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**ANNUAL LUNCHEON
OF THE LONDON SWISS PHILATELIC SOCIETY,
at the Glendower Hotel, Glendower Place, S.W.7,
on Saturday, 14th February, 1959.**

The London Swiss Philatelic Society usually terminate their financial year with a luncheon to which the ladies are invited. On Saturday, 14th February, as in previous years, this social gathering was held at the Glendower Hotel, Glendower Place, S.W.7, and was preceded by cocktails.

Amongst hobbies, stamp collecting is perhaps the most popular in the realm of collecting things of one kind or another.

After the *apéritif*, the company, numbering about forty, adjourned to the dining room to partake of a sumptuous meal for which the *cuisine* of the Glendower Hotel is so well known.

To make the mouths of those who were not present at the "gorging" water, I will mention the *Menu*, which started with *Soupe à Loignon*, followed by *Fillets de Sole Frit*, *Sauce Remoulade*. There was the famous "Bärnerplatte" with "Schwinigs" and *choucroute*, a dish so well known in the "Emmental". For those whose digestion does not allow them to indulge in this dish, there was *Volaille Rôtie*, *Haricots Verts au Beurre*, *Pommes Persillées*, and *Salade* provided.

The dessert consisted of *Coupe Glacée aux Fruits*, followed by *café* with "Kirsch". The cellar of the Glendower harbours many fine vintage wines — which made their appearance at the table, thus adding to the enjoyment of a repast which was on the generous side.

Jolly company, good food, attractive ladies, and "a drop of the best", and you cannot ask for anything better. It was not surprising, therefore, that by the time coffee was served the atmosphere had become what you may call lively.

Speech-making at functions in the Colony plays an important part, and this "necessary evil", especially as far as reporters are concerned, was also present on this occasion.

The congenial President of the Society, Mr. F. Streit, in welcoming the members, ladies and guests, expressed regret that owing to illness this year's gathering was somewhat smaller than usual. "It is with much regret", he said, "that the Swiss Ambassador and Madame Daeniker are unable to honour the Society with their presence, owing to another engagement."

The President then extended a special welcome to the official guests, Mr. E. C. Baker, who is in charge of the General Post Office archives, and Mr. A. Stauffer, editor of the "Swiss Observer", who was accompanied by Mrs. Stauffer.

He then gave a short résumé of the activities during the financial year, stating that, for the first time in many years, *the accounts of the Society showed a small surplus. (Applause.)*

Mr. Streit paid a sincere tribute to the memory of the recently deceased Mr. W. Fuchs, who was one of the most prominent members of the Society.

He then announced that the winner of the 1958 Cup was Mr. H. C. Gay, who is a committee member. Amidst applause, Mr. Gay was presented with the much coveted trophy by Mrs. A. Schmid, herself a member and keen collector; a small replica of the cup went to last year's winner, Miss A. Grünberg.

On resuming his seat, Mr. Streit received a warm ovation for his capable and witty address. Mr. E. C. Baker, on behalf of the guests, very humorously thanked the President and the members for their kind invitation.

Stamp collectors have the reputation of being generous and warm-hearted people, and the London Swiss Philatelic Society are no exception. As usual, an auction of stamps took place, the proceeds to go to charities. The beneficiaries of the auction (which was very ably conducted by Mr. Max Uehlinger assisted by Mr. David Paschoud) were the Swiss Benevolent Society, and the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, who shared in equal parts the proceeds of the auction, viz. £10 each.

The tombola, for swelling the funds of the Society, was equally successful, thus allowing the Hon. Treasurer to look with confidence into the near future.

Tea — which was very welcome — was then served, during which Mr. Streit thanked the Family Schmid for having looked so well and generously after the material wants of the company; and so, once more, a most enjoyable annual luncheon of the stamp collecting fraternity came to its close, leaving behind many pleasant memories.

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PERSONAL.

We deeply regret to announce the passing away, on 26th February at the Leatherhead Hospital, of Mrs. Irene Mary Huber, the wife of Mr. Ernest Huber, of 57 Timbercroft, Ewell, Surrey.

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It is with deep regret that we announce the passing away of Mrs. A. Dimier, the widow of Mr. Georges Dimier, and mother-in-law of Mr. R. de Cintra.

* * *

We extend heartiest congratulations to Mr. Paul Lehrian, of 6 Sherrock Gardens, Hendon, N.W.4, on his appointment as Manager of the Charing Cross Hotel, and to his son, Mr. G. P. Lehrian, LL.B., on the arrival of a daughter, Caroline.

MEETING OF THE SWISS ECONOMIC COUNCIL.

A report of the Meeting of the Swiss Economic Council, which took place on Thursday, 26th February, will appear in our next issue.

OUR NEXT ISSUE.

Our next issue will be published on Thursday, 26th March, 1959. We take this opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their kind and helpful donation over and above their subscription: J. Clement, C. H. Willi, R. Mathez, J. Müller, E. Fankhauser, Max Ernst, C. Berti, F. Heller, P. Jsacco, P. Meister, Dr. V. Umbrecht, A. Blunier, O. Rohn, H. Schmid, A. E. Banderet, John Frei, E. Hofstetter, M. A. Rothlisberger, Mrs. L. Bristow, H. Humbel, P. Barras, Mrs. M. Albrecht.