

Swiss Benevolent Society

Objektyp: **Group**

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

Band (Jahr): - **(1948)**

Heft 1101

PDF erstellt am: **11.04.2021**

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FETE SUISSE 1948.

The accounts of the 73rd FETE SUISSE were presented at a meeting of the General Committee held at Swiss House on the 5th October.

They showed that the total attendance, excluding performers, at the Central Hall, Westminster, on Monday 31st May last, was 2,471, equal to the full available capacity of the Great Hall. A few hundred more compatriots had wished to join this great gathering, but to their sorrow and much to the regret of the Organising Committee, there just was no more room for them. The previous highest attendance figure was 1,569 in 1939. The steady increase from year to year up to that time was stopped, as was the Fête itself, by the war, but 1946 and 1947 had shown already the undiminished popularity of this annual event in the Colony.

No doubt, the visit of the Swiss Folklore Federation and the long hoped for presence of General Guisan contributed to this handsome advance on the previous record.

Also, financially, 1948 has been above the past. The whole surplus of receipts over expenditure, i.e., £158.1.8 has been handed over to the Swiss Benevolent Society, who will benefit further by the expected refund of Entertainment Tax paid of £64.12.5, making the total contribution for 1948 £222.14.1 against £155.4.9 for 1947.

The records of the FETE SUISSE COMMITTEE show that from 1926 to 1947 inclusive the total sum contributed to the Colony's benevolent institutions was £636.6.9; of this £100 was subscribed in 1930 to the Appeal for the "Dimier Fund" and £50 in 1940 to the Appeal for the "Swiss Relief Centre."

Thanks to the generosity of many, a further sum of £71.1.0 was raised this year through the appeal for additional contributions towards the expenses of the London visit of the Swiss Folklore Federation and this amount was duly handed over to the Reception Committee.

J.Z.

XMAS GREETINGS

We wish to direct the attention of our readers to the announcement in this issue.

In order to avoid any disappointment, we should be glad to receive orders, enclosing 6/- as early as possible.

SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

The Swiss Benevolent Society and the Swiss Churches in London appeal once more to their compatriots for their kind contributions in kind or cash, in order to provide a little extra cheer for Christmas to our Swiss in need. All sorts of wearing apparel, household goods and furniture would be much appreciated and gratefully received.

Please send parcels, if possible *before December 4th, 1948*, to:—

31, Conway Street, Fitzroy Square, London, W.1.

Cash remittances to:—

Swiss Benevolent Society,

31, Conway Street, London, W.1;

The Revd. C. Reverdin,

7, Park View Road, Finchley, N.3.

The Revd. H. Blum,

1, Womersley Road, London, N.8.

The Revd. Father A. Lanfranchi,

86, Duke Street, London, W.1.

NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE. (London Group.)

At the next Open Meeting of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique, London Group, on Tuesday, 16th November, 1948, the guest speaker will be the Swiss Minister, Monsieur Henry de Torrenté, who will speak in French of "*The Role of the Swiss Abroad*," a subject matter very near to his heart and one on which he can speak with much personal experience.

The Council of the N.S.H. hopes that members and friends will attend this meeting in particularly large numbers, showing the Minister their appreciation of the opportunity to hear his address, which will be followed by a discussion.

The meeting will be held as usual at 7 p.m. at the Vienna Café, Berkeley Arcade, Baker Street (opposite Tube Station). Hot meals and refreshments are available as always, before and after the meeting.

Have your WATCH repaired by

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