

Zeitschrift: Swiss review : the magazine for the Swiss abroad
Herausgeber: Organisation of the Swiss Abroad
Band: 13 (1986)
Heft: 2

Anhang: Local news : Great Britain

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Local News – Great Britain

Switzerland in Britain's cultural life PREVIEW Music

The New Zurich String Quartet The New Zurich String Quartet will give several concerts in Great Britain from July 2 to 6 at the Wigmore Hall, **London**. Their suggested programme includes works by Haydn, Ravel, Schubert, Beethoven, Dvorak, Schumann, Mozart, Hindemith, Karel Husa, **Frank Martin** and Shostakovich, and probably one of **Schoeck's** String Quartets, which will be recorded by the BBC.

The Swiss Youth Symphony Orchestra has been invited to take part at the International Youth Festival 1986 in Aberdeen, Perth and Edinburgh.

Andreas DELFS conductor

July 30th, 11 am in **Aberdeen**, Music Hall

Inaugural Ceremony.

August 2nd, 7.30 pm in **Aberdeen**, Music Hall. Main Festival Concert.

August 6th, 7.30 pm in **Perth**, City Hall.

August 9th, 7.30 pm in **Edinburgh**, Tollcross Hall.

The Swiss Youth Symphony Orchestra will take on the role of "Host Orchestra" at the Inaugural Ceremony. On August 9th, the orchestra will be performing at the opening concert in Edinburgh to mark the beginning of the Festival of British Youth Orchestra.

Programme:

Othmar Schoeck - Festlicher Hymnus, op.64

J. F. Zbinden - Orchestral - Concerto

Beethoven - Piano Concerto No. 4.

Soloist: Andreas Haefliger.

Schumann - Symphony No.3 "Die Rheinische".

Folk song ensemble and solos. Beat and Christina Ramseyer - Aeschbach from Basel.

July 19th to 26th - Middlesborough, Cleveland, Cleveland-Inter-Tie, International Eisteddfod. Tel: 0642-246601

SWISS NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION

Friday 1st August 1986 at the Swiss Church, 79 Endell Street, London WC2.

Soirée Familiale

Official Address by the Swiss Ambassador, Monsieur François-Charles Pictet.

Entertainment with the Tanzkapelle Tony Gehrig from Switzerland. Typical Swiss Food and Drink available. Admission Free but limited.

Doors open 6 pm.

OBITUARY

Gaston John Bartholdi

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Gaston Bartholdi, of 3 Pangbourne Drive, Stanmore, Middlesex. He died on 26th March after a long and courageously borne illness.

The firm of BARTHOLDI is practically a household name in the Swiss community of London and the Home Counties. The grandfather of the present owners, Otto, came to this country as a farmer, but became a butcher and worked near Smithfield. He and his Swiss wife Frieda opened the shop and restaurant in Charlotte Street in 1928. Not far from Oxford Street and Tottenham Court Road, and close to the SMS College, the Swiss Benevolent Society and the "Schwyzerbund" premises, it became a kind of little Swiss Centre where one not only bought meat and sausages, Swiss cheese and provisions, but met for meals and discussions. Half a century ago, it was the only place where one could get a real "Roesti" and "Bratwurst" and a spicy "Appenzeller".

Gaston was born in London on 9th May 1917. Like his parents, he was a staunch Swiss. He kept his Swiss nationality throughout his life and spoke excellent "Schwyzerduetsch". He spent his early years at boarding school until he was old enough to lend a hand at the shop.

He learned the skills of butchery and sausage-making in Switzerland. After his apprenticeship, he returned to London. He was a hard-working young man and a great support to his parents.

He married in 1948, and his wife Hanny gave him a daughter and three sons. His mother died at the end of the war, and his father in 1960. Gaston carried on the business with the help of his family. By then it was the shop only, for the restaurant had been closed down in 1959, a great disappointment to many. The shop was enlarged, and gradually, the three sons became involved in the business (meat, sausages, cheese and a variety of Swiss and other provisions).

It was very gratifying to Hanny and Gaston to see the expansion of the business in the hands of their three capable sons. They, like their father and grandfather before them, have been good and generous supporters of Swiss charities and good friends to many in the Swiss community.

Gaston was a man of great courage and unfailing good spirits. He will be greatly missed by many. Our deep sympathy goes out to his wife Hanny, the daughter and sons and five grandchildren. They were all a wonderful source of strength for Gaston in his illness, and the younger generations will be a great well of consolation and courage to Hanny who has looked after her husband with exemplary devotion during the many difficult years.

Mariann Meier

New Helvetic Society (Nouvelle Société Helvétique) "Calvin's Geneva and the Scottish Reformation"

On Wednesday 26th February 1986, our guest speaker was Mr John McCafferty, Principal of the Swiss Mercantile Society College, 34/35 Fitzroy Square, London W1 since January 1985.

His subject was two sixteenth century refugees who played major roles in the religious and political life of the time; one, Jean Calvin, in Geneva itself, and the other, his friend and colleague John Knox, in his native Scotland. A Scotsman himself, Mr McCafferty told the story of how Knox, expelled first from Scotland and then from England by enemies of the Reformation, came finally to Geneva where he was minister of the English refugee church.

On his return to Scotland in 1560, in defiance of Mary Queen of Scots, he reformed the Church on the model of Calvin's Church in Geneva, and the staunch Calvinism he bequeathed to Scotland was one of the strongest links between this country and Switzerland and had a deep influence on British life and history.

Mr McCafferty illustrated his talk with slides of two of Europe's most interesting smaller cities - Edinburgh and Geneva. Dinner followed at the Portman Hotel.

NOTICE

National Garden Festival Stoke-on-Trent open May 86 to mid October 86. Anyone interested please contact: Mr Mueller (0782) 89983

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P.S. Did you know that the very first of August Badge was introduced in 1923?

Le Billet d'une Transplantée

On m'avait dit: "Tu as bien du courage d'aller recommencer ta vie en Angleterre, à ton âge!" Mais je n'ai aucun mérite à cela puisque j'ai emporté ici toutes mes racines: cent vingt caisses de livres, le piano de Grand' Maman, et tous ces vieux meubles familiaux de style, rafistolés par mes soins avec de la car j'ai démolé mon cottage, le premier jour, en vissant l'une des colonnes de ma bibliothèque avec une aiguille à tricoter en plastique. Dans un floc impressionnant comme un coup de feu sur de la pâte à gâteau, je reçus une pluie de plâtre à la figure et, par le large trou que j'avais fait, j'aperçus pour la première fois le mini-grenier. Ne sachant où caser mes livres, je dressai à la verticale les lits de mes parents défunts et ceux réservés aux amis, pour en faire des bibliothèques anglaises, et j'entassai sur mon lit tous les matelas, ce qui me donna la chance de pouvoir dormir au plafond. Comme, ensuite, tout pétait ou s'arrêtait, ampoules électriques, eau, gaz ce fut chez moi un défilé d'ouvriers bien élevés, qui ôtaient leurs chaussures avant d'entrer, comme s'ils allaient pénétrer dans une mosquée. Mais j'aime ce climat maritime, particulièrement vivant, si vivant que mon garage s'est effondré à la première tempête. Je trouve les adultes anglais extrêmement agréables, mais les garçonnets ont des voix de cantatrices wagnériennes qui tuent le merveilleux silence. Les filles d'ici, en revanche, sont d'une sagesse si extraordinaire qu'on se demande comment, au sortir de l'adolescence déjà, elles peuvent être

toutes enceintes de jumeaux. Mais le peuple anglais est surtout sportif, tellement sportif qu'il a créé un sport pour chaque action. Passionné d'obstacles, il ne fabrique, ne vend et n'achète que du compliqué, si bien qu'absorbée par mon entraînement aux difficultés je parus avoir oublié ma patrie. Alors, mes collègues helvétiques constituèrent à mon intention une chorale téléphonique. C'est ainsi que j'entends, chaque samedi, éclater dans mon appareil le célèbre "Ranz des vaches", ponctué de tintements de toupins agités en mesure, pour me rappeler le pays. "Tu pleures, au moins?" m'ont demandé, l'autre soir, du fond de la Romandie, mes compatriotes choristes, la voix brisée par l'émotion. "Qui, je pleure de rire!", leur répondis-je. Mais je n'aurais pu leur dire ça, car eux, ils pleuraient vraiment.

Jacqueline Thévoz

Swiss Church - Eglise Suisse

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Schweizerclub Paignton und Umgebung Agenda 1986 bis September

Juni/June 18th at 7.30 pm - Surprise Evening out

July/July 3rd at 10.00 - 12.00 - Coffee Morning and Bring and Buy Sale at ODD FELLOW'S HALL

July/July 16th at 7.30 pm - Pub Crawl

August 1st at 7.00 pm - Barbecue at Lupton Park (Max)

September 4th at 10.00 - 12.00 - Coffee Morning and Bring and Buy Sale at ODD FELLOW'S HALL

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO:

Martha Buckland on 10th June
Agnes Williams on 14th July
Elsa Harley on 16th July
Hedi Tingley on 20th June
John Tingley on 23rd July
Bernhard Tingley on 28th August
Henry Tschudy on 12th August
Miss Martha Oswald on 30th June
Mrs Lewis of Ealing
Mrs Trudi Senn on 9 August
Mrs Mariann Meier on 10 August
Mr Bernhard Simon on 23 August

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Mr. & Mrs. J. W.
Bonjour-Collet on 10 June
Mr. & Mrs. W. Renz on 30 July
Mr. & Mrs. Kaluza on 5 August

with best wishes to you all and many happy returns of the day! The Editor

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Manchester SWISSAIR, John Dalton House,
12 John Dalton Street,
Tel: 061-832 8161

Glasgow SWISSAIR, Phoenix House,
78 St Vincent Street,
Tel: 041-248 6491/2

New Helvetic Society

To mark the 70th anniversary of the foundation of the London Group of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique, over 70 members, their families and friends attended the Celebration Dinner at the Locanda Restaurant, Swiss Centre, at which M. Robert Schnyder von Wartensee, President Central, NSH Switzerland, was guest of honour. These were the major points of his address:

Ladies and Gentlemen,
I bring you best wishes from your Swiss "mother", the NSH Switzerland, which with its 2,000 members and 16 local branches is barely two years older than its "daughter", the London Group. We wish to congratulate you for persevering in carrying on your activities in spite of and during 2 world wars and adverse circumstances. But then, is this not in keeping with our statutes which set forth that "the NSH represents an attitude of mind and the conviction that the Swiss Confederation of responsible citizens, of varied communities, will be able to overcome problems in the present as well as in the future?"

We have to overcome two handicaps however: a deep-rooted indifference towards issues which cannot be concretely understood and a rather disconnected manner of approaching problems which could be seen more embracingly. It has also become fashionable to doubt and question everything. This, in turn, is depriving us from a sound basis on which to rest our fundamental values.

A common will does not exist for all times; it has to be remodelled constantly, taking into account the situation of the day. But objective discussion is greatly impeded because we are now going through times when unfortunately, prejudices, monocausal thinking and the need to find scapegoats are on the increase; looking for negative aspects and bringing everything into discredit has almost become a virtue in this context, the NSH cannot remain unconcerned. We are proposing to make "Dialogue and objective discussion" one of the themes of our contribution to the CH-91 Jubilee Year.

compatriots abroad. If, originally, the organisation of the Swiss Abroad was created out of solidarity for our fellow countrymen and women living in foreign lands, today we witness a reversal of the situation: it is the country of origin which needs its Swiss abroad as credible, objective conveyors of information about our people and our country in order to establish an international feeling of confidence.

Confidence thrives only on genuine human relations. It would appear that this most important role played by you, our Swiss abroad, is not fully recognised and appreciated at home; we shall endeavour to put this right by all possible means.

The many problems facing us could get us down, inducing us to crawl back into our shell. But if we are genuinely filled with the spirit of the N.S.H. then we can be confident in the strength of our people and that we will hold together in troubled times and find new solutions. As Denis de Rougemont once said: "It is not important how the wind blows, but how you set your sails".

A. Allen



Photo Courtesy of Mr. Sabir.

Yet, surviving as a national entity "une et diverse" (united yet varied) is by no means self-evident. We, as members of the NSH, should be the spokesmen for new ideas dealing with long-term problems of our society and our State, acting as scouts as well as a kind of early warning device in the flow of constant changes, in order to lay a sound foundation for international confidence. To this end and in order to solve some of our most pressing problems, we should consider the following points, all, incidentally, reflecting an attitude of mind.

- A consensus on fundamental values.
- The will, the readiness and the ability to engage in a dialogue.
- The vitality of our voluntary and self-help schemes.
- Maintaining closer relations with our compatriots living abroad.

("CH-91" is the title of the National Exhibition to mark the 700th anniversary of the Swiss Confederation in 1991.) Voluntary work in another way of contributing to better understanding. The greater the number of citizens engaged in voluntary activities, the livelier the relations between the individual and the community, thus the local integration of citizens. In spite of the relatively high percentage of Swiss men and women engaged in voluntary work - be it with cultural or political organisations, sports leagues, social welfare and religious groups, it still holds true that "there are a few who see to it that something happens, there are many who watch something happening, and then there is the majority; who do not even notice that something has happened to change the surroundings".

Finally, I come to the part played by our

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SWISS REVIEW

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2/86 June 21.4.86
3/86 September 2.8.86
4/86 December 13.10.86

Please remember these dates, it is very important for your articles to arrive on time. Please send very clear bright photos preferably black and white otherwise the final reproduction may not be satisfactory. The Swiss Review goes to print two months before the publishing date.

Editors Address:
Mrs. M. E. Hall-Zeller
27 Redway Drive
Whitton TW2 7NT
Tel: 01-894 2114

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY'S AGM

The Society held its 97th Annual General Meeting at Swiss House on 16th April 1986.

The members observed a minute's silence in memory of the Society's President, Mr W. Burren, who died last year in July during a short stay in hospital; and in memory of Messrs Werner Bloechlinger, Hermann Kipfer, Marius Paschoud and Ian Thomas, a former SMS teacher, who died last year. Mr K. Deutschle, the acting chairman, reported that the meetings of the Society had again been held in conjunction with the New Helvetic Society, to whom he expressed the Society's grateful thanks for arranging a series of very interesting talks.

As usual, the main activities were centred on the College. The Chairman stated that the financial situation of the College was very precarious, as a substantial loss was incurred in the financial year ending on 31st December 1985. It had become necessary to convert a current account debt to SKV into a Third Mortgage.

The College Report showed that the average number of students in the College during any 5 week period was 125.8 (125.4 in 1984). The Autumn term had been disappointing for recruitment, but the trend was again healthy in the first quarter of 1986, and particularly in May. It had become necessary to start a major redecoration programme at Swiss House; Mr Deutschle pointed out that good progress had already been made with this.

Prior to the elections to the Council and the Committees, Mr Deutschle reported that he had received the resignations of Mr John Weibel (Hon. Secretary) and Mr Julius Keller (Education Committee). Appreciation was expressed for their past service. He also referred to the valuable service of Mr Peter Obrist, who would be leaving in Autumn.

As the Society was unable to appoint a new President, Mr Deutschle agreed to act as ad interim President. Current members of the different committees were willing to continue to serve and were duly re-elected. The Society was pleased to appoint Mr R Helfenstein from the Swiss Embassy as a member of the Education Committee.

Before bringing the AGM to a close, Mr Deutschle urged all members to consider the appointment of a new President as well as the recruitment of new members.

R. Kaenzig

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Easter at the Swiss Church in London A Special Celebration

The Easter Service at the Swiss Church in Endell Street had rather a distinctive character this year. Music was provided not only by the organist, Martin Pacey, but also by a string trio from Switzerland. The service was in three languages, German, French and English, and the sermon was given by the Parish Minister, The Rev. Philipp von Orelli. It was followed by Holy Communion.

The string trio, Barbara Bolliger (violin), Rebekka Spinnler (viola) and Vital Zehnder (cello), have been very successful in competitions in Switzerland for young string players, and they were on a short concert tour in England.



The congregation enjoyed their playing very much, not only during the service, but also in the afternoon. There was music by Haydn, Mozart and Bach, as well as by Schubert and Dohnanyi.

Of the large number of people attending the service, some 70 remained for lunch in the pleasant church hall, the ante-room recently refurbished, which now serves as a very attractive meeting hall for gatherings of various kinds.

On behalf of the Church and the New Helvetic Society, Mrs Mariann Meier thanked the Minister for the beautiful Easter Service, Mrs Sabir and her helpers for the excellent lunch and the young visitors from Switzerland for their kindness in offering such an excellent musical performance, and she wished them luck in their future endeavours.

After the recital in the afternoon, Pfr. von Orelli showed the film on the Shroud of Turin, "Silent Witness". It was an interesting scientific presentation and convincing only because it left the question open whether it was indeed the genuine article or an extremely clever forgery.

Altogether it was a very satisfying and pleasing day, and one left filled with a real Easter spirit of gratitude and hope. MM

Southern Area Swiss Club

Our club continues to flourish and meets every first Friday of the month at Oak Farm Centre in Farnborough, Hampshire. The programme for the rest of the year is:

- 4-7-86 - a lively games and fun evening for the young and young at heart.
- 2-8-86 - First of August Celebrations in Ash.
- 5-9-86 - Films about Switzerland.
- 3-10-86 - Fondue.
- 7-11-86 - Cake Icing Demonstration.
- 5-12-86 - Christmas Party.

For further information please ring our President M. Gret on Fleet 615149. New members always welcome.

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Secretary:

Mrs Trudy Bott

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West Lothian EH30 9HY

Tel: 031 331 3366

Monday 23rd June at 8 pm - BARBECUE at Society Beach, South Queensferry. We should be please to welcome members from Dunfermline to this yearly family barbecue. Please let the Secretary know if you can come by 13th June as we have to order the Bratwuerste and Cervelats.

1 August National Day Celebration - Again the Henderson's have invited us; as usual meet:

at 7.30 pm at the bottom of the Ski Lift at Hillend for those who feel energetic enough to climb to the top and enjoy the marvellous view from there, or 8.30 pm at the Henderson's, 10 Frogston Road West, Edinburgh.

Monday 29th September at 8 pm - A TALK ON RUSSIA by Meg Luckins. Vreni Fry has invited us to her home at 14 Winton Drive, Edinburgh. Please phone Vreni if you wish to come. Tel: 445 4755.

Should the weather be bad please phone the secretary for alternative arrangements.

Costs for all the above events will be shared.

Members are also invited to join the Queensferry Association on their visit to DALMENY HOUSE (Lord Rosebery's Residence). The House is not normally open on an evening, this is a chance to join a special tour. If you are interested please get in touch with the Secretary two or three days before. DATE AND TIME: Wednesday 18th June, 7.30 pm Dalmeny House.

During the Festivals, Vreni Fry will be playing the Edinburgh Recorder Consort at St. Marks Church, Castle Terrace. Perhaps, we could get a group together to go to this. More details later.

The A.G.M. 27th January 1986

President: Mrs Suzanne Henderson

In her report the president mentioned that the Club seemed to have had a good year with most events well supported - it was especially appreciated that the younger members showed interest and took part. Most of the members, however, seemed to lead a busy life and that was probably the reason why neither the 'Stammtisch' nor the Coffee Morning were really successful. However, the Swimming was still going on. In October, due to pressure of work, the treasurer had resigned - the president thanked her on behalf of the Club for all the work she had done. On our very successful 25th Anniversary Party we had a surplus of £28.00. This, however did not include the hire of the hall (£49) which was paid from Club funds. The Club's funds as at 27 January 1986 stood at £67.25.

It was unanimously decided to raise the membership subscription from £2 to £3. The new programme was then discussed - the cost for the skittle alley at the Sheep Heid Inn had gone up from £15 to £25 and we decided to try a different place and to make it a once-a-year event only.

Otti Hartmann thanked the President and the Committee for their work during the year and the Meeting ended at 10 pm.

The Yorkshire Swiss Club

March 22nd was our A.G.M. and film show at the Foreign Language Centre in Bradford. About 25 members braved the fierce gales and went home in torrential rain, to see three beautiful films of Switzerland: "Bernese Mittelland", "Fascination of a Landscape" and "Castles in Switzerland". The last, without any commentary, was just music and especially beautiful.

A.G.M. business was carried out before and in the interval of the film-show. Future events for 1986 were discussed with a visit to a Brewery next month as first on the list, followed by gliding, a visit to a coal mine, Yeadon Airport, Harrogate ski-run and of course the lunch at Sandal, a Swiss evening on August 1st and a Christmas Party. So we have lots to look forward to.

Sadly our Treasurer resigned, but as no one came forward to take his place, Mr Kägi agreed to carry on for the time being. He gave his annual report and we start the year with money in the bank!

Secretary: Shiela Besson-Burrows

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A Swiss Farmer in England

In 1979 we bought a 174 acre (70 ha) farm in Kent. It was a big step for us. As probably not many know, a lot of Swiss farmers emigrated in the seventies, mostly to Canada. The reasons were no possibilities for expansion in Switzerland, over-production and especially the milk-quota in 1979.

We had a dairy farm between Winterthur and Zürich, with a pedigree Brown Swiss Herd, with 29 cows to milk. As a "big" milk producer, the quota meant a cut-back of 25%. I bought the farm in 1968 from my parents, married in 1972, and have a daughter. With a not very promising future in store, we decided to move. England was the obvious choice for us; we had English farming friends and liked the country and the people.

On our farm we produce wheat, oats, grain maize and beef. The successful re-introducing of grain maize in England made a few reports in farming magazines. Looking back, we were made very welcome; our first Christmas tree was a present from a neighbour (a real Scotsman!) We were never treated as foreigners or strangers. In the meantime I was elected as Branch Chairman of the National Farmers Union (150 farmers) and Vice Chairman of the NFU Kent PR-Committee. I know farming in both countries; and in my opinion a student-exchange would bring a great benefit to the Swiss farmer.

Well, we are very happy here; the only thing we can't get in our part of the world are smoked bacons, hams and Bratwürste as they were made in the good old days; so we started to make our own. Our English friends (and guinea-pigs!) persuaded us to set up a service for "home-sick tastebuds" (only to make sure that they won't loose their supply for hams in bread-dough) and we are pleased with the response.

We hope you enjoy the English way of life as much as we do!

Matthias Lüthi, Kingsgate Farm,
Wittersham, Kent.

Swiss Club Manchester

Sun 22th June 86: Mystery Tour by Coach
Sat 12th July 86: Visit/Picnic to Open Air Theatre at Gawsworth Hall

Fri 1st Aug 86: National Day Celebration/Bonfire

Sun 21st Sept 86: Bowling and Barbecue

Fri 21st Nov 86: Raclette Party

Sat 13th Dec 86: Childrens Father Christmas Party

With regard to the regular monthly meetings at the Deanwater Hotel Handforth I regret to report that they had to be discontinued due to lack of support. The keen Jassers met for a while at each others homes until the opportunity presented itself to join the Bramhall Park Lawn Tennis Club as Social Members, where suitable bar and sitting facilities exist. This arrangement has turned out quite successful (every other Wednesday) and is available to anyone (subject to membership to BPTC), who is interested in an occasional Jass and/or regular get-together. For further details please contact Mrs. Josette Gould-Huber (0625) 874033.