

SOS from the Swiss hostel for girls

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SWISS CHURCH BAZAAR

If you were to ask any Swiss in London what the Swiss Colony did on the 31st October 1964, everyone would surely answer: "Why, of course it was the Swiss Church Bazaar".

For many months our friends were busy with knitting, sewing, baking cakes and making jam and many useful smaller articles. But as no one knew what the other one was doing it was a great surprise for all of us to gaze inside the doors of the Central Hall, Westminster, at noon on the last day of October 1964, when the Bazaar was opened by Madame de Fischer, wife of the Swiss Ambassador.

Let us go for a short walk round the Hall and take a look at some of the Swiss goods that were on display.

The first stall we came to was covered with books, calendars and other items of stationery which are always useful. On taking a closer look we discovered among the things displayed photographs from Gornergrat to Martigny Charelard. Also a folder containing many beautiful drawings by the famous artist Hans Thoma, which was lying beside an old BBC Year Book!

But then our noses forced us to look round to where a strange smell was coming from. Oh my goodness, "Sauerkraut and Schweinswürstli"! The Swiss Church organisation could not forget such a typical Swiss meal, and certainly it was a hit as far as all of us were concerned.

Further along there was a stall where cushions and aprons were laid out. Next to this was a table catering specially for our male guests. There were ties for all occasions. Yet another surprise greeted us. Swiss chocolates and cigarettes were on sale at the Embassy Stall, not forgetting "Rössli Stumpfen" for dad.

Hallo, who is this? A pretty little girl in a traditional Swiss costume who was selling "Abzeichen" as if we were at home. For 6d. one could purchase a little Swiss flag or a gentian — for 2/6 a small bunch of *real* gentians.

In the corner lots of children were gathered round a toy stall run by the French-speaking Youth Group. Next to it was the large table loaded with handiwork made by the German-speaking Youth Group. The main items on their stall were babyclothes, but also table cloths, serviettes and a thousand and one other beautifully made things. We must not forget, however, the lucky dips, another attraction for the "juniors".

Even a small fun-fair had been arranged. There were various shies and dart games.

Now something for the ladies in the centre of the Hall. There was "L'air du Temps" perfume from Paris, other cosmetics and Swiss knitwear.

Even grocery, cake and vegetable stalls were there — Ravioli and chickens, "Mailänderli" and "Schenkeli", home-made quince jam and outsize cabbages — what more could one want!

In the meantime the happy murmur of people increased as more and more filed through the door. Among the visitors were the Swiss Ambassador, his wife and children, and the ministers from our two congregations. There even seemed to be some Red Indians, but on a closer look they turned out to be more Swiss enjoying themselves. Many of the helpers were in Swiss costume, which added colour to the scene.

By that time I was starving so I made my way through to the restaurant and sampled some of that delicious Sauerkraut which I had been waiting for the whole morning.

And lastly to the most important thing, the profit. Hold on to your hats it was over £1,000. I would like to say many thanks to all those who worked so hard before and during the sale and to the visitors who helped to make it such a great success.
F.J.

S O S FROM THE SWISS HOSTEL FOR GIRLS

The Swiss Hostel for Girls urgently requires someone from 1st January to replace the Warden, Miss Rosie Preiswerk, while she takes her holiday.

Applicants need not necessarily be of Swiss nationality, but knowledge of either French or German besides English is essential.

Will readers who may know of a qualified person please write to the Hon. Secretary of the Swiss Hostel for Girls, 18 Montagu Place, London W.1.

SWISS CHILDREN'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

As in former years, the first Saturday in January has been fixed for the Swiss Children's Annual Christmas Party. Traditionally, it will again be held at the Victoria Hall in Bloomsbury Square, London W.C.1. All children whose parents (father or mother or both) are Swiss are heartily welcome. Applications should be addressed as soon as possible to Mrs. J. J. Zwicky, 29, Friars Walk, London N.14.

APOLOGY

Due to an oversight, it was not mentioned in the last issue that the photographs used with the report on the Valais Evening on 13th October were reproduced by courtesy of the Swiss National Tourist Office, London. We express our thanks, as well as our apologies for the omission.

* * *

The B.B.C. have corrected their mistake in the Top of the Form programme that C.H. stood for Canton Helvetia and have given its proper name (Confoederatio Helvetica).

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We wish to thank the following subscribers for sending donations above their subscriptions and for taking out or renewing gift subscriptions: Mrs. J. Durgnat, Mrs. S. Eisenegger, Mrs. E. J. Frehner (Niederglatt/Zch.), Miss G. Wasem, Monsieur F. Ernst, Monsieur W. Roch (Berne) and Messrs. R. Delarageaz, G. Mani, F. J. Meier, H. Mock, F. G. Ormond, H. Schmid, W. R. Schweizer, A. E. Wehrli. We are most grateful for their kind and welcome support.

OUR NEXT ISSUE

The "Swiss Observer" is published every second and fourth Friday of the month. The next issue is scheduled to appear on 11th December. It will be the double Christmas Number and the only issue in December. We shall be glad to receive reports and articles not later than Wednesday, 2nd December.