

London Swiss Philatelic Society

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NEWS FROM THE COLONY

ANGLO-SWISS SOCIETY

No sooner can we report on a lecture having taken place in the Anglo-Swiss Society, than we are able to announce another one. On 13th March, the Earl of Selkirk, accompanied by the Countess, presided over a dinner at the Dorchester Hotel, when the guest speaker was Mr. Francis Wolf, Legal Adviser of the International Labour Office in Geneva. His subject was Geneva and its International Organisations. The Swiss Ambassador and Madame Keller, Viscount and Vicountess Bledisloe, Lord and Lady Reid, Lord and Lady Molson, Lord and Lady Stow Hill were amongst the guests, as well as Lieut. Commander J. R. and Dame Anne Bryans, Sir Charles and Lady Goodeve and Mr. and Mrs. F. Figgures.

On Thursday, 24th April, Dr. Urs Schwarz, former foreign editor of the "Neue Zürcher Zeitung" and a member of the Council of the Institute for Strategic Studies, will be the guest speaker at a Dinner at the Dorchester Hotel. His subject will be "The Security of a Small Nation in the Nuclear Age".

The Dinner will be preceded by the Annual General Meeting of the Society. For information please apply to the Swiss Embassy.

SMALL BUT ALIVE

There is still the Swiss Club, also known as "Schweizerbund", at one time proud owner of Club premises in Charlotte Street where one could enjoy a substantial Swiss meal. Today, the Club is a group of some 40 (paid-up) members and quite a number of faithful friends, Swiss and British, who gather every few months for a pleasant dinner and a happy sing-song.

On 21st March, the Annual General Meeting, followed by a Dinner, took place at the Glendower Hotel. Mr. V. Berti, President, was in the chair, and he was re-elected together with his fellow officers (Mr. L. S. R. Asch, Hon. Treasurer and Mr. J. Schmid, Hon. Secretary). The President reported on the progress of the Cultural and Social Forum at the Swiss Centre, and the future of the Club was discussed. It was decided to carry on in the present manner for the time being.

The Dinner was, as is the custom with the Club, an informal and extremely happy affair, when jokes are told across the hall and Swiss songs alternate with some English ones out of respect for British members and friends. There are no guest speakers and consequently, there is perhaps more time for the cultivation of friendships old and new. It was quite obvious that none of the members or guests present had any quarrel with the decision to keep the *status quo* for the time being.

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BIRTHDAYS

Many happy returns to any readers whose birthdays fall within the next fortnight, particularly to Mr. E. Zwicky who will be 72 on 22nd April, Mr. G. Keller 64 on 23rd and Mr. L. J. Faivre 76 on 24th April. Congratulations!

STAMPS AND CHARITY

The London Swiss Philatelic Society has both Swiss and British members, and the numbers seem to be on the up and up — 55 sat down to the Annual Dinner at the Dorchester Hotel on 28th February. All the officers of the Society were present; they had been re-elected a month earlier at the Annual General Meeting: Mr. W. Burren (President), Mr. D. Paschoud (Vice-President), Mr. M. Rothlisberger (Hon. Treasurer), Mrs. D. Paschoud (Hon. Packet Superintendent) and Miss A. Grunberg (Hon. Secretary). The President was in the chair, and he welcomed a number of guests, among them Mr. R. A. G. Lee, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the 1970 International Stamp Exhibition, an eminent collector who is President of the National Philatelic Society and of many other organisations. Among the guests were several Honorary Members, and the President mentioned in particular Mrs. K. Goodman, Secretary of the Middlesex Philatelic Federation to which the London Swiss Society is affiliated and the Editor of the "Swiss Observer". On the other hand, the absence due to illness of the former President and Patron of the Society, Mr. Fred Streit, was greatly deplored, and a letter of sympathy and good wishes for a speedy recovery was sent to him.

The Club's funds benefited by more than £20 from the raffle which was held after the dinner, and many handsome prizes were carried home. That custom is not new, and a number of Swiss societies, some even quite well-to-do, adhere to it. What is quite outstanding, however, is the stamp auction which is organised every year, and whose proceeds are always shared between a Swiss and a British charity. Over £40 was realised, and this year the Swiss Benevolent Society shared it with Dr. Barnardo's Homes.

A report of the happy evening would not be complete without mentioning the presentation of the various trophies won by members in the Annual Cup Competition.

It was the first time the Society had ventured into Park Lane luxury, and it could decidedly be called a success. The newly decorated Stanhope Suite provided a not-too-ornate background, and the turkey dinner was done justice to in no uncertain manner. But above all, it was the friendly atmosphere which proved that stamp collectors are by no means dry by nature, on the contrary, their wit and sense of humour gave the evening a special mark.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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