

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: - (1955)
Heft: 1263

Artikel: Assembly of presidents of the Swiss Societies in Great Britain
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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-694684>

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ASSEMBLY OF PRESIDENTS OF THE SWISS SOCIETIES IN GREAT BRITAIN.

The 25th meeting of the Presidents' Assembly was held at the Swiss Legation, W.1, on the 4th November, in the presence of the Swiss Minister, Monsieur A. Daeniker.

The chairman, Mr. W. Fischer, extended a special welcome to Mr. A. F. Suter, a former President of the N.S.H. who had been invited for the occasion, and to three Presidents from the provinces, Prof. J. Inebnit (Harrogate and Leeds), Mr. H. Monney (Manchester), and Mr. C. F. Illi (Bradford).

The main item on the agenda was the "Solidaritätsfond der Auslandschweizer", details of which are contained in a report issued by the special commission appointed by the Federal Council. The object of the fund would be to compensate the Swiss abroad for damage to property in case of war, but it might also cover other forms of damage. The discussion showed that before any definite decisions could be taken, more detailed proposals were required, such as for instance the capital structure of the fund, which should rest on a strong financial basis.

Dr. H. W. Egli, then gave a report on the discussions held at the "Auslandschweizertagung" in Zurich on the 19th/21st August. A full report appeared in an earlier issue of the Swiss Observer. Dr. Egli's efforts to represent the Colony at the Congress were greatly appreciated by the Assembly.

Mr. F. G. Sommer informed us on the progress of

the Swiss Hostel for Girls, which is expected to be ready for use next spring.

In conclusion, the three Presidents from the Provinces gave some very interesting facts about the Swiss centres in their towns. Like in many other places, there is a scarcity of Swiss who can stay for longer periods. Efforts by Swiss in leading positions should not be spared to encourage young Swiss to settle here permanently, so that the Swiss Colony can be kept alive, and the links with the homeland be maintained and strengthened.

W.F.

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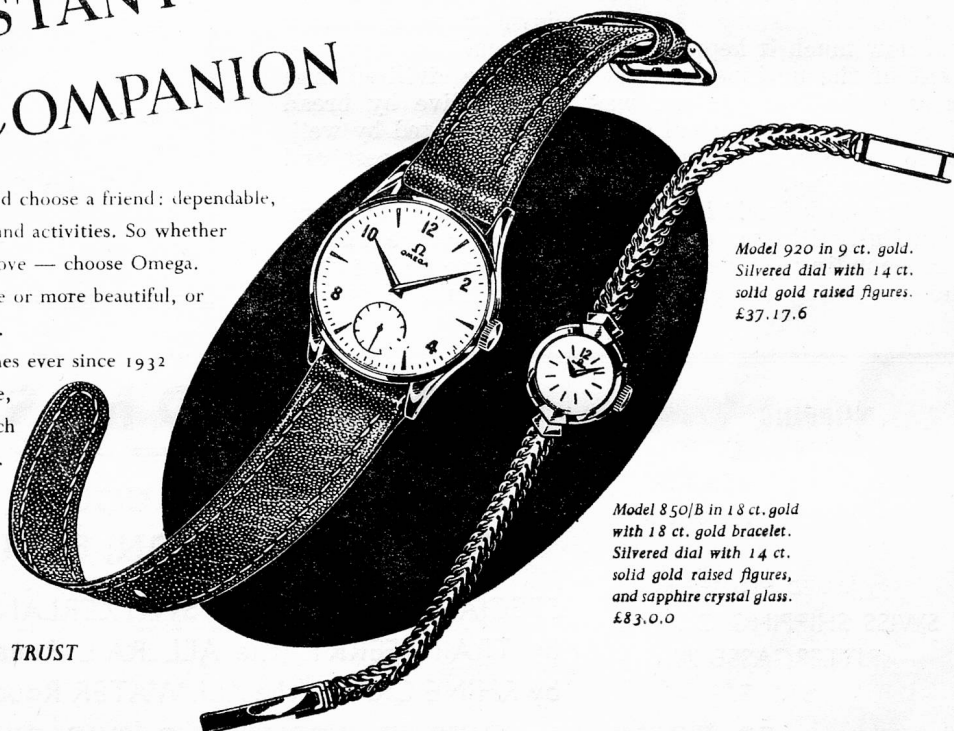
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