

Editor's postbag

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EDITOR'S POSTBAG.

87, Tempest Road,
Leeds, 11.
14th May, 1955.

The Editor,
Swiss Observer,
23, Leonard Street,
London, E.C.2.

Dear Sir,

I was very much interested in your report of the Fête Suisse at the Central Hall, Westminster, and I can assure you that many Swiss in the Provinces would like to join this annual gathering. However, it appears that this is a pleasure reserved for London-Swiss only, otherwise the Committee would arrange this entertainment on a Saturday, which would give others living a hundred or more miles from London a chance to attend. This, by the way, might also be the answer to your appeal for a "Full House".

There are not many people who can "knock off" in the middle of the week and travel to London for private entertainment. The Committee might bear this in mind when they fix the date for the next Fête Suisse.

Yours faithfully,
P. Lerch.

11, Ethelden Road,
London, W.12.
May 16th, 1955.

The Editor,
Swiss Observer,
23, Leonard Street,
London, E.C.2.

Dear Sir,

How heartily do I endorse ST.'s candid remarks regarding the behaviour of visitors during refreshment interval at the Fête Suisse! From the tone of his complaint I imagine this to have been no isolated incident. It certainly occurred in 1954 when I retreated with my tea to survey the scrimmage from the safety of a comparatively quiet corner.

The undignified and vulgar fight for food and the resultant litter were somewhat reminiscent of feeding-time at the Zoo combined with Hampstead Heath or Richmond at the close of a Bank Holiday. One would scarcely credit that those responsible hailed

from a country where it is almost a crime to throw down a spent match.

The fighting surprised me not at all. I have experienced it all too often in Switzerland when boarding trams and trains. But by far the worst incident occurred outside a cinema in Zürich during the showing, in June, 1953, of the film of Her Majesty's Coronation. How my mother and I escaped having our ribs crushed I do not know, but by a miracle my umbrella became wedged across the narrow entrance and I was able to lift one end sufficiently to enable my mother to slip through. Then we both fled like criminals up the stairs pausing neither for breath nor to straighten our battered head-gear until we were safely in our seats.

How vastly different was this form of self-discipline of the English whom I often saw forming orderly little queues for the lake steamers! With the men brutally pushing women out of their way there was no evidence of the gallantry which I was told I would find when, through the medium of your paper, I was exhorted by one of your contributors, a well-known member of the Colony, to visit Switzerland.

While there is possibly some excuse for the lamentable behaviour of Swiss crowds in their own country there is none for London Swiss who have surely been well-tutored in war-time England.

One hopes that ST.'s words will strike home on this occasion.

Yours faithfully,
Freda L. Daley.

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