

Swiss holidays for Swiss children in the United Kingdom

Autor(en): **[s.n.]**

Objekttyp: **Article**

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

Band (Jahr): **- (1967)**

Heft 1516

PDF erstellt am: **29.04.2024**

Persistenter Link: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-687608>

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ROBERT SCHWEIZER †

It is my sad duty to record the peaceful passing away on 29th December 1966 of my friend Robert Schweizer of 2 Temple Grove, Enfield. In a way it is perhaps also my privilege to have been asked to write his obituary, as I have enjoyed the friendliest and most cordial relations with him since he was appointed London Representative of the Banco di Roma in 1928.

Born in Solothurn on 3rd March 1891, he passed through the schools of his home-town until he obtained the *Handelsdiplom* at the Cantonal School. After completing his studies at Vevey and Montreux, he came over to this country as a young man of 23 to begin his banking career. Soon afterwards, the First World War broke out when he returned to Switzerland to rejoin the Solothurn Battalion 49, and before the end of the war he came back to England.

It was as London Representative of the Banco di Roma I really got to know him well, a privilege which was shared by most of my Swiss banking friends and colleagues, who mourn a genuine and charming companion.

By his great capabilities and his hard work he soon became a well known and popular figure in British banking circles, which prompted the Head Office of the Banco di Roma to arrange for a memorial service to be held in the City early in February, particulars of which may be obtained from the Bank in due course.

It may be not out of place to quote from a tribute which appeared in the Swiss Press: *"Mit Robert Schweizer ist eine jener markanten Persoenlichkeiten gestorben, die dank ihrer Faehigkeiten, ihrer Initiative und vornehmen Haltung, die Praesenz der Schweiz im Ausland ueberzeugend verkoerpern."*

This statement will be warmly endorsed by all who came into contact with our former compatriot.

In spite of his manifold activities, Robert Schweizer had other interests very much at heart. He was a member of the Board of the Italian Hospital, and for the great services rendered he was honoured by the Italian State with the title *Cavaliere*, to be followed by his appointment by Pope John XXIII as a *Commendatore di San Silvestro*, a very high distinction of which he was justly proud.

The S.M.S. also lost one of its oldest and devoted friends. He joined the Society as far back as 1913. Before the Society was turned into a limited company, he held office as an honorary auditor, and in 1963 was awarded the *Wappenscheibe* for 50 years of membership.

Robert Schweizer was a simple man and to many, like to myself, he was a wonderfully steadfast friend whom one will never forget.

Our deepest sympathy goes to his niece Mrs. Rosemarie Frigerio-Schweizer and family, 17 Hubelmattstrasse, Solothurn, and to Mrs. L. Jaggard, his most faithful housekeeper since the death of his wife in 1943.

F. STREIT.

"SWISS OBSERVER" PUBLICATION DATES

The "Swiss Observer" is published every second and fourth Friday of the month. Our next issue will appear on 10th February. We shall be glad to receive articles and reports not later than Monday, 30th January. Short news items only can be accepted later.

The next issue but one will be published on Friday, 24th February. For that number, we shall require articles and reports not later than Tuesday, 14th February.

SWISS HOLIDAYS FOR SWISS CHILDREN IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

The Foundation "Pro Juventute" in Zurich is again organising a holiday for children of 7 – 15 years, of Swiss parentage who live in the United Kingdom, provided always that there is a sufficient number of participants.

As usual, these holidays will start at the best and most attractive time to enjoy Switzerland, i.e. towards the end of July, and are scheduled to last six weeks according to arrangements made by "Pro Juventute".

As regards board and lodging in Switzerland, "Pro Juventute" offers various schemes, such as:

- (a) Board and lodging at reduced prices in a recognised children's home, selected by "Pro Juventute", available for children up to 12 years of age, only for children holding Swiss passports.
- (b) A stay of about 4 weeks in various holiday camps, available for children of about 12 – 15 years of age, only for children holding Swiss passports.
- (c) Free Board and lodging with Swiss families for a limited number of children whose parents are unable to pay either the whole or part of the cost. Only children holding Swiss passports can be considered under this scheme.
- (d) Children who are in the happy position of holding a written invitation from relations or friends in Switzerland are welcome to join the party for their journey both ways.

In cases where parents would value such holidays for their youngsters but are not in a position to defray the cost of the journey, the Swiss Benevolent Societies would endeavour to provide the necessary funds. This should be stated in the application which should be sent in writing at the latest by 25th March to:

- (a) in the London Consular District: Mrs. B. Kaluza, 152 West Hill, London S.W.15; after 15th March: 14 Amberley Court, Christchurch Park, Sutton, Surrey;
- (b) in the Manchester Consular District: Swiss Consulate, 56 Spring Gardens, Manchester 2.

The parents will then be supplied with all relevant information.

* * *

There is also a possibility for longer stays in Switzerland in the case of illness, operations, treatment of speech and sight impediments. Other cases which may be considered by the "Ferien- und Hilfswerk für Auslandschweizerkinder" of the Pro Juventute and the Schweizerhilfe Foundations, are those where proper schooling is lacking or where there is a bad family background. Applications in these cases should be made to the Swiss Embassy in London or the Swiss Consulate in Manchester by early March.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We wish to thank the following subscribers for adding donations to their subscriptions and/or for taking out gift subscriptions for friends or old-age pensioners: Mrs. L. R. Clements, The Rev. Father J. Scherer, Lt.-Col. W. J. Pearce, and Messrs. L. F. Ackermann, B. Frei, F. Gut (Affoltern a/Albis), B. P. Halder, A. Jaccard, A. Scheuermeier, W. Schlapfer, B. Simon. We are most grateful for their kind and welcome support.