

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: - (1959)
Heft: 1339

Rubrik: Unione Ticinese

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UNIONE TICINESE.

"Grand Dance" in aid of the Swiss Benevolent Society.

In years gone by the Unione Ticinese were in the habit of arranging dances with cabaret for the benefit of the Swiss Benevolent Society. These functions were always very popular, enjoying the patronage of the whole Colony.

For one reason or another, these entertainments were temporarily discontinued and replaced by Tea Dances which took place either at the Dorchester Hotel or the May Fair Hotel on a Sunday, at which often 400 to 500 people were present.

To revert to the old custom of putting an evening aside for the benefit of the Swiss Benevolent Society, the Unione Ticinese arranged a "Grand Dance", which took place on Friday, 13th March, at the "Schweizerbund" (Swiss Club), 74 Charlotte Street, W.1.

It was the intention of the committee, to ask not only the members, but also a wider circle of the Colony, to this evening. The "Schweizerbund", being the headquarters of the Society, was chosen for the occasion, firstly to give it a more intimate character, and secondly to support the "Schweizerbund", which Club has for some time struck a bad patch.

The members of the Unione Ticinese nobly answered the call by turning up in full force; unfortunately this could not be said with regard to other members of the Colony.

Apart from the Swiss Ambassador and Madame Daeniker, M. and Mme. Ansermot, and a party of twenty from the Embassy staff, headed by Consul E. Ribi, and Vice-Consul F. Burgunder, with their ladies, many familiar faces one meets at the various social functions were conspicuous by their absence, which is to be regretted. Those, however, who were present spent a most enjoyable evening with our compatriots "beyond the Gotthard".

Our brethren from the sunny south have the happy knack of making everybody feel at home, right from the beginning to the end. Their happy smiling faces were a real tonic, befittingly heralding in the approaching Spring. One of the many attractions of a Unione Ticinese "Do" is always the young ladies, who are exceedingly good-looking and jolly, making even an "old heart" beat quicker.

Dancing started soon after 8 o'clock, and was in full swing when it was announced that various cabaret turns would be given. A charming soprano sang with much vigour and fine voice various songs. There was our old friend, Mr. de Courcy, a conjurer of much repute, and a Ticinese to boot, who gave an amazing performance, making bird — and also cage — disappear into thin air, playing cards vanish from his hands and reappear from all quarters of his body, etc.

A young male student very attractively rendered songs, accompanied on his guitar, in French, Italian and "Schweizerdütsch", and in conclusion the "Corale" of the Unione Ticinese made their appearance dressed in their becoming national costume. They do not need any introduction, as for many years now they have adorned the proceedings and enchanted the ear with their *canzonette*, which always recall to the hearers so many pleasant memories of their lovely native canton. When they made their *sortie* they were enthusiastically applauded.

Dancing was then resumed, one-steps and two-steps, waltzes and "Ländlers", followed each other in quick succession, and even rock 'n' roll made its appearance, and was performed with great gusto, especially by the younger generation.

A tombola, with attractive prizes, was held, and proved to be successful as far as finances were concerned.

Before the enjoyable party came to its close, Mr. P. Jacomelli, the "ever young" President of the Unione Ticinese, gave a short address during which he expressed thanks to the Swiss Ambassador and Madame Daeniker for their presence, and also voiced his appreciation to the members of the Embassy for the generous support they had given the Society on this occasion. He concluded his address by saying: "I am, however, disappointed that the Colony has not given us the help we expected, and to which we thought we were entitled, owing to the character of this function".

Mr. De Maria, Honorary Secretary of the U.T., then announced that the Swiss Benevolent Society would benefit by about £50 from the evening's entertainment, which announcement was greeted with cheers.

In concluding this report I should like to congratulate the management of the "Schweizerbund" for the efficient way in which the service was undertaken; they deserve the support of the Colony to a greater extent than hitherto.

The Unione Ticinese deserves hearty thanks for having arranged this festival from which our less fortunate countrymen will benefit.

ST.

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY

MONTHLY MEETING

on Wednesday, April 8th 1959 at 7 p.m.
at Swiss House, 34/35 Fitzroy Square, W.1

followed by a talk on

SWITZERLAND'S HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER AND
ITS PROGRAMME OF ATOMIC DEVELOPMENT

by Dr. HANS MUELLER

Secretary at the Swiss Embassy.

Members and friends are cordially invited. The canteen will be open for light meals and refreshments from 6 to 7 p.m.



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