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INVITATION TO THE FETE SUISSE 1947.

It was in 1864 that the Swiss residing in London decided that they wanted to have a "Fête Suisse."

In those days, the 1st August did not exist and was to come only some 25 years later. This Fête was to be a re-union of all those who had remained Swiss at heart and who wanted to come and live — if only for a few hours — in a Swiss atmosphere. By singing their local songs they could escape the big City and find themselves again in their villages, on the shore of our lakes, even on the top of our mountains, very near to these "glaciers sublimes" they all loved so much; the children too would be there, not only to listen but to mix their fresh voices with those of their elders. Old friends would meet, new acquaintances would be made and they would all be a happy united family . . . those sons and daughters of Switzerland. And so the "Fête Suisse" started.

Since then it has become a firmly established institution of our colony. Its attendance grew every year until in 1939 the vast Central Hall could only just contain all those who wanted to participate in it. The war put an abrupt stop to it but last year we met again. All those who came will tell you that they spent very happy hours there which seemed much too short.

This year, many young people have arrived from Switzerland and although their stay has been only a short one so far, they are bound to have had here and there a little bit of the "Heimweh." All of us have had it, none of us will ever lose it, so let us all join this year again in the same spirit as those who, in 1864, felt the need to meet and pray and sing together.

Our Minister, Monsieur Paul Ruegger, will be with us and the very attractive items shown on the programme would in themselves ensure a most enjoyable evening but more is offered to you, namely the opportunity to meet your friends and join in the community singing which will bring to you a parcel of our dear native land . . . and don't forget that in so doing you will also contribute in helping the Swiss Benevolent Society which does so much for our less fortunate compatriots.

So come . . . and be with us on the 14th of June, you will be welcome.

THE COMMITTEE.

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* * *

Swiss Catholics in London are reminded of the "Bruder Klaus" religious celebration in Westminster Cathedral, on June 1st, at 3.45, followed by "Civic Meeting" with lantern slide lecture in Westminster Cathedral, at 4.45 (non-Catholics are welcome).

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, June 17th, 1947, at 7 p.m. — Nouvelle Société Helvétique (London Group) — Open Meeting, at Vienna Café, Berkeley Arcade, opposite Baker Street Station. (See Advert.)

Friday, June 20th and 27th, 1947, at 7 p.m. — Swiss Male Choir — Rehearsals, at Swiss Club, 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

Tuesday, June 24th, 1947, at 7 p.m. — Albert Ferber — Beethoven Recital — at Wigmore Hall. (See Advert.)

Friday, June 27th, 1947, at 7 p.m. — London Swiss Philatelic Society — Monthly Meeting and Display by Mr. Emil A. Gotz "Odds and Ends G.B." at Swiss House, 35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.

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