

Farwell dinner to Monsieur C. R. Paravicini

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FAREWELL DINNER TO MONSIEUR C. R. PARAVICINI.

On Monday, December 18th, 1939,
at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1.

The memory of the very successful Farewell Party at the Monico, offered by the Colony to its departing Minister had hardly faded away, when another Farewell Dinner was offered to Monsieur and Madame Paravicini, this time they were the guests of the Personnel of the Legation.

The Dinner which counted thirty-seven couverts took place on Monday, December 18th, at the Dorchester Hotel, and was presided over by Monsieur Charles de Jenner, Counsellor of Legation.

This function which bore an intimate character was very successful, and most enjoyable, the dinner was excellent and the flower decorations beautiful.

Towards the end of the Dinner, Monsieur de Jenner made a very witty after-dinner speech in "Bärndütsch," he expressed in the name of the Personnel of the Legation, the pleasure of having Monsieur and Madame Paravicini as their guests; amidst great hilarity the speaker reviewed some of the episodes during the years when the Minister was his chief; and he mentioned that during all the years the Minister was in office he was a most considerate chief, who had the welfare of his collaborators at heart.

The second speaker was Monsieur W. Preiswerk, head of the Special Division of the Swiss Legation, who spoke in the same happy vein, in "Baslerdütsch." He too related some of his experiences during the time when he acted as Attaché at the Legation, some of the escapades caused great merriment and unfortunately *etiquette* forbids me to make them public.

Monsieur Preiswerk described the Minister as a loyal chief, who encouraged the members of his staff to do, and give their best; amidst great applause he wished Monsieur and Madame Paravicini a happy and quiet "Lebensabend."

Madame Paravicini related some of the experiences she had encountered during her twenty-five years of residence in this country, the witty way in which they were told caused much laughter.

The last speaker was the Minister himself, who thanked Monsieur de Jenner and Monsieur Preiswerk for their appreciation which he greatly valued, he too, in a humorous way, told the company some reminiscences of his diplomatic career, he ended his happy address by thanking his collaborators for the willing help they have given him, which enabled him to accomplish his not always easy task.

The words of the Minister were heartily cheered.

Monsieur de Jenner then presented to the Minister and Madame Paravicini three beautiful crystal flower vases as a farewell present from the staff of the Legation.

The party, which was a happy one in the real sense of the word, ended long after midnight.

I would have liked to describe this function in the same manner as I did the one at the Monico, it would have made very interesting reading; but the wish was expressed that this should not be done, and as one of the youngest members on the staff of the Legation (as far as service is concerned) I had to obey, not without regrets, because the speeches were excellent, and there were also many pretty Ladies present

who told me some of their secrets, which now will for ever be buried in my bosom.

ST.

CHRISTMAS FESTIVITY AT TROXLER'S CAFE, LIVERPOOL, 19th DECEMBER, 1939.

Although the Blackout is a great hindrance in moving about, Mrs. Macquarie and Mme. Davidson have steadily continued the monthly gatherings of our Swiss girls in the Liverpool area. For this month a special Christmas gathering was arranged complete with a Christmas tree and gifts. Mr. Troxler provided a satisfactory meal and this over the girls sang such Christmas songs as "Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht," "O du Fröhliche." Then the candles of the tree were lit, and the Christmas surprises started, including Christmas cards from Pasteur Pradervand and "Pestalozzi Kalenders" from the Consulate. The girls have been busy knitting such things as bed-spreads and socks and these I believe are going to London to cheer some of our compatriots there. In this way the "gnadenbringende Weihnachtszeit" was ushered in for our girls and this Weihnachtsbaum far from home will long be remembered by them. We have still got a goodly number, but the number of girls who were here and are now back in Switzerland must be considerable. They also will think of us this Christmas time, I feel sure, and wonder what special treat Mrs. Macquarie and Mme. Davidson had arranged.

If they see the "Swiss Observer" they will know. The Consulate was fully represented.

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