLE TEAM.

The general meeting of the above team took place last Saturday, April 3rd, at the Glendower Hotel and was preceded by a supper which did full justice to the culinary talents of the popular proprietor of the Hotel, Mr. A. Schmid.

Monsieur W. de Bourg, Counsellor of Legation, occupied the chair. The Secretary submitted particulars of the results of the last shooting season, and the accounts were passed with the usual thanks. It was decided to continue shooting practice and the first meet has been arranged for next Sunday (the 11th inst.) at the Bisley Camp.

After the distribution of prizes, to which all those present had made a contribution in kind, a most enjoyable evening was passed in a truly Swiss spirit.

EDITOR'S POST-BAG.

London, 5th April, 1937.

The Editor,

"Swiss Observer,"

23, Leonard Street, E.C.2.

Dear Sir,

Already a month has elapsed since "Kyburg" made his excellent and timely appeal for a suitable delegation from Switzerland at the coming Coronation. — As far as I am aware, no statement has been made so far either by the Swiss Government at Home or by the Swiss Legation in London. — Does this mean that the Swiss Colony in England is again to be made to feel as uncomfortable as it did on the occasion of the King's funeral last year?

Nobody particularly wants an Army or Air Force Delegation. Even if Switzerland is a "Neutral State" or a "modest little country" as "UHU" will have it, this is no excuse for not being as friendly and polite as most European and other Nations are apparently anxious to be. If Italy, for special reasons of her own, will not send a delegation, there is surely no need for Switzerland to follow suit!

Yours faithfully,

C. J. B.

DAS WILDKIRCHLI.

By Dr. Emile Baechler.)

*We are such stuff as dreams are made on
 and our little life is rounded with a sleep.*

(The Tempest.)

How many thousand generations separate us from the men who with primitive weapons hunted the powerful cave bear on the Ebenalp and the Gartenalp and dismembered him in the cave of the Wildkirchli? Dr. Baechler makes a guess and comes to the conclusion it might be 50,000 years ago since these caves were occupied but this is unimportant.

What is important is the scientific classification based on the type of stone and bone implements found and on this evidence Wildkirchli man belongs to the older stoneage or more precisely to a pre-Mousterian culture. Wildkirchli man existed in the last interglacial period previous to the last great advance of the Alpine glaciers. What happened to him? Probably the arctic climate which followed the milder conditions of the interglacial period drove him from his mountain fastnesses along with the game he pursued.

The next culture of early man we have in Switzerland is of a higher type and is found in the caves of the Jura, between Bâle and Schaffhausen and while he too was a hunter, his instruments were better and he practised a surprisingly life-like art. He belongs to the later palaeolithic age and the animals he hunted were the Mammoth, Reindeer, etc., and the type of climate was cold like that of the tundra. The Ice age, however, was coming to an end.

A still further advance in development is marked by the Lake dwellers which belong to the newer stoneage, the Neolithic, who produced handsome stone axes which they polished. They also managed to domesticate some of the animals of their fauna such as the dog, goat, sheep, cattle, etc. Dr. Baechler out of the fullness of his knowledge has written a most interesting book dealing with his excavations and its many problems and it is made readable by a limpid style, which mirrors his experiences as the Seeläpsee mirrors the scenery of the Säntis.

To those of us who know the Appenzell, the book is a gift and moreover a charming gift from our colleagues of the Section St. Gallen of the S.A.C., who have undertaken the risk of publishing and selling it at a reasonable price.

The aim of the S.A.C., is to foster the love of our mountains. This can be done in many ways but none is more noble than to produce such a scientific work.

Ekkehard also is not forgotten and a chapter is devoted to J.V. Scheffel. I will conclude with one of his poems, it refers to the Wildkirchli:

*Und wer Schneeglöcklein graben will
 Und hat das Glück dabei
 Der gräbt wohl einen Bären aus
 Und gräbt auch ihrer zwei.*

E.M.

BELLS RING AT SIX.

By FRED DOSSENBACH, JR.
(Continued.)

"That's the main idea," Jan answered. "The ringing of bells at six goes back to the old custom of the Guilds when from April to October the bells rang for the cessation of work at six o'clock instead of seven, as in winter. The burning of the 'Boegg,' or bogey, an effigy of Winter, is an old custom, too. The figure is filled with fireworks, and as it pops to pieces in the middle of a huge bonfire, the members of the Guilds gallop around it on horseback, forming a 'Magic Circle' which according to old pagan belief, prevents Old Man Winter from escaping the fire and restoring his domination."

"But this spring bonfire is an old custom still existing in other parts of Switzerland, isn't it?"

"Yes. But Zurich is the only city that still celebrates this festival. Otherwise it is observed only in the more rural communities. The organized pageant parades here have been in existence for over one hundred years."

"Well spoken," I said. "You're a one-man information bureau."

"It looks as if the bureau is going to have to move up to the University," Jan said. "I told Prof. that I'd be there, test tubes and all, at two, and I'm already late."

So we paid our bill and drifted down to the crowded street. The Limmat was green as it flowed lazily through the city, and here and there swans, necks arched gracefully, were drifting with the current. The lake was full of boats, and at the quay near Bellevue, a white steamer was all ready to start later on its trip to Rapperswil, the quaint old town at the other end of the lake.

The Bahnhofstrasse was lined with people waiting to see the procession, and balconies and windows of buildings were filled with spectators. I decided to go and look at the parade from the Baur au Lac hotel. The procession was going to swing off the Bahnhofstrasse and turn down the Alpenquai, directly in front of the hotel's lovely garden. It was so crowded everywhere that it seemed as if every person in Zurich was taking the afternoon off to celebrate. That is, everyone but Jan and the professor.

From the distance came the martial sound of band music. People craned to catch a first glimpse of the parade, and conversation buzzed as the wagging tongues of proud parents proclaimed that little Frieda was one of the flower girls on this or that float, and Hans was a drummer boy in one of the Guilds bands. They were all talking at once.

Then the procession started passing by: one float after another, band after band, the shoemaker, barber, carpenter and baker Guilds. And on a float all by himself, like a huge snow man, stood condemned "Boegg," pipe in his mouth, broom in hand. There were floats depicting scenes in the Tessin, with girls dressed in gay costumes and baskets full of flowers on their backs; floats with chalets and cottages surrounded with hyacinths and budding saplings. One of the youths belonging to the bakers' Guild threw freshly baked rolls into the crowd, and the barbers strutted by in high hats and flowing tail-coats. One of them had an immense pair of wooden scissors, and one time he reached into the crowd and picked off the hat of a startled, Brissago-smoking countryman. There was dancing and music and laughter.

Toward six o'clock the crowd started surging to Bellevue-platz. Roman holiday! Old Boegg, on top of a huge pyre, had the centre of the field all to himself. Then bells pealed loud and gay all through the city, and the sonorous chimes echoed in the surrounding hills. The bonfire was lit, and the horsemen started galloping around the leaping flames. You're gone now, Boegg! Can't get away! Flames licked higher and higher. Pop! Off went one of Boegg's arms. His pipe drooped in his mouth, and the broom fell from his hand. Off with his head, off with his head! There he goes! Boegg exploded and blew himself to tatters. So long, old boy, you won't be back for a long time! The crowd cheered and the children jumped up and down, laughing and yelling. Shadows fell long over the field, and as if in mocking salute, the glowing red orb of the sun flung last beams across the lake, then dipped out of sight beyond the green rolling hills.

THE END.

SOME OF THE FORTHCOMING EVENTS IN SWITZERLAND.

- April:
Camellia and Mimosa Festival at Locarno.
- April 3rd-13th:
Swiss Industries Fair at Basle.
- April 3rd-May 30th:
Rembrandt Exhibition in the Art Museum at Berne.
- April 9th:
Battle of Nâfels celebration at Nâfels Glarus.
- April 11th:
Football Match, Hungary vs. Switzerland, at Basle.
- April 19th:
Spring Festival, Sechseläuten, at Zurich.
Concert by the Kolisch Quartet at Vevey.
- April 22nd:
Peoples' Symphony Concert at the Bernese Orchestra Association at Berne.
- April 22nd, 23rd, 25th, 29th and May 2nd:
Performances of the drama, "Nicholas von der Flüe" by Miss Anna Meyer, at Fribourg.

- April 24th:
Gala Concert by the Berne Liederkranz at Berne.
- April 25th:
Memorial service in honour of the 450th Anniversary of the death of the Blessed Nicholas von der Flüe, and big general assembly in the afternoon, at Fribourg.
- April 25th or May 2nd:
Open-air Parliaments (Landsgemeinde) at Stans Sarnen, Appenzell, Hundwil and Glarus.
- May 2nd:
Football Match, Germany vs. Switzerland, at Zurich.
- May 2nd, 6th and 9th:
Horse races at Zurich.
- May 8th-17th:
Exhibition "Weekend, Tourism, Sports and Fashions." Aquatic Games, at Zurich.
- May 9th-June 6th:
Exhibition by Contemporary Artists in Kunst-halle at Berne.
- May 16th:
Football Match, Ireland vs. Switzerland, at Berne.
- May 22nd-30th:
Wine Fair of Canton Vaud at Vevey.
- May 23rd:
Fribourg Cantonal Singing Festival at Romont.
- May 27th:
Solemn Corpus Christi Procession through the Streets of Fribourg.
- June 1st-October 1st:
Cathedral Organ Recitals on Thursdays and Saturdays at 2 p.m., and on Sundays and Feast Days at 4 p.m. Throughout the year Organ Recitals on Sundays and Feast Days, at Fribourg.
- June 19th-20th:
International Rowing Regatta at Lucerne.
- June 25th-July 11th:
National Trade Show and "Rheinwoche" at Schaffhausen.
- June 26th-27th:
Flower Festival at Geneva.
- June 29th-July 4th:
International Congress for Seed Control at Zurich.
- July 4th:
American Independence Day Celebrations will be observed at the leading resorts.
- July 6th-October 12th:
Vacation Courses for Modern French at the University of Geneva.
- July 9th-12th:
Congress of International Skating Association at St. Moritz.
- July 10th-11th:
Annual Summer Ski Races on Jungfrau-joch.
- July 11th, 18th and 25th:
Open-air William Tell Performances at Inter-laken.
- Middle of July:
Summer Ski Races on Piz Corvatsch, St. Moritz.
- July 17th-September 11th inclusive, on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, from 9 to 11 p.m.
Open-air production of religious play at Einsiedeln.

MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS

THE SWISS ORCHESTRA has vacancies for string and wind instrumentalists. Apply any Thursday evening, 35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.

LADY accustomed Foreign Travel, would chaperone young people to Lucerne, or other parts of Switzerland, or escort party privately in return for expenses. Write E.B., c/o Swiss Observer, 23, Leonard Street, E.C.2.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

- Saturday, April 10th — Swiss Club Birmingham — Swiss Rally and Annual Dinner and Ball, at the Midland Hotel, Birmingham. (Reception 6.15 p.m., Dinner 6.45 p.m.).
- Wednesday, April 14th at 8 p.m. — Swiss Mercantile Society — Monthly Meeting, followed by a lantern lecture and film on "Exploring in the unknown arctic," by Edward Shackleton, Esq., B.A., F.R.G.S., at "Swiss House," 34/35, Fitzroy Square, W.
- Friday, April 16th — Nouvelle Société Helvétique — Monthly Meeting, preceded by supper at 6.30. The President of the London Group will give an address on "The Swiss Abroad, particularly in England," at the Foyer Suisse, 12, Upper Bedford Place, W.C.2.
- Friday, April 16th, at 8 p.m. — Schweizerbund (Swiss Club) — Annual Dinner and Ball — at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1. (Extension till 2 a.m.)

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11h. — Ecole du Dimanche.
6h.30. — Culte et Prédication.
7h.30. — Réunion de prières.
Mardi 13 Avril 8h — Au Foyer — Réunion de Couture des Dames.

BAPTEME.

Vivienne Katrika Louise Blaser — fille de Frédéric et de Gilberte Denise née James, de Langnau (Berne) née le 14/1/1937 — le 4/4/37.

SERVICES FUNEBRES.

Frédéric Rodolphe Gerber, de Schangnau (Berne) né le 23/7/1873 décédé le 28/3/37 — dans sa 64e année — le 2/4/37.

Bertha Zurcher née Doppler, de Trüb (Berne) née le 7/4/1861, et Neuweiler (Alsace), décédée le 31/3/37, dans sa 76e année — le 5/4/37.

M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme reçoit à l'église, 79, Endell Street, W.C.2, le mercredi de 11h. à 12h.30 et sur rendez-vous à son domicile, 102, Hornsey Lane, Highgate, N.6. S'adresser à lui (téléphone: ARChway 1798) pour tous renseignements concernant les instructions religieuses, les mariages et autres actes.

SCHWEIZERKIRCHE

(Deutschsprachige Gemeinde).

St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2.
(near General Post Office.)

Sonntag, den 11. April 1937.

11 Uhr morgens, Gottesdienst und Sonntagsschule.

7 Uhr abends, Gottesdienst und Chorgesang.

8 Uhr, Chorprobe.

Dienstag, den 6. April 1937.

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

Anfragen wegen Religions-bezw. Confirmationsstunden 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.