

Among the Colony's Philatelits

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AMONG THE COLONY'S PHILATELISTS.

In one of my recent reports about the General Meeting of a Swiss Society, I remarked, that the proceedings were started with a couple of songs, considerably brightening up an evening, which otherwise might have proved rather tedious.

Whilst I am all for making things lively and bright, considering that conditions both here and abroad are none too cheerful, I think that some decorum should be observed at these business meetings. I shudder to imagine what might happen, if *f.i.* on the occasion of a General Meeting of the Swiss Rifle Association, the members would bring along their rifles, and proceed to take a pot at each other, I am sure, I would be about the first one to be "carried out."

At the Annual General Meeting of the London Swiss Philatelic Society, which was held on Saturday, January 21st, at the Glendower Hotel, Glendower Place, S.W.7., followed by a luncheon, I was told there was no singing. — Not knowing anything about stamps, apart from licking them, I arrived only in time for the cocktails and the traditional luncheon, which is the principal yearly event of this Society. —

Singing or no singing, nobody will quarrel with me, when I state, that this annual gathering of our stamp collecting fraternity is one of the most enjoyable ones held in the Colony.

The President of the London Swiss Philatelic Society, Mr. F. Streit, had informed me a few days before the Meeting was to take place, that, taking my tip, he would endeavour to make the proceedings as amusing as possible. This was no idle boast, as will be seen presently, but I was none the less a wee bit disappointed, when I saw him emerging from the council chambers looking rather severe. I had quite expected him to appear jolly and bright, having on the tip of his nose a "Basler Tübeli", and on his noble brow the "Züri Vieri", that, I am sure would have almost caused a riot, and I am quite certain that the company, following the example of the "Nightingales" of the Colony, would have burst into song.

An old friend of mine with whom I discussed, not so long ago, the question of an often disappointingly small attendance at some meetings of Swiss Societies, told me, that only two things will assure a large and satisfactory presence of members, the first one, a capital row, and the second one, a good dinner.

I do not feel competent to pass judgement on these assertions; whilst I enjoy a good dinner, I am not

particularly keen on a row, having had one or two whilst Editor of this paper.

The London Swiss Philatelic Society anyhow had chosen the second one, which certainly proved a success. The Luncheon provided for by Mr. and Mrs. A. Schmid, was a capital one, both as to quantity and quality, and the President was quite right, when thanking our hosts for the excellent fare, he said: "anyone disagreeing with me, should consult his doctor."

Towards the end of this marvellous feast, the President, after the customary toast, addressed the company stating, that he was celebrating his 10th anniversary of presiding over the Society, which was greeted with much applause. He extended a hearty welcome especially to the Ladies, singling out Miss Gruneberg, the only Lady member, he also warmly greeted Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Chapman, Editor of "Stamp Collecting", who had acted as judge in the Challenge Cup Competition of November last, Miss Rose Titford, who inaugurated the Ladies Night programme held last year, and who is the Secretary of the Royal Philatelic Society, Mr. Bossert, and finally Mr. A. Stauffer, Editor of the "Swiss Observer", accompanied by Mrs. Stauffer.

Mr. Streit informed me, that during the Meeting the following committee had been elected for the ensuing year: President: F. Streit, Vice-President: W. Burren, Hon. Treasurer: W. R. Thompson, Hon. Paket Superintendent: E. M. Huber, Assistant: H. C. Gay, Hon. Secretary and Editor Monthly Bulletin: W. B. Haworth, M.A., committee members: J. Beken, D. Paschoud and M. Uehlinger, and that the annual subscription had been increased from 7/6 to 10/-. I was glad to hear, that the accounts closed with a balance "on the right side", which nowadays is quite an exception, as most Swiss Societies are recording deficits in their balance sheet, which, however, do not seem to worry them unduly.

In conclusion, the President, as mentioned before, thanked Mr. and Mrs. Schmid, and family for having looked so well after the material needs of the members. Mr. A. Stauffer, Editor of the "Swiss Observer", on behalf of the guests, thanked the President and the members for their generous hospitality.

The President then called upon Mr. Chapman, who had judged the entries for the last cup competition,

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to present the cup to the winner, Mr. C. M. D. Fredericks, a replica of it will be presented to last year's winner (when ready.) The recipient of the cup expressed his appreciation for the presentation.

Then took place the usual auction of stamps, the proceedings to go towards the funds of the Society, minus £5.5.0., which was earmarked for the King George VI Fund, as a donation. This auction was in the capable hands of Mrs. Uehlinger, assisted, no less efficiently by Mr. Whiles. Theirs was a star performance, the clever repartee between the auctioneer and her assistant, provided so much laughter and amusement, that a visit to a London theatre becomes superfluous. The auction yielded the satisfactory amount of £16.16.6., which was entirely due to the clever "performance" of Mrs. Uehlinger and Mr. Whiles.

That the members of the London Swiss Philatelic Society are of a generous disposition was proved, when a tombola followed for the benefit of the Swiss Benevolent Society, which provided an amount of over £16.0.0. Whilst last year I departed empty handed from the Glendower Hotel, this time I was lucky in winning two prizes.

After all the excitement had subsided, tea was served, and shortly before 6 p.m. this really enjoyable function came to a close. If anyone wants good comradeship, a fine luncheon and a hearty laugh, then I would advise our compatriots to join, without delay the:

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