

Au revoir but not good-bye!

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Objektyp: **Article**

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

Band (Jahr): - **(1980)**

Heft 1765

PDF erstellt am: **27.06.2024**

Persistenter Link: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-687513>

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AU REVOIR BUT NOT GOOD-BYE!

It was shortly after the first world war in 1919 that Paul Boehringer, citizen of Basle, then working in London, conceived an idea — an idea which he hoped would benefit his many Swiss compatriots who, like him, had settled in the United Kingdom, far from their homeland. Over a year later, after much toil and research, his dream became a reality when he produced the first issue of the SWISS OBSERVER on the 17th March 1920 on his own printing press in the City of London. A fortnightly newspaper for the Swiss with news of their home towns and villages which would perhaps bring them closer to their loved ones and assist in communicating and promoting events in the Colony. It was hard work in those early days with many setbacks! Slowly, but surely, the paper grew and so did the readership. Through popular demand, he then produced his publication each week for the next twenty years until his printing works were partially destroyed by enemy action in 1941 when it reverted to monthly issues. From the 30th August 1946 it appeared fortnightly again until April 1975 from which time it has appeared as a monthly.

It was an ambition fulfilled for Paul Boehringer to know, at the end of his days, that not only had he achieved his goal but that in 1948 his son would carry on where he had left off.

From the many letters received over the years it has been most encouraging to learn that the news and views appearing in our columns has been received with so much interest by our readers quite apart from bringing them the "official" news from Switzerland.

There have been hard times when it was "touch and go" whether or not the publication could continue on the basis of a non-profit making venture — but through the help of many good friends in recent years, in particular Bill de Vigier C.B.E., we were able to break even.

Anno domini and indifferent health eventually takes its inexorable toll of us all and once again the time has come to hand over Paul Boehringer's dream into the caring hands of others.

After many months of consultation a scheme has been concluded whereby the Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom accepts the gift of the SWISS OBSERVER conditional upon its continued monthly publication for a minimum period of five years.

The next issue of the SWISS OBSERVER will be published in June 1980 for the Federation of Swiss

Societies in the United Kingdom by Derek Meakin, Chairman of Europress Ltd. in Stockport.

Derek Meakin is well known to us as a successful journalist and enterprising publisher who has developed a close personal interest in Switzerland since 1949 when he met the girl who was to become his wife, a Vaudoise from Corsier-sur-Vevey.

We have no doubt that under his guidance our publication will continue to flourish — hopefully for a further 61 years!

We take this opportunity of recording our grateful thanks and appreciation to all the following who have contributed so much in the past and the present:

to past Editors —

Dr. A. Latt, Dr. H. Egli, Mr. P. Boehringer, Mr. A. Stauffer, Mr. P. Hofstetter, Mrs. M. Meier, Mr. P. M. Beguin and Mr. G. Sommer.

to the Swiss Observer Advisory Council —

Hon. President — Gottfried Keller
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P. Schweizer
R. Suess

to Gottfried Keller for his most interesting and provocative "Letters from Switzerland"

to Giuseppe Eusebio for "Il Notiziario Bicantonale"

to Norman Penwarden, Group Publicity Manager of Acrow Limited, for his technical guidance and advice, to all our readers and advertisers

and last, but not least, to Tommy Thomson who, as the personal assistant and friend of the writer has covered up for many of his shortcomings during the past 27 years.

In addition there are probably many others to whom we should be extending our grateful thanks and we ask them to bear with us for not having recorded all their names.

Good luck for the future to the new Publisher — Derek Meakin and to the present Editor — Marianne Hill-Moser.

Oscar F. Boehringer
Publisher.

The new owners of this publication, The Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom, have appointed the following as Publishers and Administrators:—

From 1st May 1980 all matters relating to the *Swiss Observer* should be referred to

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