

# Swiss films at the NFI

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some touching reminiscences of his long experience with Switzerland.

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#### PAUL BUECHLER †

With deep regret, we report the death of *Mr. Paul Buechler*, of "Tomirac", Gill's Cliff Road, Ventnor, Isle of Wight. Mr. Buechler, who would have celebrated his 72nd birthday on 16th June, died on 30th April, at the Isle of Wight County Hospital. He had spent only two weeks there, but his health had declined over the past few years. Born in Zurich in 1902, Mr. Buechler began his career in banking, a job which brought him to work in Bucharest and to spend 30 years in Romania. He eventually joined the Swiss Legation in Bucharest. Later he worked for a few years at the Political Department in Berne before working at the Swiss Embassy in Paris. He retired eight years ago to the Isle of Wight, where he married. He leaves a widow, to whom we should like to express our deepest sympathy, and innumerable friends in the Isle of Wight. Mr. Buechler was indeed an active and patriotic member of the Swiss community in this friendly and beautiful island. Many of them were present at the cremation ceremony which took place at the Isle of Wight crematorium to pay their last tribute to a compatriot whose disappearance will be deeply felt.

#### SWISS FILMS AT THE NFI

The National Film Theatre on the South Bank is staging a festival of Swiss films beginning on Monday, 4th June.

Here is the list of films to be shown:

*The Surveyors* (Les Arpenteurs) by Michell Soutter on Monday, 4th June at 8.45 and Sunday, 10th June at 6.15.

*Charles Dead or Alive* (Charles mort ou vif) by Alain Tanner (director of "La Salamandre") on Monday, 4th June at 6.45 and Friday, 8th June at 8.30.

*The Wedding Day* (Le Jour des Noces) by Claude Goretta on Tuesday, 5th June at 6.15 and Sunday, 10th June at 8.30.

*Tonight or Never* (Heute Nacht oder nie) by Daniel Schmid on Tuesday, 5th June at 8.30 and Monday, 11th June at 6.15.

*Swiss Shorts and Documentaries-1* on Thursday, 7th June at 6.15 and Monday, 11th June at 8.30.

*Swiss Shorts and Documentaries-2* on Thursday, 7th June at 8.30 and Thursday, 14th June at 8.30.

*Alfred R.* by Georg Radanowicz on Friday, 8th June at 6.15 and Thursday, 14th June at 8.30.

Non-members of the NFI are entitled to come except on Saturdays. It

# NEWS FROM THE COLONY

is wise to arrive early or make bookings in advance as the two halls of the NFI are not very large.

All the films mentioned are accompanied by one or two short productions changing every night. All in all, the works of twenty Swiss directors will be screened during the fortnight.

Swiss cinema has come into its own during the past ten years. While French-speaking directors have adapted the French film to their temperament and understanding, German-speaking Swiss directors have shown a tendency to renew the Art from scratch, without God or Master. But in both cases, this new generation of directors sees itself as the critical observer of tradition. Swiss cinema has developed into a political factor which can no longer be ignored.

With Soutter's "Arpenteurs" winning the prize for interpretation of the French Académie du Cinéma and reaping appraisal at the 1972 Cannes Film Festival, and the success obtained all over Europe by "La Salamandre", Swiss Cinema can be said to have made its international break. More over Claude Goretta's latest film, "Invitation", was highly appraised at this month's Cannes Film Festival.

#### CITY SWISS CLUB AGM

The City Swiss Club held its Annual General Meeting at the Dorchester Hotel on 17th April. Once again, this proved a well attended and lively function. The meeting was chaired by the retiring President, Mr. Walter Bion. The Embassy was represented by Dr. Jurg Iselin, First Counsellor.

The minutes of the previous AGM were read by the Secretary and duly approved. Mr. Bion reviewed the activities of the past year. He noted that membership had declined slightly - from 214 to 211 - and mentioned the names of members who had passed away. The Annual Banquet and Ball had again been well attended and some monthly meetings had attracted more members than usual.

Mr. Franz Fraefel, the Treasurer, reported that income had fallen with respect to the previous year owing to a fall in revenue from foreign members and in dividends from the Club's holdings.

In accordance with decisions taken at a previous meeting, charity donations were increased. The meeting unanimously decided that the Swiss Catholic Church, the French and German-speaking Swiss Protestant Churches and the Swiss Benevolent Society should each receive a donation of £140. This money was derived from the Tombola at the Annual Ball. In addition, annual subscriptions ranging from £10.50 to £52.50 were confirmed for the Federation of Swiss

Societies, the Arbre de Noel celebration of the Swiss Church, the Swiss Benevolent Society and the Swiss Observer.

The Club House Fund assets had decreased by 8.75 per cent during the period under review owing to a fall in the value of securities. This fall was smaller than that of the *Financial Times* ordinary shares index.

The Treasurer suggested that the amount of the subscription should be left unchanged despite probable rises in costs. This was agreed by the meeting.

Taking leave of the Club as President, Mr. Bion expressed his gratitude for the outgoing Secretary, Mr. Ackermann, who had held this post for five years and he was warmly supported by the applause of the attendance. Mr. Bion also thanked his Committee and stressed how much he had enjoyed presiding over the Club over the past two years.

Under the chairmanship *pro tem* of Dr. Iselin, the attendance proceeded with the unanimous election of the following members of the Committee: Mr. E. Tangemman; President, Mr. R. Suess, Vice-President; Mr. F. Fraefel, Treasurer; Mr. L. F. Jobin, Asst. Treasurer; Mr. L. Simon, Secretary; Mr. H. P. Holinger, Asst. Secretary; Mr. H. Jauslin, Add. Member; and Mr. E. Tober, Add. Member.

Members re-elected as trustees of the Club House Fund were Messrs E. H. Burnier, Treasurer, L. A. Chapuis and B. E. Jaeggi. Auditors were Mr. F. Augsburg and Mr. O. Brunner and the Press Reporter, Mr. P. M. Béguin.

Mr. Tangemman then took the Chair and thanked members for their confidence and appealed to them to take part more actively in the regular activities of the Club, which he said he would do his best to serve.

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