

Zeitschrift: Swiss review : the magazine for the Swiss abroad
Herausgeber: Organisation of the Swiss Abroad
Band: 14 (1987)
Heft: 2

Anhang: Local news : Great Britain

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Switzerland in Britain's cultural life

MUSIC

Glyndebourne Festival Opera

The cast of R. Strauss' "CAPRICCIO" at this year's Glyndebourne Festival Opera (May 24th to August 22nd) will include some Swiss singers, notably **Hugues Cuenod**.

Première - Monday July 6th.

Lionel ROGG - organist

A frequent visitor to the British music scene, Lionel Rogg will be one of the tutors at this year's **Summer School for Young Organists** (under 23).

The course is being organised within the framework of the "Third Oundle International Organ Week", to be held from July 12th to 19th, scheduled between the St. Albans International Organ Festival and the International Congress of Organists in Cambridge.

For information:

Oundle International Organ Week

The Music School, West Street,

Oundle, Peterborough PE8 4EJ.

The Swiss Folklore Dancing group "Les Treize Étoiles" are giving a lunchtime performance at the Royal Festival Hall (on the terrace, weather permitting) on Friday, 14th August 1987, and a possible performance at the Piazza, Covent Garden on Saturday, 15th August.

Visual Arts

Daniel Schwartz

"Metamorphoses"

Greek Photographs

From 7 - 31 July 1987

at the Barbican Centre, Foyer Level 3.

SWISS NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION

Saturday, 1st August 1987 at the Swiss Church, 79 Endell Street, London WC2.

Soirée Familiale

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

Entertainment will be provided by the Schwyzerörgeli Quartet, "Schwandibuebe" from Frutigen. Typical Swiss Food and Drink available.

Admission Free but limited.

Doors open 6 p.m.

OFFICE OF THE DEFENCE ATTACHÉ AT THE SWISS EMBASSY

To replace Colonel W. Hertach, who has been transferred to Switzerland, the Swiss Ministry of Defence has appointed Major-General (Divisionnaire) Gérard De Loës, from the Canton de Vaud, as new Defence Attaché in the United Kingdom, in Ireland and in the Netherlands.

Major-General De Loës has taken up his duties in April 1987 and resides in London.

Gilbert Schlaefli

Consul General of Switzerland in Houston, Texas

Born in Lausanne, Switzerland in 1934, originating from Lyssach and Lausanne Cantons (States) of Bern and Vaud.

Entered the Swiss Foreign Service in 1956, and was initially assigned to the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs.

Posted successively at Manchester, Dublin, Rio de Janeiro, Montreal and Marseille.

In 1977, assigned to the Consulate General of Switzerland in New York with the rank of Consul and head of the Commercial Department.

Since 1980, appointed deputy to the Chef de post.

Nominated Consul General of Switzerland in Houston, Texas, where he assumed his functions on October 20th, 1983.

First Lieutenant - Swiss Army.

(Married to Jacqueline Ann nee White - three daughters).



To all Swiss Nationals and Members of the Swiss Consular District - Northern England, Scotland and Northern Ireland. As Consul-General designate, now officially confirmed, in succession to Consul-General Glauser, for Northern England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man, I hasten to say how delighted I am at this important nomination, and how very much my wife and I are looking forward to meeting each of you and working with you all during the coming months and years.

Gilbert Schlaefli

Farewell to Mr and Mrs Glauser

After 40 years in the service of Switzerland, the Consul-General in Manchester, Mr Charles Glauser, and his wife Lucette, have retired and gone to live on the shores of Lake Lemman with their daughter Jacqueline.

They have spent most of these forty years abroad, on three continents: North America (Philadelphia, Winnipeg), Africa (Pretoria) and Europe (London and Manchester), with a few years in between spent at the Personnel Division in Berne. They have met many interesting people (Mr Glauser once delivered a passport to Einstein), witnessed historical events at close quarters (they were in South Africa when Prime Minister Verwoerd was assassinated and when Rhodesia declared UDI), visited unusual places (a leprosy in South Africa).

It has been a varied and very interesting experience for the whole family, though not without the problems associated with the need to adapt to changes in climate and culture while raising two children in a succession of countries with very different cultures and educational systems.

Their many friends in Manchester are sorry to see them leave, thank them for their hospitality and send them their very best wishes for their retirement.

M.E. Scheurer

Alpaufzug Inauguration 28th April 1987

At 12.00 on Tuesday, 28th April 1987, the final addition to the Swiss Centre Glockenspiel was inaugurated, and this completed the gift from the people of Switzerland and Liechtenstein to the City of Westminster which has become one of London's great attractions.

The Lord Mayor of Westminster, Councillor Mrs. Terence Mallinson J.P. set in motion a beautiful "Alpaufzug", a procession of 23 wood-carved herdsmen and animals depicting the traditional event when the farmers of Switzerland lead the cows and goats to the alpine meadows for the summer grazing. (These figures have been carved in Brienz and are almost half life-size).

The entire Glockenspiel was commissioned by the Swiss National Tourist Office with the financial help of the Swiss Confederation, the Principality of Liechtenstein, the Swiss Cantonal Authorities and many official and commercial organisations of Switzerland.

Some 80 representatives of these organisations were travelling from Switzerland to London for the inauguration on 28th April and they were accompanied by a band from Appenzell.

Glockenspiel

Monday to Friday: 12.00, 18.00, 19.00, 20.00

Weekends: 12.00, 14.00, 16.00, 18.00, 19.00, 20.00



Roche wins Queen's Award for Export Achievement 1987

Roche Products Limited is honoured to receive the Queen's Award for Export Achievement 1987.

The citation reads:

"This is the UK subsidiary of the international vitamins, fine chemicals and pharmaceuticals group. As a UK market leader, it has invested heavily in high quality production, backed by competitive and resourceful marketing and by employee commitment. More than half of its output is exported, mainly within Europe and to North America, but with important entry in other markets including Japan."

Roche exports a wide range of pharmaceutical products from Welwyn Garden City, and vitamins and fine chemicals from its Scottish plant in Ayrshire. The exports in 1986 had a value of £72 million and accounted for more than 50 per cent of the company's turnover.

The growth rate of the export business is very high with an increase of 150 per cent in the last two years. Currently exports go to more than 30 countries on five continents.

The largest single investment ever within the Roche group was made in the UK in 1983 with the building of a new vitamin C plant in Scotland at a cost of £150 million. In the pharmaceutical research division 300 scientists are engaged in the search for new medicines for the treatment of arthritis, cardiovascular diseases, and viral conditions, including AIDS.

Forthcoming events of the New Helvetic Society, London (Nouvelle Société Helvétique).

Wednesday, 17th June at 7 p.m.

Lecture Hall, Swiss Embassy.

Illustrated talk by Dr. P. Fellner, Managing Director, Roche Products Ltd. on "Directions in Pharmaceutical Research during the next decade".

Thursday, 9th July at 7 p.m.

Lecture Hall, Swiss Embassy.

Illustrated talk by M. Simon de Pury, Curator Thyssen - Bornemisza Collection on "The Arts & Sponsorship in Switzerland".



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Unione Ticinese

I am very happy to report that our series of illustrated talks on Ticino called "TICINO - A PROFILE" was an enormous success. The series consisted of three talks, held in the Lecture Hall of the Swiss Embassy in London by kind permission of the Ambassador. The material for these talks - including the slides which helped to make the evenings more enjoyable - was researched and prepared over a period of nearly two years by a specially appointed Cultural Sub-Committee, and the whole project was based on an idea by Mr Peter Jacomelli, who was the main speaker for the first of these talks - on January 22 - titled "OUR TICINO?". The Second - "WHY TOCINO?" - Italian and Swiss? - was given on February 19th by Dr Peter Barber, and the concluding talk, "TICINO AT HOME AND ABROAD", on March 19th, was by Mr Virgil Berti.

On each of these three evenings, the enthusiastic audience was served delicious snacks (all prepared by Committee Members) with wine and beverages. The three evenings were attended not only by members of the Society (come from far and wide!), but also of other Swiss Societies, in particular the N.S.H. and the Swiss Mercantile Society, and friends of Switzerland and Ticino. The Committee have since received many messages of thanks and congratulations for the enterprise. We can say with confidence that a most enjoyable time was had by all, which must be a rewarding feeling for all the Members who worked on it. We are already being asked what is our next project!

BELATED HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES to Mrs Rose Bassi, who celebrated her ninetieth birthday recently, and CONGRATULATIONS to members Jacek and Cristina Treter on the birth of their son Alexander.

Valeria Ossola.

Al lagh

Quand l'è bell temp, al lagh l'è come un specc viscor, l'üscent in mezz a la cornis verda di riv coi smacc di cà e di tecc:

ma quand l'è brütt e i riv coi so pais i scompariss da dré di nebi s'ciass, al par grand come 'l mar; l'è grand e gris come la nosta noia e 'l nost crüzziass.

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ALL-INCLUSIVE HOLIDAYS IN SWITZERLAND

The Swiss National Tourist Office has again published its brochure "Summer Holidays in Switzerland 1987, including travel from U.K. and Eire". During Spring, Summer and Autumn this year, 137 British and Irish Tour Operators are offering inclusive holidays and city breaks to 108 Swiss resorts and towns.

Swiss National Tourist office
Swiss Centre

New Coventry Street,
London W1V 8EE.

Tel: 01-734 1921

Telex: 21295 SNTG



Swiss Club Manchester

The Swiss Club Manchester held their traditional Annual Dinner Dance on Saturday 14th February 1987 at the Belfry Hotel, Handforth, in the presence of Mrs Mariann Meier (London) as Honorary Guest, Consul General and Mrs Charles Glauser and 53 members and guests. After a superb meal Mrs Meier reflected in an interesting way in her after dinner speech on her and her late husbands many years service to the Swiss community in Britain, and Consul General Glauser held the attention of the audience with a light hearted career advice speech on the consular service in view of his imminent retirement. The outgoing President, D.M. Salden, thanked everyone and paved the way to tombola and dance till midnight. A thoroughly successful evening enjoyed by everyone present.

The Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Club Manchester was held at the Bramhall Moat House Hotel, Bramhall, on Thursday 26th February 1987 to receive and adopt the Annual Report, Annual Accounts, elect Officers and fix the subscriptions.

Mr J. Illi was elected as new President, D.M. Salden and Mrs J. Gould-Huber were re-elected as Hon. Treasurer and Secretary respectively. Subscriptions remain unchanged at £4.00 for single membership and £7.00 for couples. It was further decided to meet every first Thursday of the month at the Bramhall Moat Hotel for Jass, Games, social get-

together etc. First Meeting will be on 2nd April 1987.

D. Salden

Congratulations to Mr Joe Illi on being elected President of the Swiss Club Manchester. Best Wishes for a successful term in office.

The Editor.

Yorkshire Swiss Club

Future events planned for the club are as follows:

Saturday 1st August - National Day Celebrations

Sunday 13th Sept. - Club Outing

Saturday 10th Oct. - Annual Lunch

Saturday Dec. - Christmas Party

I look forward to meeting you all at our functions.

Jeffrey Long, President.

Swiss Club Dunfermline

Forthcoming events - 1987.

June 20th - 50th Anniversary Celebration.

August 1st - National Day Celebration.

September 16th - Beetle Drive. Bring your friends.

October 17th - Annual General Meeting.

Committee:

President: Mrs Ursula Ditchburn, 21 Pitbauchlie Bank, Dunfermline.

Vice-President: Mrs Martha Bürgisser.

Secretary: Mrs Friedgard Adams, 10 Old Kirk Place, Dunfermline.

Treasurer: Mrs Isobel Vogel.

Auditor: Mr Emil Schönenberger.

Swiss Benevolent Fund: Welfare worker for the Dunfermline area: Mrs Friedgard Adams, 10 Old Kirk Place, Dunfermline.

SOUTHERN AREA SWISS CLUB PROGRAM 1987

We meet every first Friday of the month, 8p.m.-11p.m., in the Club Room at **Oak Farm Centre**, Chaucer Road, (off Mayfield Rd.), Farnborough. Special meetings with a speaker start promptly at 8.30p.m.

3.7.87 - Games Evening for the Young and Young at Heart - Social.

1.8.87 - Saturday August Celebration at Erika & Werner Kier's in Ash. Details later.

4.9.87 - Films of Switzerland

2.10.87 - Fondue - book early!

6.11.87 - Christmas Decorations. Demonstration by Helen Tinsley.

4.12.87 - Christmas Party

Chairman: Marcel Gret. 28 Kent Road, Fleet, Hants. Telephone: Fleet 615149. Friends and new members are always welcome!

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Miss Martha Oswald, who died in Lauterbrunnchen on 16th March 1987. Miss Oswald celebrated her 80th birthday last year, and in October 1986 she moved from London to Switzerland. She was a Council member of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique for many years and took an active part in the Swiss Community in London. To her relations and friends we extend our deepest sympathy of their sad loss.

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78 St Vincent Street,
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OBITUARY

We announce with deep regret that **Mr Paul Bessire**, of 28 Cumberland Road, London, SW13, died on 27th February, shortly before his 90th birthday.

Paul Bessire came to Britain from Bienne as an 18-year old language student, fully intending to go back to his native Bienne to which he kept a life-long loyalty. His father was a Director of the Omega watch company and played an active part in Bienne's public life. After having built up his own business in the 'twenties (mica trade and importing telegraph poles from Sweden,) Paul lost everything during the war. With indomitable courage, he built up a business of industrial tools and electrical components and was responsible for a first press for razor blades.

In April 1930, at the Swiss Church in London, he married Antoinette Schuepbach of the Neudhâtel Branch of the old Emmental family, daughter of the then General Manager of the Cr dit Lyonnais in London. All these years, they lived in their house in Barnes where they brought up two daughters, both now married and with two children each. He was a very keen gardener and proud of the results of his labours.

In his quiet and unassuming way, Paul Bessire has always been very active in the Swiss community, member of the City Swiss Club, the Swiss Mercantile Society, the Swiss Economic Council, the Swiss Rifle Association and above all the New Helvetic Society, of which he was a Honorary Member. He generously supported many ventures in the community.

Until he was 70, he was a member of the Consistoire of the Swiss Church. For many years, the "R unions de Paroisse" were held at his home, and he even worked as a Sunday School teacher.

Mrs Bessire always supported her husband in all his activities, and did active work, both in the local WRVS and the Swiss community.

Paul Bessire carried discomfort and pain with great courage and fortitude. The same applies now to his wife in her sad bereavement, and she and her family are grateful for Paul's long and rich life.

We extend our deep sympathy to Antoinette and her devoted family, and perhaps they will find solace in the knowledge that we shall treasure his memory.

The second death we have to report with great regret is that of the concert pianist **Albert Ferber** who died on 12th January at the age of nearly 76. Albert Ferber was born in Lucerne and studied in Switzerland, Germany, France and England. He was in this country during the war, and he gave recitals at Wigmore Hall at a very early age.

He never looked back and travelled widely, always with notable success. He played with many great orchestras and under several famous conductors.

Spanish and South American composers were amongst his favourites, and he toured South America many times, but who could forget his rendering of Schubert's Wanderer Phantasy with difficult cadenza only played by great artists. I remember with vivid delight his sensitive playing of Schubert's Impromptu, op. number 2. Some members of the City Swiss Club may recall it when he played it at one of the recitals organised by the Club after informal dinners after the war.

He was a great master of Debussy's piano works, and he, together with Walter Giesecking, was the only foreign pianist accepted by the critical French as true exponents of the great French composer. In some ways, Albert Ferber was a loner, but a most kind and generous man and patient teacher. His positive attitude to life helped him to overcome much illness. Many have lost a good and loyal friend whom we shall remember as an outstanding pianist, but also as a man of many enviable qualities.

M.M.

Sherlock Holmes Returns to Switzerland "Centenary, My Dear Watson"

It is one hundred years since the world first met Sherlock Holmes and Dr. John H. Watson.

To mark this most auspicious centenary, seventy members of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London will visit Switzerland which is celebrating 200 years of tourism. Switzerland was, of course, the scene of the fateful meeting between Sherlock Holmes, the world's famous detective, and Professor Moriarty, his arch enemy and Napoleon of crime, which seemingly culminated in both plunging to their deaths at the fearsome Reichenbach Falls.

Assembling from all over the world, the entourage will travel in Victorian costume, visiting more than twenty places in ten days as they follow the meandering route taken by Holmes and his faithful companion, Watson. Places to be visited include Geneva, Lausanne, Vevey, Montreux, Vex, Leukerbad, Brig, Kandersteg, Interlaken and Meiringen. During this remarkable perambulation, organised by the S.N.T.O. Office, singular events will occur and be witnessed.

Events perceived to happen are as diverse as a Victorian bathing party followed by breakfast on floating trays, the Battle of the Cows, meeting the President of the Swiss National Council, a reception at the Chateau de Lucens (home of the Sir Arthur Conan Doyle Foundation, Conan Doyle Museum and reconstruction of Holmes' consulting room at 221B Baker Street), and a banquet at the Castle of Oron.

The climax of the trip will be the laying of the foundation stone of the new Sherlock Holmes Museum at Meiringen by Air Commandant Dame Jean Conan Doyle, daughter of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. During the week a further banquet will honour and celebrate the ratification of the Anglo-Swiss Naval Treaty signed in 1978.

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We meet every third Wednesday of the month at 11 a.m. with children, and on the last Friday evening each month at 7.30 p.m. at the Swiss Church.

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3/87 September	3.08.87
4/87 December	15.10.87

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Film Show from the Swiss Tourist Office at the Vivian Suite Ebdon Building, South Devon Techn. College, Torquay.

2nd July at 10-12 a.m.
Coffee morning and Bring and Buy. Odd Fellows Hall

15th July. Time to be confirmed
Theatre details not available as yet. Will confirm later.

1st August at 6 p.m.
SWISS DAY. Barbecue at Lupton Park (Max) Mr. Duboulet prov. Booked.

3rd September at 10-12 a.m.
Coffee Morning and Bring and Buy. Odd Fellows Hall.

Some time in September, a coach trip on Saturday. Details to follow.

Looking forward to seeing you all at these events. Max Singer.