

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: 1221

Rubrik: London Swiss Philatelic Society

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LONDON SWISS PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

Annual General Meeting and Luncheon, at the Glendower Hotel, Glendower Place, S.W.7.

Not to be outdone by other Swiss Societies, The London Swiss Philatelic Society had, in their turn a "Social", on Saturday, January 30th.

They combined the Annual Luncheon with their General Meeting the latter taking place previous to the "feeding", which is a very good idea, because the members who attend the business part, are, no doubt, anxious to finish as quickly as possible in order to get to the second "sitting", which is less dry and more satisfying.

By the kind thought on the part of the committee, I had only been asked to attend the second part of the afternoon's function (cocktails and luncheon), which is only right, as I have not the foggiest notion of stamp collecting, and one never knows, there might have been some very secret matters to be discussed which should not be disclosed to the Press.

In the past I have "dined and wine" with various Swiss Societies in the Colony, some of the functions being merrier than others, and amongst the "jolly" ones I would classify that of our Philatelists. I have not yet been able to solve the secret of why stamp collectors should be more hilarious than other human beings, but there it was, the proceedings during the luncheon and afterwards reached at one time such heights that I felt as if I had been transferred to Epsom Downs during the Derby, with all the shouting of the book-makers and tipsters.

The only possible reason I can find is, that the exceptionally fine luncheon, consisting of Soup, "Blutwurst", "Schwynigs", chicken and sweets, with various choice vintages was responsible for these temporary outbursts of "joie de vivre".

Mr. & Mrs. A. Schmid, who are both members of the Society and keen stamp collectors, acted as hosts, and I have yet to find better and more generous hosts.

This Society includes a fair number of English members, and I have always been under the impression that English people are more sedate and less given to noisy demonstrations, but I have now changed my opinion; on this Saturday they showed no restraint, and they were even noisier than their Swiss colleagues. Anyhow it has proved once again that this "mixed marriage" is a happy one.

Kettners Restaurant has no music and is not luxurious . . . but the Food and Wine are superb.

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Towards the end of this marvellous gastronomical feast, the President, Mr. F. Streit, addressed the gathering saying that the Society in the past had introduced and maintained various traditions, amongst them the one of keeping their officers until they died of old age, and therefore he found himself once more back in the Presidential chair. (Applause).

He expressed his pleasure at once more having the Ladies present, and extended a hearty welcome to the following guests: Mr. & Mrs. A. Stauffer, Editor of the "Swiss Observer", Mr. & Mrs. Newport, the former having been the judge in the Society's cup competition. He also greeted Mr. W. Haworth, Editor of the Society's monthly bulletin, who had just been made an honorary life member, and Miss Rose Tifford, who so charmingly inaugurated the "Ladies Night" programmes in the past.

Mr. Streit in conclusion expressed hearty thanks to Mr. & Mrs. Schmid, for having so well looked after the material needs of the members, and there and then the company broke out into song, lustily singing "For they are jolly good fellows!"

The President informed me, that during the Meeting the following committee had been elected for the ensuing year: F. Streit, President, W. Burren, Vice-President, W. R. Thompson, Hon. Treasurer, E. M. Huber, Hon. Packet Superintendent, Assistant; H. C. Gay, W. B. Haworth, Hon. Secretary and Editor of the monthly bulletin. Other committee members: J. Becken, D. Paschoud, and Mr. Uehlinger.

Mr. A. Stauffer, Editor of the "Swiss Observer", on behalf of the guests thanked the members for their generous hospitality, giving the President, who is at present Chairman of the Swiss Presidents Assembly, in a humorous vein, a few hints and tips as how to conduct the affairs of the Colony.

Mr. Streit then called upon Mr. Newport to present the cup to the winner of the competition, Mr. J. Becken, who on receiving the cup expressed his appreciation for the presentation.

It is not an uncommon occurrence that accounts of Swiss Societies close with a deficit, and it has always struck me that nobody takes this fact very seriously. When the President announced that the Balance Sheet showed a loss of about £13.0.0, members cheered, which once more proves what a carefree fraternity these stamp collectors are.

SWISS WINTER SPORTS

The Sports Hotel Alpina, Flums Berg, St. Gallen, 1½ hours from Zurich, hitherto mostly known to the Swiss, is developing fast, and is becoming an international rendez-vous. Downhill from 2500 metres to 450 metres, easy training slopes quite close to the Hotel.

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Any further information you can obtain from our Hotel, Crown Hotel, Hay on Wye, near Hereford.

Prop: FAML. GULLER.

The London Swiss Philatelic Society have a particularly clever way to deal with deficits, they simply start a tombola with prizes given by various members, and the matter is settled; not only did the result cover the loss made, but there was even something left over.

Then took place the customary auction of stamps, the money thus received going to charity. This year's auction was again in the capable hands of Mrs. Uehlinger, ably assisted by Mr. Whiles.

The Lady auctioneer, who seems to know all that is worth knowing about stamps and their value, had a tremendous task to perform, as the noise almost drowned her voice at times. Undeterred and full of good humour, she carried on against heavy odds, and that her valiant efforts were not in vain, was proved by the result. Of the amount thus collected, £5.5.0. will go to the Swiss Benevolent Society and another £5.5.0. are to be sent to the Library for the Blind.

The donation for the Swiss Benevolent Society was gratefully acknowledged by Mr. Roethlisberger, a member of the committee of the said Society.

When calm was restored tea was served, and shortly before 6 o'clock this very enjoyable gathering dispersed, and I for one am already looking forward to next year's function, if they will have me again. I carried away from it not only happy memories but also a bottle of Sherry won in the tombola. All in all a fine and jolly afternoon, and now good luck to the London Swiss Philatelic Society and "good stamping".

ST.



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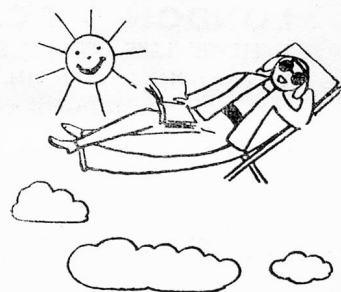
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