

Yorkshire Swiss Club

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NEWS FROM THE COLONY

YORKSHIRE SWISS CLUB

We met on Saturday, 26th April, for our first dinner-social, which we sincerely hope will be the beginning of a whole series, and become a welcome fixture in our Club's activities in due course.

The organising committee consisting of active and dynamic members, must have looked forward with some foreboding to this evening, a new adventure for them, but they were soon relieved of their anxiety. This "get-together" proved to be a great success, and received the full and generous support of everybody. Somehow, it is the fate of our Northern Clubs, as members live so far away and far apart, that a great effort has to be made by many people, but on the other hand, it showed even more clearly the sincere attachment and interest most of us have for our own Swiss institutions and organisations.

As members and guests started to arrive at the Griffin Hotel in Leeds, they were graciously received by two charming ladies, who, however, saw to it that financial details were not overlooked, and this gave rise to some amusing intermezzos. But all this was done in the most friendly and understanding way.

Eventually we were directed to the banquetting hall, where richly and tastefully decorated tables awaited us with a profusion of flowers, flags and menu-cards, showing us the *Wappen* and *Trachten* of all the Cantons, a complete picture of our home-country.

Mr. Paul Lerch, husband of our very able and well-loved Secretary, welcomed us with a few appropriate words. We were particularly pleased that our acting Consul, Mr. Zellweger, honoured us with his presence. It was also gratifying to have our President, Professor Jean Inebnit, with us, who chaired this evening's function. It was deeply regretted that his good lady could not attend owing to illness. Everybody present expressed the wish that they would see her again soon. Another visitor, who is also a very good friend, was Signor Silvio Lanfranchi, and he and his wife certainly helped to create the friendly, enjoyable and almost exuberant atmosphere which developed in the course of the evening. We would also mention Mr. David Fletcher of Hebden Bridge, who is very interested in our yearly "Lands-gemeinde" and who is helping us actively in the organisation and possible future development of this typical and important Swiss function. The writer would like to be forgiven for not mentioning all the visitors.

Grace was said by a young British friend, an excellent mountaineer and great lover of our Alps, so much so that a few years ago he experienced a most dangerous adventure high up in the Jungfrau and only his great personal courage and faith averted final tragedy, which shows us again that even a young, strong and enterprising young man must be very careful with our "Jungfrau".

The staff of the Hotel served the dinner in a quick and efficient way. After the loyal toast, proposed by our Vice-President, our President very ably addressed us in his inimitable and human way, reminded us of our status as citizens of the "Fifth Switzerland", and what was expected of us in the way of work and service given to our host-country. He welcomed our efforts in the way of cultural and social entertainments, an important part in the Club's activities, but he also reminded us of the necessity that every member should take a sincere, active and intelligent interest in the Club's affairs. This can best be achieved in our monthly, let us say, business meetings, and though they might not always be glamorous affairs, they are essential if we want to know each other better and thus foster real friendship and understanding. He also expressed the hope that the 21st "Lands-gemeinde" at Hardcastle Crag would be again a great success, and following "hard on the heels" of the Federation's General Meeting in Manchester on Saturday, 14th June, should induce many of the London officials and friends to put in an appearance, a worthwhile experience.

Our Acting Consul, Mr. Zellweger, then spoke to us in a very sincere and illuminating way, further to prove how well our affairs are conducted in Manchester and how at any time we can ask for advice or help through the good offices of the Swiss Consulate.

Both speakers were warmly applauded by the audience.

Members and friends contributed generously towards our Tombola, whose proceeds will help to cover expenses, present and future. Music was provided by gramophone and concertina but it was mainly *Spiel und Gesang*, the personal contribution of everybody present which enriched the evening's proceedings. It was this interchange of animated discussion, singing and the most unexpected and amusing games, coupled with some dancing, which made us forget how quickly the time was passing. As the evening eventually came to its close, it was with much regret that we had to bid each other *au revoir*, as many set out on their long journey home.

Let me conclude by congratulating our Social Committee for work well done, and such names as Lerch, Flueck and others, augurs well for the future of the Club and encourage us to make further and greater efforts.

E. Berner.

THE TWO SWISS CONSULAR AGENTS

Bournemouth and Edinburgh

The addresses of Swiss Embassy in London (77-81 Gloucester Place, W1H 3PG) and the Consulate in Manchester (Sunley Buildings, Piccadilly Plaza, M1 4BH) are known to most Swiss living in Great Britain. Many of the older compatriots in Scotland remember the Honorary Consular Agents Mr. E. Hofstetter and later Mr. B. Frick, both retired. Now there is a new one, **Mr. Otto Hartmann**, Edinburgh. He is from Zurich (born 1929). He had his schooling and commercial training in Zurich and then worked in business in his home town, Paris and East Africa. He settled in Scotland in 1957. He owns an attractive *boutique*-type shop and is adviser on interior decorating. He is also a Lecturer on business management and interior architecture at the Napier College of Technology in Edinburgh.

Mr. Hartmann is one of the founders of the Swiss Club in Edinburgh and was its President for a number of years. He and his wife are a hospitable couple.

He was appointed Consular Agent in December 1968 and was given the title Vice-Consul at the same time.

Address: 187 Canongate, Edinburgh 8.

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Of longer standing as Vice-Consul is **Mr. Fritz Fridolin Schillig**, successful Principal Director of the well-known Anglo-Continental School of English, Wimborne Road, Bournemouth. He was born in 1929 in Zurich, a citizen of Altdorf, Canton Uri. He had his schooling and business training in Zurich and came to this country soon after the war. Together with Mr. Scheller, he built up ACSE from nothing to a flourishing concern whose ramifications go to many other towns in England. We mention the much sought-after holiday courses run in London and Oxford as just one example.

Mr. Schillig is married and has four children. It was in May 1967 that he was appointed Consular Agent with the title of Vice-Consul.

To Mr. Hartmann in Scotland and Mr. Schillig in the South of England, we wish successful terms of office.