

City Swiss Club

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CENTENARY OF CITY SWISS CLUB.

In a recent issue of this paper the attention of its readers was directed to the approaching Centenary of the City Swiss Club.

Such an event is not happening every day — especially not in the Swiss Colony — and it deserves, therefore, special mentioning.

The City Swiss Club is foremost a social Club, and has during the last 100 years fulfilled a very useful purpose especially with regard to maintaining and fostering friendly and close relations with prominent people in this country.

A great number of eminent personalities, either British or Foreign, have on many occasions been the guests of the Club, amongst them Statesmen, Politicians, Diplomats, Church Dignatories, Scientists, Explorers, Authors, Artists, Journalists, etc. etc.

Such links have proved very beneficial not only to the members of the Club — particularly during the 1st and 2nd world wars — but also to our homeland, and if to-day the relations between the two countries are cordial and friendly, the City Swiss Club can claim its fair share.

It would have been interesting to prepare and publish notes of some of the important happenings in the history of the City Swiss Club, but unfortunately the archives of the Club, which were kept at Pagani's Restaurant (Great Portland Street) — then the Head-

quarters of the Club — were destroyed when the premises were completely burned out during the "Blitz", early in the last war.

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To celebrate the coming 100th anniversary, the Club had already in May of this year arranged a "Centenary Outing" in the nature of a river trip to Windsor; this was meant as an "Auftakt" to the actual celebration which will take place on Friday, November 16th, at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1.

This event promises to be a brilliant affair. The committee has almost completed the arrangements. Important guests from both Switzerland and this country have been invited, and a number of representatives of some of the Swiss Societies in London and the Provinces, will also be present. The Swiss Minister, Monsieur Armin Daeniker, in the capacity of Honorary President, will be in the Chair.

The committee hopes and expects that a large number of members of the Club with their ladies and friends will attend this 100th birthday party, which will conclude with a Grand Ball.

It is wished that especially some of the older members, who, for one reason or another, have not attended any functions of late, will turn up in full force, so as to make this auspicious event a really happy and memorable one.

*Press Reporter,
City Swiss Club.*

CITY SWISS CLUB

Centenary Banquet and Ball

FRIDAY, 16th NOVEMBER, 1956

at the

DORCHESTER HOTEL, PARK LANE, LONDON, W.1.

In the Chair

MONSIEUR ARMIN DAENIKER, MINISTRE DE SUISSE (Honorary President)

RECEPTION 7p.m. · DINNER at 7.30 p.m. · DANCING until 1 a.m.

Orchestra : LES BROWN and his Orchestra



EVENING DRESS (TAILS OR DINNER JACKET OR UNIFORM)

Tables for parties of 8 to 12 can be arranged in due course.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

Soirée Familiale.

The "Soirée Familiale" of the City Swiss Club, which took place on Tuesday, 2nd of October, at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1, was fairly well attended.

Mr. Charles Gysin, who was in the Chair, extended a special warm welcome to the ladies, as well as to the following guests: Monsieur J. J. de Tribolet, 1st Counsellor of Legation, Dr. and Mme. R. Faessler, Counsellor of Legation, Colonel and Mrs. W. Koch, Consul and Mrs. J. Huber, and Mr. Louis Baume.

After an excellent dinner, Mr. Louis Baume, who was introduced by the President, as a modern Marco Polo gave an excellent talk, illustrated with beautiful coloured slides, on his journey to Malaya, Siam, India and the Middle East.

With remarkable ease and fluency, Mr. Baume invited his hearers to accompany him on his travels by air, which started from London, in October, 1953, via Iceland and Labrador to Quebec, then along Canada's greatest waterway, the St. Lawrence River to Montreal, and south down the Hudson Valley to New York.

During his most interesting journey, stops were made at several places, and the lecturer showed a great number of photographs taken by himself, of important buildings and temples, landscapes, markets etc.

Here is an abbreviated synopsis of what was shown.

At Ottawa, the Federal capital of Canada, views of the War Memorial, and the Château Laurier were seen, then we followed him to Toronto, Winnipeg, and Calgary over the Rockies to Kamloops, a lumbering town on the Thompson river. Then Vancouver, on the Pacific seaboard, with its fine Bay. We joined him on his 2,400 mile flight to Honolulu, 2,000 mile flight to Canton Is., and 1,300 mile flight to Fiji. From Nandi we then travelled to Suva.

Very interesting views were shown of Wellington, the capital of New Zealand, such as the immense bay, railway station, docks, etc.

The journey then took us to Sydney, where we saw the fine surfing beaches, and met the Kookaburra bird, or laughing jackass, and the Koala bear. Thence from Darwin to Djakarta (formerly Batavia) and via Sumatra to Singapore, where we admired the vast seaport, the river, cluttered up with a multitude of junks and sampans, the Victoria Memorial Hall and Tower, and the famous Tiger Balm Gardens, etc.

The airliner then took us north to the mainland of Malaya, to the ancient town of Malacca on the Malacca river, where we visited the 300-year-old Chinese temple of Cheng Hoon Teng, and from there to Kuala Lumpur, the Federal capital built in a fantasy of Moorish architecture. Further north we came to Ipoz, with its interesting Hugh how Street flanked with Chinese and Indian Shops, and from there to Penang the lovely island lying off the West coast, with its palm fringed coast line, and to Georgetown where we saw the busy harbour.

Next we saw Bangkok, the capital of Siam, with its fine National Assembly Building of white marble in Na Pra Lan Square. Some of the 77 temples which

are the glory of Bangkok could also be seen. The lovely photographs shown of the surrounding country were much admired.

From Bangkok, the lecturer took us to Hong-Kong, which at one time was the home of only a few hundred poor farmers, fishermen, stonemasons and pirates, and has now well established industries and a population of 2½ million. Then back to Siam, and off on a tour by rail to Nakoni Patom, where pictures were shown of the site of the famous Patom Chedi, the largest monument of its kind in Siam (375 ft. high). We saw views of the rice fields of Nong Pladuck, which must have brought unhappy memories to the lecturer, having been a prisoner of war (in Japanese hands) in this district, of Kanchanabouri and of Chungkai.

The lecturer then returned to Bangkok, and started rapidly homewards. Photographs from this return journey, which took him to Rangoon, the capital of Burma, to Calcutta, the industrial city on Hooghly river, Madras, in southern India, Colombo, Bombay, the gateway of India, Karachi, capital of Pakistan, Aden, Cairo, Valetta (Malta), Rome, via Naples, Geneva, Paris, London were shown.

When the lights were switched on again, the President warmly thanked Mr. Baume for his most excellent *compte rendu* of his extensive travels, and the company showed its appreciation by long applause. A most enjoyable and interesting evening.

ST.



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