

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: 1179

Rubrik: City Swiss Club

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CITY SWISS CLUB.

"A Whisky Affair."

Well over one hundred members and guests attended the Monthly Meeting of the City Swiss Club, held on Tuesday, April 1st, 1952, at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1.

The members had been previously advised, that after dinner a lecture would be given by Mr. Douglas F. S. Hastie, entitled "From Burn to Bottle" dealing with the well-known Scottish beverage of "Whisky", and I have not the slightest doubt, that this subject was the main cause of an unusually large attendance.

Rumours were floating about, that each member attending would get a "sample" bottle to take home with him, but this did not materialise, and I attribute this rumour to the fact that the lecture coincided with the 1st of April.

A large contingent of Scotsmen were present, which is hardly surprising considering that Whisky is their national drink, it was indeed a real gathering of the clan. I only regret that they did not turn up in kilts, it would have greatly added to the "Stimmung". They blended well into the gathering and the saying, that the Scots have much in common with the Swiss was proved once again; they certainly can talk just as long, or even longer, than the Swiss. (I speak from experience.)

After cocktails had been served in the pleasant ante-room, the company adjourned to the Orchid Room where an excellent dinner was served. Before coffee was handed round, the President of the Club, Mr. Ch. Seinet, proposed the toasts of Her Majesty The Queen and to "La Suisse".

Mr. Seinet then heartily welcomed the Swiss Minister, Monsieur Henry de Torrenté, Honorary President of the Club, who was accompanied by his collaborators at the Legation, Messieurs V. Umbrecht, Counsellor of Legation, and J. J. Huber, Consul.

He also expressed his pleasure at seeing amongst the gathering the following guests: Mr. Douglas Hastie (the lecturer), Mr. Kenneth Ross, Mr. Arthur Patterson, Mr. Nigel Baird, Mr. W. E. Channing (Time & Life International), Mr. William Thomson, Colonel R. S. Lambert, Mr. I. C. Campbell, Mr. R. A. Kewley and Major Jmbert-Terry.

The President extended an equally warm welcome

to the following members of the Swiss Delegation attending the German Debts Settlement Conference: Messieurs E. de Graffenreid and Miesch of the Federal Political Department in Berne, M. Gamper a member of the General Direction of the "Crédit Suisse", Messieurs Renz, Diggelmann and Lang, members of the Swiss Bankers Association, M. Mehnert, Director of the Swiss Compensation Office. Minister W. Stucki, the head of the Swiss Delegation, was unfortunately prevented from attending.

The word was then given to the lecturer, Mr. Douglas F. S. Hastie, who spoke under the auspices of the Public Relations Committee of the Scotch Whisky Association. His highly technical *exposé* of what Whisky consists of, how it is made, what ingredients are used and how and where it is principally exported and distributed was very interesting, and I feel certain, that many of those present are now seriously considering of switching over from such beverages like beer and wine to this excellent product of the Highlands of Scotland. The films shown were most helpful in understanding some of the technicalities in the production of Whisky.

Mr. Seinet thanked the lecturer, on behalf of the company, for his lucid discourse.

Monsieur E. de Graffenreid, an old and valued friend of the City Swiss Club, well remembered by all for the brilliant and excellent work which he had rendered during his long *séjour* in London, as a member of the Diplomatic Staff of the Legation — not only to our country but also to the Swiss Colony — thanked the members of the Club, on behalf of the guests, for the hospitality extended to them.

Before concluding this report I would warmly recommend to the Committee, that in future it should, from time to time, introduce lectures on such spiritual subjects, as I feel sure they would be a big attraction to the members.

May I also suggest, that some of our wine growers from the cantons of Valais, Vaud, Ticino and Neuchâtel should be asked to address the gatherings of the Club, or that some of the manufacturers of Kirsch from Zug or the Fricktal should tell us how their products are made, bringing along plenty of samples. I can guarantee them a "full house".

This successful evening came to a close shortly before 10 o'clock.

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