

Swiss Club Dunfermline

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SWISS CLUB DUNFERMLINE.

On Friday the 31st of March the Swiss Club Dunfermline had their yearly Social.

For several years past some of the members have shown real artistic talent in staging playlets. This year, however, a real play was produced under the name "Dem Bollme si bös Wuche," written by the well known native bard Alfred Huggenberger.

Alfred Huggenberger does not need any introduction among the Swiss and this play does full justice to the high opinion we have of our "farmer poet."

Before giving you some details about the play and its performers, let me say a few words about the evening in general. On entering the Canteen of Winterthur Silks Ltd., where the evening was spent we at once felt an air of solemn strangeness, in fact strangeness is not the right word, it was more something long lost found again, in short the Hall was "heimelig." The walls were decorated with Swiss flags, pictures from beautiful Switzerland with all its mighty mountains, even William Tell's monument was there to be admired, appropriate for the place, woven in silk.

The company arrived slowly in two and three and very soon the small hall was filled with people speaking various dialects but all belonging to the same country, our dear little Switzerland.

The club was also visited by some of Dunfermline's "neighbour section" from the Swiss Club at Balloch. They augmented the gay and friendly spirit of the company and especially so by bringing their "Ländlerkapelle." They indeed did justice to the name by playing many "Ländlers" during the evening.

Soon after the company had settled down the ringing of the bell announced that the play was about to start. One glimpse at the faces of the company before the Hall fell into darkness, showed how eager and full of pleasant expectation everyone was. The curtains were drawn back and there before our eyes was the homely sitting room of a farmer's house. The radiant and warm tile stove which we are all missing here so much brought to the visitors lovely memories of distant and long winter evenings at home. The clock, bought by the great grandfather was still "going strong," although the chiming of the bell, could, of course, not compete with any modern Westminster. Then let me not forget the beautiful window, which won the admiration of everybody present and the beautiful and fascinating view from this window right to the top of the majestic mountains, basking in brilliant sunshine.

In the first act we saw what we had nearly forgotten viz: a "Butterstampfi" and Bollme's eldest daughter was so convincing, that when she finished her work, the result was real butter. The farmer Bollme was very typical of a Swiss farmer, rather dogmatic and strongheaded, although he showed his good points. This rôle called for very fine acting and it was exceedingly well done.

Huggenberger has, in this play, indeed proved his intimate knowledge and his keen study of his fellow men and he certainly did not refrain from ridiculing the stubbornness with which this farmer Bollme tried to oppose modernisation.

The farmer's wife was very well played too and one could clearly see that she had long experienced in dealing with and handling her husband.

Also the three daughters gave a very realistic picture of the family Bollme and their home life. The eldest daughter showed great personal wit in her part and the other two daughters surprised many of the spectators by their good acting.

The other characters were also well personified by the respective players. The rather tongue-twisting expressions of Mr. Gnehm must have caused some headaches to the actor and the country doctor was indeed a dignified person.

Now let me not forget Bollme's neighbour, also a farmer, the stuttering of his speech was very entertaining and amusing itself, the type was well done and who would have thought that "d'Vorderhuustöde" was not a real "Töde"?

In all, the play was very amusing and the performance was exceedingly well done by all the players, it was indeed unfortunate, that the number of the audience could not be greater. It was a fine and splendid effort of all the players to go to all the trouble of staging such a big play in order to entertain the small Swiss colony in Dunfermline. Everybody present appreciated the amount of work done and the trouble the players had taken to bring this amusing interpretation of the Swiss farmer's life about. At the end of the show the spectators showed their appreciation by well deserved hearty and prolonged applause.

After the show, which lasted for nearly three hours, the president, Mr. Gualeni, thanked all the players in a few well chosen words. Mr. Bosshardt replied on their behalf and mentioned that they enjoyed the acting indeed as much, if not even more, that we did the performance, but I can assure the players here that the show was greatly enjoyed by the whole audience and I would not like to finish this report without thanking all those who had taken part in the play for their great and fully successful performance.

The remainder of the evening was spent in dancing and sing-song and only too soon came to a close an evening, that will long be remembered by all those present.

It was good to feel "home" again although it was only for a few hours.

N-y.

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LETTER-BOX.

R. S. — Yes, we agree. Episodes from the life of prominent members of our Colony would make very good reading. It is a delicate matter and we do not always see the funny side of them after some time they are apt to become legendary. Why not send us some on appro? Here is one we happen to remember. Some twenty-five years ago your Editor was invited one Sunday to join a well-known bachelor member of the Colony trout-fishing. We were a party of six or seven and drove to a beautiful spot somewhere near Midhurst. We were armed with the usual tackle including a biscuit-box containing an appetizing selection of red worms, spiders and gnats, and last but not least our luncheon baskets. We industriously despatched the contents of the latter and after having recovered from the open-air banquet we surveyed the field of action which consisted of a small pond and a cosy brook bordered by shrubs and low trees and reputed to be well stocked with trout. We commenced operations in the pond along which we had our siesta. We were of course, novices, and we could not help thinking that the long hours of unredeemed patience and frustrated hope should constitute an excellent training field for prospective committee members — a contemplation which we believe was justified by later events. However, we did have a bite and after a combined struggle succeeded in landing a large pike; he fought dearly for his life but we finally stopped him wagging his tail. We decided to shift our vantage-ground to an opening on the bank of the brook. My bachelor host dropped his line again; it was not long before the float bobbed; the line was hoisted and at the end was a glutinous coloured lump something like a small marble. It was too hot and too late to submit the mysterious apparition to a serious investigation so into the water it went again. After a quarter of an hour my host noticed a movement and he studiously lifted the line and lo and behold he caught a pretty little perch that had thus successfully retrieved the eye that got inadvertently hooked up fifteen minutes before.

LONDON SWISS PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

A very representative collection of the St. Helena Crown Colony was exhibited by Mr. J. Beken at the Meeting held at Swiss House on Saturday, 25th March, 1944. The early Queen's Head type issues of 1856 up to and including the 1894 issue were in fine used condition whilst the later issues were shown in mint state.

J.B.

MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS

HOUSEKEEPER wanted: General housework and cooking; two adults, two children (boy 9 years and girl 13 years). Apply: Hofstetter, Villa Suzanne, Balloch, Scotland.

JASS — Group Anglo-Swiss friends want to play this national game correctly — Can anyone supply set of rules? — Write Martin, Earham, Granville Road, Limsfield, Surrey.

MOTHERS HELP all duties, some help. Small country house (20 miles London) 5 mins. bus. Two girls 6 and 10 years (elder at weekly boarding-school) State Salary. Woodruff, Stag Lane, Chorley Wood, Herts.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Wednesday, May 10th, 1944, at 6 p.m. — Swiss Mercantile Society Ltd. — Monthly Meeting, at Swiss House, 35, Fitzroy Square, followed by a lecture on "Company Law" by a Solicitor.

Sunday, May 14th, 1944 — Unione Ticinese — Thé Dansant — (see Advert.).

Saturday, May 20th, 1944, at 2.15 p.m. — Nouvelle Société Helvétique — Monthly Meeting, at Swiss House, 35, Fitzroy Square, W.1, followed by Mr. G. J. Keller's usual talk on "Current Events."

Tuesday, May 30th, 1944, from 5 o'clock — London Swiss Philatelic Society — Monthly Meeting, at Swiss House, 35, Fitzroy Square, W.1. — Official part at 5.45 sharp, followed by "Swopping."

City Swiss Club no meeting in May. Next Monthly Meeting takes place on Tuesday, 6th June, 1944. Details later.

Unione Chretienne de langue française (French speaking Y.M.C.A.) 9, Soho Square, W.1, Reunion chaque mardi à 5.45 p.m. Invitation cordiale à tous.

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