

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: - (1947)

Heft: 1060

Artikel: Christmas service and party of Swiss Catholics

Autor: X. Y. Z.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-687363>

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: 23.02.2026

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

THE SONG OF SEMPACH.

Lasst hören aus alter Zeit . . .

Let's sing of the times of old,
And of our fathers, strong and bold,
Of sword clash and deadly spear thrust,
Of deathblows and choking camp dust;
Let's praise in song that valiant breed
And our great hero, Winkelried.

To Sempach, at break of day,
The Austrians came, in full array,
Trampling cornfields, boastful, jeering.
A Swiss cried: "We'll stop you sneering,
Ere long, before the sun is up,
With blood we'll fill your morning cup."

The Swiss then plunged in the fray,
It was a hot and sultry day.
The en'my, by armour shielded,
Stood rock-like and nowhere yielded,
Yet death soon brought their spirits low.
They found the Swiss a doughty foe.

For fighting with bodies bare,
Their valour was beyond compare.
Of victory they were not doubting,
Pressed onward, their war-cries shouting.
But many fell; they could not breach
The wall of lances out of reach.

"Take care of my wife and kin"
Cried Winkelried above the din
As the spear-points, closely serried,
In his brave heart he deeply buried.
Thus to his glory and our pride
A gallant hero nobly died.

And over him, steeped in blood,
The Swiss poured like an angry flood,
Breaking through, with dreadful slaughter,
Smashed the armour, gave no quarter,
And wrote in freedom's history
A page of glorious victory.

Translated by J.J.F.S.

Nouvelle Société Helvétique
(LONDON GROUP)

Free Discussion

open to all members of the Swiss Colony
on

"HOW TO MAINTAIN AND STRENGTHEN
ALLEGIANCE TO SWITZERLAND"
at the
Vienna Café, Berkeley Arcade, Baker St., W.1.
(opposite Baker Street Station)
on
Thursday, February 6th, 1947.

**CHRISTMAS SERVICE AND PARTY OF SWISS
CATHOLICS, 28th DECEMBER, 1946.**

As in previous years, so again on the last Sunday of 1946 the Swiss Catholics met first for a religious service and afterwards at a Childrens party.

At the service in St. Peters Church, Palace Street, W.1, Father Lanfranchi, the Chaplain, preached. In his address he reminded the congregation of the greatness of the Christmas festival and its meaning to the world. He described how our people at home celebrate and spend Christmas both in the Churches and in the homes. He particularly dealt in his sermon with the words of the gospel "The Word was made man and dwelt amongst us." Whilst the "Word" our Saviour, Christ, is not with us in the flesh as He was with the Apostles and earliest Christians, the Almighty is still with us in spirit and in the Holy Sacrament. At the end of the year our thanks must be to Him for the graces granted us and we must pray for 'His' blessings for all, our homes, our country and the whole world.

The solemn Benediction was given by the Rev. Pater Loetschert assisted by two other missionaries from the College at Immensee (Schwyz) eight of whom are now in this country studying English and Oriental languages before proceeding to various Mission fields.

The childrens party that followed and at which nearly 600 people were present was a highly successful affair. After tea was served (gratuitously thanks to some generous donors) we were treated with an excellent entertainment suited for young and old. The Swiss Catholic mixed Choir sang Christmas Carols and Swiss songs, a conjuror with his magic feats held everyone spellbound and guessing and he amused the children, particularly so, as he used the help of two little boys and girls in his tricks with boxes, ribbons, balls and rope tricks.

Madame Papacini rendered three songs and Mr. Gandon and his little daughter delighted the audience with accordion recitals.

Father Christmas, in the person of Pater Wuermz also of Immensee had a kind word for everyone of the nearly 100 children present, each of whom received a little present and some sweets from under the lighted Christmas tree.

Father Lanfranchi, who had organised the party almost single handed, deserved the thanks of all, he and his helpers from the Edelweiss Club worked hard the whole evening to make the party such a successful one. After the childrens party many of the grown ups enjoyed a few additional hours of songs, music and dancing in the well decorated and well heated Cathedral Hall.

Everyone present was glad they had ventured to come along, although London was shrouded in thick fog, to spend such a pleasant afternoon in such good company, the only regret was that neither H. E. The Cardinal (who was otherwise engaged) nor the Swiss Minister, Dr. Paul Ruegger (who was indisposed) could not join as had been hoped, the happy assembly.

X.Y.Z.