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**SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.
Annual General Meeting,
Swiss House, February 10th, 1954.**

Mr. W. Meier, President, informed the Meeting of Mr. J. Häusermann's death in his 82nd year in Switzerland. He was a corresponding member in whose memory members stood in silence.

Mr. J. Hauser, the Secretary then read the report of the auditor, Mr. R. P. Huxley, who explained that the College Re-establishment Fund, which in the previous balance sheet had stood at £1,695 had disappeared owing to the repairs and alterations next door, these actually absorbed £1,800.

The State subsidy gave rise to some searching questions. It was stated, that while the Society asked for 20,000.— frs. only 16,000 frs. were received. The President informed the Meeting that in March we were to receive an amount of 10,000.— frs. out of the 1953, 1st of August collection. After a brief discussion the accounts were approved.

Mr. Meier then read the 65th Annual report of the Society. The following salient points are of interest :

Memories of 1953 will be linked with the Coronation of the Queen. Swiss House gave a reception to a party of 50 young Swiss, who had come to London on the invitation of the World Friends Organisation to see the Coronation. They were accompanied by the Mayor of Edmonton in whose Borough they were staying.

A fair number of members attended the monthly meetings where an atmosphere of friendship always prevails. The outstanding task of the Society continues to be the administration of the College which has been attended by upwards 12,000 young Swiss men and women since it was opened in 1923.

Membership again declined slightly. During the year we registered 4 admissions of which 2 were transfers from Switzerland, 10 resignations, including five transfers to Switzerland, 4 deaths (2 active and 2 Honorary Members.)

At the end of 1953 we had 18 Honorary Members, 240 Active Members, 23 Corresponding Members and 59 Contributing Members and Donors.

We mourn the loss of Mr. E. Steiner, a Trustee and Honorary Member of our Society. He had been a generous friend and supporter of the College, and acted as Chairman of the Advisory Board of the Employment Department for many years. We also lost another Honorary Member in the person of "Papa" Lutz of Zurich.

Both Mr. G. Flückiger and Mr. A. Tüscher, who passed away in 1953, were most loyal members and will be greatly missed.

On the recommendation of the Council three additional Trustees were elected in November last, namely Mr. G. Jenne, a member of the Council since 1931, and formerly Chairman of the House Committee, Mr. R. Pfenninger, Manager of the Swiss Bank Corporation, and Mr. C. Voegeli, Manager of Volkart Bros., London.

The S.K.V. Delegates Meeting was held in Zurich on the 1st and 2nd of May. This was combined with a General Meeting to celebrate the 80th Jubilee of S.K.V. Mr. A. C. Staehelin and Mr. J. J. Boos, both

Honorary Members of the S.K.V., as well as Mr. W. Meier, President and Mr. L. W. Krucker, Vice-President represented the London section.

The annual luncheon took place at the Dorchester Hotel on the 21st of February and was attended by the Swiss Minister and Madame de Torrenté, as well as by other distinguished friends of the Society and the College.

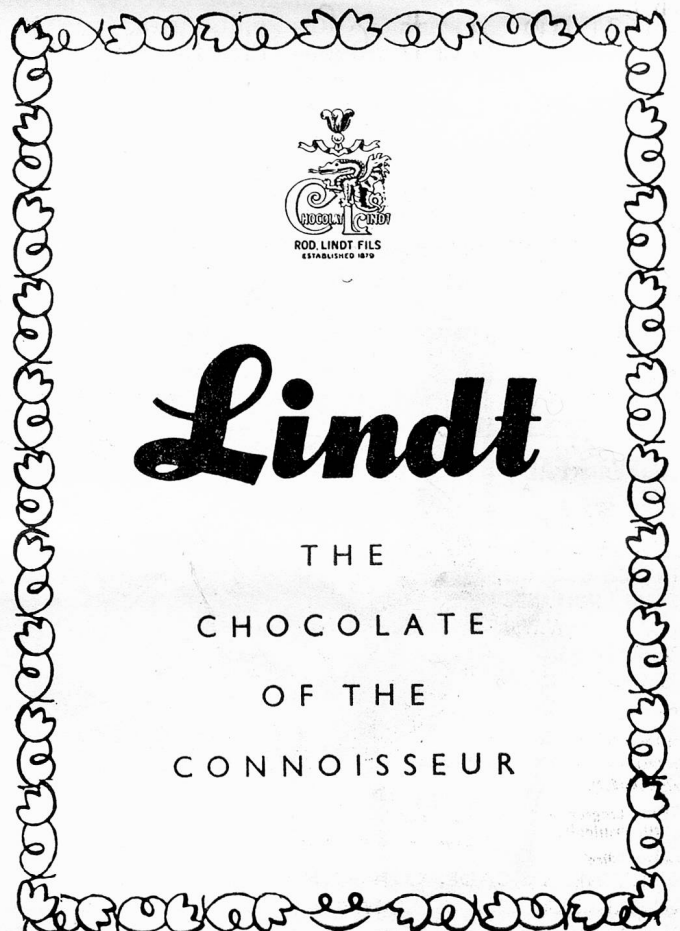
In April Mr. A. Bossert, for many years caretaker at Swiss House retired from the Society's service and returned to Switzerland.


The Employment Department returned to Swiss House in July after a little over three years at 27 Fitzroy Square. In June we lost our Trustee and Chairman of the Advisory Board of the Employment Dept., Mr. E. Steiner. Mr. Charles L. Chapuis succeeds him in the Chairmanship. Fewer applicants registered with the Employment Dept. during the past year, it placed 22 compatriots in the United Kingdom and overseas.

* * *

College.

For the first time since the war we have not had to content with shortage of accommodation, thanks to the speedy way in which the alterations and re-decorations were carried out at 34, Fitzroy Square. Three terms were held in 1953. 413 students (276 men, 137 women) attended the College, as compared with 375 (247 men, and 128 women) in 1952.




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The College is now easily in a position to admit 200 or more students.

The Evening classes catered for 550 students in 36 classes, as compared with 569 in 34 classes in 1952.

The House Committee has again had a very busy year, and we are happy to report that the two buildings are in excellent condition. The new modern canteen is much appreciated.

On the proposition of Mr. A. Stauffer, Honorary Member, seconded by Mr. H. H. Baumann, the Council's report was accepted.

Mr. Willy Deutsch, who was elected as President *pro tem*, thanked the outgoing Council and Committee members for their great services in 1953 and conducted the elections with great efficiency. Mr. Heiling and Mr. Schmidlin having resigned owing to ill health, were replaced on the General Purpose Committee by Mr. G. Hediger, on the Education Committee by Mr. A. Faes, and on the Council by Mr. A. Jacard. The remainder of the officers were confirmed in their respective offices.

Mr. A. C. Staehelin proposed, and Mr. Boos seconded, that as evidence of our esteem and gratitude, we should make our Central President of the S.K.V., Mr. Strickler, an Honorary Member of our section. This was carried unanimously and with acclamation.

Close of the Meeting at 9 o'clock.

E.H.S.

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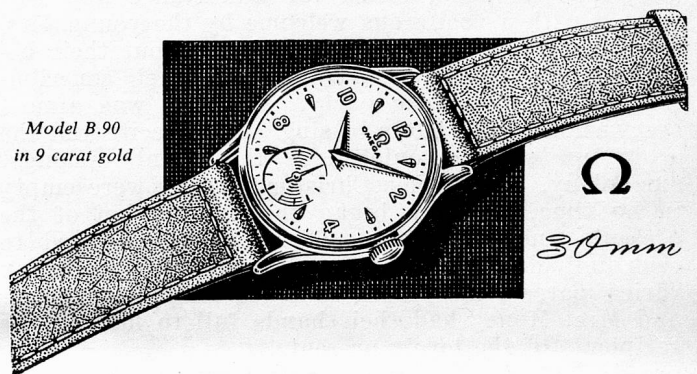
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