

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK

Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

Band: - (1931)

Heft: 490

Rubrik: Swiss Gymnastic Society

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 22.02.2026

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

their exports to this country. Our exports attain an average value of approximately 200 million Swiss francs (about 9% of our total exports), fully two thirds of which are divided among embroidery, silk, cheese and watches. While there is an increase of imports, exports are steadily declining. Switzerland has shown of late a marked interest in American securities. Next to England, our country has contributed more than any other States towards the development of American industry. Owing to this fact, Switzerland has often been seriously affected by the fluctuations of the New York stock market. It may have been our relations to the world's largest stock exchange, that prompted its President, Simmons, to visit Switzerland's banking circles in Zurich last spring, which visit assumed the character of an official reception. Finally, one should not forget that Switzerland has repeatedly made important loans in America since 1915. In addition to the Swiss Confederation, the Cantons of Zurich and Berne, have also had recourse to American money-lenders. A large Swiss banking-house in New York, the firm Iselin and Co., played an important part during these transactions.

In the course of time, several Swiss industries, after a bitter struggle for supremacy on all available markets, decided to transfer a part of their manufactures to the United States. This applies chiefly to the silk and machinery industries, of which certain firms established themselves in America, as far back as the middle of the 19th century. We will only mention here a few names of world-wide renown: Brown Boveri, Scintilla, Wander, Schwarzenbach, Stünziger, Stehli, Company for Chemical Industry, Sandoz, Geigy and Hoffmann-Laroche, Suchard, etc. The Swiss hotel industry was also successful in securing an honourable position in the larger cities of the New World. Nor should we omit to mention the numerous Swiss tradesmen who, from their new fatherland, are to-day directly or indirectly supporting Swiss commerce, the efficient co-operation of whom has largely contributed in maintaining an active economic exchange between the two Republics. Industrialists such as Heinrich Rosenberg in Galveston, John Luchsinger of Schwanden (1839-1922) Jacques Huber of Horgen (1851-1918), Robert Schwarzenbach (1875-1929), and many others remained true to their native country, in spite of their brilliant achievements and success across the Atlantic. Among the numerous American philanthropists, we frequently come across Swiss names, of which the most famous are perhaps the chocolate King Milton Hershey (Hersche) of Appenzell (1857-1918) whose splendid orphan-asylum in Pennsylvania is still looked upon as a model by all countries throughout the world, and the copper King Daniel Guggenheim of Lengnau (1856-1930) who, at his death left 500 million dollars, of which a large portion was bequeathed to charity institutions. Guggenheim financed to a large extent the expeditions of Lindberg and Byrd. The inauguration of wireless telephony between the United States and Switzerland in the autumn 1928, is also considered to be an important historical date.

Among the Swiss who emigrated to the United States during the 19th and 20th centuries, are several personalities of whom the old as well as new World may justly be proud, for example, William Wirt (1772-1834), famous as councillor of State and jurist.

President Hoover's Swiss extraction has been much discussed of late. His ancestors bore the name of Huber and were native of Ibergkulum in the present Canton of Argovie.

It is striking how many Swiss artists have gone to the United States. Although, in the course of time, a certain number of them returned to Switzerland, a good many found a hospitable welcome and highly deserved appreciation in their country of adoption.

For many years, both Swiss and American University circles have endeavoured to create a continuous and systematic intellectual exchange between the two nations, without, however, attaining a very tangible result. Nor has the splendid activity of Professor W. Rappard of Geneva met, as yet, with great success. A valuable Carnegie library has been incorporated in the municipal library of Zurich, with a view to familiarizing our country with the literary and intellectual products of the United States. The exchange of American and Swiss students, a measure now permanently introduced, is also a helpful means of bringing about a mutual understanding, as the most gifted students are given an opportunity of becoming acquainted with the most recent scientific discoveries of both nations. Instead of the former professors of modern languages, Swiss instructors are to-day employed in several American Universities and are able to strengthen the ties of intellectual comprehension. The Society [Swiss friends of the United States], created in 1920 with its principal seat at Zurich, has also done much for the promotion of reciprocal understanding. In short, intellectual exchange between the United States and Switzerland is growing steadily so that one is fully justified in anticipating a really valuable profit for both sides. A deep friendship between two

EUROPEAN & GENERAL EXPRESS CO. LTD.

(Joint Managing Directors: E. Schneider-Hall & J. J. Harvey)

The Oldest Swiss Forwarding Agency in England,

Head Office—37, UPPER THAMES STREET, LONDON, E.C.4.

West End Office—15, POLAND STREET, W.1.

Forward through us to and from Switzerland your Household Furniture (in our own Lift Vans)
Luggage, Private Effects, Merchandise.

REMOVALS A SPECIALITY — FAST BAGGAGE SERVICES
PERSONAL ATTENTION GUARANTEED.

nations cannot result solely from sporadic manifestations, business or the exchange of mechanical commodities, but far more from mutual understanding and appreciation in an intellectual sphere, the expressions of which are alone of permanent value. S.J.T.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

Le 3 mars a eu lieu chez Pagani le réunion mensuelle à laquelle assistaient environ 70 personnes. Cette réunion fut l'occasion d'une innovation, car, au lieu des discussions interminables et souvent arides nous avons eu une soirée familiale dont le succès fut rehaussé par la présence des dames.

En fait, si l'objet de cette innovation était de donner aux dames un aperçu de ce qui se passe ordinairement aux assemblées mensuelles, je crains fort qu'elles n'aient pas dû les trouver bien intéressantes et elles doivent se demander pourquoi les membres se réunissent tous les mois avec tant d'assiduité et même penser à l'histoire de la montagne et la souris, car jamais je ne me rappelle une soirée où la partie officielle ait été liquidée avec autant de précipitation et si peu de discours. Il est vrai que plusieurs de nos discours les plus acharnés étaient absents.

Après dîner, une tombola a eu lieu avec deux souvenirs pour les dames et la pipe traditionnelle pour les hommes.

Ensuite nous avons eu le plaisir d'entendre chanter Monsieur Conrad accompagné au piano par Monsieur Seymour et Monsieur Pellet qui, accompagné par Monsieur Dick, a exécuté trois morceaux de violon.

Mademoiselle Sylvia Carmine a joué un morceau de piano et pour terminer ce petit concert Mademoiselle Olga Carmine a joué "Soleil à midi" et la Polonoise de Chopin. Le City Swiss Club a eu rarement la chance d'entendre des artistes aussi célèbres car la réputation de Mademoiselle Carmine est européenne et nous ne pouvons trop la remercier ainsi que les autres artistes qui nous ont fait passer une heure si agréable.

Après le concert nous sommes descendus au rez-de-chaussée où nous avons passé le reste de la soirée en dansant. Cela m'a rappelé les soirées d'antan de me retrouver sur le pavé en mosaique et le lendemain notre meilleur danseur m'a dit qu'il avait les jambes brisées, ce à quoi j'ai répondu que cet exercice avait dû lui faire le plus grand bien.

En résumé, soirée délicieuse et pour ma part, j'estime que notre sympathique Président a encore une fois bien mérité du Club.

Et voilà ma réponse à ceux qui veulent supprimer nos réunions sous prétexte que les temps sont durs et qu'il faut faire des économies.

Quelle sinistre idée! Si on veut vraiment faire des économies il y a bien d'autres occasions que ces réunions familiales. Il faut être logique. Si on veut supprimer, pourquoi ne pas aller jusqu'au bout et supprimer les Swiss Sports et même la Fête du 1er août pour ne pas parler de certaines réunions où les messieurs arborent de jolis rubans bleu ciel et, d'après ce que j'ai entendu dire, font des repas fort agréables. A chacun sa part de sacrifice. J'ai entendu chuchoter que l'on veut nous priver cette année de notre soirée à Hendon. J'espère que ce n'est qu'une rumeur et que le Comité ne commettra pas la maladresse de nous priver d'un plaisir aussi innocent. Du reste, en ma qualité de reporter j'ai interviewé plusieurs dames qui étaient toutes unanimes à ce sujet.

SWISS GYMNASTIC SOCIETY.

We are pleased to inform our readers that the above mentioned Society is going to give a Grand Display on Sunday, March 22nd, at 3.45 p.m. at the Union Helvétique, 1, Gerrard Place, W.2.

A special feature of this display is the appearance of the Ladies Section in Rhythmic Exercises. The programme further includes work at Horizontal Bar, Handstand Group, Pyramids, Ballet Dancing by the Ladies Section, etc., etc.

The Society is now under the leadership of M. J. Sermier, who is well-known in the colony for his conscientious work, and we confidently hope that the Swiss Colony in London will support the Gymnasts in large numbers to carry on this old Swiss national sport in the Metropolis.

SWISS CLUB LIVERPOOL.

Notwithstanding bitter north-easterly winds and snow flakes in the air, a very cheerful party foregathered on Saturday, March 7th, for this was the occasion of the Annual Banquet and Ball of the Swiss Club, Liverpool.

The banqueting hall of the Bear's Paw Restaurant ornamented with a large Federal Flag, and prettily decorated tables, each carrying an array of Federal and Cantonal flags, very soon made one realize that London was not the only venue for Swiss functions.

The President of the Club, Mr. L. J. Fairve, accompanied by Madame Fairve very charmingly received the guests, who like all good Swiss, were somewhat behind schedule time. Soon after 7 o'clock, a select party of over 60 sat down to a very sumptuous and well served dinner. The atmosphere of homeliness and close friendship that was so evident, made this function more like a family gathering than an official banquet.

After the Royal Toast had been suitably proposed by the President, and duly honoured; Mr. E. Montag (Swiss Consul, Liverpool) made a most interesting speech and terminated by giving the Toast "Switzerland."

Mr. Fairve, in proposing "the Ladies and the Guests" expressed the great pleasure he had in welcoming so many charming ladies and such a large number of distinguished guests, which included many members of the Swiss Club, Manchester. He particularly mentioned the presence of the Swiss Consuls, Mr. E. Montag (Liverpool) accompanied by Mrs. Montag, and Dr. A. Schedler (Manchester), accompanied by Mrs. Schedler. The Swiss Colony of London, he was gratified to say, had on this occasion greatly honoured their Society. He was delighted to greet Monsieur Le Pasteur René Hoffmann-de-Visme (de l'Eglise Suisse de Londres) and Mr. Charles Chapuis, President of the City Swiss Club. The spontaneous response given to this Toast could not fail to make the guests feel how much their presence was appreciated.

Dr. A. Schedler, replying on behalf of the Guests, was most eulogistic in expressing thanks for the great hospitality tendered to them.

Monsieur Le Pasteur Hoffmann-de-Visme addressed the gathering in French. His speech, full of warm patriotism touched the heart of all present. The President, in asking Mr. Charles Chapuis, to say a few words, emphasized the fact that it was the first time the Club had had the privilege of welcoming the President of the City Swiss Club at its Banquet. Mr. Chapuis tendered hearty greetings on behalf of compatriots in London and laid stress on the necessity of maintaining the high reputation of all that is Swiss.

The oratorial fires having burned themselves out, dancing commenced at 9.30 p.m. and continued merrily until 11.45 p.m. The most amusing feature of the dancing was the Paul Jones, when the M.C., armed with a referee's whistle, gave shrill blasts whenever it was time to change partners.

Naturally, all too soon came the end of such a happy and enjoyable evening. The Swiss Club, Liverpool, which after all can only muster twenty members, is to be heartily congratulated on the uncontested success of this function.

On Sunday morning, Monsieur le Pasteur Hoffmann-de-Visme conducted a religious service in French at the Central Hall. This was very much appreciated by a good many of our compatriots and particularly by a "long lost Bernois," who had left his village at the age of sixteen and who had lived in Liverpool for 42 years, during which time he had lost all contact with his Mother-country. It brought tears to the eyes to see him produce his "Psautier" which had been presented to him in 1888 on the occasion of his Confirmation.

After conducting a small party over the new Liverpool Cathedral, which is now in the course of erection, and which will eventually be the largest in the World, Mr. E. Montag very kindly entertained to lunch a number of friends, which included the two London representatives.

C.L.C.