

**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:** - (1937)  
**Heft:** 805  
  
**Rubrik:** Eglise suisse = Schweizerkirche

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trumpet. In view of all these difficulties which beset me, I hope that I may count upon your patience and your sympathy.

Some of you may have been wondering why the Ticinesi organise a Banquet of their own, distinct from other functions of the Swiss Colony at which, I hasten to add, they are always well represented. Having so wondered you have no doubt asked your Ticinese host, who will have answered more or less thus: Switzerland numbers about 4½ million inhabitants, of which approximately 71% speak German, 21% French, 6.2% Italian and 1.1% Romansch. As you see, we have in Switzerland four — or, if you take Latin into account, five — languages, three of which are official languages. We have all these languages, but we use them to express one and the same idea, which is to love our Country and to respect that of others. What is worth underlining is the fact that in our country people of different races, languages and religions live in peace, form one nation and are united and ready to defend this patrimony against any aggressor, whether French, German or Italian. This blending, if I may call it so, of distinct civilizations, languages and religions, which represents a slow and gradual development, form an entity called Switzerland, with a culture of its own, and a mentality which is different from the mentality of France or of Germany or of Italy, in other words, the Swiss mentality. This does not imply that each group has not preserved its own characteristics, but rather that it has learned in past centuries to consider the others as a complement to itself. What are these characteristics? It is, of course, difficult to explain in a few words but at a pinch I would say that Nature had given my German speaking compatriots a deep sense of order, of organization and modesty, my French speaking compatriots, genius and almost a passion for liberty and for individual rights, and to us Ticinesi candour, confidence, a high sense of patriotism and also that sense of the beautiful which makes our hearts throb at the sight of our lakes, our mountains and our valleys.

The Canton Ticino joined the Swiss Confederation in 1803 only. Before that it had for 300 years been subject to the thirteen Swiss Cantons. When they were faced with the choice either of becoming an independent Canton within the Confederation or of joining the Cisalpine Republic, the Ticinesi did not hesitate, and they were right. For then began the happiest years in Ticino's history. They chose Switzerland in spite of the fact that it had been described to them as a poor Republic which would only offer them shrubs and stones, a Republic without any power or glory, but the Ticinesi did not hesitate. Because then, as to-day, the Ticinesi wanted to be the exclusive masters of their own destiny. They placed above all other good or advantage the inestimable good of liberty. And they know that the Swiss League could offer them that. What did we give in exchange? A very great deal. The liberty granted by the Swiss Cantons to the Canton of Ticino gave the Confederation a significance which grew more universal and humane. Having admitted amongst its members a new sovereign State, a State with an Italian language and civilisation, the Confederation was able to proclaim and to apply its new ideal, by virtue of which — as I said a few moments ago — three languages and three civilizations, united by bonds of love and sympathy and by mutual interests, live in peace and strive for peace among nations. If, therefore, we are here to-night it is in our capacity of Ticinesi and Swiss. The love we have for our wonderful Canton does not impair our love for our greater Fatherland, Switzerland, not any more than the love of one's country impairs one's love for humanity. A good Swiss patriot, in our case, must first be a good Ticinese, just as a Swiss can only be a good citizen of humanity if he is first and foremost a good Swiss."

The applause had scarcely died down when Mr. P. F. Boehringer rose to reply to the toast on behalf of the Swiss Societies. He stated apologetically that the time limit compelled him to be short and, being a modest "old" gentleman, he seized on the opportunity afforded him by the fact that both he and "old" Mr. Gambazzi are at the helm of two of the Colony's most important Societies, to point to the fickleness of youth as against the tenacity of the "old bones."

The response to the same toast on behalf of the Visitors came very competently from the Mayor of St. Marylebone, Councillor Stiles Allen; his sparkling wit and command of facetious anecdotes kept the complacent audience rocking with laughter.

Mr. Arthur Meschini, the Honorary Vice-President of the Unione Ticinese concluded the speech making; he expressed the hope that Mr. Rezzonico will keep on making progress up the diplomatic ladder, and referred to the untiring work Mr. Gambazzi had for over three decades performed for the Society.

The official part of the evening over, to everybody's relief, not least of the ladies, the dance absorbed the energies of the young, and not so young folk, whilst the sedate few collected in the

distance for refreshment both mental and corporal.

It would be appropriate at this point to say a few words regarding the ladies present, to whose charm and garrulous gaiety (and delightful toilettes) much of the success of the function was due, but as your reporter is still a bachelor, it would be suicidal for him to reveal his taste in such matters.

During a first break in the dance, Miss Marietta Albertoli, attractively dressed in typical "Ticinese" fashion, sung two songs, one of which was a "Ticinese" folksong.

Much admired for its slickness of execution, and orthodox style, was the cabaret turn at midnight, entitled "May I Have the Pleasure" and featuring the acrobatic dancers, Roger and Lascelles and Ann. Not even a hint here at "strip teasing" so that you are spared yet another dissertation on the issue, as raised by a celebrated cartoonist, whether this controversial act is art or just meat.

No Unione Ticinese function, however perfect, can claim to be complete without Miss Eva Cattaneo, the "Ticinese" soprano, and Mr. Gino Berni, who again very graciously volunteered to refresh us with their art. Signorina Cattaneo evoked thunderous applause with the ever popular aria "Ciribiribin," the hearers being so charmed by it as not to dare to join in the refrains. Mr. Berni too got a big hand for his "Parlami d'amore, Mariù," which he followed up, in response to enthusiastic encores, with a Spanish love song.

To end I ask the kind reader to desist, having got thus far, to grab after a revolver and fire at me because the Editor has already fired me. Of course, he was ever so charming. He told me that next time he would write the d..... b..... thing himself.

eusj.

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