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SWISS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

ANNUAL DINNER

8TH FEBRUARY 1963

One of the headaches I have as Editor of the "Swiss Observer" is to get information from the Societies for publication in good time. As soon as I hear of a meeting or social event to be held I take pains to publish it under "Forthcoming Events". When fixing functions it will help if Presidents and Secretaries consult the "Swiss Observer" and inform the Editor as soon as possible in order to prevent clashes. The Swiss Philatelic Society have been exemplary in this matter. They informed me as early as October and issued an invitation at the same time so that there would be no chance of my having any other engagement. I was therefore more than vexed when I woke up with a temperature on the morning of 8th February. But I was determined to keep my appointment with the stamp collectors and a couple of hours' extra sleep improved matters. It was with great pleasure that I went to the Montana Hotel in time for cocktails.

Alas, the weather had been most unkind and literally half the members were ill and unable to attend. But the spirit of friendship and happy good humour could not have been improved upon. Mr. W. Burren, the energetic President, was in the chair, and soon the members and friends of the Swiss Philatelic Society were enjoying an excellent dinner provided by the first-class *cuisine* of the Montana Hotel. Not only was the composition of the menu rather unusual, but the food was beautifully prepared and expertly served.

After the Chairman had welcomed the Editor of the "Swiss Observer" he announced that the Challenge Cup for the best display of the year had been awarded to Mr. Jack Beken, an expert on Lichtenstein. I had the honour of presenting the handsome cup to the winner's son, the winner unfortunately being ill in bed. A miniature replica of the cup went to last year's winner, Hon. Secretary Mr. W. R. Thompson.

The Chairman then announced the raffle which is being held every year in aid of the Club Funds. Hand-some prizes donated by members and friends included an attractive "Mentor" watch, champagne, chocolates, cigars and cigarettes, food and pottery, gloves, and many other items. The tickets consequently sold like hot cakes, and soon the tables were covered in coloured chits and it looked more like a bingo-session than a philatelists' dinner. After the raffle the traditional auction of special stamps took place in aid of the Swiss Benevolent Society and Dr. Barnardo's Homes. The two dozen members and friends present were determined to make the collections a success in spite of the low numbers, and the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Haeusermann, was able to announce the splendid total of £20 4s. 6d. towards the Society's funds and £12 5s. 0d. for charity. A further £2 has since been received.

That brought the pleasant evening to a close and by that time I was feeling on top of the world again and any trace of indisposition had disappeared.

Mariann.

SWISS HOLIDAYS FOR UNITED KINGDOM SWISS CHILDREN

The Foundation "Pro Juventute" in Zurich is again organizing a holiday for children of 7-15 years, of Swiss parentage who live in the United Kingdom, provided always that there is a sufficient number of participants.

As usual these holidays will start at the best and most attractive time to enjoy Switzerland, i.e. towards the end of July, and are scheduled to last six weeks according to arrangements made by "Pro Juventute".

As regards board and lodging in Switzerland, "Pro Juventute" offers various schemes, such as:

- (a) Board and lodging at reduced prices of about 14/- to 23/- per day in a recognized children's home, selected by "Pro Juventute", available for children up to 12 years of age, only for children holding Swiss passports.
- (b) A stay of about 4 weeks in various holiday camps, available for children of about 12-14 years of age, only for children holding Swiss passports.
- (c) Free board and lodging with Swiss families for a limited number of children up to 14 years whose parents are unable to pay either the whole or part of the cost. Only children holding Swiss passports can be considered under this scheme.
- (d) Children who are in the happy position of holding a written invitation from relations or friends in Switzerland are welcome to join the party for the journey both ways. Age limit: 15 years.

Parents who are not able to pay the whole of the cost, which is kept as low as possible, are entreated most earnestly to contribute as much as they possibly can in order to reduce the strain on the funds of the Benevolent Societies and "Pro Juventute".

In cases where parents would value such holidays for their youngsters but are not in a position to defray the cost of the journey, the Swiss Benevolent Societies would endeavour to provide the necessary funds. This should be stated in the application.

It is expected that many Swiss parents in the United Kingdom will gladly avail themselves of this opportunity of enabling their children to enjoy a healthy and happy holiday in the most pleasant surroundings and scenery of our homeland.

Applications should be sent in writing at the latest by 25th March to:

- (a) in the London Consular District: Mrs. B. Kaluza, 152 West Hill, London S.W.15;
- (b) in the Manchester Consular District: Swiss Consulate, 56 Spring Gardens, Manchester 2.

The parents will then be supplied with all relevant information.

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