

Swiss Mercantile Society

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NEWS FROM THE COLONY

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY

The Society held its first Monthly Meeting after the customary summer recess on Wednesday, 8th September. There was a good attendance despite the fact that a number of members were still on holiday, evidently in quest of an all too elusive sun in these temperate climes.

The meeting opened on a sad note. Although already known to most present, the Chairman, Mr. A. Jaccard, had the painful duty of reporting the death of Mr. Alfred Stauffer, an Honorary Member and past President of the Society.

He paid an eloquent tribute to a departed friend who had not only been a lifelong and staunch supporter of the Society, which he joined just 50 years ago, but was also one of the best known personalities in the Swiss Colony. In all he had done and achieved, he had been supported by his wife, whose sorrow was shared by all who had known Mr. Stauffer intimately.

Following the official business, Mr. O. Grob showed a selection of colour slides, portraying the picturesque scenery around Prussia Cove in South Cornwall, east of Penzance. This rugged part of the coast, consisting of several small rocky inlets and beaches, was once the headquarters of a notorious smuggler, John Carter, who in the 18th Century was the leader of a gang of local youths, who nicknamed him "King of Prussia". From this area, which later became known as Prussia Cove and the adjoining beach, Keneggy Sands, which face south over Mount's Bay, a magnificent prospect along the coast to the Lizard Peninsula can be had. Even to-day, coastguards keep lonely vigil in these isolated parts for shipwrecks, where once they had to be on the look-out for pirates and smugglers.

The blue seas and the contrasting rock-cliffs lend themselves particularly to colour photography and, as on several previous occasions, Mr. Grob delighted his fellow members with very fine landscape and nature studies.

By way of a complete contrast, Mr. L. S. R. Asch showed a series of colour slides of the centenary celebrations of the Salvation Army, which were kindly put at his disposal by their press photographer. There were views of the ceremonial functions held recently in the Metropolis and at Crystal Palace. These were attended by members of the movement from almost every nation of the globe, including a Swiss contingent, prominent in national costume. In one of the ceremonies, the Swiss flag was proudly displayed alongside the banners of the Salvation Army and of the mother-country of the movement, the Union Jack. Of special interest was some of the original equipment used at Nottingham by the founder of the Salvation Army, General Booth, a striking personality with flowing beard, universally known in his time.

Finally, Mr. Asch showed a number of slides depicting the exterior of Bexley Place, part of which dates back to the 12th Century. Particularly admired were the beautifully laid-out gardens with greenhouses and an abundant display of colourful blooms.

The Chairman thanked both members for having provided a most interesting evening, which was warmly supported by all present.

W.B.

IN MEMORIAM

Last year on October the 30th a group of friends, compatriots and colleagues assembled at Golders Green Crematorium to pay the last respect to dear

MAURICE JUTZI

who died in the French Hospital on the 25th October after a severe illness.

On August the 25th, so soon afterwards, the same old colleagues, gathered at the Brompton Oratory to attend Requiem Mass with close friends and relatives for

JOSEPH B. STREBEL

who, at the age of 66, died peacefully on August the 19th, six days after a severe operation. The burial took place at Gunnersbury Cemetery.

Dear Joseph, hailing from Muri (Aargau) retired end of 1958, after thirty-six years of service in the Overseas Correspondence Department of the Midland Bank, where he had held the appointment of chief correspondent of the Near and Far East Section from 1952. By his quiet and unassuming manner, he was liked by all, and his experience and his knowledge of languages was highly appreciated by the Management and their Clients. He was not only kind to human beings, his tenderness and care for animals was touching.

We have lost two good friends, but they will live in our memories for ever.

OE.

* * *

We also announce with deep regret the death of

MR. F. SUTER

of 94 Godstone Road, Caterham, Surrey, who passed away at 79 on 16th September. He joined the Swiss Bank Corporation in 1911 and retired as Attorney in December 1950. He was a faithful member of the Swiss Rifle Association, also of the Male Choir.

We also extend our sincere sympathy to the widow and family of

MR. F. WINKELMAN

of Flat 121, Clare Court, Judd Street, W.C.1 (late of Heathfield Hotel), who died after a long illness.

PERSONAL

We should like to congratulate Mr. W. Stettbacher of 19 Gannochy Drive, Woodhill, Bishopbriggs, Glasgow, on his recent marriage. We wish the couple every happiness.

WELFARE OFFICE FOR SWISS GIRLS IN GREAT BRITAIN

The Committee wish to announce that Miss Edith Hubacher resigned from the Welfare Office at the beginning of August last. In the meantime, Mrs. Sharpe has kindly taken charge of the Welfare Office and will continue to do so pending the appointment of a welfare worker from Switzerland. Mrs. Sharpe has ably assisted former Welfare Officers over a period of years.