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and the absence of over-reaction of British diplomats". Their admirable ways had been greatly appreciated during the concerted efforts at solving the recent hijacking quandary, and this had added a new dimension to Anglo-Swiss relations. Monsieur Keller regretted having to leave London before being given a chance to enjoy the new Residence and the new Chancery. He would not be their first tenant. Still, his name would remain inscribed for posterity in the new building because, as chance had it, it was inaugurated under his own term of office.

Monsieur Keller ended his address by referring to the Swiss Observer's Golden Jubilee and praised the efforts of the devoted and interested members of the Colony who had kept this enterprise going. He ended his address by jokingly proposing to paraphrase Harold Wilson's statement: "*Never has a premier handed a nation in such a healthy state as I am doing now . . .*"

Dr. Rolf Bühler then rose for his address, and echoed his predecessor's statements on the British as a "civilised nation". He spoke of that first great charter of constitutional rights, the Magna Carta, which was drafted 76 years before the foundation of Switzerland. Dr. Bühler then drew the many parallels between the Swiss and the British. In particular, they both suffered from similarly bad weather. The Swiss had rain and cold, the British had *drizzle*. With apposite quotations from Shakespeare, he delineated the British character and the British love of old things and tradition. But their great asset lay in their sense of humour and in their readiness to laugh at themselves. The Appenzellers, on the other hand, were more prepared to laugh at other people. The speaker then mentioned the present highly favourable state of Anglo-Swiss relations. He said that although imports from EFTA countries had only increased by 12 per cent from 1965 to 1969, they had increased by 60 per cent from the U.K. Exports had also shown a similar behaviour. He expressed his satisfaction at the abolishment of the British Import Deposit and propounded his faith in a United Europe. Agreeing with the Prime Minister's Mansion House speech, he said that Britain would benefit from the Common Market — and in turn be of benefit to the Common Market. But our main task as responsible citizens was to look ahead to the future, and this meant in the first place to help the younger generation. Dr. Bühler ended his address with the quotation of the evening: "*Let us teach our children to know right from wrong — and to keep right away from left.*"

The speeches were over and the Arthur Salisbury orchestra came into play. Very soon the spacious dance floor was filled with prancing couples. The dancing lasted for about an hour before we were entertained by a Jamaican guitarist who sang such sunny

favourites as "*Guatanamera*" and "*Island in the Sun*" with a lusty voice. He sang a rather permissive tune, unusual for the right-thinking City Swiss Club, whose refrain was "*She has freckles on her . . . , but when she's in my arms it's paradise*". He accompanied this creation with a bewitching rumba rhythm whose insistent beat sent vibrations down one's spine.

All the while, four young maids from the Swiss Tourist Office were busy selling Tombola tickets—and by all appearances were doing pretty well. The first prize was a fortnight for two

in Miami offered by Rankin Kuhn Ltd. It was won by Mrs. L. Jobin. The money raised in this way will go as usual to the Swiss Churches and Swiss charities of London.

At almost 2 p.m. City Swiss Club patrons were still present in their great majority. The orchestra was opening the throttle slightly and the dancing drew to an end with a glorious crescendo (both in decibels and rhythm) and a good hundred City Swiss Club revelers were bouncing off the floor, forgetting their years, to the very end.

(PMB)

THE ANNUAL DINNER AND DANCE OF THE MANCHESTER SWISS CLUB

For the second time now the Excelsior Hotel at Ringway Airport was chosen for our Annual Dinner Dance which was held on Saturday, 14th November, 1970. If any of our good friends residing in Switzerland had wished to join us it would not have taken them much longer than the 2½ hour journey with which many of us were confronted. The weather was very clement and the sometimes tedious and tiring journey was relieved by the occasional appearance of the moon and stars and the glow of lights from the towns and villages which formed the outline of a brilliant tiara on the horizon.

All this put many of us in a most receptive and happy mood, and we felt great pleasure and satisfaction when entering the elegantly lit and tastefully decorated lounge and bar of this hospitable hotel where we met so many of our friends for a good talk and drink, our eyes drifting towards the lovely and elegantly dressed ladies present, everything auguring well for the evening. Eventually we were invited to the official reception and the banqueting room.

We were all introduced to our Ambassador to the Court of St. James', Dr. René Keller and Madame Keller who graced our function with their most welcome presence. They were accompanied by our own President and Madame Simon. Entering the room we were immediately struck by the particularly happy and tasteful arrangement of the tables reserved beforehand for groups of members and friends. The President and his Committee can be most warmly complimented on their efficient work of organisation. Swiss flags, large and small, velvet ribbons on the tables (supplied by one of our members) and brightly lit candles, whose soft warm light enhanced the appearance of many of us, made a happy and

congenial atmosphere which never left us.

The rich menu was served in a most efficient way by a friendly and well-trained staff who did the right thing at the right time. Everybody had only praise for the variety and excellence of the fare and the high standard of the vintage wines placed before us, later on duly recognised and acknowledged in the way only our President is able to do. On the top table could be seen our Ambassador and his wife, our President and Mrs. Simon, the very popular and imposing appearance of our great friend the President of the Manchester Rifle Club, Major Nicholson accompanied by his wife, our well-loved Consul and Madame Born, our Vice-President Dr. Bolliger and Madame Bolliger, and last but not least, our long standing members and faithful friends of many years Mr. and Mrs. Banderet. There was also a good representation from the Yorkshire Swiss Club and the Liverpool Swiss Club.

The loyal toast to Her Majesty the

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Queen, Duke of Lancaster, was proposed by our President, after which one of our English friends with a few appropriate and well-chosen words responded with a toast to Switzerland. Whilst sweets and coffee were being served our President Mr. Bernard Simon stood up, and I like to think that he must realise how much he has endeared himself to all of us and how much we look forward to listening to his special brand of expression and communication.

Before addressing himself to our Ambassador and Madame Keller, he welcomed our guests, friends and members also referring to a lady now standing on the threshold of her 90 years, as to the youngest person present. He presented the apologies of Professor Inebnit of Leeds and those of Mr. Hartman of Scotland. For Dr. Keller and his wife he had warm words of thanks and appreciation for all the great interest they have always shown to the Swiss of the North, proved by the fact that during their two-and-a-half year stay in these Islands they have honoured us three times with a visit. He also mentioned how much we were all aware of the sterling work he does, day after day, in our interest; his active and tireless help in the manifold activities of our Colonies and in the affairs of our Federation and all it stands for; how his position in London ranked as one of the five top jobs in the Swiss Diplomatic Organisation, normally reserved for venerable and elderly gentlemen—but not so in the case of Mr. Keller . . .

and then came the bombshell! Our President announced our Ambassador's early departure to Berne where he was to be promoted to the most important position of "Head of the Division for International Organisation" and extending to both our hearty congratulations coupled with our sincere wishes for a happy and successful future and the hope that they may in the not too distant future find the time and occasion to visit us again.

For the writer, however, and many others, this announcement proved to be a great damper for the rest of the evening, apart from those of us who may have already succumbed to this new age of computerisation and increasing dehumanisation of personal relationships at all levels. We may have to get used to being ordered about more and more, with less and less consideration and attention given to the wishes and opinions of the individual, or individuals as the case may be. The articles of the "National Zeitung" and the "Vaterland" quoted by "The Swiss Observer" in their issue number 1604 dated the 13th November, 1970, were timely and in the right direction, although in the writer's opinion still an understatement.

Mr. Simon had also some kind words for Mr. and Mrs. Born who have now lived in his country for one-and-a-half years and who, in their quiet and charming way, have already made many friends and won the hearts of their compatriots. They participate actively in the affairs of our Club and

worry for the well-being of us all. We wish most sincerely that they settle happily in their new home and that the authorities in Switzerland allow them to stay for many more years to tend their northern flock.

We were also sorry to hear that our Vice Consul, Mr. Zellweger will shortly be leaving us to take up a new position in Rome and we shall miss his kind and fatherly concern that he has always shown to us. Our best wishes follow him on his future career which we hope will be a successful and happy one.

A hearty welcome was then extended both to Major and Mrs. Nicholson. They are indeed good friends of the Swiss Club and their presence amongst us must have been a tonic for our own members of the Rifle Section and an encouragement for those who may wish to join.

Our President was most warmly applauded, after which our toastmaster gave the word to our Ambassador who, alas, could only confirm to us what had already been said. He continued by explaining how "circumstances had again been responsible for the short duration of his stay, but that the experience gathered in London would stand him in good stead in Berne: British liberalism, level-headedness, self control in order not to over-react, etc. He then mentioned that Anglo-Swiss co-operation during the post-war period had been essentially economic and financial, but the hi-jacking of a British and a Swiss aeroplane in September had added an

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extra dimension with the setting up of a consultative committee in Berne. The technique and the know-how of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office were greatly appreciated by the Swiss.

Winding up with a tribute to Manchester, he quoted the Duke of Edinburgh who, when he inaugurated the International Airport in 1962, spoke of a gateway to the world for the industrial heart of Britain.

Finally, he supported the wish of the President, Mr. Simon, in saying that the U.K. Swiss should endeavour to be represented in greater numbers at the Auslandschweizertag. He also reported how Professor Inebnit had taken the floor in a very apposite way in Zofingen.

The long and sustained applause which followed his words must have proved to him how everybody had appreciated his coming to Manchester, how great our affection was for both of them, and how much we wished that their future would be a happy and successful one. Afterwards two young ladies very charmingly presented our

Ambassador and Madame Keller, and our President and Mrs. Simon with two beautiful bouquets of flowers.

This year, as in past years, we once again had the opportunity to admire the lovely silver cups of the Swiss Rifle Club which were eventually handed over to our champions. Mrs. Born presented to Mr. J. Scheiwiller the "Swiss Club Trophy" for a maximum of 335 points achieved. The "Swiss-Air Handicap Trophy" was presented to our Vice-President, Dr. Bolliger, by Mrs. Simons, in recognition of 329 points valiantly achieved, and the "Geneva Cup" of the Manchester Rifle Club was won by our member Mr. J. Scheiwiller. (I apologise if any inaccuracy has occurred in my version of the above presentations.)

The time finally arrived to proceed with our Tombola, which over a long period has become a tradition with our Club. This year it was substantial, interesting and well arranged, involving a great deal of preparation and canvassing. For all this a special thanks must go to Mrs. Martha Themans and the

other members of the Committee, watching motherly and attentively on the smooth running of this part of our programme. Tickets were sold in a flash and latecomers had to go without. Looking at the bundles of notes in the hands of the collectors it can be safely assumed that the results of this effort must have been quite considerable, and the money thus obtained will be a welcome booster to our Club funds. Our Leaders may even find it possible to let some charitable institution profit from part of it.

By this time our excellent dance band had discreetly taken up its position and for the rest of the evening well into the early hours of the morning, time passed in a most pleasant way, friendly conversation bringing us closer, and the never-ending flow from a well-stocked bar helped our dancers along. Inevitably this lovely evening came to an end and everyone had to leave, but not before bidding each other a safe journey home and a hearty "Au Revoir".

E. Berner.

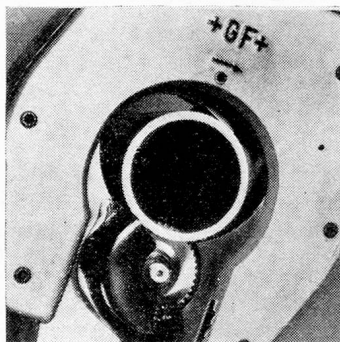
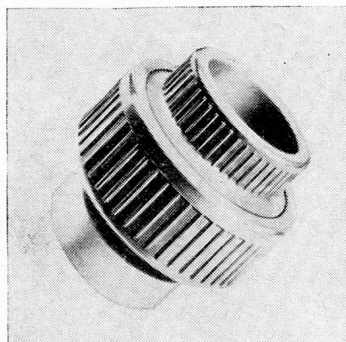
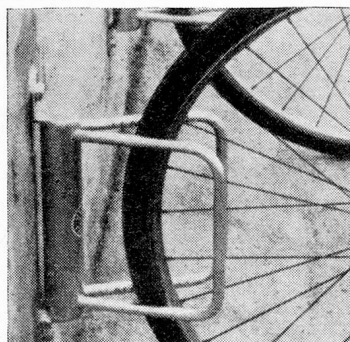
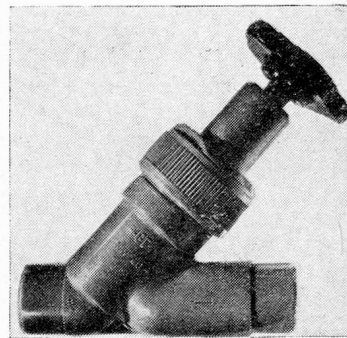
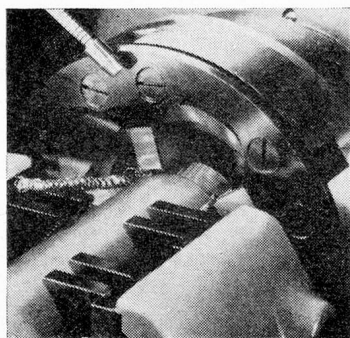


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