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LONDON SWISS PHILATELIC SOCIETY. Annual General Meeting and Luncheon.

The London Swiss Philatelic Society is one of the Swiss Societies, which does its work in a quiet and unobtrusive manner, and only comes once a year really to the notice of a wider public; when they hold their Annual General Meeting. To make it a real event, this meeting is followed by a luncheon to which the Ladies are invited.

The name "London Swiss" Philatelic Society is perhaps not quite accurate, because amongst its members there are quite a number of Englishmen, but this "blending" is an undoubted success and seems to add to the gaiety of these luncheons.

It is said, that every man should have a hobby of some kind to prevent him becoming dull and getting into a groove, once the time for retirement comes along; but in this age of hustle and bustle few have time to indulge in hobbies and fewer still, unless they enjoy the benefit of a pension, have the necessary financial resources to retire, the Chancellor of the Exchequer sees to that.

However, those who have chosen stamp collecting as a pastime have chosen well and wisely, as it is, undoubtedly, much less strenuous as *f.i.* gardening or wood-cutting, and as far as I can gather, it is also more profitable.

I think I have mentioned before, that my acquaintance with stamps is strictly limited to the gentle art of "licking them", but having now attended a few functions of the stamp collecting fraternity, I feel somewhat tempted to change over from "licking" to "collecting".

There is, of course, more in it than meets the eye, of this I became aware, when one of the prominent members of the Society acquainted me with some of the "finesses" of stamp collecting.

He told me, that even "duds" and forgeries have a certain cash value, which seems to me an amazing state of affairs, as in ordinary life "duds" get nowhere, and those who indulge in forgeries, go somewhere where curtains are replaced by iron bars.

My friend also mentioned, that often on a Sunday, he is "stamping" with his wife, I did not know that this is an expression used in stamp collecting circles,

I have, on various occasions, "stamped" at home, not only on a Sunday, but it had not the slightest connection with collecting stamps and furthermore it was not appreciated or termed pleasant — One lives and learns.

* * *

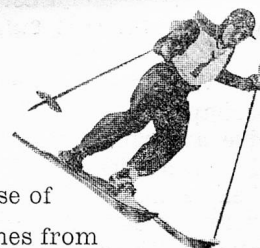
The Annual Meeting was held on Saturday, January 26th, at the Glendower Hotel, Glendower Place, South Kensington, S.W.7, when the President, Mr. F. Streit, reported on the work and the financial position of the Society, the latter apparently showed a balance on the "wrong side". This grave statement of the President, however, did not seem to cast a gloom over the proceedings, and it was decided there and then to wipe out the deficit with the proceeds of a raffle, which was held later on during the luncheon and which once more put the finances of the Society on an even keel.

The election of officers followed and there being no nominations, the officers and committee members for the year 1952 were re-elected for a further term with the addition of Mr. W. R. Thompson, Hon. Treasurer and Mr. H. C. Gay, Hon. Assistant Packet Superintendent. The President took this opportunity of paying a great tribute to the work of the late treasurer, Mr. G. Wahl, who departed from this life last year, greatly mourned by all those who came in contact with him. The Meeting was then closed and the members adjourned to the Annual Luncheon.

Some fifty members and friends sat down to a sumptuous and excellent luncheon provided for by the

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Management of the Glendower Hotel, consisting of fish, choucroute garnie, (for those with delicate insides) *Poulet Rôti* was served) and delicious Ice cream. A really enjoyable repast which enhanced still further the good name the *cuisine* of this establishment enjoys amongst the *gourmets*.

Towards the end of the luncheon, Mr. F. Streit, gave the toasts to H.M. the King and Switzerland, and extended a hearty welcome to the following guests: Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Harris of Messrs. Harris Publications Ltd., Mr. and Mrs. A. Stauffer, Editor of the "Swiss Observer" and Mr. Bossert. Mr. Harris, on behalf of the guests, gave thanks for the hospitality extended to them. The President then called upon Mr. Harris, who had judged the entries for the last Cup Competition, to present the cup to the winner, Mr. E. Miller, and a replica of it to last year's winner. Both recipients expressed their appreciation for the presentation.

Meanwhile three charming Ladies went around selling tickets for the raffle, the proceeds of which were destined to wipe out the deficit of the Society. Whilst last year, Goddess Fortuna did not smile upon me and I went home empty handed, this year, as on a previous occasion, I won three prizes, namely a tie, a pot of honey and a basket of fruit.

The auction of stamps, which followed, and which was conducted with great vivacity and expediency by Mr. Huber, was for the benefit of the Swiss Benevolent Society, and was supplemented by an auction of the table decorations (tulips) and which was presided over by Mr. Frank Whiles. The result of these two auctions was very satisfactory indeed, an amount of £35 was collected, and Mr. Roethlisberger, a member of the Swiss Benevolent Society Committee, thanked the President very warmly for this *beau geste*.

Thus, once again, a very enjoyable function of the London Swiss Philatelic Society terminated, and I am already looking forward to meeting the "stamping" fraternity at next year's meeting.

ST.

André Hotz, 41, of Switzerland, who was seriously injured while driving in the Monte Carlo Rally, died in Mons Hospital.

His Swiss co-driver, William Berger, was also killed when their Citroen car was involved in a head-on collision with a lorry just outside the village of Casteau.

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR HIS LATE MAJESTY KING GEORGE VI.

The following notice has been sent to us by the President of the Consistoire of the Swiss Church in London, Mr. Ch. Gysin:

In order to enable the members of our Colony to associate themselves with the homage which the Churches and the English people are paying to the memory of King George VI, the Swiss Church is holding a special service.

This will take place on Sunday, 17th, of February, at 11 a.m. in the Swiss Church, 79, Endell Street, W.C.2, for both the French and German-speaking communities. Our Minister, Monsieur Henry de Torrenté will deliver a message.

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

Owing to the death of H.M. The King, the Annual Luncheon and Tea Dance, arranged for Saturday, February 9th, has been postponed. The date on which it will be held is not yet known. All those members who took tickets will be advised by circular.

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CONCERT

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 29th, 1952

7.30 p.m.

RUTH HUGGENBERG

PIANO RECITAL

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