

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: - (1956)

Heft: 1266

Rubrik: Swiss Catholics

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SWISS CATHOLICS' CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S SERVICE AND PARTY.

Once again, we have had the privilege of celebrating Christmas in the warm atmosphere of the big family of our colony.

St. Ann's Church was just large enough to hold the specially large congregation gathered on Sunday, January 1st, 1956, for this year's Christmas and New Year Service. Fr. Lanfranchi, our chaplain, preached in English and in German (the latter for the benefit of the ever-growing number of the young Swiss temporary residents in London) followed by Solemn Benediction. The whole congregation, led by the Mixed Choir, joined in singing Christmas carols.

The Xmas party took place in the vast Westminster Cathedral Hall where a huge and nicely decorated Christmas tree had been set up. Kindly helpers busied themselves in serving tea, cakes, and fruits to more than 90 children whose excited behaviour betrayed their impatience to see Father Christmas. After tea, Brenda Cassidy and Betty Carol were the first to entertain us and their songs were really enjoyed by all. Jean-Michel Gandon, known as the youngest "Yodler" of the Colony, sang with a remarkably clear voice "Le Petit Chevrier" accompanied at the piano by his sister. Christian Faessler recited a moving Christmas poem in French leaving it to his brother Dominique to do the same in German. At last, after the Mixed Choir had sung two more carols, Father Christmas entered the Hall to the enthusiastic applause of the audience. After a few words directed to the children, he proceeded with the distribution of the presents — and what presents! Nearly a hundred parcels had been set out in front of the Christmas tree and none of the children had been forgotten. Then, Father Christmas left after having given his word to come back next year, provided that the children would be very obedient to their parents in the coming year.

In the Church and at the Party we had the great pleasure of seeing, from the Legation, the Swiss Consul, Mr. Huber, Mr. Albertini, Mr. Faessler and their ladies. At 7.30, the children having had their share, the not-so-young came into their element when the Alpenrosen Club took over for its New Year dance.

We would not omit to thank all those who contributed to the complete success of this celebration, particularly Fr. Lanfranchi, Mr. Gandon, and Mr.

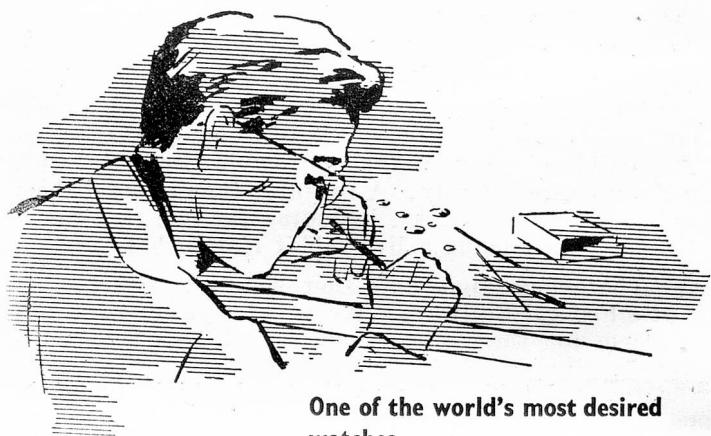
Sonderegger. Our heartiest thanks are also due to the many people who generously provided gifts and financial assistance.

R.R.

OUR NEXT ISSUE.

Our next issue will be published on Friday, February 10th, 1956.

We take this opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their kind and helpful donations over and above their subscription: C. J. Bernheim, Major A. Weber, Mrs. E. Gledhill, E. Kern, W. Forster, W. Wagner, A. Engelbert, O. Frei, E. Montag, W. Walter, M. Merian, W. Schlatter, E. Winzeler, R. Ryf.



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