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Local News — Great Britain

Switzerland in Britain's cultural life

MUSIC

1985—The European Year of Music

The Council of Europe and the European Communities have declared 1985 the "European Year of Music". At the same time it has been declared the "Year of Youth" by the United Nations.

1985 has been chosen as the European Year of Music because it sees the anniversaries of various composers who have made an important contribution to the integration of Europe: Heinrich Schütz (400th anniversary of his birth), Johann Sebastian Bach, George Frederick Handel and Domenico Scarlatti (300th anniversary of their births) and Alban Berg (100th anniversary of his birth).

The objectives of the European Year of Music reach far beyond the celebration of these anniversaries, however. In particular, it aims at:

- presenting to the greatest possible number of Europeans music of all types and periods, including contemporary music, as an expression of their common cultural heritage, and awakening a consciousness of the cultural identity of Europe in all its diversity;
- encouraging as many people as possible, especially children and young persons, to take part in active music-making, and starting discussions on the problems of musical education in and outside school and the organization of spare time;
- raising questions of musical life in relation to the general public and politics, seeking solutions and pointing out possibilities for the further development of musical culture.

The Federal Council has set up a Swiss National Committee whose task it is to make the European Year of Music resound in our country too. They invite everyone to join in the aims of the European Year of Music and contribute to their realization. Each member state has appointed its own National Committee. The Swiss National Committee is under the patronage of Alphons Egli, Vice-President of the Swiss Confederation. Its Chairman is the Swiss composer Rolf Liebermann, who has also been elected Vice-Chairman of the European Organizing Committee.

The British National Committee is under the patronage of the Rt Hon. Edward Heath, MBE, MP. The Chairman is Professor Robin Orr, CBE.

The Royal Festival Hall and St John's Smith Square, among others, have already started to put on performances to celebrate this event (Lionel Rogg etc.).

Throughout this year we will keep you informed of various events taking place in the framework of the Year of Music.

VISUAL ARTS

Architecture in Switzerland 1970-1983

This "travelling exhibition", organized by Pro Helvetia and assembled by the architect Werner Blaser, of Basle, was on show in the United States until autumn 1984. Its first stop in Great Britain after that was Canterbury. In 1985 the exhibition can be seen in the following cities:

Mid-February to end March

Liverpool, University of Liverpool (School of Architecture)

The architect Werner Blaser is planning to open this exhibition and give a guided tour and seminar. For further details please contact the School of Architecture (tel: 051-709 6022) or the Swiss Embassy.

End March until beginning May

Leicester, Polytechnic of Leicester (School of Architecture)

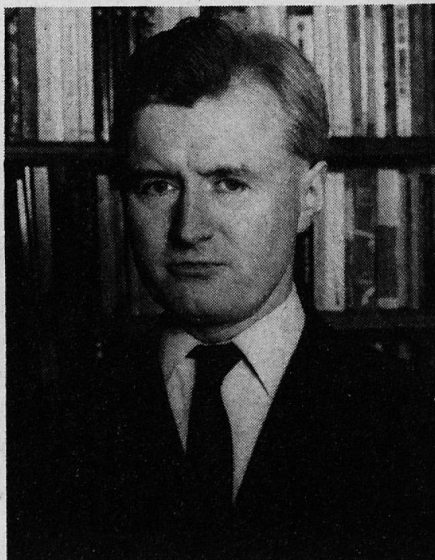
For details, please ring 0533-551551.

PREVIEW

Pierre FAVRE and his "Singing Drums" Ensemble, will be visiting London during their European tour in April - May

COLLEGE OF THE SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY LONDON

John McClafferty, M.A.(Cantab.), took over on 1st January 1985, on the retirement of Mr Leonard Cane, as Principal of the Swiss Mercantile Society College, 34/35 Fitzroy Square, London W1P 6BP, 01-636 2892 or 637 3609.



Mr McClafferty intends to maintain and enhance the SMS College's reputation as an English-teaching institution for young Swiss men and women, and to consolidate the value of the College's Diploma, a qualification possessed by thousands of persons

now holding responsible posts in the Swiss civil service, business and industry.

To his new responsibilities, Mr McClafferty brings over 13 years' teaching, administrative and marketing experience as Principal and Director of St George's School of English and Foreign Languages, a well-known, long-established and highly successful central London language school.

Born in Scotland in 1942, Mr McClafferty was educated at the prestigious Royal High School of Edinburgh. After a year at Edinburgh University, he went to the University of Cambridge, from which he graduated with First Class Honours in English.

Since then, he has taught English in France, at the University of Warsaw in Poland, and as Assistant Professor of English at the Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani, Rajasthan, India.

In 1971, John McClafferty took up the post of Principal at St George's School, London, W1, where he was also a Director of St George's Press, involved in the inception and editing of their series of well-known textbooks in English as a Foreign Language, and himself writing two of them: *A Guide to Examinations in English for Foreign Students* and *Comprehension for Proficiency*.

Having maintained his Latin and Greek from school days, Mr McClafferty also speaks four modern languages; his chief other interests are literature and art.

He is married to a Polish artist and they have two sons.

Before taking up his new post, Mr McClafferty has been on the first of what will be a regular series of fact-finding visits to Switzerland, meeting leading figures in Federal institutions, banking, insurance, commerce and industry.

He says: "As the creation of the Swiss Mercantile Society (the London section of SKV/SSEC/SSIC) and receiving as we do Federal recognition and assistance through BIGA/OFIAMT, we at SMS College see it as our responsibility to continue to offer an improving English language training to young Swiss men and women, which will be of major assistance to them in their careers and of major utility to their future employers throughout the Swiss economy.

"I am honoured to have been asked to assume this post at a College which has always had an excellent reputation in London, and I am most encouraged by the evidence I have seen of the respect and affection in which the College is held in Switzerland. Our teachers are enthusiastic and are highly experienced in the backgrounds, needs and problems of Swiss students; for our intensive tuition, fine examination results and lively social programme, we believe that young Swiss people could come to no better school in Britain."

THE BAZAAR! 24 NOVEMBER 1984

This year it was a bit special – visitors had a very pleasant surprise when they arrived at our brand-new Foyer, so beautifully renovated. It feels like stepping into a real Swiss Chalet. Top marks for the Architects! Even our old 17th century clock showed for the first time its true antique value looking down from the walls covered in beautiful brown wood.

Of course inside the Church, all the goodies and gifts were attractively displayed on the long tables and it showed that everything given was made with loving care. While the big rush was on for people to catch a bargain there was suddenly this delicious smell coming through the doors from the foyer – they had started cooking the lunches! The girls had a hectic time out there, grilling and serving Fleischkaes and Bratwurst and had hardly time to breathe as the starving customers impatiently queued up to get a real Swiss Sausage – and they were gorgeous! While this was going on, we were still trying to sell all that was left on the tables. But by the middle of the after-

noon almost everything was gone and we made a lot of money – ABOUT £5,650 – Fantastic!

It was again a lovely day for everybody, meeting up with old friends and making new ones. Somebody from Switzerland said to me that she has never seen anything like this: that in the middle of a large world-capital like London, there could be a group of people from all different walks of life who would work so happily together to make such an event possible and successful for a

church! I can give you the answer right now to that: it is not just for any Church – it is for our own SWISS CHURCH where we all come together and seek each other's company, and we all get so much out of this that everybody is only too happy to do their bit in return! So we say a BIG THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED – AND:

E GUETS NEUS!

BONNE ANNEE! HAPPY NEW YEAR!
FELICE ANNO NUOVO!

Heidi Miller

BIRTHS

Congratulations to:

Mr and Mrs Gadd-Oberholzer on the arrival of their baby daughter Heidi Charlene on 30th December 1984; to Mr and Mrs Magdassian on the birth of their son Haik on 8th January 1985; and to M. and Madame Kunz on the birth of their son Michael on 17th January 1985.

Best wishes and good health to you all.
The Editor

Birthday Greetings to:

Dr Hans Egli, who is 86 on 17.3.85
Mr Paul Bessire, who is 88 on 20.3.85
Mr Rolf Senn, who is 74 on 30.3.85
Mrs Gret Schwab on 18.4.85
Mrs Bertie Kaluza on 21.4.85
Mrs Maya Harhalakis on 23.4.85

Wedding Anniversaries:

Congratulations to Mr and Mrs R. Baumann and Mr and Mrs F. Burri on their forthcoming wedding anniversaries on 31st March and 2nd May 1985 respectively.
Wishing you all many happy returns of the day!
The Editor

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NOTICE

Swiss Club Bristol

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Tel. Clevedon 873619

We welcome new members. If you are interested, please contact our organiser.

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OBITUARY

Ambassador Albert Weitnauer

It is with deep regret that the many friends in this country of the former Secretary of State Dr Albert Weitnauer learned of his death on 29th December. He was Ambassador in London from 1971-76, having been at the Embassy already in the 'fifties. His outstanding achievements in the service of the Confederation have been warmly appreciated in all the major Swiss papers. We shall confine ourselves to expressing our own appreciation of all Dr Weitnauer did for the Swiss community in Britain during his stay here. How much he himself enjoyed his time in London is evident from his autobiography *Rechenschaft*. We shall remember him with great respect and affection.

M.M.

UNIONE TICINESE

CASTAGNATA

The Castagnata of Unione Ticinese took place on Sunday, 18 November 1984 at Ristorante Valchera in Richmond. The Jacomelli Family worked very hard to cater for the large number of guests (some 80 persons, adults and children, attended). These included M. et Mme Duboulet from the Embassy and Members of other Swiss Societies such as NSH and Cercle Genevois.

Our President, Sig Luigi Bozzini, had borrowed specially for the occasion from the Swiss National Tourist Office a promotional film on Ticino, with some lovely views not only of the most famous resorts but also of lesser known, picturesque places: it was much enjoyed by those present, once the projector decided to work!

There was also the usual raffle, which raised some £70 for the Society, and a good deal of singing of canzonette popolari ticinesi. In other words, it was another very successful and enjoyable event.

Sig ARNOLDO NEUKOMM

We would like to extend the Society's Best Wishes to Committee Member "Duccio" Neukomm, who suffered a stroke last October and is still recovering (at the time of writing) in St James' Hospital, Wands-worth.

Valeria Ossola

THE ESCALADE CELEBRATED BY THE

LONDON CERCLE GENEVOIS

Geneva's most cherished tradition is the celebration of the Escalade, when, during the night of 11-12 December 1602 the little independent republic defeated the invasion of the Duke of Savoy. The event has been commemorated by the Genevèse in England for 70 years. In 1984, owing to the fact that the Swiss Ambassador to the Court of St James is M. François Pictet, from an old Genevèse family, the annual commemorative dinner was held at the Embassy. There were 50 participants.

Apart from the chocolate *marmite* with its marzipan vegetables, which represents the pot thrown on the head of one of the invading soldiers, the meal included another traditional Swiss dish, the cheese *fondue*. The Unione Ticinese (one of the oldest Swiss societies in London) also took part in the celebration and one of its members, Mr Luigi Bozzini, retired chef patissier of the Dorchester Hotel, was the creator of the magnificent *marmite*.

It is customary to give a short account of the historical facts, to read the proclamation and the list of the dead. This task was performed by the Ambassador himself. M. Pictet took the opportunity to remark that the majority of the 17 men who gave their lives to defend the city were not native citizens but residents. This situation is hardly surprising in a city which has always attracted many foreigners and refugees who become more Genevèse than the Genevèse themselves.

A half-hour film recently produced in Geneva about the Escalade and its annual celebration in the streets of the city was shown during the evening.

It was just before the first World War that the Genevèse in London decided to gather for the first time. And it was just before the second World War that they officially founded the Cercle Genevois, with a constitution and a committee.

For many years the society was open to men only. This changed after 1948. Several of the presidents have since been women. The present incumbent is Mrs Suzy Alland'Arbigny.

A.C.



CITY SWISS CLUB CHRISTMAS DINNER

at the Portmann Intercontinental Hotel on 13th December 1984.

For the past few years this event has been held at the above hotel. About 80 people attended. A beautifully decorated Christmas tree set off an attractive dining room and the dinner proved excellent.

Mr F. Koch, the President of the City Swiss Club, welcomed everyone very warmly. Our Ambassador M. François-Charles Pictet and Madame Pictet honoured us with their presence.

The highlight of the evening came with the rendering of Christmas carols by the Choir of St Bride's Church, Fleet Street. They sang carols from all over the world most beautifully, the last one being from the West Country giving us the traditional "We wish you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year!"

A big thank you to the Choir and to everybody who helped to make it such an enjoyable Christmas evening.

The Editor

ANGLO-SWISS SOCIETY

BOURNEMOUTH and Environs

With great satisfaction I can announce, that we held our St. Nicholas Eve as usual with 50 participants and six new members. The menu was either Cheese Fondue, or an assiette anglaise, with French bread, cakes, biscuits, chocolate and tea or coffee.

After the dinner Miss Silvia Hudson played the Grand Piano to the Christmas carols and Mrs Lore Butteress then brought the singing into swing with her accordion. Mr George Suchard brought his amplifier and played untiring to the Paul Jones and other dances.

It was after midnight when the last left, tables and chair piled up and the kitchen left in best order. We received several letters and calls, thanking us for all the work some of the members and we did, which makes it all worthwhile and an evening to remember.

Rudy & Julia Müller



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SWISS CLUB BELFAST

At last I can write a few lines, although the activities of our Swiss Club N.I. for last year have been few.

In June we invited Swiss Club Dublin to take part in an outing to Enniskillen, having lunch at one of the local hotels followed by a three-hour boat trip around Lough Erne which was no doubt enjoyed by all and having the good fortune of a glorious day's sunshine. Between the two clubs there was a turnout of approximately 40.

This was followed by an outing by our own club to one of our National Forest parks with an enjoyable picnic.

Then there was the annual Christmas Dinner where the Swiss Club N.I. was invited by Dublin which was a very successful occasion with a visit by Santa for the children. This venue was also attended by the Swiss Ambassador to Dublin.

President: Hans Egli



From left to right: Mr Hans Egli (Pres. Swiss Club N.I.), Mrs Christiane Redmond (Pres. Swiss Club Dublin), M. R. Serex (Swiss Ambassador to Dublin), Mme. Serex

SWISS CLUB EDINBURGH

We held our AGM in November and even though we had quite reasonable support for most of our events we would like to draw in some new people. Apart from the following programme we had a Dinner at the Alphorn Restaurant, Rose Street, Edinburgh on 6th December and a Raclette Evening in January.

We would like to reach some more Swiss people in Edinburgh and interest them to join us. With this in mind we have again established a 'Stammtisch' which will enable people to meet quite informally. From 14th January 1985 we will meet on every second Monday of the month at the Albany Hotel, 39 Albany Street, Edinburgh at about 8pm. New members and friends very welcome. This is in addition to our programme which is as follows:

Monday, 25 March, 8 pm
Fondue Party.

Monday, 13 May, 7.30 pm
Skittle Evening at the Sheep's Heid Inn. A match against Dunfermline Swiss Club. Any information about the Club and on these events can be obtained from the President of the Club, Mrs Suzanne Henderson, 10 Frogston Road West, Edinburgh, tel. 031 445 1125 or the Secretary, Mrs Trudi Bott, 10 Station Road, South Queensferry, West Lothian EH30 9HY, tel. 031 331 3366.

SOME SWISS WHO HELPED MAKE BRITAIN GREAT

A few weeks ago, the journalist Anne Cendre gave a talk to the New Helvetic Society in London on personalities of Swiss origin who contributed to life in Britain. This is a summary of her exposé.

The many Swiss whose activities contributed to Britain included priests, soldiers, doctors, scientists, artists, diplomats, intellectuals, bankers, businessmen, industrialists, show business people, etc. A splendidly illustrated book by the late ambassador Beat de Fischer, *2000 ans de présence suisse en Angleterre* (Delachaux et Niestlé) surveys the Swiss presence in England.

Without going too far back, one can find a first example in the 11th century: it was a Swiss who crowned William the Conqueror in 1070 in Windsor. Another crowning had taken place on Christmas Day 1066 in Westminster Abbey but led to some confusion on its legitimacy. Ermenfroid, bishop of Sion, Valais, envoy of Pope Alexander II, performed the real ceremony.

Another churchman left a tangible mark: a member of the Grandson family (who had come from the Pays de Vaud with Peter of Savoy), John, Bishop of Exeter for 40 years, was responsible for the rebuilding of the cathedral of Exeter in its gothic style, with the magnificent palm branch vault ceiling. From the Pays de Vaud came another builder in the 18th century, Charles Labelye, who constructed the first Westminster Bridge, which was the first stone crossing after London Bridge. Labelye met much opposition and difficulties during the construction made according to a system new to Britain. But when the structure survived an earthquake it was declared safe and opened in a colourful and lively ceremony in 1750.

Many Swiss were close to English kings. One of those was Sir Theodore Turquet de Mayerne, Baron d'Aubonne (whose portrait was painted by Rubens), doctor of James I and Charles I after having been doctor to French kings Henri IV and Louis XIII. His reputation was immense. Apart from medicine he was interested in philosophy, chemistry, painting and he invented a process to make the picture on enamel last longer and look brighter. His epitaph on his funeral monument in the basement of St Martin in the Fields in London compares him to Hippocrates. He helped many compatriots, notably the skilled Genevese miniaturist Jean Petitot.

George III who had had Swiss teachers as a child, surrounded himself by many Swiss. He chose them as diplomatic envoys, as governesses to his daughters, as military preceptors for his sons, as chaplains, as scientific and artistic advisers to himself. The constitution of the Royal Academy of Art was drafted with the help of Georg Michael Moser, a painter from Schaffhouse, because George III did not like the first president Joshua Reynolds. Moser's art school became the Royal Academy school. The R.A. had two other Swiss founders,

Moser's sister Mary, a flower painter, and the brilliant Angelica Kaufmann, born in Chur, Grisons, whose talent was established at the age of ten when she painted the portrait of the Bishop of Como. She lived 15 years in London, befriending many great artists, dazzling everybody by her charm and her talent, arousing also much jealousy, from her compatriot Henri Fuseli, amongst others, a greater painter but who was not so successful.

The worldwide known artificial mineral water Schweppes had its origin in Geneva in 1783 and was manufactured in London by its inventor, Jacob Schweppe, a German jeweller who had become a resident of Geneva; he came back there after having made a fortune in London in just seven years.

Madame Tussaud is also Swiss. She was born in Bern and was called Marie Groscholtz. She went to Paris to learn wax modelling with an uncle who opened the first waxwork exhibition. After her marriage to the spendthrift Frenchman Tussaud, she left him to settle in England where she toured the country with her exhibition before opening the permanent museum in London where she greeted her customers until her death, in 1850, aged 89.

The Dulwich gallery of painting, the first public gallery in London, would probably not exist without the generosity of the painter Sir Francis Bourgeois, son of a Vaudois clockmaker. Bourgeois had inherited a magnificent collection from a French dealer and bequeathed it to Dulwich College.

The *Thesaurus of English words and phrases* was the work of a retired doctor, Peter Roget, son of a Genevese clergyman. Finally, the founder of the Ritz and many other hotels, nicknamed "the hotelier of kings and the king of hoteliers", Cesar Ritz, was born in the Valais.

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DUNFERMLINE SWISS CLUB

An ageing and ever-diminishing community would seem to offer little incentive to young Swiss coming to live in Scotland. Despite these outwardly adverse conditions the Dunfermline Swiss Club is flourishing. Meetings are held regularly, programmes are varied and aimed at both the young and old. We hope to see many more second generation Swiss in our club this year. If you stay in or around Dunfermline, do come and join us and bring your friends!

A concert was organised by the Club in December. Every member had worked hard to make this and the sale of work held during the interval a success. The handsome sum of £130 was raised for club funds. Earlier in the year a summer outing to Linlithgow (all three Scottish Swiss clubs took part) proved successful as the photograph of our singing octogenarians shows. Unfortunately, we lost two more of our very active members last year. Mr and Mrs Eugster had for years been in charge of our club funds, lending a helping hand whenever it was needed and taking a special interest in the younger members of the club. We shall miss them both.



Meetings for 1985 are as follows:

13th February, theatre visit; 13th March, German feature film show; 17th April, Annual dinner; 15th May, "Ein Stück aus alten Zeiten"; 16th June, visit to the Burrell Collection; 1st August, National Day celebration; 4th September, visit to Edinburgh Festival; 16th October, monthly meeting and possibly Solidarity Fund Film and talk by Mariann Meier; 13th November, Annual General Meeting.

Enquiries to: Mrs F. Adams, secretary, 10 Old Kirk Place, Dunfermline or to Dr. Ursula Ditchburn, president, 21 Pitbauchlie Bank, Dunfermline.



THE HISTORY OF THE CRESTA RUN

Although St. Moritz has a reputation for attracting the wealthy and the glamorous, the Cresta has maintained a character and an international membership of its own. It appeals to the British mentality with its strong element of danger. The official *History of the St. Moritz Tobogganing Club* was written by Michael Seth-Smith in 1976. Throughout its pages are described distinguished figures who have been members of the Club. Two of the greatest are Major W. H. Bulpett, who was elected the Club's first President in 1887 and who played the dominant rôle in the first 30 years of the Cresta history, and the first Lord Brabazon of Tara (President 1939-1954), who regarded the Cresta as the purest of all sports.



Until 1929 ladies were allowed to ride the Cresta. They were then banished for medical reasons, as one competitor died of breast cancer, but probably more out of lack of interest than any chauvinistic move on the part of the men. Though the British, and sometimes the Americans, tended to dominate racing on the Cresta in the early years an Italian, Nino Bibbia, a grocer in St. Moritz, became the man to beat in the 1950-1970 period, winning more cups

than any other Cresta rider before or since. In recent years a batch of young Swiss enthusiasts, with easier and more regular access to St. Moritz, has taken over the lead, headed by Bruno Bischofberger, Poldi Berchtold and Franco Gansser, the current holder of both Top and Junction records. Last year, however, a 21-year-old British rider, James Sunley, currently working with a firm of surveyors, Clive Lewis & Partners, became the fastest-ever British rider. He broke the record from Top no less than three times, only to be overtaken by Franco Gansser in the last ten days of the season. The duel will continue in Centenary year. Developments in the design of toboggans, changes in riders' clothing and boots, and more scientific methods of starting, riding and above all, cornering, have been responsible for the considerably faster speeds attained in recent years.

The Cresta enters its second hundred years in good shape. Riders have inevitably become more professional in attitude but the St. Moritz Tobogganing Club is as amateur as ever. The sport and the enjoyment of a particularly British type, remain the principal objectives of those who travel to the Engadine each year to ride the Cresta.

NOTICE

CHAUMONT sur NEUCHÂTEL. En vue de l'impression d'un livre sur "Chaumont à la Belle Epoque", je cherche 1 carte postale avec 1 voiture et 2 Bus devant le premier Grand Hôtel (1900) et une carte postale No. 425 avec 2 Bus (Etit. T. Jacot). S'adresser à André RATZE-AUBERT, Les Gentianes, CH-2067 CHAUMONT sur Neuchâtel.

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