

# Confrérie vaudoise : Banquet and Ball

Autor(en): [s.n.]

Objektyp: **Article**

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

Band (Jahr): - (1950)

Heft 1128

PDF erstellt am: **08.08.2024**

Persistenter Link: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-687160>

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carries on in a thoroughly adult fashion — by that I mean no ice-cream cornets or amusement arcades within sight!

The river divides the impressive modern part of the town from the narrow back streets leading towards the Münster, and retaining their old Swiss character. The Münster looked surprisingly new, having been restored on its 12th century remains. Its interior was very different from our own cathedrals, having no altar, flags nor magnificent tombs.

We took a journey across three groups of Alps in a third-class compartment to a small valley community on the borders of Italy, and from here we returned via St. Moritz and Sargans to Schaffhausen. St. Moritz in the Spring had finished with visitors, the hotels were closed, and everywhere was very quiet, and the famous lake was partly thawed.

Schaffhausen is right on the German border, and a map of the canton shows bits of Switzerland surrounded by Germany, and pieces of Germany pushing into Switzerland, and on our return once more to Aarau we were forced to pass through a few miles of Germany which took us exactly six minutes. The Rhine-falls are the chief attraction at Schaffhausen, and here again the beauty spot is not spoiled by commercialisation.

Before we left Aarau we saw a game of football played between Holland and the Aarau Sports Club. The footballers played in silk shorts and shirts, and Switzerland presented a bouquet to Holland at the commencement of the game. Holland won easily, and was entertained truly well by Switzerland later at a dinner and a dance held at the Christian Science Hall in Aarau. We went along, and entered a magnificent hall large enough in itself to embrace hundreds of dancers. From a balcony we looked down upon the merry crowd. Dinner was just over and wine was being served, and the various headgears worn by the women from different cantons made the scene colourful. A band played upon the stage, and artists from the mountains came on the boards to yodel. I had thought I knew what yodelling meant until I heard these Swiss singers.

After the entertainment we went below to join in dancing. On the smallest space in the building we tried to waltz, tango and jig. All I can say is that we jigged most of the time! This was an international evening all right, for the band played and sang in English — “I'm going to take a sentimental journey” — and a rousing “Bless 'em all —”. We went on gaily until we were stopped by a serious young man

who offered my husband a buttonhole. It appeared that the male dancers were expected to buy a flower for a dance! It was an embarrassing moment because just then we had no Swiss money on us — so my husband held out a handful of English coins. The young man who probably had no reason to use or inspect English money hailed us as Hollanders, and the dancing went on!

Franz, however, knew this one and the other, and the news soon spread that we were “Englishers”. When someone produced an English shilling our waitress put it in her pocket and said that she would go to England on it and marry an English boy! Later on in the evening the waitresses joined in the dancing on the floor — their duties not seeming to suffer in any way!

Before we left the hall an old cloak-room attendant almost cried when she knew that we were English, and called all the helpers to shake hands with us. It was very gratifying to be so popular just because one was British.

## CONFRERIE VAUDOISE.

### Banquet and Ball.

The Winter Social Season of the Swiss Colony is gradually coming to an end, and almost at the tail end of it, our compatriots from the canton of Vaud, are celebrating their “Fête de l'indépendance” with a Banquet and Ball, on Saturday, February 4th, 1950, at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1.

Whilst this function is, so to say, a family affair, the Confrérie Vaudoise, nevertheless extends a hearty invitation also to their compatriots belonging to other parts of our country, even if their French is no match for theirs. They will be welcomed and made to feel at home. Our Vaudois brethren are big hearted and worthy members of the Confederation.

Judging by former celebrations held by the Confrère this “Bal Romand” will indeed be a “Bal Charmant”. There will be an excellent band, a fine dinner, a tombola, and best of all, a bevy of lovely “Vaudoises”, whose charming smiles and equally charming manners will gladden every heart.

The Swiss Minister and Madame Henry de Torrenté will be the honoured guests on that evening.

We wish our friends from the sunny canton of Vaud a big success and a large attendance.

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