

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

Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

Band: - (1949)

Heft: 1104

Artikel: Es Widerseh

Autor: H.E.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-686304>

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SWISS CLUB, MANCHESTER.

Christmas Party held in the Midland Hotel on Saturday, December 18th, 1948.

Saturday, December 18th, dawned cold and foggy, but this did not prevent 240 adults and children making their way to the Midland Hotel, Manchester for the annual event, to which many of the toddlers had been looking forward for weeks — The Swiss Club Christmas Party.

At 3 p.m. inside the warm Hotel, fog and winter weather were soon forgotten. It was a happy sight to see the children sitting at long tables, which had been tastefully decorated with vases of daffodils, waiting patiently to "tuck in" to the sumptuous repast which, thanks to Mr. Cottet and his staff, had been laid before them.

The meal practically over, Dr. J. A. Schedler, the President, rose to say a few words. He said how pleased he was to see so many members and friends present, and extended a special welcome to the Pilot and crew of the Swissair 'plane which had landed at Ringway airport from Zurich only a few hours previously. He went on to say that during the afternoon, raffle tickets would be sold, and the £8-odd eventually collected to be put at the disposal of Professor Inebnit's many charitable causes. Then came the announcement which the children especially had been waiting for — Father Christmas was on his way, "Owing to the fog" Dr. Schedler continued, "he has been somewhat delayed, but is now not many miles away."

Midst a babble of conversation, everybody made their way to the small ballroom and — the Christmas Tree—a beautiful spectacle, decorated with tangerines, crackers, tinsel, large silver balls and lighted candles — the latter providing the only illumination in the room. Then, to the accompaniment of suppressed giggles, gasps of joy and occasional screams of excitement, Father Christmas entered. After asking all the children if they had been good throughout the year, he invited them to come forward and recite or sing. There was a pause, then young Paul Pfeuti stepped up to Father Christmas and asked if he might play the piano, and for fully five minutes everybody listened, enthralled, to the rendering of the First Movement of Mozart's Piano Concerto in C Minor, by this accomplished twelve-year-old.

The ice was now broken, and the children were almost queueing up to do their party pieces. The boys, I am afraid, were most bashful; perhaps they knew that an attractive bag of sweets and a parcel would be forthcoming whether they contributed to the fun or not. His sack empty, Father Christmas bade good-bye to the children till next year, and went on his way.

Followed one or two carols, after which the Vice-Consul, Mr. J. J. Huber, proposed a vote of thanks to Dr. and Mrs. J. A. Schedler for all they had done towards such an enjoyable afternoon, to Father and "Mother" Christmas, and to the Committee for all the trouble they had gone to. He was seconded by the Vice-President, Mr. F. Heinrich, who concluded by wishing everyone present a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

After games of Musical Chairs, Musical Bumps, and one or two potato races, parents began to collect their children who, tired, happy and, we hope, satisfied, went home to dream and look forward eagerly to the Swiss Club Christmas Party 1949.

J.S.A.

ES WIEDERSEH.

Endlich, na so viele Jahre
Hani das grosse Glück erfahre,
Nach dem stille nagend Weh
Die liebi Heimat wieder z'gseh.

Dä Himmel mit sym tiefe blau
Der ersti Blick uf d'Bärge au,
Er wärmt mi bis uf Herzes-Grund
Macht Lib und Seele wieder g'sund.

E jedes Blümli liegt mi a
D's Bächli plauderet, aha!
Mir si gwüss gar grüsli froh
Dass endlich, du bisch wieder do.

So heimelig tönt das Glogge- glüt
Vo dem chline Chilchli hüt,
Rings um isch a heri Pracht
Wie het der lieb Gott, d'Wält schön g'macht,
Und üs bewahrt dä Winkel Aerde
Wo Fried' und Ruh, no g'funde würde.

H.E.

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