

Zeitschrift: Swiss review : the magazine for the Swiss abroad
Herausgeber: Organisation of the Swiss Abroad
Band: 16 (1989)
Heft: 2

Anhang: Local news : Great Britain

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We meet the new Ambassador, Franz E. Mubeim, introduce an exciting new competition, and eat our way through a few more Swiss restaurant reviews.

LOCAL NEWS - GREAT BRITAIN

*is published quarterly as a supplement to THE SWISS REVIEW by MGB PUBLICATIONS
Editor/Publisher: Nick Miller
86 Camberwell Road London SE5 0EG
Tel: 01-701 6662 Fax: 01-701 2299*

Local News - Great Britain THE GREEN PAGES

Welcome back ...

I'm happy to say that, once again, we have many of you to thank for so many praising letters and telephone calls. You will be aware we are only able to print small snippets from your correspondence as we have so many features and news items to cram in. Unlike some lesser publications we don't believe in publishing the full transcript of a letter. There is neither the available space nor the reader interest in "I'm sorry my subscription is late ...". Of course we do have the advantage of not having to ask you for a subscription ... but then we are highly unlikely to ever send you a begging letter in order to keep us in business!



Amongst your correspondence was a letter from **Debbie Marti**, the 'Picture Power' star in our last issue. Our 'where are you now' is answered in the letters column on page III. Coincidentally, in our Winter 1988 edition we featured a picture of talented violinist **Nadia Myerscough**, posing a similar question which has now been answered ...

Nadia is to appear once more at the Summer Music Festival at the Old School, Bridge Street, in Hadleigh, Suffolk, on the 5th and 6th of August performing Vivaldi's 'Four Seasons'. Box office: Ipswich (0473) 822596 for details.



By the time you read this you may have had the good fortune of discovering the Channel 4's '**Wisdom of the Dream**' chronicling the life and continuing influence of **Carl-Gustav Jung**. This superb series, produced by Melvin Bragg's Border TV and Stephen Segaller Films for C4, explored the man and his native Switzerland with impressive depth and an almost 'Jungian' frankness. Ring Channel 4 (01-927 8888) and demand a rescreening ... or rush out and buy the book of the series (publishers: Weidenfeld and Nicholson)!



In this issue we discover the delights of Europe's new wine craze (page VI), bid a fond farewell to **Ambassador Pictet** and warmly welcome his successor (see page V). I hope to publish an exclusive interview with our new Ambassador in the next issue.

Also in the next issue we look forward to ANOTHER great competition. This time the prize is to be supplied by our friends at **Swissair** and promises to be even more highly sought after. Watch this space.

Meanwhile, perhaps YOU might like to tell US what you would like us to publish in our next issue? Read on ...

What do you think of it so far?

As part of our continuing efforts to reflect all aspects of the Swiss community in Britain, we would like to turn our analytical eye on ... ourselves! We would like to know what you think of the new look 'green pages', a year after our re-launch. Please answer the following questions as candidly as you can, as feedback is vitally important to the development of the magazine.

What is your view of the 'new look'?

Do you consider the present coverage of Swiss community activities sufficient?

Is there too little? Is the balance just right?

Would you like more news about colony personalities?

What is your opinion of individual columns? Which subjects do you consider merit more coverage? Which subjects less?

Would you appreciate the personal appearance of the Editor at social events?

Do you have any general remarks and suggestions regarding the 'green pages'?

Do you feel there is the need for a new kind of "Swiss Observer"?

How often would the paper have to appear and in what form?

How could you visualize it in conjunction with the "Review" green pages?

Do you have any other suggestions or remarks regarding such a publication?

Please address your answers, together with any further comments you might like to add, to the editorial address. The conclusions will appear in the next edition of the green pages.

Green Pages SURVEY



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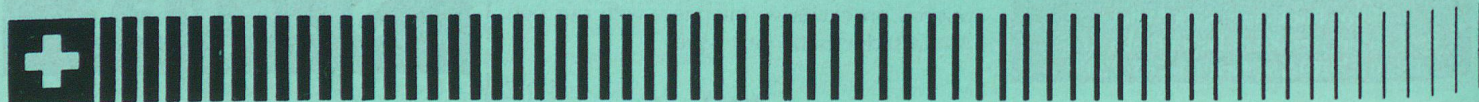
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Birmingham International Airport
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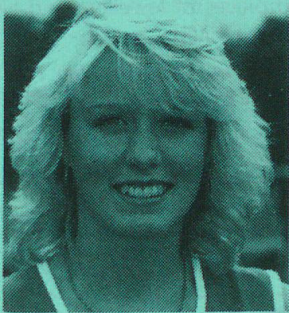




Opening LETTERS

Once again, thanks for all your correspondence. This issue's mailbag is both happy and tragic. First off, an answer to my "where are you now" posed of Miss D.J. Marti in the last issue. A native of Zofingen, she is now 21, working in Surrey and still has a keen athletic interest.

"At the moment, I am still training hard and competing for a new club, Bromley Ladies ... This year I am concentrating on the High Jump and my main aim is to get to the Commonwealth Games in New Zealand. I am currently eighth (ranking) in Britain in both the High Jump and Long Jump ..."



Miss Debbie Marti (six years on !)

We wish you luck ! Success in the field of arts was the subject of this letter from Lowestoft.

"The secretary of the 'Billings Symphony Orchestra and Chorale' wrote to ... my half-Swiss daughter, the English Concert Soprano Andrée Back ... to ask if she would be 'The Guest Artist' in the final concert of the season ... The concert was a tremendous success and during the 'Intermission' she met the Swiss Consul General ..."

Nicholas Back-Maillard

The music of Strauss, who spent his final years in Switzerland, was apparently chosen by Ms. Back for this concert because of its Swiss connections.

Finally, a very sad note to report from Mr Stocker of Great Wakering in Essex, whose family originates from Freienbach, Schwyz.

"Our daughter, Luka was killed in the M.I. Air Disaster on the 8th January. She was 25 years old. Educated in the Cotswolds ... she had a one year work permit for Australia when fate intervened."

Kurt Stocker

Our sincere sympathies go out to you and your family at this time.

All correspondence is welcome at our London address on page 1.

John Chapman IN PRINT

High Fliers

Many of our readers will be making a trip back to Switzerland at some point this year and this will usually be via **Swissair**. As an airline they are renowned for offering the finest service in the air. Accordingly, I found that Swissair's glossy monthly in-flight magazine offers an intelligently written yet not overly demanding way to pass away the time between ascent and descent.

For many globe-trotters an in-flight magazine offers about as much interest as the diagram of the safety escape routes card which it nestles alongside in the magazine pocket of the seat in front. They generally consist largely of advertisements for duty free goods and beaming portraits of airline bosses.

So how refreshing it was to be given the **Swissair Gazette** (dull title) to review. The inherent problems of publishing in three languages, (English, German and French though curiously not Italian) are obvious, though not insurmountable. The magazine is, in theory, three times as long as normal. Of course items like advertisements (stylish and not overbearing) and route maps appear once!

Venezuela Overkill?

In last October's issue the Gazette devoted most of its' 80 pages to issues relating to Venezuela (Swissair flies to Caracas, the capital). These articles included a piece by Urs Bitterli regarding explorers Alexander von Humboldt and Aimé Bonpland on the River Orinoco, Peter Jackson wrote on the Wildlife of Venezuela (accompanied by some stunning photography) and from flora and fauna to an urban study of Caracas "a city in transition" by Dietrich Kunckel.

In similar vein, there was a look at the new town of Ciudad Guayana written by Ervin Y. Galantay, who also wrote a piece in French about the Caracas Opera House.

All of the items were informative, but I did feel that unless you were at all interested in Venezuela or the South American sub-continent, there was very little to grab your attention in the remaining text. Still, apart from this 'selectivism' I found the Gazette generally an interesting read.

John Chapman is a feature writer for MGB Publications and a well-heeled European traveller !

Swiss Club DIRECTORY

Britain's many Swiss Clubs and Societies are always keen to meet potential recruits and are guaranteed to offer you a warm welcome. For full information and details regarding forthcoming events in your area, please feel free to contact the club nearest to your location. Telephone numbers and contact names are as follows ...

City Swiss Club Tel: 01-975 6002
(Dr. R. Duttweiler c/o Credit Suisse)

Swiss Club Bournemouth (VACANT)

Bristol Tel: 0272-873619 (Mrs Langley)

Dunfermline Tel: 031-337 1646 (Mrs U. Ditchburn)

Edinburgh Tel: 031-337 1646 (Mrs U. Ross)

Guernsey Tel: 0481-48188 (Mrs Ferbrache-Amman)

Liverpool Tel: 051-427 1816 (Mrs M. Moor)

Manchester Tel: 061-483 7727 Mr J. Illi, President

Midlands Swiss Soc Tel: 021-454 7423 (Sue Ernst)

N.Ireland Tel: 0232-648239 (Mr Hans Egli)

Southern Area Tel: 0252-615149 (Mr Marcel Gret)

Schwyzclub South-West (Mrs Guppy)
101 Green Way, Bishops Lydeard, Taunton TA4 3DB

Surrey Tel: 01-647 9630 (Mrs Heidi Miller)

Torbay Tel: 0803-842355 (Mr Singer)

Tyne & Wear Tel: 091-536 1047
(Nelly Scott-Niederberger)

West of Scotland Tel: 0360-22204 (Mr J. Sheffield)

Yorkshire Tel: 0274-588189 (J. Long)

Other useful numbers ...

Anglo Swiss Society Tel: 0233-75233 (Mrs Cobb)

"La Causerie" Tel: 01-673 4955 (Ms. A. Yucottier)

Cercle Genevois Tel: 0923-221704 (Mrs S. Allan)

Swiss Church Tel: 01-340 9740 (Rev. P. Von Orelli)

Commission of the Swiss Abroad:

South of Britain Tel: 01-741 4224 (Mr. J. Broggin)

North of Britain Tel: 061-926 8153 (Mr. B. Simon)

Consistoire Tel: 01-346 8094 (Mrs E. Crack)

Federation of Swiss Societies Tel: 01-975 6002
(Dr. R. Duttweiler c/o Credit Suisse)

1st August Committee Tel: 01-892 2512 (Mr V. Berti)

Frauenverein Tel: 01-422 3545 (Mrs Laskowski)

Swiss Benevolent Funds - Scotland (Mrs Drysdale)
4 Victoria Crescent, Clarkston, Glasgow G76 8BP

Swiss Benevolent Soc Tel: 01-387 2173 (Mrs R Sharp)

Swiss Economic Council Tel: 0952-502000
(Mr. C.J. Pennington c/o British Brown-Boveri Ltd)

Swiss Mercantile Society Tel: 01-638 2800
(Mr K. Deutsche, c/o Union Bank of Switzerland)

Swiss Mothers Group Tel: 0992-46687
(Marlies Davies). 01-340 9740 (Johanna von Orelli)

New Helvetic Society Tel: 01-727 4113
(Miss R. Breitenstein, Hon. Secretary)

Swiss Relief Soc Tel: 051-486 1168 (Mrs Stevens)

Swiss Rifle Assoc Tel: 01-850 4117 (Mr Schaerer)

Swiss Welfare Office for Young People
Tel: 01-458 3859 (Mrs G. Ficker, President)

Swiss Youth Club Tel: 01-341 7224 (Miss Muller)

Union Ticinese Tel: 01-568 3916 (Mr Berti)



Joseph Buehler
TRAVEL

A Symbol of Hospitality

For many years now the idea of facilitating contact between people has been a recurring theme with the Swiss National Tourist Office. In 1989 the spotlight will be on the Swiss towns as a meeting place, and as a symbol of hospitality a huge table will travel from town to town. At a given spot in the town in question, a sort of fairground will be set up where people can meet over a meal and a drink. **The Table d'hote** will thus become a meeting forum in Swiss towns.

This idea harks back to an old tradition where guests would sit at great, long tables in hotels. The inn-keeper would personally introduce the newly-arrived guests to the other guests and comment on the dishes being served. The table d'hote will travel from Lucerne to Lugano from April to October.

Timetable

The 1989/90 official timetable of Swiss Federal Railways is available from the Swiss National Tourist Office at £6.00 per copy.

Fly Rail Baggage

The successful concept of sending the luggage from any U.K. airport to your destination in Switzerland has been extended to Basel airport. For a mere £4.00 per bag passengers can now check their luggage via Basel, Geneva or Zurich airports to over 400 towns and resorts in Switzerland. Further information and luggage labels are available from the S.N.T.O.

A timely exhibition

The Watch and Clock Museum in Geneva will exhibit antique watches from 10 April - 30 September 1989. Over 400 watches from **Patek Philippe's** private collection will be shown to the public for the first time to commemorate their 150th anniversary.

Don't miss the "Fetes de Geneve"

The **Fetes de Geneve**, an annual rite of August, will take place from the 10 - 13 August this year. Brass bands and spectacular fireworks over the lake turn Geneva into a Swiss fun fair.

A salute to the Red Cross

Visitors to Geneva can now experience the history of the Red Cross in the city where it was founded in 1863. A new museum tells the whole dramatic story through displays of rare documents and photos, films, multi-screen slide shows and cycloramas.

ARTE '89

As part of the **Arte '89** festivities, the Villa Favorita in Lugano is to host the following exhibitions of works from the **Thyssen-Bornemisza Collection** ...

30 April to 29 October 1989

"The Old Masters Collection"

A general view of the development of European Art from the 13th to the 18th century.

30 April to 16 July 1989

"Gold and Silver Treasures"

Over 120 pieces of Jewellery and Silversmith Art will be exhibited.

6 August to 29 October 1989

"German Expressionists Collection"

Over 40 paintings from the early 20th Century art movement will be exhibited.

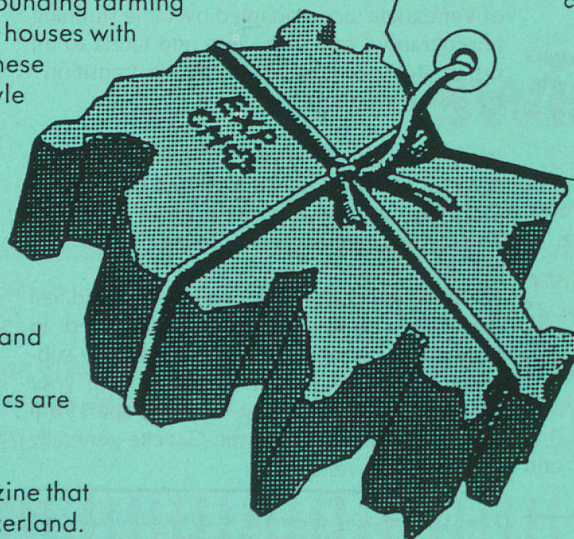
Joseph Buehler is the Director of the Swiss National Tourist Office in London. Further information on any of the subjects discussed here may be obtained from the SNTO at the Swiss Centre, New Coventry Street, London W1. Tel: 01-734 1921.

Switzerland by post

Regularly, every month. So many memories and discoveries. Things familiar and things new. 60 pages of carefully researched articles in English, French, German and Italian, with an impressive range of photographic illustrations.

This month, for example, we discover Appenzell. Where peasant traditions and heathen customs are still fascinatingly interwoven. Where, every New Year, local mummer groups enact ancient traditional entertainments for the surrounding farming community. Where behind the rows of houses with neat façades and spotless windows, these highly individual townfolk live a lifestyle unchanged by the passage of time.

In future months, we'll visit Delémont, Switzerland's newest cantonal capital. The streets of olde Berne with their many arcades and picturesque fountains ... and the Lötschberg, featuring the well-known railway line and the not-so-well known mountain pass. These and many other fascinating topics are all discussed in forthcoming issues of **SCHWEIZ SUISSE SVIZZERA SVIZRA SWITZERLAND**. An illuminating magazine that captures the many splendours of Switzerland.



- Yes, I would like to discover (or rediscover) Appenzell. Please send me this issue as a free sample copy.
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Embassy NEWS

Hello, Goodbye

It's all change at Montagu Place, as we bid a fond farewell to Ambassador Pictet and roll out the red carpet for the arrival of his successor, an old friend to some, Franz Mubeim. Let us begin with a message from the outgoing Ambassador ...

"As my appointment to the Court of St. James's is coming to an end after five years I should like to extend my very best wishes to the Swiss community in the United Kingdom. My wife and I were delighted to meet many of you during our stay.

I am grateful for your contribution to the excellent relations between Britain and Switzerland and wish you every success and much personal happiness in the years to come."

Mr. Francois-Charles Pictet

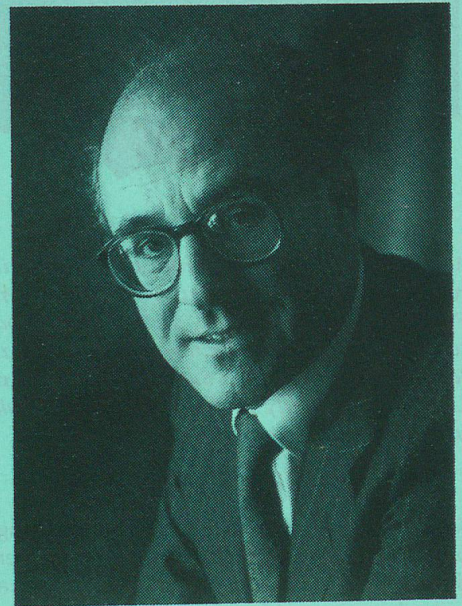
Introducing the new Ambassador ...

"My appointment as Swiss Ambassador to the United Kingdom is a cause of joy and satisfaction to both my wife and myself. We very much look forward to serving again in this country, where we have already been posted once and where we have many friends and acquaintances. We particularly look forward to meeting the members of the Swiss community, which plays such an important role in the shaping of the excellent relationship existing between the two countries.

Developments of historical significance are at present taking place in Europe. For Switzerland, which is not - and does not for the time being contemplate becoming - a member of the 'Twelve' in 1992 represents a special challenge. The dialogue which the Embassy is engaged in with the British authorities on this matter is thus of central importance.

But the scope of this dialogue is also wider. Switzerland's foreign policy has become more active in the past decade or so. Our bilateral contacts as well as our involvement in international negotiations and our contributions to the maintenance of peace are substantial. It is a fortunate fact that Britain is a most prominent interlocuter not only in European but also in world affairs."

Franz E. Mubeim, Ambassador



*The new Swiss Ambassador to Great Britain
Franz E. Mubeim*

August 1st Festivities

Finally, we are asked by Consul Albert Mehr to inform readers that the **National Day Celebration 1989** in London will take place on Tuesday 1st August, 6pm, at the Swiss Church, Endell Street.

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Drinking SWISS

As a logical progression from the restaurant review, now a regular feature in the Green Pages of the Swiss Review, we leap from food to drink as we introduce an occasional feature, highlighting Swiss wines. **John Chapman** recently took a long lunch break with 'Vin Suisse' in mind...

Vine Time

To Mr Average, the idea of a wine being produced in Switzerland is greeted by either disbelief or unawareness. Many wine connoisseurs would perhaps doubt that vines grown anywhere other than on the slopes of France could produce wines of an acceptable quality. This wine snobbery has been somewhat turned about in recent years (view the successful reception afforded to Californian wines of late), and with this in mind a timely opportunity to assess that oft overlooked species, the Swiss wine. In many cantons the locally produced wine resembles that of the neighbouring nation's culture, e.g Ticino in the south, Schaffhausen in the north and Vaud and Valais in the French west.

Indeed, Vaud is the best wine producing Canton. Straddling the north shore of Lake Geneva, the vines of the Vaud benefit from both the 'storage heater' effect of Lake Geneva during the winter and its sun reflecting qualities all year. The main grape in this region is the **Chasselas**.

Elsewhere, the wines of Switzerland are as varied as the cultures and landscape of the

country itself, including a number of rarities amongst them. It is perhaps this which makes them unusually difficult to obtain in Britain, other than in restaurants serving Swiss fayre.

A 'Royal' Family of Wines

Mysterious cylindrical objects, looking uncannily like bottles of Swiss Wine have been inexplicably appearing here at the editorial office of the Green Pages. **InMedias Limited**, sole suppliers of two new Swiss wines to Britain, have claimed responsibility.

Peter Rowland, of said suppliers, assured me in advance of the quality and palatability of the 'Imperial Peach' and 'Royal Cassis' wines. Produced by **Bourgeois Frères** of Switzerland, Imperial Peach is derived from the blending of a peach liqueur and one of their sparkling wines. One might expect the taste to resemble that of the 'wine coolers' that have recently been popular, particularly in the United States. They, it has been argued, are more akin to fruit juice with the 'aroma' of peach rather than real wine. However, the taste of Imperial Wine is a considerable step up from this, the key being the fact that a peach liqueur is used in the process of blending. The result is a pleasingly refreshing wine which, though perhaps best enjoyed on a warm summer day (rare enough in Britain's green and pleasant land), is ideal as a year-round beverage.

The same combination of sparkling wine and, in this instance, blackcurrant liqueur has been applied to 'Royal Cassis' to similar effect. Independent research has borne out the year-round popularity of the wines, with both selling well over the Christmas period.

So for a full, fruity flavour, it appears that Swiss wines can now take pride of place alongside the finest 'Lambrusco' (to which it has been favourably compared) on the shelves of your local wine stockist!

Royal Cassis



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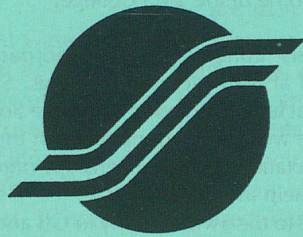
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FOSSUK looks back on 40 Years

After the war, Swiss organisations in the U.K. were getting more and more concerned about working together. Presidents of all societies in London were invited to a preliminary meeting on 21st June 1948 to discuss the formation of a body which would coordinate activities in the Swiss community.

At that time, there were at least a dozen more societies in existence, including choral, accordion and orchestral societies, Schweizerbund, Swiss YMCA etc.

Invitations were sent out by Dr. H.W. Egli (New Helvetic Society), Mr. Walter Meier (Swiss Mercantile Society) and Mr. Raoul de Cintra (City Swiss Club). A drafting committee was set up of the three men plus Mr. Carlo Bertì (Unione Ticinese) and the Rev. Claude Reverdin of the Swiss Church.

On 20th October 1948, a meeting formed the "Presidents' Council", later called "Presidents' Assembly", with Dr. Egli as Chairman, Mr De Cintra as Vice-Chairman and Mr. Meier as Hon. Secretary, each to hold office for one year, and to be promoted in rotation. The Embassy showed great interest and gave excellent support right from the beginning, while Mr. A. Stauffer, Editor of the **Swiss Observer** kept a diary of colony events. Eight societies from outside London were invited to join.

Contact was established with the Organisation of Swiss Abroad in Berne, and three or four meetings a year were held, usually at Swiss House, home of the SMS College.

All matters concerning Swiss abroad were discussed at well attended meetings. Subjects covered at length included AHV, the Solidarity Fund, the welfare of young Swiss in the U.K., double taxation, Swiss citizenship, organizing funds to help in disasters, etc.

A "Guide to the Swiss Colony in GB and Eire", was published, and the Assembly was concerned with the opening of the Swiss Hostel for Girls and similar matters.

In October 1965, the Assembly's name was changed to "Federation of Swiss Societies in the U.K." (FOSSUK), and thus the organisation became properly constituted. Dr. H.W. Egli was elected President, an office he held with great distinction for nine years, to be followed by Mr. B. Simon. Annual meetings were held at the Swiss Embassy, and occasionally in Manchester.

It then became the task of the Federation to elect the members of the Commission of Swiss Abroad and to pay them at least part of their expenses to attend meetings in Switzerland.

The main concern in the 1960s was the creation of a Swiss Cultural Centre and Colony Room at the Swiss Centre which opened in 1967. But in spite of dedicated efforts by Dr. Egli, Mr. Peter Christen (Swiss Economic Council) and Mr. Albert Kunz (Swiss National Tourist Office), the project had to be dropped due to lack of finance.

In August 1974, the Federation signed an agreement with the Swiss Confederation and the OSA with regard to the **Swiss Review** to be incorporated into the **Swiss Observer**. In

1979/80, FOSSUK became the proprietor of the **Swiss Observer**, when the previous publisher and son of the founder, Mr. Oscar Boehringer, handed it over.

That was when difficulties began, and Mr. Simon as President had the unenviable task of trying to solve them. Sadly, all efforts came to nothing, and the Publisher and Editor, Derek Meakin (Manchester) brought the great publication to a sudden end in November 1984.

In June 1984, Mr. P.E. Tangemann took over from Mr Simon as President, to be followed by Dr. R. Duttweiler two years later. FOSSUK now has some 30 member societies & groups.

The Federation's development has perhaps not been precisely as the founders envisaged. But much valuable work has been done, and it is hoped that societies themselves will increase their support, not only financially, so that any future problems which may have to be dealt with can be faced with the same sense of responsibility which distinguished the founders.

Mariann Meier is a former Editor of Swiss Observer and author of 'The Young Traveller in Switzerland', publisher: Phoenix House.

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