

Viols from Basle

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

Objektyp: **Article**

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

Band (Jahr): - **(1955)**

Heft 1244

PDF erstellt am: **26.06.2024**

Persistenter Link: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-687383>

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SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

May we direct the attention of our readers specially to the Annual Dinner and Dance of the above Society, which is taking place on Saturday, February 19th, at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1.

This very active Society, which renders eminent service not only to the Colony, but also to our country, has little time to indulge in festivities, but once a year they like to see their members gathered together.

The committee is very anxious and keen to see some of their older members taking part in this annual function, even if for some of them their "dancing years are over". A gathering like this is a splendid and unique opportunity of cementing old friendships and recall, in a friendly chat some happy memories of long ago.

Of course, the younger generation is welcome too, whether they possess an evening dress or not, and the invitation is also extended to all members of the Swiss Colony whether they belong to the Society or not.

Furthermore this will be a splendid opportunity of making the acquaintance of our new Minister, and Madame Daeniker, who have accepted an invitation to be present.

We warmly recommend our readers to give the Swiss Mercantile Society their wholehearted support, by coming along, as a little recompensation for all they do in the Colony. We are sure they will not be disappointed, as this evening promises to be a jolly one.

Therefore, an revoir, at The Dorchester.

(Particulars can be seen from the advertisement in this issue.)

OUR NEXT ISSUE.

Our next issue will be published on Friday, 25th February, 1955. We take this opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their kind and helpful donations over and above their subscriptions: Mrs. P. Delaney, W. Wagner, J. Emmenegger, A. E. Banderet, E. Winzeler, E. Montag, O. Frei, M. Merian, A. Knapp, Henry Gattiker, J. Margot, P. Bessire.

CITY SWISS CLUB

A SOIRÉE FAMILIALE

at which Ladies are heartily welcome, has been arranged for **Tuesday, 22nd March, 1955,**

at the

DORCHESTER HOTEL, Park Lane, W.1.

(6.30 p.m. for 7 p.m.)

After Dinner, the famed guide and explorer **Monsieur RAYMOND LAMBERT**, who has but recently returned from the Himalayas, will give us a talk — illustrated by lantern slides and film — on his experiences amongst the giant peaks of this unique mountain-range.

THE COMMITTEE.

VIOLS FROM BASLE.

The announcement that the Consort of Viols of the Schola Cantorum Basiliensis were coming to London again after an absence of nearly three years was received with great pleasure by most of us who heard them at their two previous concerts.

The viol, of course, is a medieval string instrument, the predecessor of violin and cello. The "viola da gamba" is very seldom heard nowadays, and very few artists play it. The consort of viols from Basle, August Wenzinger (treble and bass viol), Marianne Majer and Hannelore Mueller (tenor viol), and Johannes Koch (bass viol), are amongst the most outstanding exponents of this art.

It was unfortunate that the concert (22nd January) had to be arranged for a Saturday afternoon. But those who made the special effort required to go to Wigmore Hall on a weekend afternoon were well rewarded by an unusual and exquisite treat. From the moment the four accomplished artists started on their performance of Matthew Locke's Consort No. 11 in D the audience was spellbound. The nine Fantasias for four voices by Henry Purcell formed another contribution by seventeenth century British composers. The second half of the concert was devoted to French composers of the same period. Marc-Antoine Charpentier's "Concert pour quatre parties de violes" was composed in 1680, and in nearly three centuries has lost none of its charm. My own favourite as on former occasions was again Marin Marais. In the five pieces for bass viol and figured bass August Wenzinger, the leader of the artists, showed his great abilities as soloist. The audience showed their appreciation of the beautiful tone of the instruments, enhanced through the masterly handling by the artists, in their enthusiastic applause which only ended after an encore, a fantasy by John Jenkins.

Personally I perhaps rather regretted the formal character of Wigmore Hall. On the earlier occasions at Cowdray Hall artists and audience were so much closer together in a drawing room-like atmosphere. There I had felt myself even more vividly transplanted into the intimate surroundings of a seventeenth century house where music in the home was part of everyday cultural life. How much we have lost in our modern so-called civilized life! We owe the four artists every gratitude indeed for coming to London and giving us this rare pleasure.

MARIANNE.

"SCHWEIZERBUND" (Swiss Club)

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

will take place at

74, Charlotte Street, W.1,

on

Saturday, February 26th, 1955

at 3.30 p.m.