

# Federation of Swiss societies in the United Kingdom

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sion to the Court of St. James's. For 2½ years he and Madame de Fischer, as well as their three young daughters, stayed in the British capital and took part in the Colony's activities.

We wish Monsieur de Fischer a memorable birthday and many happy returns of it.

(MM)

### MENTAL ABERRATION!

Although we were present at Mr. Th. Dudli's exposé at the June meeting of the Swiss Mercantile Society, we somehow managed to report in the last issue that he had been speaking at the *Anglo-Swiss Society!* There can't be anything Freudian about this slip. To all those members of the Anglo-Swiss Society who thought they had missed a good function, as indeed it was, we apologise and shall do our best not to describe this Society's next event under the heading of "Anglo-Swiss Society".

### BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

The following couples will be celebrating wedding anniversaries within the next few weeks: Mr. and Mrs. W. Pellet on 16th July (1918), Mr. and Mrs. W. Scheddler on 17th July (1935). On 27th July, Mr. and Mrs. F. Dela-loye (1913), and on 11th August Mr. and Mrs. V. Bataillard (1919).

On 17th July, Father P. Bossard will have his birthday, and on 21st July, Mr. J. Zimmermann will be 81, and Mr. B. Truninger (Zurich) will be 64 on 4th August. Mrs. A. Schmid of Glendower Hotel fame will have her birthday on 6th and Mrs. A. Bachofen will be 71 on 10th August.

Mr. Victor Bataillard of 20 Keyes Garden, Newcastle, will have a very special birthday on 2nd August. He will be 90. He is a mechanical engineer from the Federal Institute in Zurich and arrived in Great Britain in 1908. A very happy birthday to him and many happy returns to all our readers whose birthdays fall within the next few weeks.

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## SWITZERLAND

*Ah, sweet land of sunshine strength  
and might  
From the valley low to towering height  
Beauty joy and mystery  
Tell me how you came to be  
I will guess—and surely I am right.*

*When the wicked Lucifer did fight  
With his Angels in the heaven's night  
All the great foundations rocked  
And a bit of heav'n was knocked  
off, tho' Gabriel tried to hold it tight.*

*Then did all the angels look with fright  
But they all agreed, that it was quite  
Futile to regain this bit  
So the great Archangel writ:  
'Piece of heaven fallen out of sight'*

*See the lakes all shining bright  
And the mountain peaks all tipped  
with white  
Land where first the Angels trod  
Switzerland was kissed by God  
That is why 'tis always bathed in  
light.*

J.M.V.

(This poem has been sent to us by a reader and composed by his late wife.)



### ERNST KUEBLER

We have the sad duty of announcing the passing away of *Mr. Ernst Kuebler*, of Sulzbergstrasse 6, Winterthur, at the age of 84. He was buried on Thursday, 1st July in the Rosenberg Church of Winterthur. Mr. Kuebler was a prominent Swiss of the North and is well remembered in Manchester. We should like to extend to Mrs. Kuebler and his large family our deepest sympathy.

### FEDERATION OF SWISS SOCIETIES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

*The following is a report on an extraordinary meeting of Presidents and representatives of member organisations in London, held on 30th June at Swiss House, Fitzroy Square, W.1.*

*As a number of important decisions were arrived at, which are of great interest to the Colony at large, this report has been sent to all Federation members and to "The Swiss Observer".*

The meeting responded to this new Federation President to express its views on alternative possibilities left open after the probable abandonment of the original FORUM scheme at the Swiss Centre. Pending its formal announcement the consideration of alternative possibilities has become a matter of urgency, as Dr. Egli explained, in order to enable an appeal being made to the FORUM donors to leave part of the whole of their contributions, made or promised, standing

for the possible use of an alternative scheme to be pursued expeditiously.

The meeting responded to this new situation with an evident determination at least to fully explore what could be done, for which it promptly authorised the necessary steps and preliminary expenditure.

One possibility discussed was a possible request to Swiss Centre Ltd. to grant the Colony the free use of the so-called COLONY ROOM at the back of the FORUM as originally planned as a pied-à-terre for the young Swiss and meeting place for the Colony. It emerged that the Churches could no longer provide the promised supervision of such a room at the Swiss Centre because they have now found an interim solution of their problems elsewhere. This important condition for the running of the COLONY ROOM not being met the Meeting concluded that this possibility is not practicable. The President was asked to notify the owners accordingly and inform them of a RESOLUTION of the Meeting deploring the probable non-realisation of the FORUM scheme and expressing the hope that the interests and image of Switzerland will not be allowed to suffer by the alternative uses to be made of the premises in question.

The other possibility discussed at the Meeting concerns the JOINT SCHEME suggested some months ago for the solution of our various accommodation problems in one impressive building in a reasonably central position.

The essential minimum of the scheme would be a combination of the Church requirements with a COMMUNITY CENTRE for social and cultural use as planned in the FORUM but on a more modest scale. The main hall holding perhaps 250 persons with a stage and appropriately fitted out would be available to the Colony and its Societies as well as for concerts and exhibitions, etc. on week days. The CHURCHES would hold their Services in smaller rooms and in the main hall only when exceptionally large congregations are expected. As additional facilities for joint use a Canteen and Bar, a games room, etc. should be provided. The erection of some flats on upper floors for the pastors and a housekeeper should also be considered.

Everyone recognises that the Joint Scheme would of course benefit enormously from an eventual PARTICIPATION OF OTHER LIVE ORGANISATIONS, especially the Swiss Mercantile College and the Swiss Hostel for Girls, both of which are also in urgent need of improved accommodation. If they are willing they could join in the Scheme on the basis of owning and running their own parts of the building using shared services only as found convenient or more economical.

The decision must of course be left to each potential participant. But the Meeting expressed its strong support in principle of a joint scheme by unanimously passing and signing a **JOINT DECLARATION** the text of which is enclosed herewith. The importance of the Declaration for the appeal to the **FORUM** donors and for the support of our authorities is self-evident. All the Presidents of member-societies who were unable to be present at the Meeting are invited to join in the Declaration by signing the form appended herewith and sending it to the Federation President.

Not content with these abstract decisions the Meeting spontaneously also decided on actually setting in motion the necessary **CONCRETE STEPS** to fully explore the feasibility of a joint scheme without delay.

- 1) The President was requested to proceed urgently with the elaboration of preliminary plans and cost estimates of the various possibilities of joining forces with the aid of a qualified architect and other experts as needed, and to search for suitable sites.
- 2) The President was authorised to incur the necessary expenses for above purposes up to a provisional amount of £600 on basis of various contributions offered at the Meeting.
- 3) The President was appointed sole negotiator and spokesman for the Joint Scheme in this purely exploratory stage for the sake of simplifying contacts and speeding progress.

All ultimate decisions on the realisation of one or another version of a Joint Scheme will have to be taken by each potential participant organisation at its own responsibility but based on precise concrete plans and estimates. The President would be happy to receive practical suggestions, comments and offers of help at his private address.

Dr. H. W. Egli, 17 Corringham Road, London, N.W.11. Telephone: 01-455 4923.

#### **JOINT DECLARATION**

of Presidents and representatives of Swiss societies and organisations in London convened on 30th June, 1971 at "Swiss House", 34/35 Fitzroy Square, London, W.1.

In view of the possible abandonment of the main scheme for a cultural and social centre in the Swiss Centre building in London and

in view of the possibility of realising on a different basis at least that part of the original scheme providing a pied-à-terre for the thousands of young Swiss de passage in London as well as a social meeting place for our societies.

The undersigned Presidents and Representatives of Swiss societies and

organisations in London and the U.K. **DECLARE** that they attach great importance to the provision of such social facilities at the present time in the interest of our young compatriots and the cohesion of our so widely spread Colony;

**PLEDGE** their support for the efforts in hand towards that end and their willingness to seek to procure the agreement of the organisations to contribute to the realisation of a sound new scheme to be elaborated expeditiously the capital sums and other practical forms of support previously intended for the Forum of Switzerland; and

**CALL UPON** the donors of the Forum of Switzerland to leave the whole or part of their contributions or promises of such standing with a view to making them available for the realisation of such a limited scheme.

Signed by F. A. de Maria (Unione Ticinese); V. Berti (Swiss Benevolent Society); Mariann Meier (Nouvelle Société Helvétique); L. S. R. Asch (Schweizerbund); Paul Bossard (the Swiss Churches); W. Burren (London Swiss Philatelic Society); F. O. Haeusermann (Swiss Mercantile Society); M. Bucherer (Swiss Rifle Association); H. W. Egli (Federation of Swiss Societies).

Witnessed at the Meeting by F. Adams (Swiss Consul); F. Birrer (Swiss Cultural Attaché).

#### **THE CITY SWISS CLUB SUMMER DANCE**

The City Swiss Club held its annual summer dance in the "Thatched Barn" in Hertfordshire. From hearsay we have learnt that it was an exceptionally successful evening with good food and a happy atmosphere. There were 112 people present. A good Mexican-style band was very popular, judging from the happy dancing. Swiss wines were served. The place was not genuinely old, unlike Greatfosters, the usual venue for this event. It resembled a film set—as this is in fact is what it was, having been built for Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, or some such film company—except for small parts which are genuinely old.

There were no speeches. The City Swiss Club's new President and the immediate past President, Mr. F. Kuhn opened the dancing with their wives. The Embassy was well represented by Dr. Iselin, First Counsellor, Dr. Birrer, Cultural Attaché, Dr. Jagmetti, Press Attaché and Mr. Dudli, Vice-Consul and their ladies. Some societies were represented by their presidents—such as the Nouvelle Société Helvétique, with Mrs. M. Meier present, and the German-speaking Parish Council, with its new Chairman, Mr. Glarner and Mrs. Glarner present. There were some very old members like Mr. and

Mrs. P. Bessire and Mr. and Mrs. W. Flory. There was also a great many young people who helped to keep the party in full swing until 1 a.m. A splendid job had been done as usual by Mr. L. Jobin in planning the tables and selling tickets. The consensus of opinion was that the 1971 Summer Dance was a great event enjoying an excellent choice of venue.

(PMB)

#### **A NEW DIPLOMATIC PRACTICE**

The division for protocol at the Political Department has vested the first counsellors of the more important Swiss Embassies with the title of "plenipotentiary ministers". Thus our Dr. Jurg Iselin, First Counsellor at the Embassy in London, has been awarded this honorary title. The Embassy explained that it will facilitate his movements in the Foreign Office and other distinguished areas. The diplomats of equivalent rank in the high commissions also enjoy the title of "Minister". We should like to extend our congratulations to Dr. Iselin.

#### **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

**SWISS NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION** at 19.30 p.m. sharp at Wimbledon Town Hall on Saturday, 31st July.

**SWISS CLUB MANCHESTER.** 1st August Celebration at the Cottons Hotel, near Knutsford at 8 p.m. on Monday, 2nd August.

**SECOURS MUTUELS,** no meetings until October.

**CITY SWISS CLUB,** no meeting until 21st September.

**SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY,** no meeting until 8th September.

**SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION,** no meeting until 5th September.

**SCWHEIZERBUND Dinner** at Edgwarebury Country Club, Barnet Lane, Elstree, Herts. on Friday, 30th July at 7.30 p.m. For details phone the Secretary at 734 1921.

**NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE,** Thursday, 22nd July at the Swiss Hostel for Girls. Open Meeting. Talk by Prof. Erich Gruner. "Die Schweiz seit 1945".

**ASSEMBLY OF THE SWISS ABROAD.** 27th-29th August at Brunnen.

#### **CULTURAL EVENTS**

16th, 20th, 22nd, 24th, 26th, 28th July, 1st, 3rd August. Glyndebourne Festival Opera. The tenor *Hughes Cuenod* is soloist in *La Calisto*.

24th July to 7th August. Kettles Yard Gallery, Cambridge, paintings by *Cuno Amiet* (1868-1961) and *Giovanni Giacometti* (1868-1933).