

Trio Michels : a successful Colony Concert

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THE ONE HUNDREDTH MEETING OF THE LONDON-SWISS PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

We seem to be dealing in record attendances these days. Friday, February 27th was marked by the gathering of nearly 40% of our members to mark our one hundredth meeting, and to enjoy the very varied philatelic fare provided by Mr. Arthur Blair, Editor of Stamp Collector's Fortnightly.

The President opened the meeting and introduced Mr. Blair to the members. He then thanked our Committee Member, Mr. David Paschoud, for his hard work in organising the refreshments.

The next business was the election to membership of Mr. Godfrey Nowell, proposed by Mr. H. C. Gay and seconded by Mr. A. F. Cottrell.

A letter from Mr. J. J. Schneider was read thanking the members for his election as an Honorary Member.

Mr. Arthur Blair then gave his display accompanied by a running commentary, which was exceedingly interesting, and the President, Mr. F. Streit, warmly thanked Mr. Blair for his fine display.

Thereafter we attacked the buffet, and the rapidity with which the good things vanished recalled the palmy days of Maskelyne and Devant at St. George's Hall, or a flock of locusts. The party did not break up until long after ten-thirty, so on this occasion no one visited the neighbouring "Garden of Eden". Everybody agreed that it was a very good party and looked forward to the Two Hundredth Meeting.

W.B.H.

SWISS CLUB, BIRMINGHAM. FLOOD DISTRESS FUND.

We are informed by the Swiss Club Birmingham, that a cheque of £50.0.0, being the contribution of the Club to the above Fund, has been sent to the Lord Mayor of Birmingham, who has acknowledged this generous donation as follows:

The Lord Mayor's Parlour,
The Council House,
Birmingham.1.

24th February, 1953.

Dear Mr. Kloetzli,

East Coast Flood Relief Fund.

I was deeply touched to receive your cheque for £50 from the Swiss Club of Birmingham in response to my Appeal on behalf of the East Coast Flood Relief Fund and would like you to accept my very sincere thanks for this very kind gesture.

You will appreciate that with the vast number of donations I have received it has been very difficult to acknowledge them all straight away.

Yours very sincerely,

sig. W. T. Bowen.
Lord Mayor.

M. A. Kloetzli, Esq.
Treasurer,
Swiss Club Birmingham.
Birmingham.

TRIO MICHELS. A Successful Colony Concert.

Contrary to the view of some pessimists it is quite possible to rouse enough interest and support, once in a while, for a Swiss concert of serious music in our Colony. The success of the Concert of the Trio Michels of Basle on April 13th organised by the Nouvelle Société Helvétique has proved it. Of course it could only be carried through on a modest basis with the support of the Swiss Legation, the circulation of invitations by the City Swiss Club and the Swiss Mercantile Society as well as the N.S.H. the publicity in the "Swiss Observer" and the kindness of the Arts Council of Great Britain in putting their Great Drawing Room at our disposal at a nominal charge. This kind of quiet co-operation will achieve anything at no cost to anyone apart from the personal efforts of the organisers. Of course the thing could not be repeated too often, perhaps twice or thrice a year, but the success achieved by the attendance of nearly eighty paying listeners is most heartening.

Neither were they disappointed by the Trio Michels whose performance enchanted everyone. With a subtle sense of balance the programme comprised two contemporary compositions as well as two wonderful trios by Beethoven and Brahms which constituted the main substance of the evening. And one of the contemporaries — Frank Martin — is Swiss into the bargain, the other J. Turina was a Spaniard who died recently much lamented by all international friends of good music. Neither of the two contemporaries, let us say in gratitude, was too excessively modern.

The ensemble playing of the Trio Michels is something rarely experienced. The pianist Marguerite Michels seemed at times almost too self-effacing in her concern to ensure that not a note of her companions should be missed. Neither the violinist, Xavier Hermann, a Frenchman hailing from the Alsace, nor the violin-cellist, David Altyzer, a Swiss born in Odessa, took undue advantage of it. They are both sensitive yet powerful artists. Switzerland can be proud of this excellently matched group of players.

E.



Panda

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