

Unione Ticinese

Objekttyp: **Group**

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

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

Heft 1089

PDF erstellt am: **16.05.2024**

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JOURNEE DES SUISSES A L'ETRANGER.

Interlaken, June 25th-27th.

This year's Conference of the Swiss Abroad will take place at Interlaken, as has already been announced. It has been advanced by over two months in order to enable the participants to be present at the official Centenary Celebration on June 17th.

The Swiss Colony in Great Britain is this year sending a considerably bigger number of delegates to the Conference than last year, each society being entitled to make its own nominations. Several have already done so, others, it is hoped, may yet follow in order to give our representation a little more weight opposite the 200 delegates from other countries, mostly from Germany, France and Italy. Two out of the four or five provincial Swiss Clubs, namely that of Bradford and that of Leeds, are also participating.

On April 17th a Journée des suisses en Angleterre was convened by the Nouvelle Société Helvétique in London, to which delegates from Manchester, Birmingham and Leeds came as well as representatives of various London societies, with one or two regrettable abstentions. The upshot of the meeting was, that a proposal for a tighter and comprehensive organisation of the Swiss abroad will be brought forward this year as our main contribution to the Journée. Last year we raised the question of political rights for the Swiss abroad not without some initial success. To concentrate on one main proposal at each year's meeting does and should not, of course, preclude a continuing concern for the progress regarding other questions touched upon the previous year.

It is felt that the Swiss abroad could exercise far more influence at home through the Secrétariat des suisses à l'étranger and otherwise, if it was properly and comprehensively organised. For example the old demand for a modernisation of the military tax could surely have been pressed home long since if the half million Swiss abroad had ever spoken with one co-ordinated voice in this matter. Nothing could strengthen the hands of the Secrétariat des suisses à l'étranger better than the consolidation of the Colonies themselves and amongst each other. Each Colony should form a representative Council with the participation of all societies. The Colonies should then be grouped for example on a language basis, e.g. the English-speaking, the Latin American, the German-speaking colonies, etc., forming a Group Council from the Colony Councils. And finally a comprehensive Council of all colonies should be formed, to consult together, co-ordinate views, formulate suggestions, co-operate actively where needed and especially with the Secrétariat des suisses à l'étranger. These are the suggestions as approved at the Conference of the Swiss in England, and they will be duly brought up at Interlaken.

It is thought, however, that the London Colony at large would like to have an opportunity to discuss these proposals and other questions for the Journée at Interlaken at an open meeting of the N.S.H. Thus next Tuesday's meeting at the Vienna Café, starting 7 p.m., will be devoted to this purpose. All compatriots, whether members or not, are cordially invited to attend this meeting, to freely air their views and bring forward other proposals. An interesting suggestion for a Centenary Commemoration fund of the Swiss

Abroad may be brought up in the name of one of the provincial Swiss societies. The question of finance is, of course, of considerable importance for any enlargement of the work of the Secrétariat at Berne.

HELVETICUS.

UNIONE TICINESE.

Thé Dansant at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane,
Sunday, May 2nd, 1948.

Once again the Unione Ticinese has held one of their popular Thé Dansant, and one can well understand why these functions are attended in such large numbers (well over 500 people being present).

This popularity, I suppose is due to several reasons — the elegance of the ball-room itself, the excellent dance floor, good dance music, an enjoyable cabaret, a generous tea supplied by the Management of the Dorchester Hotel, and the opportunity of meeting old and new friends — and above all a wonderfully festive atmosphere.

The dance music was provided by Harry Vardon and his band, they did not spare themselves nor the revellers.

The cabaret, although it was shorter than usual, was excellent, firstly there was our old friend Mr. F. v. Bergen, who sang and "yodelled" to his heart's content accompanied on the piano by his daughter, Miss M. von Bergen. He was followed by Morley and Lisle, who were billed as Entertainers of Mirth, and judging from the hilarious outbursts from the audience they achieved their purpose.

Miss Eileen Murphy, sang very charmingly and told not too naughty stories which were much enjoyed.

Duncan Hume, Accordionist, gave ample proof of what can be "got out" of his instrument, and earned well-deserved applause for his performance.

But, undoubtedly, the highlight of the show was reached when the Continental Serenaders, Carlo, Marie and Josephine appeared. (Carlo Valchera, Marie Bass, Josephine Hollyman) dressed in their picturesque costumes. Carlo Valchera sang very beautifully an aria from Flotow's Martha, followed by a song "When other lips" from the Bohemian girl, and Sorrento, a neapolitan song, whilst his charming partner, Signorina Bass, played on her violin Czardas by Monti, both were excellently accompanied on the piano by Josephine Hollyman.

The enthusiasm of the audience was evidenced in the rounds of applause and cheers which followed their performance.

Mr. Berti, the energetic President of the Unione Ticinese, shortly addressed the gathering, thanking the Entertainment committee especially for their efforts they had so successfully made to give everyone an enjoyable entertainment.

A number of attractive girls in Ticinese costumes sold tickets for a raffle which took place amidst great excitement.

All too early ten o'clock arrived, and with the many "arrivederci" exchanged in anticipation of the next dance, another successful Ticinese function came to an end.

On behalf of all those who participated in this very enjoyable festival, I tender a hearty thank you to the organising committee through whose endeavours this Thé Dansant was such a brilliant success.

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