

News from the colony

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THE "SCHWEIZERBUND" AT HATFIELD HOUSE

On Friday, 16th November, 1973, some 20 members and friends of the "Schweizerbund" Swiss Club gathered at the Old Palace, Hatfield Park, Herts, for an informal Dinner. And what a Dinner it was! It is rare nowadays to find good English food, at reasonable cost, served by charming and friendly waitresses. Yet these were the criteria that prevailed during this memorable evening.

The manor of Hatfield was given to the church of Ely by the Anglo-Saxon King Edgar, and the Old Palace of Hatfield was built by Bishop John Morton between about 1480 and 1497 as a residence for the Bishops of Ely. Morton's Palace was one of the first substantial buildings in England to be constructed entirely of brick. The surviving west wing is dominated by the Great Hall, remarkable for its splendid late mediaeval timber roof of chestnut and oak. King Henry VIII was a regular visitor to Hatfield and took such a liking to the Palace that in 1538 he acquired it from Bishop Thomas Goodrick of Ely. Henry VIII used the Palace as a nursery for his children, Mary, Edward and Elizabeth, but it is with Elizabeth that Hatfield is particularly associated. She passed much of her childhood here, and during Queen Mary's reign she was virtually a prisoner at Hatfield. She is said to have been sitting reading under an oak tree in the Park when in 1558 the news of Queen Mary's death was brought to her from London.

Elizabeth held her first Council meeting in the Great Hall, at which she appointed William Cecil, later Lord Burghley, to be her Principal Secretary (Prime Minister). William Cecil remained Elizabeth's chief minister for forty years until his death. His son Robert, 1st Earl of Salisbury, was equally gifted and became Principal Secretary and Lord Treasurer to King James I. In 1607 the King granted him Hatfield in exchange for his house at Theobalds. Robert immediately began building his splendid mansion, Hatfield House, making use of bricks from three sides of the Palace, which he pulled down. The remaining wing contained the Great Hall, which has survived to this day. Hatfield House, completed a short time after Robert Cecil's death in 1612, is still the residence of his descendant, the Marquess of Salisbury.

The Committee of the "Schweizerbund" hopes to organise another Dinner at Hatfield House next summer, when the beauty of the Manor and its surrounding park can best be enjoyed.

J.S.

SWISS CLUB, MANCHESTER

On Thursday, 25th October, 1973, Members and Friends assembled in the Personnel Restaurant of Messrs. Ciba-Geigy (UK), Simonsway, Heald Green, at 19.00 for what was to be a most interesting Photo Competition. This event was well-prepared in advance, the three judges appointed being Messrs. R. Mueller, G. Thorp and D. Andrew, all of them connoisseurs in the art of photography.

Our President, Mr. Peter Senn, opened the proceedings by welcoming everybody present, in particular our Consul-General and Madame Born, and the three judges – one of them being Mr. Richard Mueller, a member of both the Northern Swiss Clubs, and he explained to us the workings of this type of competition. He thanked our hosts for their friendly hospitality, which by now has become something of a tradition with us.

The exhibits comprised colour-slides and prints covering such classes as landscapes, family scenes, not forgetting the humorous types. Fixing priorities from such a great array of high class photos must have been a most difficult task and taxed the imaginations of our good judges to breaking point. They could, however, be assured of a sporting and friendly acceptance of their judgement from the competitors, as not all their hopes could be fulfilled.

The buffet and drinks were of the usual high standard and helped greatly to create a happy and friendly social atmosphere, well-suited to lively and amicable discussion and interchange of ideas.

One of the highlights of the evening was undoubtedly the showing of a most interesting film entitled *Smithfield Market, Manchester* today already of an eminently historical value. The producer of this work – a young Swiss – can be proud of such a documentary effort, full of vitality, human interest and artistic conception, accompanied by a well-chosen commentary and imaginative music. It was a real treat for everybody present and our young compatriot deserves the highest praise for it.

Our Committee can be satisfied with the outcome of the evening and by the response received from the auditorium take stimulus for further action in that direction.

E. Berner

SWISS OF THE NORTH

A fair number of members and friends of the Yorkshire Swiss Club assembled on Friday, 2nd November, 1973, in the premises of the Foreign Club at 10 Eldon Place, Bradford. This meeting was ably conducted by Mr. Jack

Lowe in the absence of the President who, through illness, was prevented from attending.

Mr. Richard Mueller gave us a most interesting talk illustrated by beautiful slides, starting with the smoke covered Bradford, as he saw it when he first came to England 35 years ago. He conducted us on his many camping expeditions, through changing seasons, to the Lake District and Scotland, giving us also glimpses of Switzerland and the little village where he was born. We could admire the wonderful variety of alpine flowers and animals still to be found in the higher places concluding with a "Berg-Tour" in the Monte Roas Group made with a guide.

It was indeed an enjoyment to listen to his clear and lively commentary which greatly enhanced this show and at the end of it the warm and sincere applause was the only way he could be thanked.

The usual coffee and a friendly chat concluded this very pleasant evening, gladly to be remembered by all of us.

E. B.

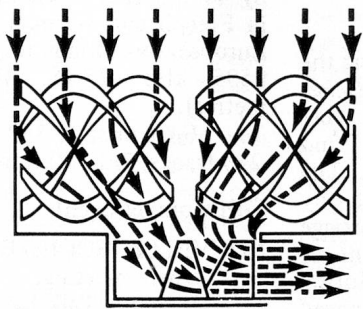
SWISS FIRM IN BRITAIN SELLS EQUIPMENT TO THE RAF

Rolba Limited, of Charlwoods Road, East Grinstead, have recently made a major breakthrough on the British market by delivering twelve highly efficient "R-400" motorised snowploughs to the RAF and taking orders for another twelve. Rolba Limited are the British concessionaires of Rolba AG in Switzerland, whose plant is in Wetzikon. A leading specialist in snow-moving equipment, Rolba has sold machines to hundreds of users in Switzerland. They can be seen busily shifting mountains of snow from roads and railway lines all over the country on any February day. But they have also been used for the past twenty years by British local authorities. The model selected by the RAF will be used for clearing runways. It is capable of cutting and ejecting up to 800 tons of snow an hour. This mass of snow can either be ejected through a loading chute on to a vehicle next to the snowplough or be expelled at distances of 60 to 130 feet. The machine bought (after extensive testing) by the RAF is thus able to clear runways 260 feet wide. A distinctive feature of the "R-400" and the larger or smaller machines of the new Rolba range is their simplicity of handling. Any inexperienced driver can sit in their silent and heated cab to get the rated performance of the machine thanks to a hydraulic transmission which simplifies manoeuvring enormously. Rolba snowploughs work on a rotary principle. They consist of a system of open helical cutter blades rotating on an axle which is

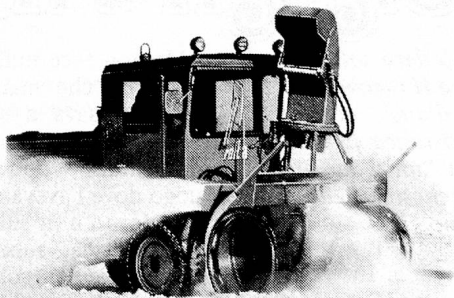


Winter Wonderland

It depends on your point of view. To children, snow means tobogganing, snowmen, snowball fights. To you it means problems. Rolba know all about such problems and as a result they have some very effective methods of dealing with them. But whichever Rolba Snowplough you decide on, you know it will have the unique Rolba Rotary Snowclearing mechanism.



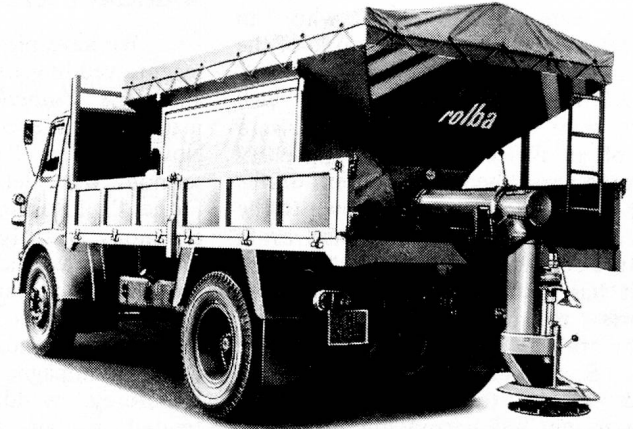
It was invented in 1947, so there are no worries about teething troubles. It's a two-stage system with two different "tools". Firstly, the snow is cut into manageable chunks by rotating cutting blades and gathered inside the plough. The blades propel the snow towards the impeller housing at accelerated speed, preventing clogging. In the second stage the snow passes through the impeller which is moving at approximately twice the speed of the cutter blades, so the snow is accelerated again until it reaches the velocity required for casting it over distances of up to 50 yards. It doesn't matter if the snow is wet and heavy, clearance is just as effective and even the hardest, frozen, compacted snow is easily manageable.



As if all this efficiency and reliability weren't enough, every Rolba Snowplough carries a two-year Guarantee.

To back up this efficient snowclearing you need really efficient Gritters.

Rolba-Weisser Gritters are the most advanced you can buy. The Archimedean-screw feeding principle, hydraulically powered, is used, ensuring an even, accurate and infinitely variable rate of spread. A separate hydraulic motor drives the spinner disc enabling immediate variation of the spreading width.



A wide variety of spreading patterns are achieved due to the unique 360° turnable feeding nozzle fitted to all Rolba-Weisser Bulk Gritter Bodies. Standard components are used throughout the range enabling interchangeability of individual parts between different models and every Bulk Gritter unit carries a two-year Guarantee. Smaller attachments are available for tractors, Land-Rovers and individual lorries.



Charlwoods Road,
East Grinstead, East Sussex.
Telephone East Grinstead 21161/2
Telex 95290

To: Rolba Ltd, Charlwoods Road, East Grinstead, East Sussex.

- Please send me full details of your snowclearing equipment.
- Please send me full details of the Rolba-Weisser Gritter.

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

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horizontal and stretches across the front of the vehicle. The blades remove the snow from the mass and feed it into the ejector wheels, a kind of blower discharging snow through an ejector nozzle for distances of over 100 ft. Rolba machines range from the giant RR-2000, used by the Federal Railways, to the "Snow-Baby", a snowplough of the size of a lawn-mower. It could be a good Christmas idea for readers with country estates and snow-clearing problems!

NEW SWISS SUCCESS AT WEST END CINEMA

Judging from the time it has remained on the screen of the Academy Cinema in London, Claude Goretta's film *L'Invitation* appears to be as successful as Tanner's *La Salamandre*, which remained in the same cinema for about six weeks last April and May. Claude Goretta and Alain Tanner are considered as the leading Swiss directors of the day. But *L'Invitation* is to our mind superior to *La Salamandre* and certainly better than Suter's *Les Aprenteurs* shown (with *L'Invitation*) at the recent Swiss film fortnight at the National Film Theatre. The three films share the same main actor, Jean-Luc Bideau, who in *L'Invitation* plays the befitting role of the dreadful office joker.

L'Invitation would lend itself well to the stage. It is the straightforward story of an office house-warming party that turns wrong because — potent drinks aiding — social restraints are thrown to the wind and people reveal themselves in their true colours. While being a "serious" film it has no ideological ambitions. It purports to be no more than a straightforward personality and social study. Some characters are sharply etched. This is the case of the staid, hard-working and narrow-minded office sub-chief who is outraged when money is not taken seriously; there is the opposite personality of the junior typist resenting

the straight-collared atmosphere of the business establishment and who intentionally seeks to assert herself by shocking her elders; there is the totally unambitious employee whose sole interest lies with his many children and who scrounges the food from his rich friend's table. The film humorously depicts various reactions to the wealth of others. Bideau, who is an intrinsically funny character, is relied upon for the comic effects of the film. He has a rather heavy humour (and a Geneva accent which makes French audiences scream) which should however not be overplayed. *L'Invitation* is a technically more refined film than *La Salamandre* since it is in colour.

Standing out in the cast is Francois Simon, son of the great Michel Simon. He plays the role of the enigmatic waiter who has been hired to officiate at the house-warming party.

L'Invitation is a good film which we can only recommend. If the Academy decides to continue presenting the Swiss cinema to the British public, it is likely that its next try-out will be Tanner's *Retour d'Afrique*, which is already enjoying success in France.

MARRIAGE AT SWISS CHURCH

We have pleasure in announcing the recent wedding of *Mr. Armin Loetscher* and *Miss Ysabelle Gerard*. They were married at the Swiss Church on 22nd November by Pastor Uli Stefan. The sermon was delivered in English by Father Paul Bossard, making this marriage ceremony a truly ecumenical event. A reception was held later at the St. Moritz, the discotheque and wine-cellar managed by Mr. Loetscher in Wardour Street. The numerous attendance was warmed up with champagne before tasting the five-storey wedding cake and being treated to an abundant buffet. Mr. Loetscher is, statistically, the best known Swiss in London since many of the thousands of young Swiss who come here

every year make the St. Moritz their usual evening haunt. We hope that Armin will be as lucky in wedlock as he is at Tombola. For two years running, he has won the first prize at the City Swiss Club Annual Ball Raffle. Last year, he won a trip for two to Holland. On November 16th he left the Dorchester Hotel with a hi-fi and stereo radiogramme. We wish him and his spouse every happiness for the future.

P.M.B.

Christmas Competition

The Swiss Short-Wave Services have welcomed their listeners across the world to a Christmas Competition. Listeners are invited to send a 1-2 page piece on the little known Christmas customs of their country of residence or on any personal experience related to Christmas. These reports are to be written or recorded in English and to reach Berne by 10th December. Listeners will choose the best stories selected by a Jury for transmission on the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation's Worldwide Christmas Programme. This will be broadcasted on 25th December and repeated the following day. All votes have to reach the "SBC Christmas Competition" (3000 Berne 16, Switzerland) by 1st February. The Short-Wave service in French and German can be heard (in Europe) by tuning to 3985, 6165 and 9535 kHz (75.28, 48.66 and 31.46 metres).

First prize is 350 Swiss francs; 2nd 250 francs; 3rd 150 francs.

Forthcoming Events

NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE:
Open meeting, Thursday, 24th January. Talk by Dr. A. Weitnauer on Swiss foreign policy. Swiss Embassy 7 p.m.

CITY SWISS CLUB: Tuesday 22nd January. Dinner with speaker.

SWISS CLUB EDINBURGH: Tuesday 29th January 8 p.m. Fondue party with the Hartmann family, 46 Queen Street, Edinburgh.

RACCONTO PER NATALE

(Nota del redattore: "Il Natale coi tuoi . . .", così incomincia il detto popolare che consacra l'usanza osservata da tempo immemorabile in tutte le famiglie di ritrovarsi almeno una volta all'anno per "le Feste". In tali riunioni uno nota con rammarico le lacune lasciate dai nostri cari che ci hanno lasciato per sempre. Così è quest'anno per tutti gli svizzeri d'italico idioma in questo primo Natale senza il nostro grande poeta e prosatore, Francesco Chiesa, morto lo scorso mese di luglio nel suo 102° anno. Sfogliando la Sua opera per qualcosa a soggetto natalizio abbiamo trovato nel volume "Compagni di Viaggio" (uscito nel 1931 dai tipi della casa editrice A. Mondadori di Milano) il racconto "PADRE E FIGLIA", del quale per

tirrania di spazio, possiamo dare soltanto le parti III e IV. Le parti I e II raccontano dell'esistenza infelice d'una coppia anziana da quando la loro unica figlia li ha lasciati per sposare un "un violinista tisico, che suona nell'orchestrina d'un cinematografo di terz'ordine".)

III.

Ritornando a casa, l'ingegnere Salvi pensò che, giure a parte, un rimedio indubbiamente c'era; andarsene lui, sradicare la sua vita dal suolo di quella maledetta città, trapiantarla mille miglia lontano. — Sai? — disse alla signora — si va a stare a Palermo.

Ma non fece nulla e non ne riparlò. Si buttò più che mai nei lavori; usciva all'alba, rincasava a sera inoltrata. Una volta partì dicendo che sarebbe stato via la notte. Giunse, dopo due ore di ferrovia, nel luogo dove l'avevano chiamato, lavorò tutto il giorno e in sull'imbrunire rientrò nell'albergo. Ma, subito dopo il pasto, essendo salito per coricarsi, ché cascava dal sonno e dalla stanchezza, e già s'era cavata la giacca, si mise a cercare furiosamente l'orario, scoprì un treno che passava a momenti, ricacciò le sue cose nella valigia e partì. Perché? Rannicchiato in un angolo del carrozzone, chiuse gli occhi e rimase così immobile tutto il tempo del viaggio a domandarsi perché. L'odiosa città dalla quale avrebbe voluto strappare le fondamenta della sua casa,