

# Society and social scene

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establishment of the Swiss Winston Churchill Foundation, of which Dr von Mandach is chairman.

The foundation collects books and documents on the life and times of Churchill and organises annual lectures to commemorate the call for a united Europe made by Churchill in Zurich in 1946.

Dr von Mandach also helped establish the Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee Foundation which finances student exchanges between Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

## History of the Colony

A NEW book giving details of the Swiss colony in Great Britain has just been published. "2000 Ans de Présence Suisse en Angleterre", is the work of Dr Beat de Fischer, Swiss Ambassador to the Court of St James' between 1964 and 1966.

It has been edited under the auspices of La Fondation pour l'histoire des Suisses a l'étranger, of which Dr Fischer is president.

The author styles his study as "l'étonnante épopée des Suisses d'Outre-Manche de l'époque romaine à la Communauté Européenne". It gives a detailed account of the many cultural, religious, diplomatic and military relationships and deals with the more recent economic ties. The history of the Swiss colony in Great Britain right from its inception 200 years ago is also recorded in the book.

Incidentally, M de Fischer personally presented a copy to Queen Elizabeth at the reception at the British Embassy in May.

## Henri Von Gunten

ONE of the best-known members of the Swiss community in London. Mr Henri Von Gunten, died suddenly last month while on holiday in the Ticino.

Mr Von Gunten had been a member of the City Swiss Club since 1946, and a member of the Swiss Economic Council since it was reactivated in 1973. He was sales manager of Brown Bovari Ltd until he retired at the end of last year.

# Warm welcome at Penthes

TWENTY-FIVE years ago Gonzague de Reynold, the well-known historian, and his young disciple, Jean-René Bory, took a step which was to make a good many Swiss more aware of the place occupied abroad over the centuries by so many of their compatriots.

The first organisation they created, and which became their interpreter, the Swiss Society of the Friends of Versailles, had its centre of gravity in the service of France.

By stages the field of vision was enlarged to include foreign service in general and the alliance policy; it then became increasingly concentrated on the civilian Swiss abroad who exerted an influence on the

By Mr RENÉ KELLER, President of the Foundation for the History of the Swiss Abroad. He will, of course, be remembered by the Swiss community in Britain as the Swiss Ambassador at the Court of St. James from 1968 to 1971.

civilisation of their time.

Two years ago, after several years at the Château de Coppet, the museum which illustrates the history of the Swiss abroad was installed on the Penthes estate on the outskirts of Geneva, in the middle of an

undulating park where the peacefulness of the site vies with the beauty of the trees.

The interest which this museum is arousing in all parts of Switzerland testifies to a growing taste for history, in which our restless world seeks to assuage its anguish and to find reasons for faith and hope. The Swiss abroad, too, can draw inspiration from the great achievements of their predecessors, and thus define more clearly the contours of their dual identity as Swiss and as expatriates.

They will be welcome at Penthes, which is open every day except Monday from 10am to 12 noon and from 2pm to 6pm.

## UNIONE TICINESE LONDON

Da diverse settimane il freddo, grigio e piovigginoso mese di giugno, statisticamente paragonabile a quello del lontano 1907, sembra riflettere l'attuale stato recessionario dell'economia del nostro paese d'adozione.

A sprazzi notiamo però segni più ottimistici e per ciò che riguarda il clima ne abbiamo avuto una conferma la domenica del 29 di giugno.

Nei pressi di Brighton, favoriti da un tempo insperatamente messosi al bello, ha avuto luogo sul grande prato circostante la magnifica abitazione della signora Cynthia Parrott, l'ormai tradizionale risottata con bistecca ai ferri.

Alla festa di famiglia, pienamente riuscita, alla quale abbiamo avuto l'onore di ospitare il console di Svizzera a Londra signor Charles Glauser e la sua gentile signora, hanno partecipato una quarantina di invitati.

Un sentito grazie per l'eccezionale ospitalità va dovuto alla signora Cynthia, nonché a tutti i collaboratori che hanno contribuito alla brillante riuscita della manifestazione.

### Date da ricordare

Domenica 14 settembre avrà luogo la scampagnata 1980 al Knole Park, vicino a Sevenoaks,

nella contea di Kent. Particolari seguiranno, per ora, riservatevi la data, ricordandola anche ad amici e conoscenti.

### Saluto di benvenuto

L'Unione Ticinese di Londra saluta con piacere il nuovo ambasciatore di Svizzera nel Regno Unito, augurandogli vivo successo in questa sua impegnativa carica. Il signor Claude Caillat, nato il 1918 è originario di Ginevra, dove frequentò i suoi studi universitari.

Nel 1942 entrò ai servizi del Dipartimento Federale agli esteri. Dopo esser stato trasferito successivamente a Londra, Berna, Atene è a Washington che ottenne il titolo di consigliere di legazione.

Nel 1960 rientrò a Berna, dove presso l'Ufficio federale, si occupò di affari economici esteri.

Nel 1962 fu inviato in Francia, questa volta in qualità di consigliere d'ambasciata e primo collaboratore di missione in quel paese.

Più tardi nel 1967 fu nominato perito federale presso l'Organizzazione di cooperazione e sviluppo economico a Parigi, con il titolo di ambasciatore plenipotenziario. Dal 1969 al 1974, fu ambasciatore di Svizzera nei paesi Bassi da dove fu trasferito a Bruxelles in

qualità di ambasciatore, capo della missione Svizzera presso la Comunità europea.

Il signor Caillat è sposato e padre di 3 figli.

### Nozze d'argento

Auguri vivissimi ai nostri simpatici consoci signori Diviani-Morosi che il 26 di agosto celebreranno il 25mo di matrimonio.

*The Unione Ticinese London reminds all its members to note the date and to book in good time for the following scheduled activities:*

**Sunday, September 14:** Outing to Knole Park, near Sevenoaks, Kent, by car or British Rail. A guided historic tour has been organised.

**Sunday, November 9:** Castagnata at Richmond. In the ideal setting of the Valchera's Restaurant the traditional yearly Castagnata (roast chestnuts and red wine) looks more than very promising.

**Saturday, December 13:** Christmas dinner party. Place of venue to be confirmed.

**New membership:** Are you interested in participating in the Unione Ticinese's activities? Your application for full or associated membership will be welcomed, whether you are of Ticinese origin or not.

FORTY-TWO years ago the Swiss Post Office introduced the first of a rather special series of new postage stamps. Special because, in addition to the usual selling price or "face value" of the stamps, a small surcharge was added in aid of Swiss charities. These stamps became known as Pro Patria ("for the homeland") and they've been issued every year since.

The story behind the stamps was told recently on Swiss Radio International by Colin Farmer. He reported how, since the first Pro Patria stamps made their appearance a wide range of Swiss charities and other funds have benefitted from the sales of this increasingly popular series, including the Swiss Red Cross, funds in aid of aged people and refugees, and research into such illnesses as cancer and tuberculosis.

This year's series of four stamps carry a small surcharge in aid of two worthy causes — needy mothers in Switzerland, and the upkeep of this country's extensive network of rambling paths. The stamps themselves depict some of Switzerland's many and varied trade and craft signs, ranging from barbers and



## Search for those elusive imperfections

bakers to masons, carpenters and hatters.

The first Pro Patria stamps date back to 1938 — which is relatively recent, if one considers that Switzerland alone began producing postage stamps almost 100 years before that. Nevertheless some of the earliest Pro Patria stamps are now very elusive items, much sought-after by stamp dealers and collectors.

One London dealer specialising in Swiss stamps has described the price increase among early Pro Patria material as staggering. Some prices have doubled in recent years.

Probably the most sought-after of all Pro Patria stamps is

the so-called "Imperforate" item issued in 1939. "Imperforate" is the word used to describe the printing — usually unintentionally — of stamps without the usual perforation holes in between.

This is what happened in 1939, when out of a total Pro Patria printing of nearly three million stamps, a mere 50 were printed in error without any perforation — and found their way onto the open market at their individual face value of only 20 centimes.

These days the same stamp will cost an estimated Sfr. 9,000 and possibly even more — always assuming, of course, that you can still find a copy.



Two of the 1972 issue



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