

Swiss Mercantile Society

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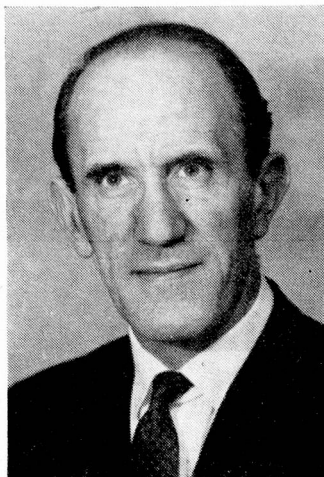
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SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY



Mr. Andre Jaccard
The new President

The Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Mercantile Society, held at Swiss House on Wednesday, 20th February, started on a sad note. It was with deep regret that the Chairman, Mr. R. Chappuis, announced the death of Mr. Karl Strickler, Central President of the S.K.V. and Hon. Member of the London Section since 1954, to whose outstanding services, rendered to our association during the past 25 years, he paid a warm tribute. The Society further mourned the loss of Mr. Paul E. Dick and Miss Olga Muller, who had been active members since 1919 and 1923 respectively.

The accounts for 1962, as presented, were adopted and the remuneration of the auditor, Mr. Robert P. Huxley, F.C.A., was fixed for the next financial period.

Reporting on the Society's activities, the Chairman stated that the past year had been one of steady development and satisfactory progress. An interesting programme of lectures, film shows, etc., had again been arranged and the attendance, apart from that at some recent meetings which were affected by the exceptionally severe weather, had generally been very satisfactory. It was gratifying that despite the advancing age of the majority of its members and consequent losses through death and retirement in Switzerland, the Society was nevertheless able to maintain its membership, which at 31st December was as follows:— 24 Honorary Members, 225 Active Members, 15 Corresponding Members and 47 Contributing Members.

The College also had had another most successful year, with accommodation taxed to its capacity for the whole of the summer and part of the autumn months. In his report, the Chairman of the Education Committee, Mr. A. Jaccard, stated that the average attendance had risen from 195 in the previous year to 218 in 1962, a record for the post-war period, the number of students enrolled being 540, compared with 496 in 1961. There was a correspondingly larger number of students who presented themselves for the diploma examination of the College, 333 having sat, of whom 321 (96%) were successful, the figures for 1961 being 308 and 280 (91%) respectively. Only students who reach the top class are able to sit for this final examination. The scholastic programme, though intensive and exacting, was nevertheless varied and made

more attractive by full-day excursions to places of historic and cultural interest, as well as by visits to commercial undertakings, produce exchanges, etc. Out of a series of 21 football matches against English clubs, the College team won 12 and drew 4, a fine achievement considering the many changes in the side.

Finally mention had also to be made of special lectures and film shows, theatre visits, College dances and social evenings, all of which had helped to make the students' stay a more pleasant one.

The evening classes, for the first time in many years, had suffered a setback in attendance. From a record number of 1,003 enrolments in the preceding year, these dropped to 825 in 1962. Various factors had contributed to the decrease, notably the smaller number of female students in domestic employment here, but normally engaged in commercial pursuits at home. In view of the great demand for shorthand typists and the very attractive salaries paid in Switzerland, more female students were nowadays attending full-time courses of study here which bring them quicker rewards.

At the external examinations of the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate, students of both day and evening classes had again obtained very satisfactory results. Out of a total of 202 candidates, 146 had been successful in the Lower Certificate in English, whilst of 49 candidates, 27 had been awarded the coveted Certificate of Proficiency in English. These results were well above the general overall average of successes.

Through the intermediary of the Employment Advisory service provided by the Society, 40 of our young compatriots had been able to obtain commercial employment in this country on completion of their studies, for which the necessary labour permits had been granted.

Thanks were expressed to the teaching and administrative staffs for their continued good work and loyal services.

The report of the House Committee was presented by the Chairman, Mr. L. W. Krucker. Having secured the tenancy of Swiss House for a further 12 years as from June 1961, the Committee had been able to devote their

attention to internal alterations and redecoration during the past year. Accommodation had again been provided for various Swiss societies for their meetings and increasing use was being made of the building as a centre for the Cambridge examinations held in June and December annually.

Concluding his report, Mr. Chappuis expressed thanks to our Honorary President, the Swiss Ambassador, Monsieur A. Daeniker, and his collaborators for their continued interest in and support of the activities of the Society and the College. He also paid tribute to the valuable advice and ever ready assistance received from National Councillor Ph. Schmid-Ruedin and Mr. A. Meier-Ragg, Secretary General of the S.K.V., whenever the occasion arose. Further he gratefully acknowledged the receipt of the annual subsidy from the Swiss Government (B.I.G.A.), as well as the donations to the Education Fund from firms and individuals in this country and in Switzerland.

In a personal statement, Mr. Chappuis intimated that he did not wish to seek re-election as President and Chairman of the Council. He had held various offices ever since joining the Society over forty years ago and wished to give younger members an opportunity of moving up in the ranks.

Under the temporary Chairmanship of Mr. A. C. Stahelin, Hon. Member of the S.K.V. and the London Section, the Council and the Committees for the financial year 1963 were elected as follows:

Council: Chairman: Mr. A. Jaccard; Trustees: Messrs. J. J. Boos, H. Knoll, L. W. Krucker, F. G. Sommer; Members: Messrs. J. W. Bonjour, R. Chappuis, A. Faes, O. Grob, E. M. Huber, J. E. Schneider, R. Senn, F. Streit. General Purposes Committee: President: Mr. A. Jaccard; Vice-Presidents: Messrs. A. Faes and L. W. Krucker; Hon. Secretary: Mr. J. E. Schneider; Hon. Treasurer: Mr. R. Senn; Members: Messrs. H. Andrea, R. Bachmann, E. P. Siegfried and E. Zwicky. Education Committee: Chairman: Mr. A. Faes; Vice-Chairman: Mr. F. Burri; Members: Messrs. J. W. Bonjour, J. F. Carlen, H. Gruninger, G. Hediger and O. Luterbacher. House Committee: Chairman: Mr. L. W. Krucker; Vice-Chairman: Mr. H. J. Keller; Members: Mrs. M. Meier and Mr. W. Schedler. Press Reporter: Mr. W. Burren. Delegate to the N.S.H.: Mrs. M. Meier.

The newly elected President, Mr. A. Jaccard, who had held the office of Chairman of the Education Committee for the past five years, then took the Chair.

It was his pleasant duty to propose, on behalf of the Council, the election of Mr. R. Chappuis, as an Honorary Member of the London Section, in recognition of his long and valued services to the Society and the College, and this was endorsed by all present with enthusiastic applause.

The proceedings then terminated.

W.B.

OUR NEXT ISSUE

Our next issue will be published on 22nd March. We shall be glad to receive manuscripts and news items for publication by Wednesday, 13th March. The Editor will be away from London from 1st to 10th March.

SWISS CHURCH

SERVICES EN FRANCAIS: à l'Eglise Suisse, 79 Endell Street, W.C.2, tous les *dimanches* à 11h00 et 18h30. L'Eglise est ouverte le dimanche: pour le lunch. l'après-midi et le soir; le *lundi* soir: dès 18h30; le *jeudi*: dès 15h00 et le soir.

PASTEUR: Ph. Nicole, 7 Park View Road, N.3; **téléphone** FINchley 5281.

SERVICES IN GERMAN: At St. Mary Woolnoth Church, Lombard Street, Bank, E.C.3, every Sunday at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.

PFARRER: P. K. Wipf, 1 Womersley Road, N.8. Telephone: MOU 6018.

SWISS CATHOLIC MISSION

CHURCH and SERVICE: St. ANN's Catholic Church, Abbey Orchard Street (off Victoria Street), S.W.1.

SUNDAYS: Holy Masses at 8, 9 and 11 a.m. with sermon in English 6 p.m. with sermon in German and French.

HOLIDAYS OF OBLIGATION: Holy Masses at 7.30 and 9 a.m. and 5.45 p.m.

WEEKDAYS: Holy Mass at 7.30 a.m.

CONFESSIONS in German, French and Italian:

EVERY SUNDAY 1 hour before Evening Mass.

EVERY SATURDAY from 11 a.m. to 12.45 p.m. and from 5 to 7 p.m.

Every first, third and fifth Wednesday of the month from 3 to 6 p.m.

Every second and fourth Thursday of the month from 3 to 6 p.m.

At any other time by appointment.

CHAPTAIN: Rev. Joseph Scherer, St. Ann's Church, Abbey Orchard Street. S.W.1. Tel.: ABBey 2895.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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