

Stamp collectors get together again

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STAMP COLLECTORS GET TOGETHER AGAIN

As one has come to expect by now the London Swiss Philatelic Society's annual dinner, held this year at its new venue, the Throgmorton restaurant, was a pleasantly informal event.

Under the guidance of President Alma Grunberg the event reflected all the success it has enjoyed in previous years. In this, her first year in the chair, she seemed totally at ease and among friends as she welcomed her guests.

The gathering was particularly honoured by the presence of Mr. R. A. G. Lee, Immediate Past-President of the Royal Philatelic Society and a signatory to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists, a highly respected body whose first signatory was no less than King George V himself.

In her speech from the chair (she made me swear I would not use the word 'chairperson') Miss Grunberg praised the work of Ron Foster who is standing in for the secretary who was temporarily in the U.S.A.

She added that she had been much helped and encouraged by the enthusiasm and support of all the members. She also paid tribute to many members who had donated such magnificent (and so many) prizes for the tombola.

Miss Grunberg then presented the LSPS cup to Mr. Hausermann, the first time he had won it. But for the recipient of the replica cup for last year's winner,

Mr. Gay, it was a different story – he now holds six.

As usual the evening ended with the traditional auction with Mr. Huber wielding the hammer so ably. One of the lots on offer was a first day Fêtes des Vignerons cover from Vevey which, at

80p, was snapped up by past-president David Paschoud.

The proceeds from the raffle were a commendable £50 which was equally divided between the Swiss Benevolent Society and the Marie Curie Foundation. WGS

Who is laughing at our Navy this time - and why?

Sherlock Holmes sees an ambition achieved – despite the fact that most people think our navy is a joke!

The long-delayed signing of the Anglo-Swiss Naval Treaty was witnessed by Sherlock Holmes on his return to Switzerland after an absence of ten years.

For many years it has been the great detective's hope that such a pact could be signed between the country of his birth and that of his near-death. The occasion was marked by a banquet at the Grand Hotel Victoria-Jungfrau at Interlaken.

Accompanied by over 40 members of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London, *all suitably attired in Victorian clothes for Switzerland 1891*, the world's most famous sleuth travelled from Heathrow at 10.05 on *Sunday, 30th April*, by Swissair flight SR 823. After a

reception at Basle, they entrained for Interlaken, where they stayed until Sunday, 7th May.

During their visit they also discussed with world experts questions of the utmost importance at the "First International Sherlock Holmes Seminar".

On Thursday, 4th May, they revisited the Reichenbach Falls where, after a fierce struggle, Sherlock Holmes and Professor Moriarty fell to their apparent deaths. Both have now proved to possess unique qualities of survival which they put to test again, in the presence of Lord Gore-Booth, G.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., the Society's President.

There were many other alarms and excursions during the week, all attended by Mr. Holmes and his intrepid band of traditionally-costumed followers.

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The Four Seasons Room

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