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THREE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

LONDON SWISS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Mr. W. Burren, the able President, was in the Chair at the 20th Annual General Meeting of the London Swiss Philatelic Society, which was held on 25th January. The Chairman reported on the Society's activities during the past year, and the Hon. Treasurer presented satisfactory accounts. Mr. J. Beken was elected an Honorary Member of the Society in recognition of his outstanding services to philately in general and the London Swiss Philatelic Society in particular. Two Swiss films were shown by courtesy of the Swiss National Tourist Office, one of them being "The Printing of Swiss Postage Stamps".

The following Officers were elected for the new year: President: Mr. W. Burren; Vice-President: Mr. E. M. Huber; Hon. Treasurer: Mr. C. Häusermann; Hon. Packet Superintendent: Mr. H. C. Gay; Hon. Secretary: Mr. W. R. Thompson; Hon. Assistant Secretary: Miss A. Grünberg.

Anyone interested in philately should get in touch with the President, Mr. W. Burren, at 35 Fitzroy Square, London W.1.

NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE (London Group)

On 19th March the Annual General Meeting of the London Group of the New Helvetic Society took place at the Swiss Hostel for Girls, 9/11 Belsize Grove, London N.W.3. As usual, it was a well-attended gathering. The President, Dr. H. W. Egli, was in the chair. The Annual Report was the main item on the agenda and it was evident from it that the Society was a very active one. Several loyal members had been lost during the past year, but fortunately new members had been gained. Increasing commitments and expenses compelled the Council to propose an increase of the membership subscription. But even at 25/- it was very reasonable, considering that monthly lectures and talks of a high standard, concerts and film shows presented in pleasing surroundings at the Swiss Hostel were arranged throughout the year. The untiring President and his Officers are to be congratulated on their achievements.

These feelings were suitably expressed by Monsieur W. Roch, representing the Swiss Ambassador, when he addressed the members and friends at the dinner which followed the Meeting. The Ambassador and Madame Daeniker were prevented from attending and Monsieur and Madame Roch brought their greetings and good wishes. The President expressed appreciation of the interest the Ambassador and the Embassy in general took in the welfare of the N.S.H. and went on to welcome the guests. He thanked the Hostel, its warden, Miss R. Preiswerk, and in particular Miss C. Hagenbuch for looking after the culinary needs of members and friends in such an outstanding way. Dr. Egli also thanked Monsieur Roch for providing the Kirsch with the coffee and an anonymous donor for presenting the ladies with embroidered handkerchiefs.

Mr. A. F. Suter, the active octogenarian, recalled the high days of the Society when it counted many hundreds of members. He told of how numbers dwindled and of how the N.S.H. was re-vitalised; during his reminiscences he singled out three people who had left their mark on the development of the Group, the first (paid) Secretary, Dr.

Arnold Laett, the indefatigable Hon. Secretary, Mr. C. Campart, and Mrs. Clara Mueller who had worked so hard in the interest of the N.S.H. and who had recently died.

When dinner was over and time came to leave, all present were convinced that the evening had been a most enjoyable one and that the Nouvelle Société Helvétique was well worthy of support.

SCHWEIZERBUND (SWISS CLUB)

The Annual General Meeting of the "Schweizerbund" took place on 22nd March, at the Glendower Hotel, London S.W.7, with Mr. V. Berti in the chair. Since the Club had to leave its own premises at 74 Charlotte Street most meetings have been held at the Glendower Hotel in the shape of social gatherings and dinners. Appreciation was expressed of the kind offer by Mr. Schmid and his family to put the Glendower Hotel at the disposal of the Club for its meetings and to allow it to use it as its official address. Membership of the "Schweizerbund" was increasing and some fifty members were on the list at present. The meeting very strongly affirmed that the Club still had a part to play and that activities in the new year would be stepped up. The Committee was re-elected with Mr. V. Berti as hard-working President, Mr. E. Burgazzi as Vice-President, Mr. L. S. R. Asch as competent Hon. Treasurer, and Mr. J. Schmid as efficient Hon. Secretary.

After the General Meeting the members adjourned to the Dining Room, where an excellent dinner was served. A very friendly atmosphere prevailed, and there was much fun and laughter as various stories began to make the round. There were several toasts of one kind or another, including "our national newspaper", the "Swiss Observer", a compliment which the Editor was gratified to accept.

Mariann.

CITY SWISS CLUB

DINNER AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

DORCHESTER HOTEL, PARK LANE, W.1

TUESDAY, 30th APRIL 1963
(6.30 for 7 p.m.)

Would members wishing to attend kindly inform the Manager, Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1 not later than by 29th April.