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NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE

(London Group)

ANNUAL REPORT 1962/63

Functions

Since the last Annual Report was rendered the following functions were organised by our Society:

The Annual General Meeting and Dinner in March 1962, eight talks and lectures (two of which illustrated by slides), one film show and one concert. All these functions were held at the Swiss Hostel for Girls, to whose Management we are deeply indebted for their ever ready hospitality in a delightfully homely atmosphere.

Management

The business transacted at the last A.G.M. was as usual reported in the "Swiss Observer". The following were elected to the Council: Messrs. Asch, Baumann, Bessire, Boller, Bringolf, Büchi, Egli, Homberger, Kunz, Mock, Renz, Revilliod and Wiesendanger, Mr. M. Schneebeli being newly added to the Council, Mrs. Bessire, Miss Gretener, Mrs. Meier and Miss Preiswerk. The Hon. Vice-President, Mr. Fred Suter, and Mrs. Suter also attended Council meetings, of which five were held at Swiss House (Fitzroy Square) in the course of the year.

As Dr. Homberger has been transferred in his work to Zürich, Dr. Egli, a former president, was elected President *ad interim* and Mr. M. Schneebeli was elected Vice-President. Mr. P. Bringolf, of the Embassy, succeeded Mons. A. L. Chapuis as Hon. Secretary, Mr. L. S. R. Asch remaining treasurer. To our deep regret Miss Alice Gretener, who has acted for many years as Hon. Secretary and Assistant Hon. Secretary, had to return to Switzerland for health reasons in the autumn. In grateful recognition of services rendered Miss Gretener has been made an honorary member. In February this year the Council has also lost another faithful member, Mr. J. H. Büchi, who died suddenly. He had been acting for us as reporter to the "S.O." and the "Echo". Finally, Mr. H. Mock, who represented the S.M.S. on the Council for many years, has to our great regret resigned office to ease his commitments. In succession Mrs. Mariann Meier has been entrusted to represent the S.M.S.

Membership

Apart from Mr. Büchi we also mourn the death of five other old N.S.H. members: Messrs. Willy Deutsch, Paul Dick and R. Dupraz, Mrs. Clara Müller, for many years an honorary member of our Society, and Mrs. C. Schaelli-baum. Some other members have returned to Switzerland or resigned for other reasons, but we have been fortunate in gaining enough new members to keep the total membership unchanged at 171.

In view of the steady contraction of our old-established Colony we become ever more dependent on the support of every one of its members who appreciates our untiring thought modest efforts to offer our Colony regular lectures of cultural, artistic and patriotic interest and to cultivate our spiritual contact with the homeland. We are particularly grateful to Monsieur Armin Daeniker and so many members of the Embassy for their active support of our work, as also to the Swiss Bank Corporation, the Swiss National Tourist Office and Swissair for their help and support. To the "Swiss Observer" we continue to be much beholden for the publicity given to our functions and affairs and we are happy to welcome Mrs. Mariann

Meier as successor to Mr. Stauffer in the editorship of equal sympathy with our activities.

Contacts in the Colony and with Switzerland

We are glad to observe that the PRESIDENTS' ASSEMBLY, formed some 13 years ago at the initiative of the N.S.H., is continuing its useful function of attending to Colony matters collectively. It has gained in importance in recent years through being called upon to nominate two representatives and two deputies to the Auslandschweizer-Kommission. This representative body was established in Switzerland by our mother society to superintend the invaluable work of the Auslandschweizer-Sekretariat in Berne, to watch over our interests in the home-country and to be consulted by the Federal Government and other official bodies in all matters concerning the Swiss abroad. We are proud to observe that two of the four representatives of our Colony last nominated are also members of the N.S.H.: Mr. J. P. Christen and Mrs. Mariann Meier. The latter has represented our Society at the last Journée des Suisses de l'étranger at Sion together with Mr. and Mrs. Suter.

The SOLIDARITAETSFONDS der Auslandschweizer is another achievement of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique at home together with its many branches and affiliates all over the world. Last year it received a formal FEDERAL GUARANTEE for its commitments to members abroad who through war, rebellion or other catastrophes may be losing their livelihood. Despite this guarantee and devoted efforts of our Embassies, Legations and Consulates to encourage applications for membership, progress is still disappointingly slow.

Finally, there is the monthly "Echo" published by the Auslandschweizer-Sekretariat for the Swiss abroad. It is also deserving of the support of all our members and friends taking a genuine interest in Swiss national affairs and the problems of the Swiss abroad, while of course subscribing also to the "Swiss Observer" remains both a privilege and a duty for all of us.

On behalf of the Council,

*H. W. EGLI,
President, ad int.*

March 1963.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We wish to thank the following subscribers for sending donations above their subscriptions: Mrs. M. Cassel, Miss S. Heiniger, Mrs. H. Koelliker; Monsieur de Stoutz; Messrs. J. D. Bernoulli, J. Christen, F. Delaloye, P. Delaney, E. Fankhauser, A. J. Gomiero, E. Hofstetter, A. L. Huguenin, F. Magnin, and J. Weibel. We are most grateful for their kind and welcome support.

OUR NEXT ISSUE

Our next issue will be published on 26th April. We should appreciate it if any manuscripts or news items for publication could be sent to us by 17th April.

GALA EVENING

On 2nd May the famous artist MAURICE CHEVALIER will appear at a gala evening at the Saville Theatre in London. It will be in aid of the French Hospital which despite its name also looks after Swiss and Belgian nationals. This charity performance will give us an opportunity of showing our appreciation of all the French Hospital is doing for our compatriots.

The Swiss Ambassador and Madame Daeniker are Patrons.

Please reserve the evening and apply for tickets as soon as possible. GRO 3278. Tickets from 10 gns to 5/- each.

BROMSGROVE FESTIVAL OF MUSIC

The entire programme of the International Concert at the next Bromsgrove Festival of Music will be devoted to Swiss composers. It takes place this year on Saturday, 11th May. The works chosen for performance are by Bloch, Honegger, Frank Martin and two of our younger composers.

Throughout the Festival, that is from 27th April to 18th May, there will be an exhibition of woodcuts by the Swiss animal painter, Robert Hainard, kindly lent by the Tryon Gallery, of London.

Tickets may be obtained through the booking agents: Wright's Travel Service Ltd., 41 Worcester Road, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire. The concerts are held in the College Hall, Bromsgrove College of Further Education.

MISS JEMIMA'S SWISS JOURNAL

It was not until the coming of the railways that the wonders of Switzerland could be admired by those who could not afford the time and expense of the traditional Grand Tour. A hundred years ago Thomas Cook announced his first conducted tour of Switzerland "With cheap tickets to Mont Blanc". By a happy accident an account of this journey by one of the excursionists, a Miss Jemima, has been preserved, in two red-bound volumes, which were found amongst the rubble of a blitzed warehouse in the East End of London, and it is being published, lavishly illustrated with contemporary prints and photographs, on 1st April by Putnam and available in all bookshops at 15/-.

To celebrate the publication of this most interesting book, the Managing Director of Messrs. Thomas Cook & Son Ltd., Mr. Charles Holt, C.B.E., gave a reception at the Company's headquarters in Mayfair on 28th March. A number of personalities well known in the publishing trade, and several good friends of Switzerland had been invited. The Swiss Ambassador, Sir Thomas and Lady Cook, Mr. A. Kunz, Manager of the Swiss National Tourist Office in London, and the Editor of the "Swiss Observer" were present. Mr. Holt told of how the journal was found and of the efforts which were made to identify the author. It was with great pleasure he announced the recent revelation — so shortly before Messrs. Putnam were publishing the book — that she was Miss Jemima Morrell, of Selby, Yorkshire.

Her identity had been revealed by Miss Anne Vernon, a well-known novelist and biographer, at present working on a history of the Morrell family of Yorkshire.

A review of MISS JEMIMA'S SWISS JOURNAL will appear in the next issue of the "Swiss Observer".

THE 47th SWISS INDUSTRIES FAIR BASLE

20th — 30th April 1963

Extremely rapid advances in every field of human activity are the keynote of our times and call for progressive ideas and attitudes. Alertness must therefore be the watchword of the business community; it must be alive to every current trend and receptive to even the boldest of new ideas provided they are useful and give promise of success. To obtain a comprehensive picture of the latest achievements in industry, businessmen are turning in ever greater numbers to the big national and international industrial fairs. At these shows the products of a single country or of a major industrial region are displayed and thus afford an opportunity, as it were, to feel the pulse of a particular branch of industry or of the whole productive system of a nation.

For almost half a century the Industries Fair in Basle has acted as an economic barometer of Switzerland and its success grows steadily with the years. Small though it may be, Switzerland is highly industrialized and intimately connected with the world market. Those qualities of design and manufacture which are peculiar to Swiss products constitute a special attraction of the Fair.

In 1963 the Basle Fair will house approximately 2,300 exhibitors in 28 groups. Awaiting the visitors' attention will be the export sections: the world-famous watch fair, now considerably expanded, as well as display groups for heavy engineering and the metal industry, transport, plastics, textiles, clothing, fashion and footwear. At the 1963 Fair, the groups that take part only once every other year will include mechanical handling, coachwork, lorries and trailers, boilerwork and radiators, machine tools for wood-working as well as optics, photography and cinema.

Thousands of businessmen from all over the world come annually to the Basle Fair. In his invitation the director assures a hearty welcome to any visitors. The Fair, he says, will provide an opportunity of acquainting oneself rapidly and effortlessly with Swiss production in general and with any one industry in particular. He feels sure that the journey will amply repay the effort.

There are special facilities for travel, not only inside Switzerland, but the railway authorities in many European countries grant a reduction on the price of international tickets to Basle (SBB) for visitors travelling to the Swiss Industries Fair. This is as much as 35% in Denmark and Sweden. Inside Switzerland single tickets to Basle which are stamped at the Fair entitle the holder to a free return journey by the same route if made within six days.

The 1963 catalogue is in two parts and has 1,200 pages. It contains official notices, an index of exhibitors, plans of the exhibition halls, indexes of trade marks and branded goods, as well as notices about various entertainments and specially recommended restaurants.

The catalogue is an invaluable guide for the actual visit, and also serves as a reference work throughout the year.

Business visitors from Great Britain can obtain a free copy of the Catalogue and information from the Swiss Embassy in London and the Consulate in Manchester (see advertisement).

In Basle the Catalogue can be purchased for Fr.1.50.