Anglo Swiss Society : Xmas Banquet an ball

Autor(en):   **[s.n.]**

Objekttyp: **Article**

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

Band (Jahr):   **- (1953)**

Heft 1196

PDF erstellt am: **13.09.2024**

Persistenter Link: https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-686835

ANGLO-SWISS SOCIETY.
Xmas Banquet and Ball
on Monday, December 15th, 1952, at the
Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1.

The Anglo-Swiss Society, although strictly speaking, not entirely a Swiss Society, has, since its foundation in 1948, played a certain rôle in the social sphere of the Colony, under the very able guidance of its Director, Lieutenant-Colonel St. Townend, O.B.E., F.R.S.A.

It is perhaps appropriate, at this junction, to repeat what I wrote on a previous occasion about this Society, namely :

" When speaking of the " Entente Cordiale " one invariably has in mind the Entente between this country and France, the instigator of which was the late King Edward the VII; but there has existed an "Entente" between Great Britain and our country, which, although not officially documented, nor of a specifically political nature, dates back several centuries and is, and has been, no less cordial than the one just mentioned.

The two countries, which have much in common, have never met against each other on the battle fields, but Swiss regiments have fought gallantly side by side with the British in many theaters of war ; true enough they have been duly paid for doing so, and the saying " pas d'argent, pas des Suisses " at one time hardly enhanced our reputation. This however, is ancient history, and as a mitigating fact it might be said, that whosoever sought the help of our soldiers got their " money's worth ".

As time went on, there sprung up between Great Britain and the Helvetic Republic a, what one might call an " Entente de coeur ", based on mutual respect for each others institutions, achievements and aims, which rests on a much sounder foundation than mere political treaties, which, as history has taught us, are easily upset.

To fortify and still further improve these relations the Anglo-Swiss Society was founded; the need was felt, that by meeting each other more often in the social sphere, an even closer association could be fostered, and I can say without reserve, that the aims have so far, fully justified its existence.

Apart from the social functions, like banquets, luncheons and dances, lectures and films shows are given, by prominent men of both countries, which add greatly to a more intimate knowledge of the two countries. "

A striking example of this " Entente de coeur " was the Christmas Banquet and Ball, which took place on Monday, December 15th, 1952, at the Dorchester Hotel, under the Presidency of Colonel Townend.

Unfortunately, owing to the deplorable weather conditions — icy roads and snow — the attendance was much smaller than on previous occasions, but I am glad to say, that those who braved the weather, about 130 in all, spent a very enjoyable evening.

Previous to the excellent dinner, the President of the Society, the Rt. Hon. Phillip Noel-Baker, P.C., M.P., received the members and guests, amongst them the Swiss Minister and Madame de Torrenté. (Owing to his parliamentary duties, Mr. Noel-Baker, was unable to preside over the dinner, and his place was taken by Colonel Townend.)

Dinners and Banquets have become much of a muchness nowadays, this Banquet, however, distinguished itself from the purely Swiss functions, by the fact, that apart from the customary toasts, no speeches were inflicted upon the revellers.

A large Xmas tree reminded the company, that the festival of Peace and Goodwill was close on hand, and the various cantonal flags exhibited on the tables added much to the usual Xmas decorations.

The top table, where the invited guests were seated, was charmingly decorated with flowers. A huge Union Jack and the Swiss Flag formed an impressive back ground.

The dance music was provided for by Arthur Salisbury and his Dance orchestra, and by A. Gandon and his accordionists, dressed in Swiss costume, both bands were excellent and especially our accordionists, who made things lively by playing a few " Ländlers " and quick waltzes.
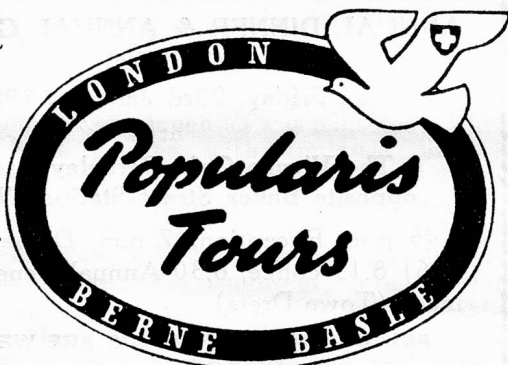
Dancing went on with remarkable perseverance until midnight, when this most enjoyable festival came to a close with the singing of " Auld Lang Syne ".

Colonel Townend is to be heartily congratulated on the excellent arrangements, everything went without a hitch and without one dull moment.

ST.