

# Our next issue

Objekttyp: **Group**

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

Band (Jahr): - **(1944)**

Heft 1023

PDF erstellt am: **29.04.2024**

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They had a pleasant custom of selling wine by the hour — all the wine a man could drink in an hour cost him seven lei, equivalent to about threepence; for the second hour the charge was six lei. If he fell asleep the drinker went on paying at the same rate until he could sleep without incurring any debt. Life in Shaba must have been very agreeable."

It is to be hoped that when this distant colony has to find another home they will settle down somewhere within easy motoring reach of the London Colony.

\* \* \*

Musical Boxes are in great demand according to the following from the "*Evening Standard*," March 25th; we know a friend who had one or two hidden away on the loft; we think their music was somewhat on the "Jazz" side but at boom time anything will sell. "There is a big demand and phenomenal prices for musical boxes made by Swiss cottagers a hundred years or so ago.

At Sotheby's one fetched £52. A finer example was bought at Christie's by a dealer who says he could have "resold it at a handsome profit for this sum." At Phillips, Son and Neale another dealer gave ten guineas for a musical box "so commonplace that 50s. would have got it before the war." It played only two or three common tunes.

The Victoria musical box was an elaboration of the musical snuff-boxes with which eighteenth-century dandies amused themselves. The Swiss makers built

mechanism into the boxes, some of which played up to a dozen tunes — including opera.

"Toy figures were sometimes added, and these danced to the music," said a collector.

Examples sold recently by Frank, Knight and Rutley have included a church spire, with birds flying to the chime of bells; a monkey in a glass case playing a guitar; and a waiter carrying a tray with mice scurrying about. Scores of pounds were given for these musical "boxes."

This also reminds us of a journalist friend who was editing the "*Briefkasten*" of a well-known Swiss paper; he had a flair for adapting the clock mechanism to all sorts of humorous contraptions. We had dinner at his place one day and when the cheese dish was passed round it started playing "Von ferne sei herzlich grüßet."

\* \* \*

The death of a prominent compatriot who also had many friends in the London colony is reported in "*The Irish Press*," April 13th, as follows:

Col. Charles Ziegler, noted officer of the Swiss Cavalry, and the man responsible for the establishment by the Royal Dublin Society, of the international military jumping competitions at Ballsbridge, has died at his home at Thoun, near Berne, Switzerland.

As chief buyer for the Swiss Government, Col. Ziegler bought thousands of horses in this country during the thirty years he had been coming here.

Mr. W. E. Wylie said to an *Irish Press* reporter that Col. Ziegler was unquestionably a man of great vision in the horse world, and a true friend of Ireland. "I met him in the Shelbourne Hotel in 1925," said Mr. Wylie, "and he suggested that the R.D.S. should initiate international military jumping competitions. He said that it would be a good thing for the country and the horse-breeding industry.

"The R.D.S. took up the idea and the first competition was held in 1926. Col. Ziegler brought over a Swiss team that year and they came every year afterwards until the outbreak of this war."

Mr. Wylie added that Col. Ziegler was at that time buying about 1,000 horses a year in this country.

In 1938, Col. Ziegler purchased for himself the champion hunter at the R.D.S. Horse Show. He was then arranging to rent a place here as a part-time residence.

It was due to the representations he made to his Government that a Swiss Consulate, now a Legation, was established in Dublin in 1935.

He took pleasure in recounting his experiences here in the past, especially an incident that took place in Waterford in 1922, when the Republican forces delayed the blowing up of a bridge until he had crossed it.

## OUR NEXT ISSUE.

We hope to go to press again on May 26th and gratefully acknowledge "donations" from the following subscribers: M. Gysin, Dr. H. Fritsche, H. Oswald, M. E. Lichtensteiger, A. Hinderling, L. Chapuis, E. Hofstetter, W. Gysler.



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