

News from the colony

Objektyp: **Group**

Zeitschrift: **The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK**

Band (Jahr): - **(1978)**

Heft 1745

PDF erstellt am: **17.09.2024**

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A CONCERT IN UNUSUAL SURROUNDINGS

FENTON HOUSE in Hampstead belongs to the National Trust. It is one of the earliest and largest houses in Hampstead, dating back to 1693, a beautiful product of the William and Mary period. It is surrounded by a lovely garden. The house contains a fine collection of early keyboard instruments and also some valuable china. The largest model of a harpsichord made in the 18th century is at Fenton House; it was made by Burkat Shudi, a Swiss, and his son-in-law, John Broadwood, in 1770.

This particular instrument was played at a concert under the patronage of the London Group of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique in conjunction with

the International Liszt Centre for 19th Century Music in London. It took place on Friday, 23rd June, and the setting was most charming. The programme was well chosen, and the artists played in pleasing harmony. There was an unusual combination of two celli and harpsichord in a sonata by Vivaldi and one by Boccherini, as well as a sonata by Handel. Shuna Wilson played the cello with a sense for the style of the works and showed a rich tone and musicality. George Hayburn played the basso continuo, but came into his own solistic right in the duo by Handel. He, too, showed a sense of phrasing and musicality.

Lennart Rabes at the harpsichord

showed his usual masterly understanding of composers and instrument, and his technique and deep musicality showed the great artist he is.

Andreas Friedrich appeared in period costume, thus blending perfectly with the surroundings. He played an English suite by Bach and the Biblical Sonata by Kuhnau, to which he gave an introduction. His playing showed competence and mastery of the instrument, and it was a musical performance.

The concert was most enjoyable and greatly appreciated by the audience. A debt of gratitude is owed to the artists who once again gave their services free in aid of the Swiss Churches in London. MC

GENERAL GUISAN WAS IN LONDON 50 YEARS AGO

Browsing through old "Swiss Observers", I have come across a report by Fred Stauffer on a visit to London by General Henri Guisan, Commander-in-Chief of the Swiss Army from 1939 to 1945. A committee was formed in the London Swiss community, and a great welcome was prepared for Monsieur and Madame Guisan. They arrived at Northolt Airport on 30th May, 1948 and were received by Lieut. Col. J. G. Rieser, Military Attaché at the Swiss Legation, and Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Renou, Chairman of the committee. A luncheon was given to the guests at the Myllet Arms Hotel, owned by Mr. A. Wiedmer, and the Guisans then moved to the Dorchester where a suite had been reserved for them.

Then followed various dinners, sight-seeing tours, a luncheon party at the Legation, given by the Swiss Minister and Madame de Torrenté, a reception at the Royal Society, a luncheon offered by the General at Oxford (their daughter was at that time a student at Merton's College). They were entertained at the Berkeley Arms at Cranford, owned by Mr. Ch. Bertschi, and they attended dinners and receptions. Madame Guisan visited the young girls' club, at that time called "Schwyzerchränzli".

The same evening, on 2nd June, a dinner took place at the Dorchester Hotel, attended by some 500 Swiss and their friends. Amongst the distinguished guests were Prof. and Mrs. Gavin de Beer, and Lord and Lady Willoughby de Broke, and, of course, the Swiss Minister and

Madame de Torrenté and other members of the Embassy. It was a great evening, and the report in the "S.O." gave a glowing account including the speeches by the chairman, Mr. A. Renou, the Swiss Minister, the Noble Lord, Mr. A. Stauffer, Lieut. Henry Wasmer who had served under the General, and above all that of the General himself who got a standing ovation the like of which had never been witnessed before, or indeed since. He referred to the active Swiss colony and above all to the British and their great leader Mr. Winston Churchill, who had been prevented from attending the dinner at the last minute.

At Central Hall, the General addressed the large audience which had gathered for the annual "Fête Suisse".

Received by Mr. Churchill

Before the guests left Britain, they were received by Mr. & Mrs. Churchill and Monsieur and Madame Guisan gave two individual parties to those who had contributed so much to make their stay a memorable one. It is exactly 30 years ago, but it was an event which nobody who witnessed it is likely to forget.

MM

P.S. Incidentally, in the same issue of the "S.O." there was a report on the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the London Office of the Swiss Bank Corporation.

SWISS ENERGY CONSUMPTION IN 1977

In 1977, final consumption of energy in Switzerland (in the household, craftwork, agriculture, services, industry and transport sectors) totalled 638,900 Terajoules (TJ) against 625,000 TJ the previous year, i.e. an increase of 2.2%. The evolution in consumption was different for each source of energy. The final consumption of petroleum products increased by 0.6%; their share of the total final energy consumption was 75.2% against 76.4% the previous year. While, owing to a mild winter and perhaps also consumers' growing awareness of the energy problem, consumption of liquid fuels showed a decline of 2.6%, liquid motor-fuels progressed by 6.5%. Consumption of electricity increased by 4.6%. This increase can be explained by a stronger demand from the "household, craftwork, agriculture and services" group (+5.4%). The share of electricity in total final energy consumption amounted to 17.6% (previous year: 17.2%). Gas consumption rose by 18.1%. Gas was thus able to increase its contribution to the country's energy supply. The result is that its share of final energy consumption rose from 3.7% in 1976 to 4.2% in 1977. Coal also recorded an increase in demand; consumption rose by 22.1% and the share of coal in final energy consumption amounted at 1.7% (previous year: 1.4%). On the other hand, the percentage share of firewood in final energy consumption remained unchanged in 1977 (1.3%).



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