

News from the colony

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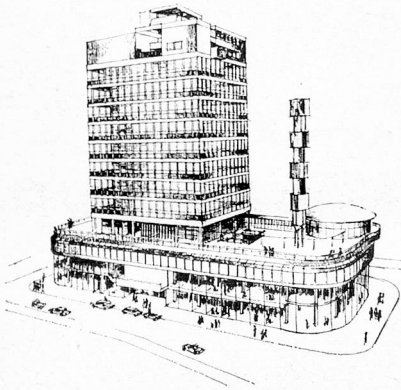
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NEWS FROM THE COLONY



SWISS CENTRE LONDON

APPEAL FOR THE "FORUM OF SWITZERLAND"

by the Federation of Swiss Societies in the U.K.

The commercial part of the "Swiss Centre" building in Leicester Square is nearing its completion. Some of the upper offices are already in use and the ground-floor premises are getting ready for occupation. But the completion of the "Swiss Fair" sections on the lower ground-floor (Swiss Market Square and Restaurants) and on the third-floor (Forum of Switzerland) is still awaiting the result of the appeal for funds launched in Switzerland at a public meeting under the chairmanship of Federal Councillor Wahlen. Its speedy success is essential for securing the hoped for indispensable assistance of the Federal Government in establishing the cultural and social "Forum of Switzerland" before the premises are let for other purposes.

Another condition for this help from Berne is that our Community also should have done its best to share financially in the realisation of the scheme. The London societies have already done so by pledging most of their funds (in all about £8,350) as a contribution under acceptable conditions, mainly for decoration, furniture and fittings. Some Swiss firms with important subsidiaries in the U.K. have also promised handsome contributions in response to the appeal launched in Switzerland. But a considerable potential source of contributions in this country — the many independent Swiss firms in the U.K. and those subsidiaries whose head-organisations in the home country have not yet responded to the main appeal, as well as the individual members of our Colony able and willing to help — remains untapped because no direct appeal has been addressed to them so far.

The Committee of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the U.K. therefore feels called upon to issue this subsidiary appeal to the Colony and the firms not yet approached for donations to supplement our societies' contributions. Cheques or promises of contributions should be sent to the Treasurer of the Federation of Swiss Societies, Mr. Albert Kunz, Swiss National Tourist Office, 458 Strand, W.C.2, where copies of the prospectus of "Swiss Fair" may also be obtained. Cheques will be encashed only when the completion of the scheme is assured and all donations would be utilised exclusively for the Forum on the same terms as the societies' contributions yet to be negotiated.

The Committee feels justified in making this appeal as the realisation of the scheme is so clearly in the interest of our Community as well as of the home country. Obviously the main part of the costs must be met from Switzerland, the Forum having to serve in the first place to enhance the image of our country among the British public on the cultural side and in the second place to provide an urgently necessary meeting place for the several thousand young Swiss who come to London year by year for short stays. We must be equally interested in these aims for the sake of our country as a vital part of Switzerland. But the Colony will also gain a special advantage of its own in obtaining the use of the beautiful premises in a uniquely central situation for its social activities. It is an old wish of our Colony, which at long last has become attainable if everyone is willing to demonstrate their genuine interest in a tangible form to the satisfaction of the main providers of funds in Switzerland. It is an unrepeatable opportunity not to be missed.

*Issued by the Committee
of the Federation.*

ROBERT SCHNEIDER (of Cheltenham) †

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Mr. Robert Schneider of Woodcot, Charlton Park Gate, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. He passed away peacefully in his sleep on 14th February.

He had been ill for some time, but made a wonderful recovery, and his sudden death came as a great shock to all his many friends.

Mr. Schneider came to England from Affoltern near Zurich in 1919 and was a partner in the confectionery business of Brunners of Cheltenham, a partnership unbroken for forty-five years. It was a privilege to have a partner of his qualities, his craftsmanship and artistic nature.

All who came in contact with him will remember him for his cheerful, kind and helpful way. He will be greatly missed.

J.B.

MRS. HEDWIG JOSS †

We announce with deep regret the death of Mrs. Hedwig Joss (née Hartmann), lately of Reigate and Epsom. She died on 27th February, her 83rd birthday.

Mrs. Joss was born at Wiedikon/Zurich and came to England with her parents in 1886. She married Mr. Hans Joss from Berne in 1909. In their younger years they were active members of the Swiss community. Mr. Joss was a member of the Consistoire of the Swiss Church for many years. He had been with the Swiss Bank first, then with the Banca Commerciale Italiana, and from 1928 to 1949, he was Manager of the London Branch of the Ionian Bank.

Mrs. Joss is survived by her two daughters and three sons to whom we express our sincere sympathy in their bereavement.