

<b>Zeitschrift:</b>	The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK
<b>Herausgeber:</b>	Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom
<b>Band:</b>	- (1951)
<b>Heft:</b>	1172
<b>Artikel:</b>	More about the Fischer diaries
<b>Autor:</b>	J.J.F.S.
<b>DOI:</b>	<a href="https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-695524">https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-695524</a>

### **Nutzungsbedingungen**

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

### **Conditions d'utilisation**

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

### **Terms of use**

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

**Download PDF:** 23.01.2026

**ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>**

## MORE ABOUT THE FISCHER DIARIES.

In July this year we published a short appreciation of the Diaries of Johann Conrad Fischer (1773-1854) and an outline of the circumstances in which they were written. Our interest in these diaries revived when the MSS., normally housed in the Museum zu Allerheiligen in Schaffhausen, were exhibited in South Kensington this summer. The MSS. are written in a neat, cursive hand, their Gothic script unexpectedly clear and legible, the outcome of an orderly mind.

To anyone not familiar with or only mildly interested in metallurgical processes and alloys, in mechanical science, mathematical formulas and the technicalities and economics of steel production, the diaries will prove arduous and heavy reading, since much of their contents is concerned with matters of this kind. But from it all emerges a remarkable personality endowed with a brilliant intellect, a shrewd, analytical mind and an astounding vitality, a man whose energy was boundless and who possessed a capacity for sustained effort that we, of a lesser breed, can but envy.

Fischer was the descendant of long line of artisans and craftsmen, which can be traced back to the sixteenth century. He was, considering his status, extremely well educated. At an early age, he had been instructed in Latin and Greek and the humanities, had learned French and English and became initiated in the mathematical sciences.

His long life was one of uninterrupted activity. He founded and managed the Steel works which are

still flourishing, he travelled extensively — his diaries are the records of his many journeys abroad — he served his country as a State Councillor and Officer of Artillery, he befriended and corresponded with industrialists and scientists all over the world, hobnobbed with Royalty, (he was honoured by a personal visit of Czar Alexander I), took a keen interest in politics and yet found time for writing poetry. Of his metallurgical inventions we are not qualified to speak; they were undoubtedly of great value.

What sort of a man was he? A diary like Pepys's which was not intended for publication can, with its delightful self-revealing indiscretions, be the key to a man's personality. But Fischer did write for publication and the human factor remains discreetly hidden. We should, however, judge him to have been of a kindly disposition, but determined and strong-willed and not one to suffer fools gladly, devoted to his family and to his country, a gentleman by instinct and training, typical of the Swiss 19th century bourgeois middle class.

He was certainly a credit to his native town and an ancestor the Fischer family can be justly proud of.

J.J.F.S.

**HIGH CLASS ACCOMMODATION**  
Twenty minutes from Piccadilly. Comfortable double & single rooms. H. & C. Partial Board.  
17, Freeland Road, W.5. Tel. ACOrn 0209.

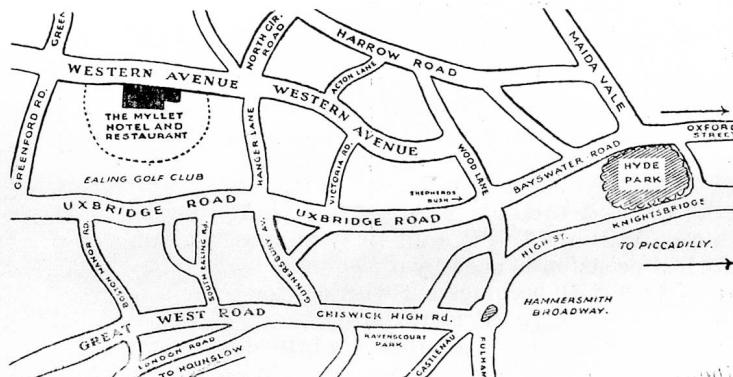
# The Myllert

## HOTEL and RESTAURANT

WESTERN AVENUE - PERIVALE

Principal, Albert Widmer

TELEPHONE: PERIVALE 4793 - 2427



TUESDAY, 25th DECEMBER, 1951

### XMAS DINNER

TICKETS: 1 GUINEA

WEDNESDAY, 26th DECEMBER, 1951

### BOXING NIGHT DINNER & DANCE

TICKETS: 1 GUINEA

MONDAY, 31st DECEMBER, 1951

### NEW YEAR'S EVE GALA DINNER & BALL

SOUVENIR PRIZES FOR THE LADIES

TICKETS: 2 GUINEAS

EVENING DRESS

ADMISSION BY TICKETS ONLY