

Luncheon offered to national Councillor H. Schnyder by the Council for the Study of Swiss Problems

Autor(en): [s.n.]

Objektyp: **Article**

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

Band (Jahr): - (1947)

Heft 1067

PDF erstellt am: **16.07.2024**

Persistenter Link: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-690107>

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LUNCHEON OFFERED TO NATIONAL COUNCILLOR H. SCHNYDER BY THE COUNCIL FOR THE STUDY OF SWISS PROBLEMS.

A Great Achievement!

On Friday, May 16th, 1947, the Council for the study of Swiss Problems entertained National-Councillor H. Schnyder and Mrs. Schnyder to a Luncheon at Kettner's Restaurant, Romilly Street, W.1.

Mr. E. Steiner, Chairman of the Council presided. Amongst the guests were the Swiss Minister and Madame Ruegger, Messieurs de Graffenried, Aubaret, Caillat, Dr. Bircher and Suter from the Swiss Legation. The Swiss Press was represented by Mr. Stauffer (*Swiss Observer*). Sixteen members of the Council were present.

The object of this informal function was to express to National-Councillor Schnyder the thanks of the Council for the efforts he made in connection with an appeal which the Council for the study of Swiss Problems made in December, 1946, to start a "Swiss Furniture for England Fund," and to acquaint him with the conditions as to the acute scarcity of furniture for "bombed out" people in the United Kingdom.

Mr. E. Steiner, Chairman of the Council, extended to the guests of honour, Mr. and Mrs. H. Schnyder, a hearty welcome, and expressed to him, his, and the Council's appreciation for the untiring efforts he had, and is still making in connection with the Council's appeal.

National-Councillor Schnyder, then thanked the Council for the invitation which had been greatly appreciated; and gave a concise *resumé* of his and his committee's work in connection with this Fund.

The Swiss Minister, Monsieur Paul Ruegger, associated himself with the Chairman in expressing sincere thanks to the guest of honour for the efforts he had made, mentioning also the name of Mr. A. Renou, Hon. Secretary of the Council, who was one of the chief promoters of this laudable scheme. —

In order to acquaint our readers and the Swiss Colony in Great Britain with the history of an undertaking which greatly honours the Swiss people, both at home and in this country, we venture to give a few condensed particulars of what has been done and achieved so far.

As far back as December 1946, an Appeal signed by the Chairman and the Secretary of the Council for the study of Swiss problems in London was made, and sent to a large number of prominent people, concerns, and institutions in Switzerland.

In this appeal mention was made, that about one million of London's houses, alone, were destroyed or damaged during the last war, and the point of the acute shortage of furniture was stressed.

It was pointed out, that although a small beginning was made in the past in helping England in this field by the despatch of altogether 1,100 sets of furniture by the following donors:—

"Don Suisse"	950 sets
Swiss Colony in Great Britain	100 sets
Swiss Red Cross (Section Zurich)	50 sets

Total 1,100 sets

this was a modest gesture in view of the great distress.

In the said appeal a minimum target was set to replace 1,000 of the destroyed homes not only in

London, but in some of the 14 heavily bombed cities of the United Kingdom.

We are glad to say, that, this Appeal found almost immediately a ready response in our country, in spite of the numerous appeals which are made almost daily throughout Switzerland for all sorts of purposes.

A committee was formed under the Chairmanship of National Councillor H. Schnyder, and an appeal, signed by a large number of prominent people in all walks of life in our homeland, was sent out.

As early as April 1947, the respectable sum of 140,000.— frs. was collected. The target set was 600 sets requiring an outlay of 300,000.— frs.

A month later (May), the donations to this Fund reached the sum of 217,468.— frs., and a further amount of altogether 20,000.— frs. was promised.

On the 16th of this month, the Fund reached the sum of 250,000.— frs., and it was on this occasion that the Chairman of the Swiss committee, National-Councillor H. Schnyder, was asked to attend the Luncheon of the Council.

There is little doubt, that the target of 300,000.— frs. will be reached, and perhaps even exceeded.

Four hundred sets of furniture, consisting of 2 beds, a wardrobe, a kitchen table, four stools and a set of kitchenware for four people, all packed into one case have already been ordered. (The box is equivalent to about 21 units in the Board of Trade's utility furniture scheme). It is hoped that a first delivery can be effected in about three months time.

We wish to particularly mention, that not one penny of the money collected is used to cover expenses, the costs are borne by the committee's concerned, even the transport of the furniture to England will be executed free of charge by Swiss Forwarding Agents, that means that 100 per cent. of the money collected will be spent on furniture.

It is a pleasant duty to extend our sincere thanks to the Council for the study of Swiss problems, and to the Chairman and committee of the "Swiss Furniture for England Fund" and last but not least to the Swiss people, for the splendid results so far achieved. By their work and their generosity, they have demonstrated to the British people our admiration, deep sympathy, and gratitude for what they have suffered and done in the war for the cause of Humanity, Freedom and Democracy, so dear to the heart of every Swiss.

An undertaking of this sort requires an immense amount of work, and we feel sure that the members of the Council will gladly associate themselves with us, if we pay a special tribute to the Hon. Secretary, Mr. A. Renou, for the heavy amount of work he has put in to make this Appeal a success, and the appreciation which will, no doubt, be voiced by the various recipients of the furniture, should be a recompensation for a job well done.

ST.

