

Swiss Mercantile Society

Objekttyp: **Group**

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

Band (Jahr): **- (1949)**

Heft 1121

PDF erstellt am: **29.04.2024**

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SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

After a summer recess worthy of the epithet, the Society resumed its activities on Wednesday, September 14th, when the Monthly Meeting was held at Swiss House.

The President, Mr. W. Meier, extended a cordial welcome to the members present. The attendance was somewhat below normal, due no doubt to the fact that many of the stalwarts were still on holiday or away on business.

It was with deep regret that the President announced the death of Mr. W. Eichenberger, one of the Society's Trustees. The deceased had joined the S.M.S. in 1900 and for many years was Chairman of the Advisory Board of the Employment Department. He was a Trustee ever since the Society took over Swiss House and was elected an Hon. Member in 1928. The President alluded to the great services he had rendered and the members rose to pay a last silent tribute to the departed.

The meeting discussed the programme for the coming winter session. It was stated that as our annual dinner and dance, originally fixed for October, clashed with another important function in the Colony, it had been postponed to Friday, January 27th, 1950, and would be held at the Trocadero Restaurant. Members and friends were asked kindly to reserve the date. Thanks were expressed by the Chairman to Mr. Ch. Chapuis for having presented the Society with a number of fine coloured prints of Swiss costumes, which were being framed and would be displayed at Swiss House in due course.

Reporting on the activities of the College, Mr. E. A. Hueni, Chairman of the Education Committee, informed the meeting that Mr. H. Marfurt, Chef de Cours, had recently been appointed English Master at the Cantonal School in Lucerne. Mr. Marfurt was appointed to organise the courses when our College was reopened in 1946. He soon showed outstanding abilities as a teacher and an organiser and the successful running of the College in the post-war period can in no small measure be attributed to the way he set about his task. Whilst regretting to lose his services, the Society wish him every success in his new sphere of activities.

The direction of the scholastic side has temporarily been entrusted to Mr. C. Slade, M.A. Cantab., who has been a master at the College for a number of years, both before and since the war.

A new course, attended by about 120 students, started on September 5th. The Evening Classes also are in full swing, with a total of 105 students in attendance. Visits to Oxford University and the Ford Motor Works at Dagenham, as well as a number of interesting fixtures for the College Football Team, have been arranged.

Following the meeting, members exchanged reminiscences of their summer holidays, in which currency problems were very much to the fore, and many finished the evening with the customary game of "Jass."

The next Monthly Meeting will be held at Swiss House on Wednesday, October 12th, at 7 p.m. Fuller particulars will be circularised in due course.

WB.

IN MEMORIAM.

On Thursday evening, 22nd September, 1949, the "Sezione Femminile" of the "Unione Ticinese" suffered another irreparable loss, Mrs. Caterina Abate, widow of Mr. John Abate, collapsed suddenly and died of a heart attack before help could be brought to her, while preparing refreshments for members of the "Unione Ticinese" gathered together for their usual Thursday evening social at Swiss House.

Mrs. Abate was 73 years of age and had only recently returned from a prolonged holiday in Valle Malvaglia. She had been a member of the "Sezione Femminile" for some 9 years and in January last was elected to the position of Vice-President. But the picture which will always remain in the memories of members of the "Unione Ticinese" will be of Mrs. Abate presiding over the teacups at Swiss House. For it was she who organized the Catering Group and it was she who provided and dispensed the refreshments on Thursday evenings and at Committee and General Meetings.

Others will now perform this task, but we shall miss the happy accompaniment of quips and dry humour which seemed to be such an integral part of Mrs. Abate. Her ready wit and her easy, cheery banter, her ready laughter, even from eyes that had held, and still sometimes held, deep sadness, will leave a void that no one else can fill. Her tenacity of spirit and courage, her quietly spoken counsels of plain common sense will be sadly missed.

In her, age had not dimmed the fire of youth. She had brought up a family of four daughters and a son with courage and purpose and foresight — all of them a credit to her intelligent devotion. She had endured great sadness, but her spirit was not tired, and we younger ones had in her an example for which we are grateful; we, who tire so much more easily, will always carry her memory in our hearts and strive to keep undimmed, as she did, that same laughter, that same spirit.

To her son and daughters, and to all her relatives we give our most heartfelt sympathy.

R.E.

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