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LONDON SWISS PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

The Annual General Meeting of the London Swiss Philatelic Society was held at the Glendower Hotel, South Kensington, on Saturday, January 29th.

In surveying the year's activities, the President, Mr. F. Streit, reported that the membership had increased to over 100. The monthly meetings had been well attended and a varied programme included displays by members and well-known philatelists, auctions, a stamp quiz and by way of innovation, a Challenge Cup competition. Thanks to the special efforts of the Hon. Secretary, Mr. Harry E. Cole, the Monthly Bulletin was re-introduced in September last and is now appearing regularly and much appreciated by the members, particularly those residing in the Provinces.

The President recalled the great services of our late Hon. President and Founder, Mr. P. F. Boehringer, through whose death the Society had lost one of its staunchest supporters. In order to perpetuate his memory, it was decided to name the Challenge Cup, awarded to members for the best display of the year, the "Boehringer Challenge Cup."

The accounts for the period under review were ably presented and elucidated by the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. G. Wahl, and Mr. E. M. Huber, Hon. Packet Superintendent, reported on the progress of the packet circulation. In order to meet the increased expenditure which is being incurred on account of additional amenities, it was decided to raise the annual subscription from 5/- to 7/6, whilst the entrance fee remains at 5/-.

Under the temporary Chairmanship of Mr. L. Jobin, who thanked the Committee for their loyal services during the past year, the Committee, with one additional member, was re-elected as follows:—President: Mr. F. Streit; Vice-President: Mr. W. Burren; Hon. Secretary: Mr. H. E. Cole; Hon. Treasurer: Mr. G. Wahl; Hon. Packet-Superintendent: Mr. E. M. Huber; Members: Messrs. E. A. Gotz and M. Waloff. Auditors: Messrs. D. W. Langley and A. Rueff.

One new member, Mr. Hertsch, son of the owner of Zumstein, the famous philatelic house in Berne, was elected and the official proceedings terminated with a cordial vote of thanks to the Chairman.

The members then adjourned to the dining-room, where an excellent luncheon was served.

In the opening the second part of the meeting, the President welcomed the guests, including Dr. Crawford, Chairman of the Finchley Philatelic Society.

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He was particularly glad to see a number of ladies present, to whom he addressed a few special words of thanks for their kindly interest in their husbands' hobby. He also expressed appreciation to the hosts, Mr. and Mrs. Schmid, for their unfailing hospitality.

Amidst prolonged applause, he then called on Mrs. Schmid to present the Challenge Cup to Mr. E. Miller, who, with his excellent display of British classics, proved an easy winner of last year's competition.

It was with pride and satisfaction that the meeting learnt of another award to one of its members, Mr. Emil A. Gotz. The Chairman announced that by popular vote he had been selected as the winner of the 1948 Cup Competition, organised by the "Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly," with his paper "Rocket Post Trials in Great Britain," which he had read to the members of the Society at one of the monthly meetings. The Cup will be presented by the Editor at the Monthly Meeting in March.

As customary, the meeting finished with a Tombola and an Auction. A number of attractive lots, donated by members, came under Mr. Wahl's "hammer" and there was keen bidding. The whole of the proceeds, amounting to £32, will be handed to the Swiss Benevolent Society. It may be mentioned that the figure has been increased from year to year and thanks are due to all who assisted in making this popular event an unqualified success.

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