

**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:** - (1954)  
**Heft:** 1219  
  
**Nachruf:** A.F. Tschiffely †  
**Autor:** [s.n.]

### **Nutzungsbedingungen**

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

### **Conditions d'utilisation**

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

### **Terms of use**

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

**Download PDF:** 01.08.2025

**ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>**

## THE CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE AT THE SWISS CHURCH.

By DEREK MEAKIN.

Looking back on the Christmas festivities, one of the most delightful events I attended was the children's service in the Eglise Suisse on the Sunday afternoon before Christmas.

Pasteur Reverdin did the French-speaking community proud on this occasion, and his efforts were certainly well rewarded by the large congregation present for the service.

In one corner of the church stood a massive Christmas tree, whose flickering candles, I thought, looked far more impressive than the coloured lights which decorate so many trees these days.

The number of children who went to see the tree and take part in the singing must have pleased pasteur Reverdin no end. He is a young man himself, and a great believer in that well-known verse from St. Matthew — "Laissez venir à moi les petits enfants, et ne les en empêchez point; car le Royaume des Cieux est pour ceux qui leur ressemblent."

I wondered how many of them, like my own two-year-old Denise, were visiting church for the first time since their christening, looking wide-eyed at that wonderful tree, listening with undisguised admiration to the rich voices of the two choirs whose contributions did much to make the afternoon so memorable.

This was the first major Swiss function in which the Meakin family has been privileged to take part since our recent move to London from Manchester — which is another city where the warm-hearted Swiss do all they can to ensure the children have a good time over Christmas.

It was indeed gratifying on this occasion, to see living proof of the important part played by religion in the life of the colony down here.

And for my wife, the occasion also meant a pleasant surprise. Ever since we came to London she has been wanting to meet someone from the "right" side of the Sarine. And there, sitting in the pew in front of her, was an old friend she has not seen since they were at school together in Montreux almost ten years ago!

Now I know just what is ment by "It's a small world. . .!"

### Nouvelle Société Helvétique

in conjunction with the  
ANGLO-SWISS SOCIETY

Saturday, January 16th, 1954 from  
3-5.30 p.m.

#### CHILDREN'S ENTERTAINMENT.

(Films, Conjuror, Songs, etc.)

AT LONDONDERRY HOUSE, PARK LANE, W.1.  
(near Curzon Street bus stop).

No charge. All Swiss and English friends, Children and Parents, heartily welcome.

## A. F. TSCHIFFELY †

Our compatriot Aimé Felix Tschiffely, author and traveller, has died on the 5th inst., in a London Hospital, aged 58, after an operation for kidney trouble.

He will best be remembered for his 10,000 mile ride on horseback in 1925. He started his journey, in Buenos Aires with his horses Mancha and Gato, and arrived at Washington two and a half years later, they carried him from the pampas of the Argentine over the barren Andes, down into steaming jungles, across the Isthmus of Panama, through Central America and into Mexico. He described that journey in his three books *Southern Cross to Pole Star*, *Tschiffely's Ride*, and *Mancha and Gato*, describing his experiences, he never wrote of "I" but of "We", meaning himself and the two horses, for he was anxious to emphasize that this journey was undertaken to prove the worth of the native Argentine ponies and that it was their stamina and spirit that had made the famous journey possible.

Tschiffely has written a number of other books, best-known amongst them are: *Bridle Paths* (published 1936) describing a journey on horseback from Salisbury to Scotland, a biography of his friend R. B. Cunninghame-Graham, *Bohemia Junction* (published 1950), *Round and About Spain*.

A. F. Tschiffely was born in Switzerland in 1895, and received his education in England, where for a time he was a tutor at various preparatory schools, among them Park Hill, Lyndhurst, and The Priory, Malvern. He then went out to Buenos Aires, where he acted temporarily as headmaster of the English High School there, it was after this episode that he undertook his great ride.

The deceased lived for many years in London, and although he was not often seen in the Colony, he, on several occasions, prior to the last war, gave lectures to Swiss audiences in London.

He married in 1933 Miss Violet Theodora Hume. As Violet Marquesita she sang for three years the role of Lucy Locket in "The Beggars Opera." She was with him when he died.

## Winter Sunshine Programme

NOW READY

SWITZERLAND  
AUSTRIA  
FRENCH  
RIVIERA  
MADEIRA  
NORWAY

By Rail, Sea,  
Air or Coach

Independent Travel  
arrangements a  
Speciality

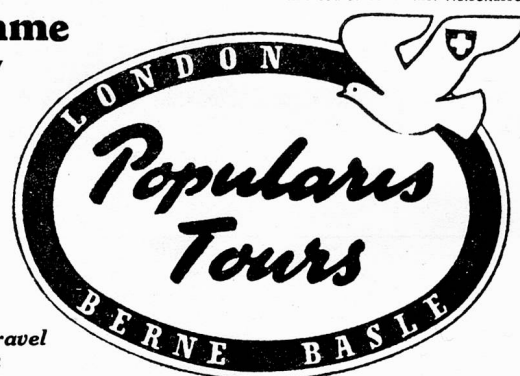
Summer Programme  
ready in January.

London Office

6, ROYAL ARCADE, OLD BOND ST.  
& ALBEMARLE ST., LONDON, W.1.

Nearest Tube Stations, Piccadilly or Green Park.

Affiliated to Schweizer Reisekasse



Agents for

BRITISH, FRENCH & SWISS RAILWAYS,  
COACH SERVICES & ALL AIR LINES.

Telephone:

HYDe Park 1352/3