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LONDON SWISS PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

The first Annual General Meeting of the London Swiss Philatelic Society was held at the Glendower Hotel, South Kensington, on Saturday, January 29th.

Over forty members and friends were present and in the unavoidable absence of the President and principal founder, Mr. P. F. Boehringer, the Chair was occupied by Mr. F. Streit, Vice-President.

A personal message from the President was read, which the meeting decided to answer with a suitable telegram.

The accounts were presented by the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. O. Grob. The financial result of the first year's working was considered most satisfactory and it was evident from the figures submitted that the Society is being run on sound lines. The accounts were unanimously adopted.

It was the Chairman's pleasant duty to give a short account of the Society's activities since its foundation in January 1943. He was able to record that the membership, from a mere handful of enthusiastic collectors had grown steadily month by month and that by the end of the year the Society numbered fifty members. As a natural consequence, the exchange business transacted had gone up in leaps and bounds and five exchange groups were now handling on an average well over 200 exchange booklets running into a cash value of several hundred pounds.

The Chairman thanked all those who had helped to make this venture successful and was pleased to announce that all Committee members had offered themselves for re-election. In order to cope with the increasing volume of work involved, it was decided to elect an additional member to the Committee, Mr. P. Jacot being duly proposed and seconded.

Mr. J. J. Boos, President of the Swiss Mercantile Society, took the Chair during the election. He congratulated the Society on its fine progress and expressed the hope that it would continue to prosper.

The Committee is now constituted as follows:—President: Mr. P. F. Boehringer; Vice-President: Mr. F. Streit; Hon. Secretary: Mr. J. J. Schneider; Hon. Treasurer: Mr. O. Grob; Hon. Packet-Superintendent: Mr. W. Burren; Members: Messrs. K. E. Ammann, G. Wahl, P. Jacot.

Five applications for membership were submitted and accepted and finally the meeting discussed the programme of future activities. It was decided to publish a monthly "News Sheet" with lists of wants and offers. Talks by members with specialised knowledge and exhibitions at Monthly Meetings also figured on the programme.

This concluded the official part of the meeting and the members adjourned to the dining room, where an excellent luncheon was served. The proprietors, Mr. and Mrs. A. Schmid, proved themselves perfect hosts and deserved every praise for the manner in which they looked after the welfare of their co-philatelists.

After the loyal toasts, Mr. Streit addressed the members and friends present. He was able to assert that the "Baby" Society of the Colony, as the Philatelic has been dubbed, had got over its teething troubles and was well on the way of creating for itself a name, not only in Swiss but also in English philatelic circles, hence the many English friends who have already joined our Society despite the fact that they belong to some of the leading and old established Philatelic

Societies. Mr. Streit delighted his audience with some humorous asides and generally proved himself a witty after-dinner speaker. Mr. Boos suitably replied on behalf of the guests.

The remainder of the afternoon was spent in admiring some fine collections, including a number of treasured Swiss "Classics." A few special lots were put up for auction, the proceeds of which were handed to the Swiss Benevolent Society.

The next Monthly Meeting will be held at Swiss House on Saturday, February 26th, at 2.30 p.m.

WB.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

The February Monthly Meeting was held in form of a "Bierabig" at the Dorchester Hotel on the first Tuesday evening of the month, and again over 130 members and guests attended.

The atmosphere was from the beginning one of the best, a splendid supper even increasing the enthusiasm for the things to come and indeed the audience did not have to wait too long.

The President, Mr. A. Bon, in a few words welcomed members and guests wishing everybody an enjoyable evening. Mr. R. Waugh, replied in very eloquent words for the guests. The ordinary Club business was not being dealt with at this meeting as a full entertainment program was waiting.—

After a short interval the *compère*, Mr. Binggely, opened the program part with Mr. Luterbacher giving us Swiss songs and yodels to his own piano accompaniment and his welcome contribution was greatly applauded.—

Mr. A. Ferber, our great Swiss pianist, then mounted the platform and played to us Concert Etudes by Smetana, Chopin and Liszt. There is no doubt that the assembly were captivated by Mr. Ferber's individual style of playing and deep interpretation which put him in a class of his own. From the fiercest fortissimo to the finest pianissimo and all other shadings are within Mr. Ferber's power to a very high degree. Later on Mr. Ferber again played, and this time as a tribute to his master some Preludes by Rachmaninoff.

Nor will we forget our two friends Messrs. Senn and Kern who played to us four sonatas by Dvorak with great skill and devotion.

Mr. Jobin succeeded very well in singing an old French-Swiss dialect song supported by his table friends with a very catchy refrain and Mr. Heimerdinger surprised us all with a splendid and very original recitation which put the Committee and many members through the hoop.

Mr. Renou gave us in a short eloquent and witty speech a critical Revue of the Club, mixed with a "dream suggestion" to raise a fantastic sum of a few thousand pounds for a "Maison de Suisse." Nor must we forget a Swiss Potpourri by Mr. Bon at the Piano and Mr. Oboussier with his accordeon. Great and well deserved applause awarded all these fine efforts and time went so quickly that 10 o'clock had arrived nearly unnoticed and with a farewell speech in "Schwyzerdütsch" the President thanked all for their attendance and especially the various talents for their contributions.

P.M.