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Local News – Great Britain



Christmas message from the Swiss Ambassador 1986

I am so glad to have this opportunity to wish the readers of the "Swiss Review" and their loved ones, wherever they may be, a very happy Christmas and New Year on behalf of both my wife and myself. During 1986 we have had the pleasure of renewing acquaintance with quite a few of you and of meeting others for the first time, and we look forward to seeing even more members of the Swiss community next year.



 * Best wishes for Christmas *
 * and a happy, prosperous *
 * New Year to all our readers. *
 * The Editor *

Switzerland in Britain's cultural life

PUBLICATIONS

Adolf MUSCHG

The Institute of Germanic Studies (Universities of London) has just informed us of a new publication, "London German Studies III" (edited by J. P. Stern), which makes available a selection of papers given at the Institute between 1983 and 1985 by distinguished scholars from the United Kingdom and abroad. Adolf Muschg's paper:

"Das Verhältnis Literaturwissenschaftler – Autor"

Which he delivered during his lecture-tour of Britain in Spring 1983, is included in this collection. (IGS, 29 Russell Square, London WC1B 5DP, £10). Mr. Muschg had come to this country on the occasion of the publication in English of his book "The Blue Man & Other Stories" (Carcanet New Press Ltd) in May 1983.

The Invention of Paradise

by Peter C. Berner and Daniel Schmid
 Our attention has been drawn to this book, available in German and French and in an English translation by Peter Hill, published by Buchverlag des Schweiz. Beobachters (Industriestr. 54, 8152 Glattbrugg, Switzerland, Frs. 48 – [quantity discount]).

"This book is most unusual – the authors call it "A Spectacle in Five Acts". The first three are the Evocation, the Encounter and the Adornment of Paradise, followed by Life in Paradise and lastly the End of Paradise.

The book contains little text compared to the documents and photographs and other authentic reproductions which fill every page.

The book deals with Switzerland, but the paradise in question is not Switzerland – she is merely the backcloth. The players are international celebrities of many countries, who found life good in Switzerland in the "Belle Epoque", though we meet William Tell quite early on. It recalls High Society at the great palace hotels in their superb Swiss scenery.

We meet them all, from Rousseau to Nietzsche, Goethe, Byron and Shelley, from Queen Victoria and other Royals to Richard and Cosima Wagner and Bellini, from Tolstoy to Daguerre and Hegel. Finally, the outbreak of the First World War signalled the end, and the famous and fashionable returned to the capitals of Europe, except those we meet in the last act, the men and women sick in the sanatoria up in the Alps, the Empress Elisabeth of Austria who was assassinated in Geneva, Moriarty finally killed at the Reichenbach Falls and the greatest dancer of all times, Nijinsky, who danced for the last time in his life at the Suvretta House in St. Moritz.

The rich illustrations are well chosen, and all the scenic pictures, photographs, newspaper cuttings, manuscripts and even Albert Smith's game "Ascent of Mont Blanc" are authentic reproductions. It is a fascinating 300 pages of history presented in a new form and beautifully produced".

(Mariann Meier, London)



Valaisans at Bisley Shoot

A Swiss family occasion took place on 31st August when members and families of the Swiss Rifle Association welcomed the Société de Tir Montana from Valais. The meeting was initiated by former Swiss Rifle Secretary Brian Kett who now lives in Switzerland. To shoot at the well known British shooting grounds realised a much sought after objective and the Valaisans' enthusiasm earned them the honours at 300M and 600 yards.

At the conclusion of the days events a mutual exchange of trophies and awards took place with appreciation by the London President Marcel Bucherer and the thanks of the visitors by Montana President Jean Bonvin.

The fine summer evening allowed dinner to be taken on the lawn outside the club house thus concluding a most agreeable day. Next year the Swiss Rifle Association members will journey to the Valais for a return match.

B.K.

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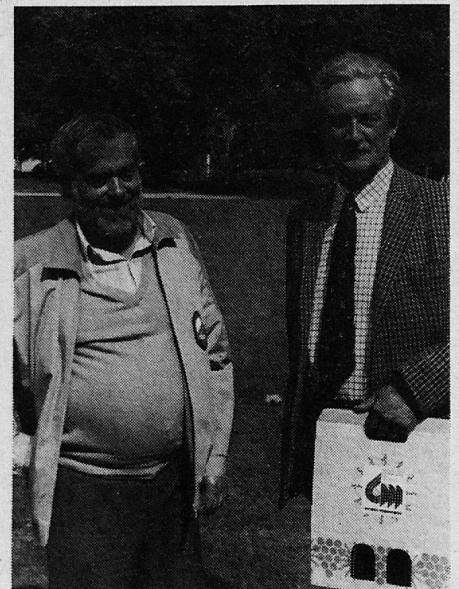
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Montana President Jean Bonvin with Brigadier Prescott Secretary of the Bisley ranges. Note subtle advertising for the Montana-Crans ski championships.



International Awards for Swissair and Zurich Airport

Swissair has again been voted best airline worldwide in the annual poll conducted among frequent business flyers by 'Business Traveller' magazine (UK). Completing a fine all-round performance for Switzerland in the survey, Zurich Airport was rated second best in Europe and third best in the world. Swissair has topped the 'Business Traveller' poll ever since it started in 1980. Of the 52 airlines mentioned in the 1986 survey, Swissair attracted twice as many votes as runner-up British Airways, with Singapore Airlines in third place. Swissair was given the top rating in several individual categories, including

punctuality, reliability and quality of service.

'Business Traveller' readers rated Zurich as the third best airport in the world after Amsterdam and Singapore and thus the second best in Europe. According to the poll, travellers particularly appreciate Zurich's up-to-date and efficient terminals, the speed of check-in, the reliability of baggage handling and the airport's attractive transit facilities.

The awards ceremony will take place in London on September 30th. In a presentation held in the same city just six days previously, Swissair collected the best airline in Europe award from the UK magazine 'Executive Travel', again following a readers' poll.

70 Years of Patriotic Activities

June 1916 – the great powers were engaged in a ghastly war. Switzerland was accused by some British people of being pro-German, so when the London Group of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique was formed in June of that year, its main task was to put the records straight and to work for better understanding of Switzerland's position by organising talks, issuing communiqués trying to change the hostile press. Dr. Arnold Laett became full-time Secretary, and he did a marvellous job to regain the precious friendship of the British.

200 compatriots had put their signatures to the first initiative, and later the various Swiss societies co-operated with the NSH, and membership rose to 600 within two years. The amount of work dealt with can be gauged from the fact that the Secretary had two typists and over 40 voluntary helpers. Over 200 articles, communiqués and corrections were sent to the British press during the first two years. The British Government gave every support and many facilities. Activities of the group included efforts to get university exchanges, finding Swiss correspondents for British papers, study commissions were set up, lectures organised and finally, the NSH was instrumental in creating in Switzerland the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad. That was the beginning of the London Group. Its founders were united by "la malice du temps".

In 1919, the "Swiss Observer" was founded by Mr. P. F. Boehringer and members of the City Swiss Club and the NSH, and Dr. Laett became its first Editor, the workload having lessened at the NSH Office.

The role of the Society has changed over the years. Unlike during the first world war, its activities declined during the second, and it nearly died after the war, had it not been for Dr. H. W. Egli and some like-minded Swiss who started it up again and brought it to success. It was he and some friends like Raoul de Cintra and Walter Meier who founded the Presidents' Assembly, later to become the Federation.

A new step was taken in 1969 when the first women President was elected, and the new Embassy Lecture Hall was offered to the Society for its major meetings. Mrs. Mariann Meier was President for 15 years and, like her famous predecessor, Dr. Egli, was created an Hon. Vice-President.

This year's 70th anniversary was celebrated under the new President, Mrs. Anne Allen, and Dr. Robert Schnyder von Wartensee, President of the Mother Society in Switzerland, graced the meeting and wished the New Helvetic Society (the new name adopted a couple of years ago) success for the future in its important task of furthering Anglo-Swiss friendship and serving as a forum for discussing problems affecting Swiss citizens in this country and elsewhere.

M.M.



Mr. Robert Eglauf, Vice President Branch Offices Abroad receives the Best Airline trophy from Terry Waite.

Anglo-Swiss Connection!

My father, Erwin Fankhauser, a young Swiss from Kt. Solothurn, came to England in 1904 to look for a job. He entered a City firm, married here, and lived in England until his death in 1970. During all that time he remained deeply patriotic, as did his friend, Otto Frei, who arrived about the same time. Our families have been life-long friends, and as children we learnt about Switzerland from the Pestalozzi diaries, and listened solemnly to the magic sound of the bells of Zurich on New Year's Eve.

At 17 I was sent for a year to the Theresianum at Ingenbohl to learn German. It was very strict by English standards, but I survived, and have many happy memories and even friends from that year. In 1959 a new law enabled me to regain my Swiss nationality and this has meant a lot to me.

Since the war we have had many holidays in Switzerland and regular exchanges with our cousins so that my grandchildren now meet my cousins' grandchildren – and so it goes on.

For me, Switzerland will always be just this: a bed of brilliantly coloured zinnias, a wood yard, the smell of a box hedge – this latter being the result of many Sunday visits to the village churchyard with its neat paths of white pebbles and each grave surrounded by box!

To end on a lighter note, I am ashamed to say that, on their first visit to Switzerland, my Canadian granddaughters thought that "the mountains were rather small" – but – "you should have seen the size of the Meringues!"

Vive la Suisse!

Hélène Harrison-Fankhauser



An extraordinary meeting of the Club was held on the 2nd October, 1986, as a result of which rules regarding membership have changed in two very important ways.

Firstly, rules regarding membership have been changed to permit the admission to membership of Non-Swiss Nationals working within the Swiss business community.

Secondly, after 130 years of male only membership, two ladies have been admitted. Mrs. Ursula Turnheer has become the first lady to be admitted to full membership, whilst Mrs. Mariann Meier has been unanimously chosen to be the Club's first lady Honorary Member. I am sure all Swiss Review readers will join in extending sincere congratulations to both ladies.

The Editor

Congratulations and Best Wishes to Karen and Philip Diviani (the happy parents) and the proud grandparents Joe and Annetta Diviani on the birth (on August 1st!) of Richard Anthony.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Nakanishi

on the arrival of their daughter Yuki (Schnee) on 5th October 1986, and to:

Mr. and Mrs Homberger

on the birth of their daughter Fabienne on 6th October 1986. Best wishes and good health to you all

The Editor

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Mrs. Mary Nestorides, of "Ashton" 35 Staines Road, Wraysbury, Middx. She died on 22nd August after a short illness. Mary was a longstanding member of the Frauenverein. To her husband, relations and friends we extend our deepest sympathy of their sad loss.

Dear Editor,
Amongst the people of Britain, Switzerland is the most favoured country in Western Europe for Britons to go on holiday to.

A Gallup poll conducted recently in Britain, which has never been published, asked a nationally representative quota sample of electors: "If you were offered an all-expenses paid holiday in any one European country of your choice, where would you go?"

Switzerland comes top by a significant margin. It is particularly favoured by women and by those Britons, of both sexes, in the 18-34 age bracket. The findings, which put Switzerland first, Italy second, and France third, are:

	Women	Men
Switzerland	22	13
Italy	11	12
France	11	11
W. Germany	6	13
Spain	8	9
Greece	7	6

Other Western European countries attract interest as a holiday destination, but the outstanding feature of the poll is the popularity of Switzerland amongst women in Britain. Another outstanding feature is Switzerland's popularity amongst the young of Britain:

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Among those opting for Switzerland, 21 per cent are in the 18-34 age bracket, 18 per cent in the 35-44 bracket, 15 per cent in the 45-64 group, and 16 per cent aged 65 or over.

This Gallup Poll was conducted amongst a nationally representative quota sample of over 950 electors, interviewed in more than 100 districts across Great Britain in 1986.

The reason I know about your magazine is that my wife is Swiss and she and I read it regularly. The reason I know about the poll is because I'm Editorial Consultant to the Gallup Organisation in Britain.

As it was the British who played a key role in popularising Switzerland as the predominant country for winter sports in Europe early this century, it is nice to know that Switzerland has clearly lost none of its appeal in the interval.

Congratulations on a very interesting production whose news my wife and I value greatly.

Yours sincerely,

Roderick Junor
Chairman



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Ferienlager der Müttergruppe in Hothorpe Hall,

einem christlichen Konferenzzentrum in Theddingworth, Leicestershire vom 25.-30. Mai 86.

Am Sonntag so gegen fünf Uhr traf eine Wagenladung nach der anderen auf dem Vorplatz des herrschaftlichen Landsitzes ein. Die Kinder erforschten erst einmal den grosszügig angelegten Garten und machten ihre ersten Bekanntschaften oder fanden alte Freunde wieder. Bei den Müttern war ein grosses "sali und wie gahts". Lisa teilte gleich allen ein Zimmer zu. Jede Mutter wurde mit ihren Kindern in einem Zimmer untergebracht.

Beim Abendessen hiess uns der Heimleiter willkommen und stimmte auf seiner Gitarre ein Lied an. Auf diese Weise dankten wir dem Herrn vor jeder Mahlzeit für Speis und Trank.

Gleich am ersten Abend machten wir uns alle auf einen Spaziergang, um die nähere Umgebung kennen zu lernen. Die ganz sportlichen wagten noch ein Federballspiel in der Sporthalle. Gegen zehn Uhr, nachdem die Jungmannschaft zu Bett war, trafen wir uns im runden Zimmer. Bei dieser Gelegenheit wurde uns Neulingen der Tagesablauf erklärt.

Am Montag Nachmittag gings los nach Foxton zur Schleusenbesichtigung, aber oh weh, der Parkplatz war total überfüllt. Es war eben ein Feiertag. So fuhren wir kurz entschlossen wieder zurück und genossen die Ruhe und Zufriedenheit von Hothorpe Hall.

Den Dienstag verbrachten wir im Wildpark unter Raubtieren, Adlern, Eulen, Affen und Geissen.

Am Mittwoch war Wandertag. Wir verliessen Hothorpe Hall in Stiefeln und eingehüllt in Regenmänteln. Bald zeigte sich aber die Sonne wieder. Mal war es heiss, mal kalt, so richtig englisches Wetter. Die gelben Rapsfelder strahlten im Sonnenschein und die "Bluebells" waren in voller Blüte.

Am Donnerstag machten wir uns nochmals auf zu den Schleusen. Diesmal war es sehr ruhig, auch keine Schiffe. Geduld es wird sich wenden und tatsächlich konnten wir einem "Longboat" Schleuse für Schleuse treppauf folgen. Die Kinder halfen die Tore auf und zu schieben.

Wo und wie wir Esther's Cervelats braten sollen, erregte einige Gemüter. Das Lagerfeuer verbrannte allen Muff und die Würste vom "Stäcke" mit Brötlli schmeckten einmalig gut. Gitarre und Gesang durften auch nicht fehlen. Der Rückreisetag kam viel zu schnell. Wir verliessen Hothorpe Hall wehmütig jedoch frischen und guten Mutes seelisch gestärkt für den Londoner Alltag. Im Namen aller Mütter, möchte ich hier ein herzliches Dankeschön an Lisa, Philipp und Ursy für ihre Bemühungen sagen.

Rosemarie Nakanishi



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Some news from the Bristol area!

We are a very informal Group who meet once a month for coffee and three or four times a year for a 'big' social get-together! On the first Friday of every month, we meet in the refectory (cafeteria) at Bristol Cathedral, Colledge Green, between 12 noon and 12 pm.

In April we had a Spiel-Nachmittag (Jassen, Scrabble and board-games), where we all brought 'something nice' for z'Vieri and a few items for our very popular 'Bring and Buy' stall. 'E'guets z'Vieri und e'Jass.....' tempted our oldest member, 94 year old Emil Krapf from Salisbury, to come to Bristol!

This year our 1st August Celebration took place at the home of Harry and Frieda Grimes, near Wotton-under-Edge in the Cotswolds.

On Saturday September 20th the Paignton Club travelled by coach to Clevedon to meet members from the Bristol Club. We met at Christ Church Hall and had a buffet style lunch. During the afternoon we held a raffle, bought items from the 'Bring and Buy' stall and most important of all we had a good old chat and got to know a few more Swiss friends.

We are now looking forward to visiting Paignton in the Spring.

On Saturday 22nd November we are planning a day-trip to London, to the Swiss Church Bazaar and a general visit (Christmas Shopping!?) in the big city! Our St. Nikolaus/Weihnachts Fest will be on Saturday 6th December at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Hotwells Road, Bristol, from 2.30 - 6pm.

A Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year to all Swiss in the Bristol area.

Vreni Knights

SWISS REVIEW

Deadline for your contributions and illustrations

1/87 March 19.1.87

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.

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UNIONE TICINESE

Forthcoming Events

Unione Ticinese is happy to announce a series of three illustrated talks on the Ticino called "TICINO - A PROFILE". These talks will be held in the Lecture Hall of the Swiss Embassy, 16-18 Montagu Place, London W1, at 7pm on each of the following evenings:

- Thursday, 22nd January 1987
- "Our Ticino?" - A general introduction
- Thursday, 19th February 1987
- "Why Ticino?" - Dealing with its history
- Thursday, 19th March 1987
- "Ticino at Home and Abroad"
- which should be self-explanatory

Each will consist of a talk illustrated by films and/or slides, followed by question time and discussions, and then by refreshments.

The talks will be open to all Swiss Nationals in the UK and their friends - indeed all friends of Switzerland will be welcome.

CONGRATULATIONS

to Linda Maria Diviani and Richard François Gray on the occasion of their wedding, which took place on Saturday 18th October 1986 at the Church of St. Mary and Andrew, Dollis Hill Lane, London.

Valeria Ossola

Compatriots!

Participate in the life of our Societies. There are Swiss Clubs in the whole of the UK. Where are all our new young Swiss people? So many of you have now become Swiss citizens since the first of July 1985! Please take part in our societies and club activities.



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