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SWISS FOLKLORIST FEDERATION AND THE FETE SUISSE.

Some 165 Swiss, representing the Basle drummers and fifes, the Jodler Club of Stans, the Laendler Musik of Vitznau and the Alphorn Blowers of Hergiswil, as well as their Flag Swingers, are all coming, in Swiss Costumes, to give a Concert for the R.A.F. Benevolent Fund at the Albert Hall. The Swiss Colony will see them perform at the Fête Suisse on May 31st; full details will be published in due course when all arrangements have been made.

It is no doubt the desire of the Colony here to receive and entertain our compatriots who, at their expense, are coming over here to give these Concerts. It is a big undertaking; money as well as help and work will be needed and it is hoped that all will be forthcoming. In agreement with the Legation a *Comité de Réception* is being formed on which many Members of the Colony will serve. Big responsibilities have had to be undertaken especially on the financial side. Mr. E. Steiner has accepted to be Chairman with Mr. Anton Bon as Vice-Chairman. Dr. de Wolff has undertaken the heavy duty of Treasurer and Chairman of the Finance Committee, while Mr. Alfred Renou becomes Hon. Secretary and Chairman of the Reception and Entertainment Committee. A Housing and Catering as well as a Press and Propaganda Committees are being formed.

During some ten days it is hoped to show to our compatriots something of London and possibly more. It would be a very great help if people able to help and who are free one or several days between May 26th and June 4th would give their names, stating at the same time in what capacity they can best help: Conducted tours, entertaining, sport, catering, etc. Societies might want also to entertain our friends as well as to help financially. Please communicate: For Donations with Dr. de Wolff, Chief Manager of the Swiss Bank Corporation. For Reception and Entertaining with Mr. Alfred Renou, 14, St. George Street, W.1. It would greatly help if it could be done in writing and so facilitate the records.

A.R.

TO Mme. GINETTE BINGGUELY-LEJEUNE. (On attaining a Knighthood of the Légion d'Honneur)

In this chaotic and atomic age,
When scientific progress has outstripp'd
Morality, whose soaring wings were clipp'd
By wars and want, stalking the world's stage,
We're longing to escape, as from a cage,
Into the Arts — that wondrous realm, equipp'd
Like youth eternal — rosy-cheek'd, soft-lipp'd —
With those infinite gifts we cannot gauge.

To us, Madame, YOU represent that art,
In which your skill plays such a noble part,
Infusing life into forms you create
Out of rude matter, cold, inanimate,
Until their likeness seems to speak and breathe;
What higher merit could your works bequeathe?

GALLUS.

TOURIST TRAVEL.

Between the United Kingdom and Switzerland.

Under the terms of the agreement between the British and Swiss Governments a fixed sum has been established to cover the requirements of *holiday travellers to Switzerland, who are resident in the United Kingdom, or regarded as such, i.e. members of B.A.O.R., etc.* Measures to give effect to this agreement were drawn up and their execution entrusted to the *Authorisation Office for Travel to Switzerland, 11c, Lower Regent Street, S.W.1.*

According to present regulations the **BASIC ALLOWANCE** for travellers from the United Kingdom is £35 for adults and £25 for children under the age of sixteen. *All persons availing themselves of this allowance or part thereof are required to obtain an authorisation from the above mentioned office.*

Application forms for this purpose are obtainable at the Authorisation Office for Travel to Switzerland, London, the Swiss Legation, London, Swiss Consulates in the United Kingdom, Travel Agencies and Banks, and application *for each person separately* may be made BY POST or through the intermediary of a Travel Agent or Banker. Together with his application, the traveller is required to submit *documents* such as letters from Swiss Hotels, boarding houses or private houses stating *where* (place, hotel, private house, etc.) and how long he intends to stay in Switzerland.

Within the limits of the monthly quotas available the Authorisation Office for Travel to Switzerland will then grant an *authorisation* on the basis of £2.10.0 per day. A proportionate increase may be authorised within the limits of the maximum £35 (adults) and £25 (children) respectively where this can be shown to be necessary.

The form of authorisation will be issued in three parts: A. B. and C. The Authorisation Office will enter on Part:

- A the amount, if any, to be transferred by means of Form V for advance payment of hotel accommodation, etc., in Switzerland;
- B the amount which can be cashed immediately on arrival in Switzerland: maximum £15;
- C the amount, if any, which can be cashed subsequently on the 7th day or later after the initial payment has been made under B.

In general, the amount of sterling which may be exchanged in the U.K. for Swiss franc notes will be limited to a maximum of £5. This amount will also be noted on the Authorisation form.

Banks and Travel Agents in the U.K. will issue credit documents and Swiss franc notes in accordance with the amounts shown on the forms approved by the Authorisation Office.

Parts B and C of the authorisation issued by the Authorisation Office for Travel to Switzerland, London, *must be produced to the Paying Agent in Switzerland when converting travellers' cheques, etc., as no payment will be made without it.*

Payments in Switzerland for parts B and C. of the authorisation will be effected as follows:

The credit documents, i.e. travellers' cheques, letters of credit, etc., will be paid to the traveller *in cash* at the rate of 17.34 Swiss francs to the £ (less commission), up to the amount stated on the authorisation. Thus two possibilities are conceivable:

1. *Tourists having credit documents to the value of £15 or less at their disposal.* In this case the Authorisation Office in London will enter the whole amount on part B of the authorisation, and immediately on arrival in Switzerland the traveller may cash the entire sum, if he wishes to do so. The amount paid out will then be noted on part B which must be presented again when claiming further payments.

2. *Tourists having credit documents to a value exceeding £15 at their disposal.* In this case the Authorisation Office in London will enter the amount of £15 on part B of the authorisation and the remainder on part C. As stated in para. 1, the amount on part B may be cashed immediately if so desired, whereas the amount entered in Part C will not be paid before the seventh day after the first payment. Should the traveller leave Switzerland temporarily, payment of credit documents covered by part C will be deferred by the number of days corresponding to the time spent outside Switzerland.

Persons wishing to travel to Switzerland with funds obtained under the BASIC ALLOWANCE scheme should observe the following procedure and regulations:

BEFORE LEAVING THE UNITED KINGDOM:

1. An application must be made, preferably by post, to the Authorisation Office for Travel to Switzerland in London on the prescribed form.

2. The total amount required must be stated on the application, i.e.:

- (a) the amount paid by means of Form V through a bank or travel agency in the U.K. for advance payment of hotel accommodation, etc., in Switzerland;
- (b) the amount of travellers' cheques, letters of credit, etc.;
- (c) the amount of Swiss currency to be obtained in the U.K. (in general a maximum of £5).

3. Documents (hotel bookings, etc.) are to be enclosed stating precisely the place and the length of stay in Switzerland.

AFTER REACHING SWITZERLAND:

1. No travellers' cheques, etc., issued under the BASIC ALLOWANCE scheme will be paid without production of the authorisation.

2. The amount entered on part B of the authorisation can be cashed immediately on arrival.

3. The amount entered on part C of the authorisation can be cashed at the earliest on the seventh day after the initial payment.

4. Swiss currency obtained under these arrangements must not be used for any other purpose than that of meeting personal travel and holiday requirements. Before leaving Switzerland travellers must pay into a Bank any balance in Swiss franc notes remaining in their possession. The amounts thus paid in will be transferred through the Swiss bank to the traveller in the U.K.

The above measures are in the interests of all concerned and it would be appreciated if travellers would not apply for more funds than they really need to cover their requirements as tourists in Switzerland. Compliance with this request would mean that the greatest possible number of British tourists could be given the opportunity of visiting Switzerland within the limits of the total amount fixed for tourist purposes.

AUTHORISATION OFFICE FOR TRAVEL TO SWITZERLAND,
11c, Lower Regent Street,
London, S.W.1.

* * *

NOTE. The Authorisation Office does not deal with special allotments for Business or Educational purposes, Health reasons, etc. Such special allotments, if granted by the Bank of England, are entered on page 32 of the beneficiary's passport and travel credit documents issued against them are payable in Switzerland upon presentation of the passport, without an authorisation.

OUR NEXT ISSUE.

Our next issue will be published on Friday, April 16th, 1948.

We take the opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their kind and helpful donations over and above their subscription: Mrs. R. R. Williams, G. Ferrari, H. Pfrter, A. Widmer, W. Beckmann, P. Lequint, A. Renou.

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