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LONDON SWISS PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

The London Swiss Philatelic Society held its Monthly Meeting at Swiss House on Friday, March 25th. It was unfortunate that the meeting coincided with a Concert in aid of the Swiss Benevolent Society, which no doubt to some extent affected the attendance. It is to be hoped that in the not too distant future it will be possible to co-ordinate functions in the Colony so as to avoid unfortunate clashes of this nature. *

With the year hardly begun, the Society were faced with the dilemma of finding a new Hon. Secretary and an Editor of the Monthly Bulletin, owing to the resignation for health and business reasons of Mr. Harry E. Cole. The President was happy to report that Mr. E. A. Gotz, who had but recently rejoined the Committee, had volunteered to step into the breach. Members were aware of Mr. Gotz's ability to arrange attractive meetings from his past activities as display organiser, and his nomination was received and his election confirmed with enthusiasm by all present. In view of the increased work, two additional Members, Messrs. D. Paschoud and D. A. Sanderson, were elected to the Committee.

As members were informed at the Annual General Meeting, Mr. Gotz was 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 at one of the Society's monthly meetings. This feat was all the more remarkable when it is borne in mind that he was runner-up in this competition last year with his paper "Why not collect the current G.B. stamps?"

Both the Editor, Mr. W. Dennis Way, and the Assistant Editor, Mr. W. B. Haworth, M.A., of this philatelic Journal attended the meeting to present the S.C.F. Cup to the winner. They heartily congratulated Mr. Gotz on his achievement and amidst cordial applause, Mr. Haworth handed him the Challenge Cup, suitably inscribed. Mr. Gotz, who has contributed articles to the philatelic press on and off since 1937, thus received a well deserved award for his untiring efforts in the interest of philately.

Mr. Way, who is Hon. Secretary of this year's Philatelic Congress of G.B., and who had come

specially to London from Manchester for the presentation, then delighted the members with a display of his New East Stamps. He showed numerous sheets from his specialised collection of China, Formosa, Japan, Manchuria and Korea. They were mostly stamps which have appeared throughout the Far East since the end of the war. When it is remembered that China alone during that time has issued some 7,000 stamps, and if to those be added the issue of over 1,500 of Manchuria, it is not surprising that Mr. Way's collection embraces 19 volumes. He gave an interesting and detailed account, interspersed with many humorous asides, of the numerous issues, as well as their historic background.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Society, expressed warm thanks to Mr. Way for his fine and instructive display, which was enthusiastically endorsed by all present with prolonged acclamation. Before the conclusion of the meeting, the Chairman expressed the hope that Mr. Haworth, whom he understood to be a leading authority on Chilian stamps, on which he has published a Handbook, would one day give the Society a display of his collection.

W.B.

** (The Concert referred to, was advertised for some time in the S.O., whilst no intimation was given of the proposed meeting of the London-Swiss Philatelic Society. Ed.)*

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