

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: - (1952)

Heft: 1173

Rubrik: Anglo-Swiss Society

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ANGLO-SWISS SOCIETY.

Xmas Banquet and Ball,
on Monday, December 17th, 1951, at the
Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1.

In the Chair:

The Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur Salter, G.B.E., K.C.B., M.P.

This year's Xmas Banquet and Ball of the Anglo-Swiss Society was again a great success.

About 300 members and guests were received, at the Dorchester Hotel, by the Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur Salter and Lady Salter, the Swiss Minister and Madame de Torrenté.

The President of the Society, the Rt. Hon. Philip Noel Baker, P.C., M.P., was unable to preside, being away from this country at the time, and Sir Arthur Salter, a Patron of the Society, therefore, took the Chair.

The English members predominated, which is hardly surprising when one realises how many functions of all kinds have taken place in the Swiss Colony during the last three months.

Although I had attended, previous to the festive season, various affairs, which were in one way or another, connected with Xmas, it was not until the evening of the 17th of December, that for the first time in 1951, I beheld a Xmas tree, and came across Father Christmas.

What happy memories a Xmas tree always recalls, even to the older generation? it creates invariably a "Stimmung" all of its own, and right from the start there was a congenial atmosphere of mirth and gaiety prevalent, which increased in intensity as the evening wore on.

The top table, where the invited guests were seated, was charmingly decorated with flowers and large silver candle-sticks carrying red candles which shed a becoming glow all over the ball-room. A huge Union Jack and the Swiss Flag formed an impressive background.

An added attraction, from the decorative point of view, was the placing of the cantonal flags on the various tables. Whilst on previous occasions I had, as it should be, sheltered under the Bernese flag, this

time I sought refuge under the banner of the canton Appenzell, A.Rh., as a compliment to a good friend of mine present, who some four years ago introduced me, during a holiday, to this lovely corner of our homeland.

A Xmas dinner without Turkey, and Xmas pudding is unthinkable, and these good things were forthcoming and much enjoyed.

The entrance of the traditional pudding was quite an impressive affair, the lights were dimmed and in were carried, on silver salvers, innumerable Xmas puddings well and truly "alight" throwing out blue sizzling flames.

Whilst last year, there were no speeches apart from the loyal toasts, this year various addresses were given by different speakers.

After the toasts to H.M. the King and the President of the Swiss Confederation, the "Swiss Cake" of huge dimensions made its solemn entry, accompanied by Father Xmas, and Mr. Gandon's Accordionists who played appropriate music whilst it was wheeled around, cut, and afterwards distributed to the company.

Sir David Kelly, at one time British Minister in Berne and later on H.M. Ambassador in Moscow, gave the toast: "Anglo-Swiss Friendship", to which the Swiss Minister, Monsieur Henry de Torrenté replied, other speakers were the Chairman, Sir Arthur Salter and Sir Harry Britain, who all referred to the friendly feelings and close relations between the two countries

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expressing the wish that the mutual connections might, if possible, become still closer.

The dance music was provided for by Arthur Salisbury and his Dance orchestra and by A. Gandon and his accordionists, dressed in Swiss costume; both bands were excellent and especially our accordionists, who made things lively by playing a few "Ländlers" and quick waltzes.

Dancing went on with remarkable perseverance until midnight, when this most successful festival came to a close with the singing of *Auld Lang Syne*.

Lieutenant-Colonel St. Townend, the Director of the Society is to be heartily congratulated on the very efficient arrangements, everything went like clockwork and without a dull moment.

A really fine and enjoyable evening.

ST.

* * *

Amongst the guests of the Society were:— The Swiss Minister and Mme. de Torrenté, Sir David Kelly, Sir Harry Britain, Dr. E. Bernath and Madame Bernath, Counsellor of Legation, Mr. and Mrs. O. Ernst, Manager Swiss Fed. Railways, Dr. and Mrs. H. W. Egli, President N.S.H., Mr. and Mrs. W. Meier, President, S.M.S., Mr. and Mrs. A. Stauffer, Editor "Swiss Observer", Mr. and Mrs. Bjornsson, President Icelandic Society, Mr. and Mrs. G. Starkey, Assoc. of British Members of the Swiss Alpine Club, Capt. and Mrs. T. D. Richardson, Chairman, Figure Skating National Skating Association, Mrs. Philippa Martin, Mr. E. K. Martin.

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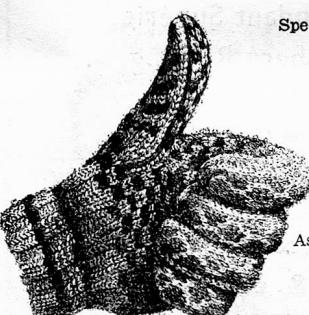
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UNIONE TICINESE. Tea Dance.

Amongst the many social functions which are held throughout the year in the Swiss Colony, a Banquet, Dinner or Tea Dance of the Unione Ticinese is always an enjoyable affair, and the Tea Dance which was held on Sunday, December 9th, 1951, at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1, was no exception.

Although I am somewhat reluctant to accept invitations to attend functions on a Sunday, having to be present at so many during the week, I could not resist the temptation to be with the Ticinesi once again, knowing what jolly company they always are.

If anyone wishes to participate in a few pleasurable hours, without any formality or stiffness, then I strongly advise them to spend those few hours with our "cari ticinesi", they will not regret it and will be made welcome whether they are members or not.

They will not find any red coated toastmaster to announce their names during a reception, nor will they have to listen to an orgy of speech making; they simply walk in, sit down, dance, eat, watch others and enjoy themselves.

Well over 300 members, friends and guests attended at the Dorchester, where they were heartily welcomed by the President of the Society, Mr. P. de Maria. In his short address, he voiced his regrets, that the Swiss Minister's representative, Dr. G. Lepori, Secretary of Legation, was unable to attend, owing to illness, but he announced that Mr. Carlo Meschini, Hon. Vice-President of the Unione Ticinese, had kindly consented to take the Chair for the afternoon and evening. He also greeted as guests, Mr. and Mrs. A. Stauffer, Editor of the "Swiss Observer" and Mr. and Mrs. P. Dick, conductor of the Swiss Male Choir, Mr. C. Meschini, thanked the President and the Organising Committee, including Mr. C. Berti, a former President of the Society, for the efficient way this Tea Dance was being carried out.

A cabaret was introduced for those, "whose dancing days are over" and was greatly applauded, but the star turn of the evening was the singing of the "Corale", who dressed in their becoming national costume lustily and melodiously rendered the homely folklore of their lovely canton; I have seldom heard them sing better, and their conductor, who is no less than the President himself is to be congratulated on his achievements.

Dancing went on without interruption until 10 p.m. when this jolly Tea Dancer drew to its close, hugely enjoyed by all those who attended it.

ST.

NEW YEAR'S EVE AT "86, DUKE STREET".

The Swiss Youth Club has held many successful Gala Dances in the past, but this year's "Réveillon" was certainly the most brilliant and colourful of them all. Over two hundred young Swiss people with their friends from all parts of the world crowded the beautifully decorated rooms of the club to welcome the New Year in the traditional style. It was all fun and games, and the resident band gave of its best. When, at midnight, the lights were put out, everybody felt thankful towards Mr. and Mrs. Bachofen and their staff for this memorable evening and their untiring efforts throughout the year.

E.A.