

Swiss Mercantile Society

Objekttyp: **Group**

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

Band (Jahr): **- (1951)**

Heft 1167

PDF erstellt am: **29.04.2024**

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SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

The monthly meeting held on 11th September at Swiss House, the first since we broke up for the summer, was attended by a small gathering of the regulars, some members still being on holidays, others preoccupied with preparations for leaving.

Mr. W. Meier, our president, again had the sad duty of reporting the death of one of our members, this time of Mr. J. M. Scherer, who had not joined us a long time ago, but was yet known to quite a number of our members in the City. He had been assistant to Mr. W. R. Gamper, one of our trustees, who is Managing Director of General Merchant Bankers. Those present stood in silence in memory of the departed.

We accepted as members Miss Heidi Wyss, who was present, and Mr. Hans Jakob Keller, of the Swiss Bank Corporation. We also agreed to the transfer back to Switzerland of: Paul Benz to Rorschach, Rudolf Ackermann to Lausanne, Hans Peter Meister to Basle, Emil Ritzmann to Basle, Johannes Walser to Zurich. Further we had to accept the resignation of Mr. Alfred Paul Wild, who joined the society in 1920 and has now left London on his retirement.

Mr. Meier then passed on the following items of general interest:

The time limit for Swiss abroad to join the Swiss State Insurance for old age, invalidity and dependents (A.H.V.) has been extended till 31 December, 1951, on the understanding that those who join now have to pay the premiums as from the beginning of 1948 when the scheme was put in operation.

The Swiss Colony in this country was represented at the Journée des Suisses à l'Etranger, held at Basle from 30th August to 2nd September, by Prof. Inebnit of Leeds University, whose contributions to the deliberations were favourably received and fully reported in the Swiss Press. Dr. Egli and Renou also acted as our delegates.

A national postage stamp exhibition, known as Lunaba will take place at Lucerne from 29th September to 5th October, in connection with which special commemorative stamps will be issued. Application forms for these stamps, which will cost frs.3.—, are available at Swiss House.

The well known Pestalozzi calendars for 1952, at fr.2.70 in German, and frs.2.35 in French, can now be ordered at Swiss House.

The official part of the proceedings having thus

been disposed of, the president threw the meeting open for the showing of our epidiascope and projector of holiday snaps and films. He and his family had only recently returned from Switzerland, from where they brought us greetings from Messrs. Schmid-Ruedin, Meier-Ragg and Galliker, while Mr. Grob conveyed the kind regards of Mr. Losey of Neuchâtel.

Mr. Krucker made a start with three films, mostly in colour photography, showing scenes at home and abroad, including the Delegates meeting held at Lausanne last May, and a trip up the Rhine as far as Frankfurt. Mr. Meier followed, supplementing by a lively commentary on his family's doings at Basle, Glattfelden and on the shores of Lake Constance, a series of snapshots and postcards. Mr. O. Grob, in his turn, gave us an interesting description of his holiday experiences, spiced with humorous reminiscences, while motoring through France to Switzerland, and illustrated these with a goodly number of well chosen and interesting pictures.

When Mr. Meier asked for suggestions for the winter program, his wife proposed that we approach Kodaks or any other of the well known makers of cameras with a request for an expert to give us a talk on how to take good pictures, which suggestion was very well received.

The friendly atmosphere which prevailed made the evening a distinctly successful one.

E.H.S.



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