

# Editor's post-bag

Objekttyp: **Group**

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

Band (Jahr): **- (1951)**

Heft 1157

PDF erstellt am: **02.05.2024**

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## EDITOR'S POST-BAG.

Légation de Suisse  
en Ireland,  
40, Elgin Road,  
Dublin.  
April 20th, 1951.

The Editor,  
Swiss Observer,  
London.

Dear Mr. Stauffer,

I have been really touched by the Swiss Observer's announcement of my recent promotion, all the more so since I had the opportunity to live amongst the Swiss Colony for nearly 13 years and to take part in all their interests and aspirations as well as in their patriotic manifestations. The time I have spent in London and amongst the Swiss Colony was one of my happiest time. I also like to mention that the Swiss Observer has been an outstanding and most successful "trait-d'union" between England and our home country. I associate the Swiss Observer with the Swiss Colony in Great-Britain in expressing my heartfelt thanks for the friendly congratulations and kind thoughts on the occasion of my appointment as Swiss Minister to the Republic of Ireland.

Believe me, dear Mr. Stauffer, with kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,  
Sig. W. de Bourg.

\* \* \*

Redaktion,  
Swiss Observer,  
Leonard Street, E.C.2.  
London, England.

Zürich, den 19. April, 1951.

Sehr geehrte Herren!

Sie hatten die Liebenswürdigkeit, mir die Nummer vom 30. März 1951 zu übersenden, die einen Artikel über meinen Besuch in London enthält. Ich möchte Ihnen für die liebenswürdige Aufmerksamkeit recht herzlich danken. Für mich war es ein grosses Vergnügen, dass ich nicht nur mit englischen Autoritäten, sondern auch mit lieben Landsleuten zusammenkam. Ueberhaupt bedeutet der Besuch in London und Birmingham für meine Frau und mich ein Erlebnis von grosser Tiefe.

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Die Bemerkungen des Artikels über die Verkehrsdisziplin in Zürich werde ich an die zuständigen Stellen weiterleiten.

Ich grüsse Sie, sehr geehrte Herren, mit besten Wünschen und ausgezeichneter Hochachtung  
Sig. E. Landolt,  
Stadtpräsident von Zürich.

The Editor,  
The Swiss Observer,  
London.

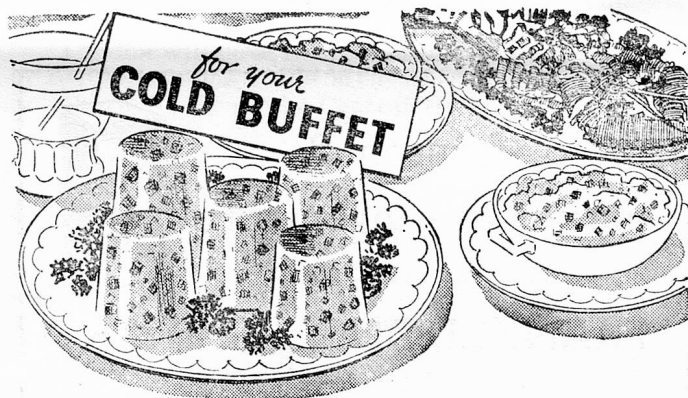
London, 27th March, 1951.

Dear Sir,

I was very delighted to read a few days ago that Mr. Oscar Boehringer had recently been honoured with the Freedom of the City of London and at the same time had the distinction of being raised to the Livery of the Worshipful Company of Upholders.

The Company of Upholders is one of the ancient Livery Companies of the City of London and traces its history back to the early days of the Guilds within whose shelter good craftsmanship and high standards of production were fostered, and it is quite true to say that the expectation of high quality in British goods was founded therein.

The Company was granted a Coat of Arms in the reign of Edward IV (1365) and was incorporated by Charter in the reign of Charles II (1669). The Bye-Laws of the Company empowered the Master and the



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Wardens to search for spurious goods made or sold within the City, certain minimum standards were ordered and particular emphasis was laid on the quality of goods made.

I am very pleased indeed of being joined in the City by a Companion in Arms, having myself been made a Freeman of the City of London and a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Bakers during the last war.

I am very proud of being a Freeman and a Liveryman of this great, proud and ancient City and I was told at the time of admittance, that it had only been known once before, that a naturalised subject had been similarly honoured and been admitted to the Livery.

The Worshipful Company of Bakers is one of the oldest of the livery companies. It is actually impossible to arrange them in exact order of age, for the dates of foundation of the older companies are not known. But there are only two which can advance any claim to a longer history than that of the Baker's Company. The weavers received a charter from Henry I, and it is possible that the goldsmiths were also organised in that reign. The earliest reference to the bakers, on the other hand, is at the beginning of the reign of Henry II, which is found in the Pipe Rolls, the great account rolls of the King's Exchequer in 1155 and for some years following, referring to a mark of gold due by the bakers of London (the *bolengarii*) "for their guild".

So far only one earlier Pipe Roll, that of 1130, has come to light and in that there is no mention of a baker's tax.

Throughout Western Europe till the close of the 18th century the control of trade and industry was largely, in some countries mainly, in the hands of the guilds. In many towns of Switzerland the old guilds (*Abbayes* or *Zünfte*) are still preserved though they have lost their special privileges. There are guilds throughout China, in India the trade castes assume all the forms of guild organisation and in Turkey, Bulgaria and what used to be Servia most trades are controlled by *Esnafs*, which in all probability may claim a continuous descent from Byzantine guilds.

A law of Charlemagne of 779 decrees that no one shall presume to bind himself by mutual oaths in a guild (*geldonia*). A later decree of 821 warns the lords in Flanders and other maritime parts to restrain their serfs from sworn confederacies on pain of incurring a

fine themselves. In 884 the clergy and the local officials (*ministri comitis*) in France were required to instruct the villeins not to form the combination commonly called a guild (*gelda*) against those who rob them of anything, but to refer their case to the priest, who is the bishop's representative and to the officials appointed for this purpose in that district.

The existence of Anglo-Saxon guilds at an earlier period has been inferred from the use of the word *gegildan* in the laws of Ine (c 690) and of Alfred (c 890). This was followed by the "London Frith Guilds" of Æthelstan's reign (925-40).

I have mentioned these few particulars in order to appreciate the fact of the distinction of becoming a Freeman of the City of London and to be invited to become a Liveryman of one of the ancient Livery Companies is indeed a great honour and privilege and so to be allowed to assist in carrying on the great traditions of this City, of which we are all so proud.

I want to offer, therefore, my heartiest congratulations to Mr. Oscar Boehringer and I feel sure that I am also expressing the proud and very good wishes of all the readers of the S.O.

What a great pity it is, that his dear Father Mr. Paul Frederick Boehringer, the Founder of the Swiss Observer did not live to share in his son's very proud preferment.

Heartiest congratulations from,

Yours sincerely,

Sig. Walter Bachmann.

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