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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, "Stillleben" and sketches are shown at the exhibition which is held at the "Stadtsaal" in Zofingen.

ST.

* * *

(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 Graffenreid, 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. Beethoven, 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 accordion. 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

that you could only get money "out of a Bank" (if you are lucky) which goes to prove that one never finishes learning.

Mr. Moehr, very efficiently played the 1st movement of a Sonata by Schubert with piano accompaniment by Mr. Ferber, which was heartily cheered. For his creditable performance he was presented by a "bonny boy" with a beautiful bouquet of flowers, supplied for this occasion by Mr. Ronus, Manager of the Dorchester Hotel.

It is indeed gratifying to know, that the City Swiss Club possesses in its President such an accomplished violinist, and if ever he should lose his job with the Club, he should not find it difficult to earn a living; — we shall be generous!

The Colony is indeed lucky; we have at present amongst the Presidents of Societies an accordionist, a singer and a fiddler. May I humbly suggest, that at the next Presidents Meeting, these Gentlemen should give a concert instead of talking, it would be so much nicer and more entertaining.

If I mentioned in the title of this report "Theatrical Evening" I am not quite correct, there was no stage; apart from a screen — which was to hide the chief actor — and a rather decrepit wireless set, but as the lights were dimmed by one of our members, who very efficiently acted as *regisseur*, it had all the appearance of a stage setting.

Our friend, Mr. J. Heimerdinger, known to many of us, as an exceedingly clever and witty man, acted as a B.B.C. announcer broadcasting a "special edition" of stop-press news, followed by a short version of "In Town To-night."

He kept his audience in continuous roars of laughter by his humorous remarks about things in general and personalities in particular, which were all accepted in good humour. Here are some of the "News items" which came "over the air":

Innsbruck. "Alpine Hut," the recently produced Swiss Television Show, which was such a good imitation of something that is *not* typically Swiss, has been awarded the Austrian, Tyrolese and German propaganda medal.

Zurich and Lucerne. In order to avoid further confusion, it has been decided to reverse the respective colours of the two cantons. In future the Zurich

emblem will be blue and white, whereas Lucerne will be white and blue.

Basle. Thanks to the gift of the Swiss Philatelic Society of London, a new bird resembling a pigeon, can be seen in a cage at the Zoological Gardens. — It will be known as the "Basler Tübeli."

Cap Gris-nez. We are informed that Mr. Stauffer, Editor of the Swiss Observer, has attempted to swim the English Channel. — Thanks to favourable weather conditions he has made good progress, but had to give up after being in the water for $55\frac{1}{2}$ seconds. (I will leave it now to the sea lion. Eb.)

Neuchâtel. The wine growers are in a state of panic. — They say there is not enough water this year, so there will be little to put into bottles.

Gruyère. Owing to the popularity of French, Belgian, Italian, Dutch and South American cheese, marketed and sold as "Gruyère," the Swiss have decided that they too would manufacture a "Gruyère" type of cheese.

London. The "Fidéi-Commissaires" of the Club House Fund of the City Swiss Club have issued their report. Another 2/9 has been added to the fund and it is estimated that when we reach *Anno Domini* 9652, there will be enough money to buy an Anderson shelter.

I feel very much tempted to reproduce some of the items concerning a number of prominent people in the Colony, only the fear, that the Publisher of the "Swiss Observer" might be sued for heavy damages, or that the Editor might be sent to Dartmoor for a "holiday" keeps me back from doing so.

Mr. Heimerdinger concluded his most amusing act with a musical interlude. He richly deserved the long applause so heartily and spontaneously given.

Once again, Mr. Ferber, played two pieces: "Allegro di Concerto" by Granada, and "Valse" by Chopin, which "brought the house down."

The President too, duly refreshed by an excellent Dôle or was it Neuchâtel?, played the 2nd movement of the Sonata with pianoforte accompaniment (Mr. Ferber), by Schubert, with much feeling and commendable restraint. As there was no time left for any more "movements," he closed the meeting just on 10 o'clock, or just before the Hon. Treasurer, handed out imaginary bouquets left and right to the performers who had worked so hard.

Altogether a most enjoyable evening.

ST.

Nouvelle Société Helvétique (LONDON GROUP)

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