

# S.A.C. section honours late alpine painter

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### S.A.C. SECTION HONOURS LATE ALPINE PAINTER.

The section Zofingen of the Swiss Alpine Club has recently celebrated its 75th Jubilee, and on this occasion, a memorial exhibition was held of works by a former member of the Club, the well-known painter of Alpine scenery, Jakob Wyss, who died in 1936.

Jakob Wyss, who began his studies in Zofingen and Zurich, and later on worked under many famous masters both in Paris and Florence, was one of the foremost exponents of a small group of painters of his time, who, by their work paid true homage to the natural beauty of our country.

His art was far from being one-sided and includes portraits and flower pictures, but he made a name for himself principally as a painter of Alpine scenery.

With ever new inspiration he painted our mountains in their overpowering splendour, our glaciers and valleys in their sombre beauty and our lakes in their dreamlike loveliness.

He was imbued with such a tender love of nature that it was almost fanatic. To the mountains he went for solace and inspiration, on the lakes and in the valleys he sought and found peace. The numerous paintings which can be found in the various art galleries throughout our country, as well as in private collections, bear witness to his creative mind.

There was nothing artificial in his work, no attempt was made to gain quick results, Jakob Wyss was a painstaking artist, who created his own especial style. On his canvas he put his innermost feelings, kindled by a deep attachment to his country which he loved so tenderly. Few of his contemporaries attained his mastership in portraying our mountains in such realistic style and power.

Jakob Wyss, will always occupy an honoured place amongst Swiss painters. According to a report which appeared in the "Luzerner Neueste Nachrichten", about 130 oil and water-colour paintings, "Stilleben" and sketches are shown at the exhibition which is held at the "Stadtsaal" in Zofingen.

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(It might interest our readers to know, that the late Jakob Wyss is a brother of the popular Gusti Wyss of Old Compton Street.)

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### CITY SWISS CLUB. Musical and Theatrical Evening.

As a welcome change from the ordinary Monthly Meeting, the Committee of the City Swiss Club invited the members to a Musical and Theatrical evening; one reason for this *change de décoration* was to divert the minds of their members from the gloomy after effects of the recent devaluation; to make them forget their troubles for a few moments, in short, to make them once again laugh and be happy.

Before I go any further, I wish to say at once, that they attained their object, and therefore deserve the thanks of all those who were present on Tuesday, October 4th, 1949, at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1.

Unfortunately, only about fifty members found it convenient to attend, which was a great pity; as the absentees missed an excellent dinner, good company, and a splendid programme.

The Swiss Minister, who is still in Switzerland, was represented by Monsieur E. de Graffenried, Chargé d'Affaires; and Monsieur P. Clottu, Labour Counsellor, was also present.

Mr. P. Moehr, who was in the Chair, extended a hearty welcome to the members and guests present, and after having related a few experiences of his recent holiday in Switzerland and Italy, opened the Meeting. A silent tribute was paid to the memory of our late member, Mr. W. Eichenberger, late Deputy Manager of the Swiss Bank Corporation. The minutes of the previous meeting were read by the Hon. Secretary, they were so short that it was all over before I could get my pencil out of my pocket. In closing the business part, Mr. Moehr asked the members whether they had any observations to make, and a sigh of relief went through the assembly when nobody wished to talk about such subjects as the Military Tax and the Club House Fund.

So without further ado, the second part of the evening began, with the introduction, by the President, of Mr. Albert Ferber, the well-known Swiss pianist, who enjoys such a fine reputation in the musical world of this country.

Mr. Ferber is shortly going on a concert tour in Switzerland and Belgium, and it was therefore much appreciated, that he had found time to come along to entertain the members of the City Swiss Club.

With his usual masterliness he played "Variations on an Aria" by L. v. Bethoven, followed by "Sarabande" by J. J. Bach, both performances were acknowledged with thunderous applause by the audience.

The second item on the programme had been reserved for Mr. Gandon, to entertain the company with his accordeon. Unfortunately, he was prevented from attending owing to an acute attack of lumbago. According to the President's announcement, he was unable "to stand, to sit or to hold his instrument," and as he could not very well play laying down, he had to be excused, especially as some of our members of the medical profession were not in attendance.

Very nobly and unselfishly the President offered to jump into the breach; he had confided to me, previous to his appearance on the concert stage, that he had just taken his violin "out of the Bank," which somehow puzzled me, as I was under the impression