

# Reception at the Swiss Legation

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## UNIONE TICINESE, SEZIONE FEMMINILE, DANCE OF THE 20th MAY.

On Thursday, 20th May, the Ladies' Section of the Unione Ticinese gave proof of the fact that the "weaker" sex too are capable of organising successfully a large-scale function under their own responsibility, — though, doubtless, with the blessing and good wishes of the men.

Some misgivings had been felt in choosing the Hammersmith Town Hall for the Dance, but Hammersmith was found by many to be a far more easily accessible place than they had feared, and the journey there was amply repaid by the excellence of the Hall, with its spaciousness, and beautifully-sprung floor, ideal for dancing, and, very important, its well-provisioned refreshment bar.

Just over 300 people were there — a number which made it possible to dance in comfort and with real pleasure, to the excellent music of the Brook Green Clubmen's band, under the direction of Mr. Gregson. The atmosphere was one of friendliness and gaiety, with a refreshing minimum of officialdom, Mrs. Berti, as President, limiting herself to a short speech of welcome and good wishes, and particularly of gratitude to Mrs. McKenna for her staunch enthusiasm and loyalty in undertaking herself almost the entire organisation of the Dance.

The Cabaret opened with three pieces on the accordion by young Mario Boscarelli, whose light, sure touch and agility seemed to many to be well in advance of his mere 14 years. The ever-popular Corale of the Union Ticinese followed with a number of well-beloved Ticinese songs, to the accompaniment of the piano played by Mrs. Bass and the accordions of Mr. Luis Bruni and Mr. Plinio Morosi, under the direction of Mr. Peter De Maria, who delighted the audience by coming back with several encores in reply to their insistent calls. Mr. Gandon and partner gave the more intrepid dancers a greatly appreciated opportunity to dance some real Swiss waltzes to the music of their accordions, while the band rested, and a short interlude of rumba and samba music by Mr. John Ronco and his rumba band proved to be most popular.

All Members present were delighted to greet Mr. Guido Lepori of the Legation, whose interest and active participation in all the various functions of the Unione Ticinese have won him (and Mrs. Lepori) an ever-increasing popularity in the Colony.

The Ladies' Section gladly take this opportunity of expressing their gratitude to all who contributed to the success of the evening — to Mr. Gandon and his partner, to Mr. John Ronco and his band, to young Mario Boscarelli, to Mr. Peter De Maria and all Members of the Corale, including Mrs. Bass, Mr. L. Bruni and Mr. P. Morosi — and, above all, to Mrs. Freda McKenna whose stout-hearted keenness made the Dance possible and made such a success of it, in spite of the very regrettable lack of enthusiasm shown, or support given, by so many Members of the U.T.S.F.

*R.E.*

## SWISS SPORTS AND GARDEN PARTY.

A report of the Swiss Sports and Garden Party which took place on Saturday, May 30th, 1953, will appear in our next issue.

## SWISS CLUB MANCHESTER.

On the 14th May 1953, the Swiss Club Manchester had quite an interesting and enjoyable evening, when many of its members and English friends had the opportunity of listening to a causerie delivered by our Consul Mr. O. Schneider on the theme of "Swiss Consular Service".

Such talks are very often preceded by an optional dinner at the Midland Hotel, served in the usual efficient way, which helps to create at once a very friendly and happy atmosphere.

In the conference room we were joined by many more friends and additional seating-accommodation had to be improvised. Mr. Schneider, who was introduced by our Vice-President, talked to us in his own inimitable way, with great persuasive power and clearness of thought and by quite often interlacing some personal reminiscences, he was able to add a very human touch to his exposé.

Swiss abroad consider their Consulates as part of their homeland, not just a tax-collecting institution but a place where they can find help and friendly advice at any time. Consuls and their staffs all over the world are doing great and often anonymous work for our country and for its citizens at home and abroad.

Mr. Schneider's causerie helped us indeed to understand better, and appreciate, what is done daily for the moral and material protection of our interests. The ensuing discussion and the many questions shot at our lecturer were further proof of his ability to keep his audience interested, not only in what he said but also in the whole work and organisation of Consular Service abroad.

The speaker was then thanked by our member Mr. M. Lichtensteiger with a few very appropriate words, closing thus a most successful function.

*E.B.*

## RECEPTION AT THE SWISS LEGATION.

The Swiss Minister, and Madame Henry de Torrenté gave a cocktail party at the Legation, on Wednesday, June 3rd, in honour of Dr. Thomas Hohenstein, President of the National Council, and of Dr. F. Bolla, a former President of the Federal Supreme Court, who attended the Coronation of H.M. Queen Elizabeth.

**Kettners Restaurant** has no music and is not luxurious . . . but the Food and Wine are superb.

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## AN HISTORIC CELEBRATION.

Whit Sunday 1953 saw at Bellinzona the climax of the functions held in the Canton of Ticino to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the State's entry into the Swiss Confederation as a sovereign republic, the 18th, in fulfilment of the Act of Mediation given by Napoleon Bonaparte to the "Consulte helvétique" on 19th February 1803. The diminutive First Consul had told the Swiss delegates; "Les circonstances avaient établi chez vous des peuples souverains et des peuples sujets. L'esprit d'un siècle nouveau, d'accord avec la justice et la raison, a rétabli l'égalité de droits entre toutes les portions de votre territoire. . . ." Following elections, the first "Gran Consiglio" met at Bellinzona on 20th May 1803, and for the first time for centuries the peoples in the valleys South of the St. Gothard had become masters over their destinies. The anniversary of such an event pregnant with fate could not be let pass unnoticed. Hence the celebrations.

The London "Ticinesi" also decided to mark the event. Whereas 50 years ago, in the gay Edwardian era the "Unione Ticinese" had pioneered a Banquet and Ball at Monico's not only for its own compatriots but also for the Swiss hailing from the other 5 Cantons that joined the Confederation simultaneously with its own, this time a more modest yet dignified function was decided upon. Whilst the impressive "corteggio" was slowly unwinding itself in the streets of the Cantonal Capital, the "Ticinesi" in the London area met at Swiss House at 5 p.m. some 50 strong for an extraordinary General Meeting of the Unione Ticinese.

Opening the proceedings, Mr. P. De Maria, president, explained the historic date, and then read the "messaggio del Consiglio di Stato", just as was done on the same day in each "Comune" at home done on the same day in each "Comune" at home by the mayor.

The meeting then listened to an interesting talk given by Secretary of Legation, Mr. G. Lepori, an hon. member, in which conditions in the Cantone Ticino 150 years ago were compared with those prevailing at present, and which gave the speaker ample scope in illustrating the achievements attained during 15 decades of self-rule.

On behalf of the Committee, the Vice President, Mr. P. Jacomelli, invited all present to partake of some refreshments. It was not long before everybody joined in a bout of community singing under the leadership of members of the "Corale".

We are grateful to the Committee, and to Dr. Lepori for having afforded us a most enjoyable afternoon in homage of the distant homeland. *J.E.*

## PERSONAL.

We tender our deepest sympathy to Mr. J. Zimmerman of 3, Walsingham Road, Enfield, on the passing away of his brother, Charles Zimmermann, in Berne.

We extend heartiest congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Brullhard of Hotel Park, 117-120, Bayswater Road, London, on the arrival of a daughter Pamela, Jane.

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