

Unione Ticinese

Objektyp: **Group**

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

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

Heft 805

PDF erstellt am: **08.08.2024**

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Inhalten der Zeitschriften. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern. Die auf der Plattform e-periodica veröffentlichten Dokumente stehen für nicht-kommerzielle Zwecke in Lehre und Forschung sowie für die private Nutzung frei zur Verfügung. Einzelne Dateien oder Ausdrucke aus diesem Angebot können zusammen mit diesen Nutzungsbedingungen und den korrekten Herkunftsbezeichnungen weitergegeben werden. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. Die systematische Speicherung von Teilen des elektronischen Angebots auf anderen Servern bedarf ebenfalls des schriftlichen Einverständnisses der Rechteinhaber.

Haftungsausschluss

Alle Angaben erfolgen ohne Gewähr für Vollständigkeit oder Richtigkeit. Es wird keine Haftung übernommen für Schäden durch die Verwendung von Informationen aus diesem Online-Angebot oder durch das Fehlen von Informationen. Dies gilt auch für Inhalte Dritter, die über dieses Angebot zugänglich sind.



UNIONE TICINESE

ANNUAL BANQUET & BALL

at "Pagani's" on Wednesday, April 7th.

Oscar GAMBAZZI, President.

If in its 'teens the Unione Ticinese possessed such boundless vitality as it showed on the celebration of its 63rd birthday anniversary it must be an incomparable creature. An extraordinary creature indeed, when one considers that the influx of "Ticinesi" into Great Britain has dwindled in recent years to a mere trickle. Now it is but seldom that walking down Oxford Street, Shaftesbury Avenue or other main London thoroughfare one may chance to sight the once familiar signs: "Swiss Café," "Café Ticino." No longer, when one supps in a fashionable restaurant, is one waited on with meticulous attention by the youth with jet-black hair, intelligent eyes, slightly drawn features, but alert and quick, when asked if he hails from Italy, to rap out in reply: "No, I am Su-i-ss." With much of Nature's bounty still lying in wait of man's creative hand it cannot be that the obstacles at present put in the path of the free movement of people from country to country, continent to continent, will for ever prevent the ebb and flow of population over the world's surface, but alas no one can for the moment foresee when man will strike a new balance between the pursuit of self interest and the pursuit of the common weal.

An essay either for or against Malthus' famous theory was not here intended (a passing thought suggested the reflection which the kind reader will excuse), but even that great pessimist could not have helped enjoying himself thoroughly on Wednesday evening, April 7th, at the Annual Banquet and Ball of the UNIONE TICINESE.

To everybody's regret the Swiss Minister, Monsieur C. R. Paravicini, was unavoidably absent, the chair being taken in no less efficient manner by his deputy, Signor Clemente Rezzonico, whose recent promotion to Counsellor of Legation, caused satisfaction to the "Ticinesi" of London.

On Signor Rezzonico's right sat the President of the Unione Ticinese, Sig. Oscar Gambazzi, and, on either side of the chair, the official guests of the evening: His Worship the Mayor of St. Marylebone (Councillor R. Stiles Allen) and Mrs. Stiles Allen, Mr. P. F. Boehringer, the President of the City Swiss Club and Mrs. Boehringer, Mr. Boos, Vice-President of the Swiss Mercantile Society, and Mlle. Boos, Mr. R. Dupraz, President of the Fonds de Secours with Mlle Müller, Secretary of the Swiss Home, Mr. H. Caluori, representing the "Schweizerbund" and Mrs. Caluori, Mr. Perret of the Société Suisse de Secours Mutuels and Mrs. Perret, Mr. P. Savoie for the Nouvelle Société Helvétique and, of course, the Colony's Press in the person of Mr. A. Stauffer, the hard working editor of the "Swiss Observer."

About 200, members and guests, sat down to a succulent repast which reached the high standard of culinary efficiency we are wont to associate with the name of Pagani: An exquisite Turtle Soup, preceded by an excellent Hors d'Oeuvre, made way for fish, pardon, "Saumon de Montrose Poché," to be accurate, which in its turn was followed in quick succession by a steak, pardon again, "Tournedos Rossini," an ideal spring chicken, and "Timbale d'Ananas."

As if to stress the light-hearted atmosphere, which remains a notable characteristic of the "Ticinese" gatherings, a crop of humorous incidents, no doubt unrehearsed, such as the absent-minded toastmaster, who forgot and confused the names he had to announce, caused several bursts of hilarity. A solo effort by Signorina Eva Cattaneo, who bravely emerged from her "incognito," saved the Swiss Psalm (sung instead of the old National Anthem) from an untimely extinction. London Swiss audiences do not seem to be taking at all kindly to this new vogue; it is because, as one guest remarked, the cadence gives this song a funeral air?

The loyal toasts to the King and the Swiss Confederation having been proposed by the chairman, eloquence of the after dinner kind had a free flow. Flow is the word; an imaginative friend commented that its similarity to one of our mountain streams was unmistakable — hesitating at the start, a first rush downhill, then steady, another downhill rush, to resume at last a calm course.

Before proposing the toast: "The Unione Ticinese and the Guests" Mr. Gambazzi read out

the following telegram from the Minister, dispatched from the Sample Fair at Basle:

"Dalla Fiera Campionaria Le invio cordialissimi saluti.

PARAVICINI, attualmente alla "Taverna Ticinese."

General applause greeted Monsieur Paravicini's message the diners being overjoyed at thus knowing that our Country's Representative was in communion with them not only in a spiritual way but also in a substantial one, a plate of "polenta" and a bottle of "Nostrano" perhaps.

The President then said:

"Mr. Chairman, Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Again I have to commence my speech with the same words as last year; I greatly regret that owing to absence from London the Swiss Minister is unable to take the Chair this evening. It is, for me, a deep disappointment, because for the third time as President I have been deprived of the honour of greeting M. Paravicini. But as we all know diplomats are very busy servants of the State and must always be at the beck and call of their chiefs.

I take this opportunity of referring to Monsieur Motta, the head of the Political Department (in England he would be called Foreign Minister). Signor Motta, our most distinguished Ticinese, has for the fifth time been elected President of the Swiss Confederation. We Ticinesi have special reason to be proud of him. According to what we read in the papers, times are at present very anxious and full of international problems, and little Switzerland shares with other nations this anxiety. I pray we shall be spared the distress of an upheaval. However, guided by the foresight and wisdom of Signor Motta, whom the world has proclaimed to be a most successful and masterful head of State, our dear Country is in good hands. May the clouds at present obscuring the political horizon soon be dispersed and our dear Switzerland emerge once more as a shining example to the world of a true democratic government. To M. Paravicini, Switzerland's worthy representative in this hospitable country, we also wish divine guidance, and may he, for many years to come, watch over the destinies of us Swiss in this country. The disappointment at his absence to-night has lost its sting in the happy choice of his representative. I have great pleasure in greeting as our chairman, Monsieur Clemente Rezzonico, our so well liked compatriot. I feel proud to have also the honour and opportunity of expressing to this true son of the Ticino our most sincere congratulations on his nomination as Counsellor of Legation. Mr. Rezzonico, I thank you for all the interest you have taken, and still take, in the welfare of the Unione Ticinese. I need not ask you to continue to do so because I know where your heart is. Mr. Rezzonico, I respectfully ask you to convey to M. Paravicini, at the first opportunity, my sincere regrets at his absence and also express to him the esteem and respect of myself and of the Unione Ticinese.

I also have pleasure in bidding a hearty welcome to His Worship the Mayor of St. Marylebone who, with his wife and family, has honoured us once more by his presence. Mr. Stiles Allen has on various occasions shown his partiality to the Ticinesi and I greet him also as an old friend.

During its many years of existence, the Unione Ticinese has made and maintained with true patriotic spirit the friendship of the various Swiss Societies in London; I feel proud they have accepted to send their Representatives as our guests this evening thus strengthening even more the bonds of this friendship. I must not forget Mr. Stauffer, Editor of the "Swiss Observer" who with his paper not only keeps us posted with the news from home, but also spurs us all to a generous response by the appeals he so eloquently makes."

Continuing in Italian, Mr. Gambazzi said: "Estendo pare un caldo e patriottico saluto ai cari amici ticinesi che hanno voluto presenziare a questa serata così cara e così importante per

il nostro Sodalizio. Non desidero essere tacciato di parzialità, ma non posso tralasciare di fare particolare menzione del patriottico gruppo di Semionesi, alcuni dei quali ogni anno fanno il grande sacrificio di un lungo viaggio purché possano dimostrare il loro attaccamento alla nostra causa, come pure dei numerosi Leventinesi che negli ultimi anni costituiscono il nucleo della nostra Società. A voi tutti Ticinesi un cordiale e sincero grazie."

Resuming in English, Sig. Gambazzi went on: "In our appeal to you we emphasized that the aim of this festival is to help the Sick Fund of the Society. The response has really been marvellous and I thank you all.

Members of different nationalities are gathered here this evening, but we are all moved by the same spirit of good will and friendship. Why cannot the world as a whole do likewise? Why cannot the leaders of the Nations put their heads together in achieving a lasting understanding? Differences of tongue? Differences of Creed? Differences of race? Look at Switzerland! Are we not living in peace and unity? Banish all rivalry between nations; devote their might to the help of humanity. Conferences are called but they are without practical conclusion — conferences in which there is not the spirit of co-operation and goodwill, but only the desire to usurp, instilled by jealousy and greed for power. Let us hope that commonsense and tolerance will ultimately prevail and that we may yet see a more peaceful world. The common enemy, the uncertainty of the future, must be made to succumb.

It would be rather awkward for me to mention the names of all those present but I ask to be excused, if I single out just two. Firstly Mr. Arthur Meschini, our Honorary Vice-President, and our generous host this evening, who is present with all his family and who has again shown the deep interest he takes in the development of the Unione Ticinese. Secondly, Messrs. Monico who have once again shown their patriotic spirit. Mr. Meschini and Messrs. Monico represent now the only two important Ticinese establishments in London. It is unfortunate that so many Ticinese establishments have had little by little to give way to the intense competition. This in turn has had a severe repercussion on the Unione Ticinese. It has caused a considerable lessening in practical support and a great falling off in our membership. All the past committees have endeavoured with success to maintain the patriotic spirit among the Ticinesi. They have kept the flag flying, they have continued to see that members did not want when in sickness or need. I can assure you that the present Committee will maintain this tradition and will not fail. We are still strong and still able to respond also to any appeal of our needy compatriots. So I say: Unione Ticinese "vivat et floreat!"

As our aim this evening is to amuse and not to bore, I will close but would first thank, most sincerely, all the ladies because it is by their presence that the "festa" has achieved success.

To Signor Rezzonico's admirable little speech one can only do justice by quotation "in extenso," and here it is:

"Signor Presidente, Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is the second time since I joined the Swiss Diplomatic Service that I have the honour of speaking at an Annual Banquet of the Unione Ticinese. Modesty, as those who know me are well aware, is not my strong suit. I must confess, however, that the prospect of inflicting a speech upon you makes me feel rather nervous. You see, I have to contend with the high standard of after dinner speeches for which our Society is famous. Moreover, I am here to represent my Chief, who is a first-rate after dinner speaker and who, I am sorry to say, has been called to Switzerland on an official mission — which explains his absence. I can assure you that he is even more sorry than I am that he is unable to be here this evening; he would have told you the right thing so much better than I can. This fact leads me to mention yet another handicap under which I am suffering: as a Ticinese, speaking to other Ticinesi and their guests, I run the risk — in trying to say the right thing — of appearing to be blowing my own

