

Swiss Mercantile Society

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NEWS FROM THE COLONY

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY

After the customary summer recess, the Society resumed its activities on 11th September, when the Monthly Meeting was held at Swiss House, with Mr. A. Jaccard presiding.

As a number of members were still away from London, the attendance was somewhat below normal, but it proved, nevertheless, a very interesting and enjoyable evening.

One new member, Mr. Walter Dettwiler, was admitted and two members, Messrs. Kurt Jenny and Eduard Gut, were transferred to Swiss Sections.

The Chairman read a message of thanks and good wishes from Dr. G. P. Gooch, C.H., O.M., the eminent historian, to whom congratulations had been offered on his recent appointment to be a member of the Order of Merit by H.M. the Queen. Many of our members will have vivid recollections of Dr. Gooch's many interesting talks at Swiss House on "The European Situation" and "World Outlook".

A colour photograph of a "Wappenscheibe" presented to Mr. Robert Schweizer in recognition of 50 years' membership of our association, was circulated and generally admired.

The Chairman reminded members that the Society's 75th anniversary dinner would be held at the Dorchester Hotel on Saturday, 19th October, and that an outing by coach, with the guests from Switzerland, would be made to Herne Bay and Canterbury on Sunday, 20th October, fuller details of which were to be circulated in due course.

The Chairman congratulated our members Messrs. O. Grob, F. Magnin and J. C. Wetter, whose marksmanship had earned them the "Lorbeerkranz" at the Federal Shooting Competition in Zurich.

Following the meeting, members related their holiday reminiscences. Judging by the photographs, many had been able to find the sun and to elude the inclement weather which had dogged many of us.

Mr. W. Stettbacher showed some excellent photographs he had taken in the Glacier du Trient and Chamonix regions, as well as some from his visits to Scotland. His mountaineering feats are well known and his photographic displays were greatly admired for their beauty and quality.

Next we saw colour slides taken by Mr. O. Grob at the "Eidg. Schützenfest", which showed the London contingent to the fore and gave us an all-round impression of this national competition, in which many sections from abroad competed. Mr. Grob also showed most impressive and colourful pictures of the Chelsea Flower Show, a treat for all lovers of flowers.

Mr. F. Burgunder followed with a most interesting selection of views of Berlin, including President Kennedy's visit and the notorious Wall. This was followed by a visit to Yugoslavia and pictures which included our old friends, Consul and Mrs. E. Ribi.

Back we went to Switzerland with lovely colour views of the Riederalp region of the Valais, shown by Mr. J. Oertli.

To those whose holidays had been marred by dismal weather, it was enviable to see that Mr. C. Slade, Principal of the College, had been able to find sunshine in abundance on the French Riviera. We saw numerous views of St. Tropez and St. Raphael, with visitors enjoying an almost tropical seaside holiday in gorgeous surroundings.

Finally, Mr. R. Chappuis showed a number of colour photographs of the Delegates' Meeting at Vevey and of the Society's family outing to St. Albans and Hatfield House, which evoked happy memories among those members present who had taken part.

W.B.

SWISS CLUB DUNFERMLINE

Just over 30 members of the Swiss Colony Dunfermline gathered on Friday, 23rd August, at the Brucefield Hotel, for an informal reception and dinner in honour of our Ambassador to Great Britain, Mr. Daeniker, and Mme. Daeniker, in company with Mr. Frick, Consul for Scotland, Mrs. Frick, and Mr. Hofstetter, former Consul.

We were informed in July that Mr. and Mme. Daeniker would be in Dunfermline on such date. In view of the anticipated retirement at the end of this year, our Ambassador and Mme. Daeniker planned to combine a short vacation in Scotland with farewell visits to the various Swiss Clubs in the area. It was with this occasion in mind that a reception and dinner was organized by the Dunfermline Club, and the gathering was to be, at the same time, a celebration of our National Day.

Preceded by an appetizer, an excellent dinner served by an attentive staff, in pleasant surroundings, was enjoyed by everyone. After the toast to "The Queen" and our "Homeland", proposed by our President Mr. Schoenenberger, Mr. Frick spoke briefly expressing our gratitude to our Ambassador and Mme. Daeniker for the work they have done for the Swiss Colony in Great Britain. In his reply, the Ambassador thanked all concerned for the warm reception accorded to Mme. Daeniker and himself. He then spoke elaborately about the position Switzerland takes today in world affairs in economical and political sense, about the life and problems facing the Swiss at home and abroad, and how requirements, in this relation, are being co-ordinated.

Unfortunately the time progressed only too rapidly and soon the Ambassador and Mme. Daeniker took farewell of us all. A pleasant evening came gradually to an end as the lines thinned out to the sound of Swiss folk music.

G.H.

WIGMORE HALL, LONDON W.1

FRIDAY, 11th OCTOBER 1963

at 7.30 p.m.

PIANO RECITAL

by

ANNETTE WEISBROD

Works by Janacek — Ravel — Schumann —
Schubert — Beethoven

Tickets 10/-, 7/-, 4/- from Wigmore Hall
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