

# Swiss Catholics

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promoters of the project and Swiss firms, the required money was raised or promised. The Swiss societies of London also pledged to pour all their liquid assets into the Forum. Unfortunately, the cost of fitting up the Forum (which was just an empty concrete space) had by then soared to £400,000 and the monies available were no longer sufficient.

With all these setbacks piling up, the promoters of the Forum project gave it up and the Embassy refunded money to thousands of donors. Swiss Centre Ltd., a company owned by Swissair, the SNTO and the Swiss Bank Corporation managing the Swiss Centre assets, waited for well over a year before it found an adequate tenant. The Leeds-based company which runs the "Swiss Centre" Cinema will probably cause less worry and prove more profitable financially than the defunct Forum, in expectation of which Swiss Centre Ltd. had lost thousands of pounds of revenue by leaving vast premises vacant.

A cinema is certainly a more secure venture even if it is infinitely more mundane than a Forum planned as a show-case for Switzerland and intended to house distinguished gatherings and business seminars. Instead you can see, non-committally, the most bouncy jog of naked behinds in the very area dreamed by the Forum promoters as the venue of

cultural exhibitions. However, that depends on how long the *Canterbury Tales* will be on view.

Another vacant space found a tenant and added to the Swiss Centre's profitability. About eight months ago, an excellent Steak House opened on Wardour Street to the left of the Cinema. Where there were just empty windows, there is now a bar for the appetiser and two recesses with tables and chairs. An attractive hostess greets you and leads you upstairs to the Restaurant, which is pleasantly illuminated and decorated with white lattices.

Service is truly excellent, somewhat better than at the Swiss Centre Restaurants in the basement) and the waiter or *maitre d'hotel* at least three times during one's meal come to ask if everything is up to par. All the staff seem Spanish and to avoid the language obstacle it is advisable to point out one's choice on the Menu rather than spell them out.

Prices are cheap by West End standards. For cream of tomato soup, roll and butter, lamb chop, jacket potatoes and spinach, a Lager and two cups of coffee served from a *Cona* we only paid an all-inclusive £1.95.

The new Cinema and London Steak House have certainly enhanced the prestige of the Swiss Centre. *P.M.B.*

of a draw conducted through the postal service did not warrant the outlay and the enormous amount of time involved in running a Christmas draw. Thanks to the great generosity of some of the Swiss firms and friends giving us cash donations instead of gifts in kind and the kind response to Father Paul Bossard's Christmas appeal to our regular supporters of the previous Christmas draw, we are very happy to say that we have more than made up the income we derived last year from the Christmas draw.

We thank the Editor of *The Swiss Observer* Mr. Pierre Michel Béguin and the publishers for accepting our appeals and reports on our social activities during the year.

O. Grob, Chairman

## CHAPLAIN'S REPORT

Our Chaplain, the Rev. Fr. Paul Bossard reported as follows:

The year 1972 marked the 30th anniversary of the Swiss Catholic Mission in London. There was, however, not much time for festivities as the problems of the new accommodation had to be dealt with, and that took a lot of time and work out of the chaplain and those who tried to help him. An article, summing up the history of the first 30 years was published in the Swiss Bank Corporation Newsletter, the *Swiss Observer* and the *Schweizerische Kirchenzeitung*, the information paper for the clergy in Switzerland.

The pastoral work was carried out as usual. But after the 17th February, when St. Ann's Church had to be cleared, it was not always easy for the people to find the residence of the chaplain, who had found temporary accommodation at 3 Abbey Orchard Street. The Sunday Service at 48 Great Peter Street and the following social activities enjoyed, as usual, great support. It was, however, felt that the number of people who attended Sunday Mass was less than before. This had to be expected as the atmosphere of St. Ann's Church had done a lot to attract people. A hall, which was used during the week for different purposes (even for football) with little friendly atmosphere, needed great idealism to be accepted as a place of worship. Though the number of participants was very much less than before, the number of those who received holy communion remained nearly the same.

There were two baptisms but no marriage and it will take some time still until the usual church functions are reorganised. The Unione Ticinese celebrated their annual memorial Mass and realised with surprise that it was homelier and more intimate than before. The possibility to sit together after the service and have a drink certainly helped.

The Youth Club with its different social activities flourished as usual. Excursions, holiday camp in Ireland, discussions, film shows and dances attracted a great number of young people. One group of them, catholics and

# COMMITTEE OF SWISS CATHOLICS

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF 12th APRIL 1973

The Annual General Meeting was held on Thursday, 12th April, 1973 at 6.30 p.m. at the John Southworth Centre, 48 Great Peter Street. After opening prayers, the Chairman Mr. Oscar Grob K.S.G. extended a warm welcome to all present.

## FINANCE

Our Hon. Treasurer, Mr. I. R. Daetwiler, in his Finance Report, said:

With the contributions from 59 Donors and the 48 generous Donations received, in answer to our Christmas Appeal, from Swiss Firms and Friends, the Sunday collections, Income Tax recovered under covenants, the two most generous donations received i.e. £140 from the City Swiss Club and £158.65 Share of contributions of the Swiss Embassy Personnel re Bazaar of Eglise Suisse de Londres, Westminster Central Hall on 4th November, 1972 and the proceeds of sale remaining goods and the accrued bank interest, we had a total income of £1,190.27 against our Expenditure of £1,112.32 resulting in a surplus of £77.95 for the year.

The accounts were duly passed by the Meeting with thanks to the Hon. Treasurer.

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman said in his Report the following:

On 1st June, 1972 we sent the Report of our last annual General Meeting held on 11th May, 1972 at 48 Great Peter Street, SW1P 2HA to our donors and friends giving a record of the developments and our activities which took place in 1971.

I am pleased to state that having registered in 1971 and as a Benevolent Society under the Friendly Societies Act 1896 (Register No. 100 BEN) and having been entered in the Central Register of Charities (Charity number 262722) under the Charities Act 1960 we are entitled to exemption from tax under Section 360 (1) Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1970.

On the 5th October, 1972 we received confirmation from the Registry of Friendly Societies, Central Office, that the change on the situation of our registered office to 48 Great Peter Street, London SW1P 2HA had been registered as an amendment of rules under the Friendly Societies Act 1896.

On account of the increased cost both of postage and printing of the draw tickets and the decreases in the sale of these, the Committee of Management came to the conclusion that the net profit

protestants met regularly on Sundays at 4 p.m. for prayer and bible studies. The photoclub was not yet able to resume its activities, since the laboratory is not finished yet. It will re-open again in 1973.

Accommodation and office for the chaplain was so far ready by the middle of December, that he was able to move from his temporary accommodation. This was the hardest struggle, since the builder who was employed and had promised to finish by the end of March proved utterly unreliable and incompetent. After one of his workman had started a fire on the roof area which had done considerable damage (13th May), he lost interest which brought the work to a practical standstill. After the fact of a broken contract had finally been established he was dismissed. Mr. John Staunton, clerk of works at the Westminster Cathedral, offered his help. From 15th November until well into 1973 he worked with the chaplain and some helpers, often late into the night, undid the sloppy work of the previous builder and really made good what had been neglected. Some outside and inside work, a full redecoration and a new system of central heating lies still ahead but thanks to him and all the helpers the financial loss has been kept at a minimum. The building Account has not yet been closed but it is hoped that it will not be more than about 15 to 20% above the estimated cost – if no unforeseen problem is encountered.

The ecumenical co-operation with the protestant communities proved a real blessing, all the social activities are now run on a ecumenical basis, the mothers group on the third Wednesday of the month, the youth club activities, and in conducting the divine service there is mutual help and assistance.

The news magazines *Die Stimme* and *Messenger* have been greatly improved. Through the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad in Berne an amount of Fr. 5000 was received from the Swiss First of August Collection towards the cost of a printing machine. This enables us to prepare all our necessary printed matter ourselves and have it duplicated by off-set printing which reduces the cost by nearly 50%. It does mean more work, but it offers more scope. Since the information service is one of the most important tasks in our field of work, this is well worth the trouble.

All in all, one can say that the move from St. Ann's Church to the John Southworth Centre in 48 Great Peter Street has been successfully completed. It remains to find out, how far the chaplain can involve himself in the successful running of this Youth and Community Centre to the benefit of the Swiss Community in London. There is a different approach to former times when the young Swiss were more for themselves and the chaplain had his own church to look after. The year 1973 will probe the way a little bit further.

Our thanks go to His Eminence Cardinal Heenan, the Diocesan Finance Offices and the Parish of Westminster for

the co-operation and help in this difficult year and for the welcome we have received at 48 Great Peter Street.

We are also very grateful to the *Schweizerische Fastenopfer* who has considerably raised its yearly contribution and has always shown a great interest in the work of the Swiss Catholic Mission in London.

We thank His Excellency the Swiss Ambassador, Mr. A. Weitnauer, and the staff of the Swiss Embassy for the interest, help and co-operation received and also the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad in Berne for the substantial support.

A special thank to everybody who has helped me during the strenuous year 1972, the pastors of the protestant churches, Bruno Frei and all the other helpers who were always ready to work during their free time to make the move a success. Here I also include especially the untiring work rendered by our Chairman, Mr. O. Grob, and Mr. I. R. Daetwiler with all the members of the Committee who took part in all the anguish and were always ready to assist with work and advice, whenever the chaplain was in a tight corner, which happened more than once.

Paul Bossard, Chaplain

#### ELECTION OF THE COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

The Chairman thanked the Chaplain, the officers, the Hon. Auditor and the members for their loyal support given to him during the past year. He especially mentioned the hard work rendered by our Hon. Treasurer Mr. I. R. Daetwiler.

Fr. Paul Bossard was elected to act as temporary Chairman,

The following were unanimously elected:

Chairman: Mr. O. Grob

Vice-Chairman: Mr. M. Schneebeli

Hon. Treasurer: Mr. I. R. Daetwiler

#### HON. AUDITOR

Mr. S. B. Stray, A.C.I.S. was unanimously re-appointed as our Hon. Auditor for the ensuing year.

On resuming the Chair Mr. O. Grob thanked the Meeting for the confidence shown in re-electing him as Chairman.

*E. P. Siegfried, Hon. Secretary.*

#### In memoriam

##### Robert Lehner FHCI FCFA

12th August, 1892, St. G 11

22nd April, 1967, Goring by Sea

Secretary, Swiss, 21, with knowledge of German, French and English, is looking for a job in London or surroundings with the purpose of

improving her English. No working permit. Please write to Swiss Observer, Box No. 1.

#### Wedding

We have great pleasure in announcing the marriage of *Miss Kaye Hearn* to *Mr. Anthony Bartholdi*. The wedding will take place at the Church of St. William of York, Da Cros Drive, Stanmore, on Saturday, 1st September at 4.00 p.m.

#### Rectification

Owing to an unfortunate error in our report on the death of *Mrs. Lucie Meyer-Tissot* in our 13th July issue, we referred to her late husband as "Mr. Tissot". This should naturally have read "Mr. Meyer." We apologise for this error to the relatives of the family.

Apologies are also due to those who were misguided by a printing error in the "forthcoming events" announcement of our 22nd June issue. The *Nouvelle Société Helvétique* July meeting was unfortunately dated on Thursday 16th July instead of Thursday 19th July.

#### Acrow executive released by terrorists in Argentina

Mr. Charles Lockwood, 63, Chairman of Argentinian subsidiary of the Acrow Group of companies, was set free at the end of July after having been held captive for six weeks by left-wing urban guerrillas. The "Peoples Revolutionary Army" had demanded 2 million dollars for his release. The Acrow Group was founded by Mr. William A. de Vigier, a compatriot who both manages and chairs its British companies.

## Obituaries

#### MRS. MARIE ROSE LANG-CHENAUX

We have sadly to report the death on 20th June after a short illness of *Mrs. Marie Rose Lang-Chenaux*, of 18 Falmouth Road, Springfield, Chelmsford, Essex. She was 84 and had come to this country in 1913. Both she and her husband, whom she lost in 1951, had remained Swiss nationals. Mrs. Lang had lived for many years in Oxford, where she is buried. She is survived by two daughters, to both of them we should like to extend our heartfelt sympathy.

#### ARMIN BAENZIGER

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Mr. Armin Baenziger, of 4 Dulwich Wood Park, SE 19. He died on Monday, 23rd July at the age of 78. Hailing from the Canton of Appenzell, he came to this country as a very young man. He joined the well-known non-ferrous metal merchants A. Strauss & Co. to which he devoted all his working life. He advanced to Manager,