

The centenary of the Swiss alpine club

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THE CENTENARY OF THE SWISS ALPINE CLUB

The Swiss Alpine Club was founded in Olten in 1863 by a group of Swiss climbers who responded to a circular letter sent out in October 1862 by Theodore Simler. The Association of British Members of the S.A.C. propose to mark the centenary by the two exhibitions described below.

An exhibition of Swiss Prints at the British Museum.

The Trustees of the British Museum have kindly agreed to present an exhibition of Swiss prints from the Lloyd Bequest in the Print Room at the Museum from 18th October to 30th November, 1963. The Lloyd Bequest comprises the collection of the late R. W. Lloyd, a well-known mountaineer and connoisseur, and consists of over 5,000 prints and drawings of Swiss and Alpine scenes, of costume prints and panoramas. The prints which will be exhibited have been selected primarily for the interest of the mountaineer — that is to say, mountaineering scenes, high mountain and glacier views — but will also include some fine general views and costume prints. Among the works to be shown are the several versions of the de Saussure ascent to the Col de Géant and of Mont Blanc, and views by Aberli, Bidermann, Birmann, Bourrit, Lamy, Lory, Linck and others. Short narratives will accompany the prints in the show cases.

(The Print Room of the British Museum is situated on the top floor at the northern end of the Museum and is most easily reached by the North Entrance and using the lift. Opening times are from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays and Saturdays, and from 2.30 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Sundays).

An exhibition at the Alpine Club Gallery. The Association of British Members is presenting an exhibition in the Alpine Club Gallery, 74 South Audley Street, London, W.1, designed to take a retrospective look at mountaineering in Switzerland over the past 150 years and to highlight some of the activities of the S.A.C. and the A.B.M. It will consist mainly of prints, paintings and photographs displayed around the walls of the gallery and of various other exhibits in show cases and on the stage. Entrance (which will be free) will be from the South Audley Street entrance direct to the gallery and visitors may then proceed round the room viewing, in roughly the order shown, the following sequences:

Early Mountaineering: Prints, drawings, etc., showing early Swiss climbers and their activities.

Mountains become popular: "Tourist" ascents become commonplace and the print becomes an artistic memento of a visit.

The Swiss Guide: The chamois and crystal hunters shown as the origin of the mountain guide; prints depicting hunters show early climbing equipment. Photographs of famous guides and guides in action.

The Mountain Hut: An early activity of the Club — photographs of various huts and interiors.

Mountaineering: Photographs of 19th and early 20th century climbers in action.

British Ascents: A sequence of photographs showing Swiss mountains first ascended by British climbers.

Modern mountaineering: Photographs of recent climbs in Switzerland and abroad by members of the A.B.M.

A.B.M. and S.A.C.: Items showing the origins and progress of both the A.B.M. and the S.A.C.

On the stage it is proposed to mount two model figures, the first clothed and equipped as a Victorian

climber and the second clothed and equipped as a modern "north wall" specialist.

Show cases in the centre of the gallery will display "Führerbuch" of Swiss guides, equipment and other items of interest.

The exhibition will be open from 25th to 30th November, 1963, during the day and early evening.

Further information about both exhibitions may be obtained from G. A. Hutcheson, 45 Dingwall Road, Croydon, Surrey, who will be happy to hear from anyone having items they think might be suitable for the Alpine Club Gallery exhibition.

A GERMAN PLAY FROM GENEVA IN LONDON

Our compatriot Mr. Laurent Lourson, a Neuchâtelois in London, himself an actor and teacher, who writes on art in "La Tribune de Genève", has drawn our attention to a special treat at the Garrick Theatre in London. Mr. Gert Hofmann's German play, formerly called "Mr. Mayor", has been re-titled "Power of Persuasion" and is starring John Mills, Anthony Quayle and Joyce Redman.

The playwright is a lecturer at the University of Bristol. His play, which in French is called "Chez les Molls", had sixteen performances at the "Théâtre de Carouge" in Geneva at Whitsun. The same theatre is repeating it next season before going on tour in Switzerland with it. The French Swiss T.V. want to record it with François Simon's company. The German title is "Der Bürgermeister", and it will be performed on all main German stages next season. The play has been translated into English by Donald Watson.

NOTICE

We are advised by the Swiss Bank Corporation that a new edition of their brochure, in the French language, on the London Stock Exchange and entitled "La Bourse de Londres" is now available and that a limited supply remaining of certain others of this year's publications such as:

"Guide to the Financial Regulations affecting Repatriates and Emigrants" and

"British Exports and Exchange Restrictions Abroad"

may be had on request.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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OUR NEXT ISSUE

Our next issue will be published on 11th October. We shall be grateful to receive reports and manuscripts not later than 2nd October and short news items by 4th October.