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NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE & ANGLO-SWISS SOCIETY FILM SHOW.

On Thursday, January 20th, the above Societies invited their members and friends to a Film Show at Londonderry House, Park Lane, W.1, and I am glad to say that a "Full House" could be registered.

Mr. J. P. J. Chapman, A.R.P.S., F.R.S.A., of Parkstone, Dorset, showed a number of his own coloured films of Switzerland with contrasting shorts of Venice and Cornwall.

I am sure that seldom have such lovely pictures been shown to a Swiss-English audience in this country. Mr. Chapman is not only an excellent photographer, but also an artist, choosing his *sujets* with great care.

What a difference there is from the rather stereo-type pictures issued by some Travel Agencies and "Kurvereine" with which we have been fed, — *faut de mieux* —, in the past, to the pictures taken by a real artist and lover of nature, not bound to any propaganda scheme.

Mr. Chapman accompanied the showing of the films with humorous remarks from which could be gathered — and I believe he said so — that he went to school in Switzerland, and thus seems to know our people and country well.

In the first part of the show we were taken to Geneva, through some of the old parts of this lovely city, with shots from the lake-side, and the Lac du Joux; then we paid a visit to Muri, a village just outside Berne, known for good and plentiful food, but we were kept out of the "Sternen" and "Krone" and instead saw one of the stately old Patrician houses surrounded by a beautiful garden, a riot of colour and blossom.

From Muri we were switched over to Neuchâtel, showing us some of the old parts of this little picturesque capital which bears the same name as its canton. Then Aarberg with its ancient wooden bridge appeared on the screen, followed by views of Grindelwald with its two glaciers, and, of course, a "Sessillift". (If the erection of these lifts goes on at the same rate as in the past, we shall soon have more of these "gadgets" than cows in our alps.)

After leaving the Bernese Oberland we went to Solothurn, that ancient town known as "La ville des Ambassadeurs", here again we saw mostly the old part of the town with its imposing cathedral.

Then Switzerland's lovely capital, Berne, appeared with its old mediaeval buildings and arcades,

the Minster and the many fountains and beautiful surroundings. I am glad we did not see the bear pits, which are ugly and "smelly"; and how interesting were the views of Thun with its castle, old streets and lake-side.

Then we turned south seeing colourful pictures of Locarno, Ascona, Lugano and Gandria, oh! how we all longed to have a little of that sunshine which shed its golden rays in such abundance over the beautiful landscape.

The views of Sils Maria with its deep lake and green pastures were greatly admired.

Before the end of the first part of the performance we paid a fleeting visit to the town of Zurich with its wide avenues and ancient and modern buildings and lake front. This city being the birthplace of the President of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique, he was particularly interested and pleased with this part of the show, his eyes almost bulging out of their sockets.

After a short interval, during which coffee, tea and cakes could be had, pictures of Venice and Cornwall were put on the screen.

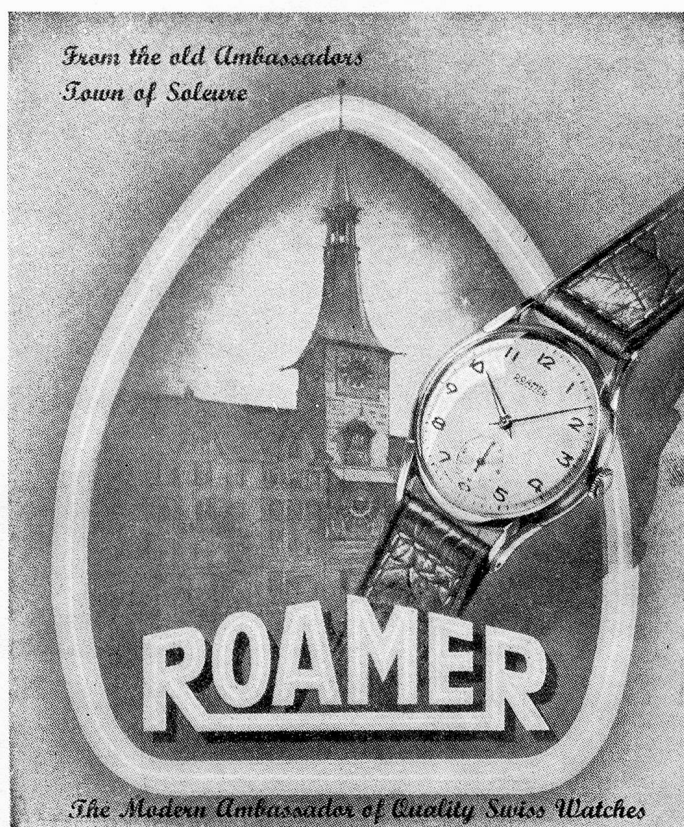
Most beautiful were those of Venice, with its canals, St. Marcus church and square, the Doges Palace, the gondolas and lagoons. A real dream city, which brought back to the writer unforgettable memories of a holiday spent there some two years ago.

This really wonderful performance concluded with views from Cornwall.

The President of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique, Dr. H. W. Egli warmly thanked Mr. Chapman, on behalf of the company, for the great pleasure he had given us. His words of appreciation were loudly cheered by a grateful and enthusiastic audience.

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