

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: - (1964)
Heft: 1452

Rubrik: Personal

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NEWS FROM THE COLONY

CITY SWISS CLUB AN INTERESTING MEETING

About fifty members attended the Meeting of the City Swiss Club which was held on Tuesday, 24th of March, at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1.

Mr. M. A. Keller was in the Chair. Amongst the members present were Messieurs F. Ansermoz, J. Revilliod, Counsellors, and G. von Salis, Secretary, of the Swiss Embassy, as well as three former presidents of the Club, Messrs. A. R. Rueff (1923) X. Speckert (1959 and 1960) and Th. von Speyr (1961 and 1962).

After an excellent dinner, the president opened the meeting, and announced the passing away of the following members, H. Pfirter (member since 1919), and J. A. Donat (member since 1935). The company honoured their memory by a silent tribute. Three new members were elected.

The Hon. Secretary, Mr. H. Jauslin, informed the Meeting of several alterations the committee proposes to make in the rules of the Club. No vote was taken as such changes must come before a Special or General Meeting. None of the proposed alterations was opposed, and, therefore, it can almost be taken for granted that they will be accepted at the coming General Meeting on the 28th of this month.

The next items which came under discussion concerned the "Club House Fund" and the "Swiss Centre".

Mr. A. Kunz, Vice-President, gave a very lucid and interesting *exposé* about the Swiss Centre at present being built by the Swiss Bank Corporation. He explained with the help of plans the outlay of the imposing block in Leicester Square, which will contain mainly offices, amongst them the Swiss Bank Corporation, West End offices, Swiss National Tourist offices, Swissair and Brown-Boveri offices.

The speaker referred to the many wishes expressed in the past by Swiss institutions and members of the Colony that accommodation should be found for the various Swiss Societies and members of the Swiss community. The Swiss Bank Corporation as landlord had taken notice of these wishes, and prolonged negotiations were held with the Swiss Government on behalf of the Colony through the intermediary of Minister Jaccard — who had spent some time in London to study the various problems.

It can now be disclosed that the Swiss Government would eventually be prepared to be responsible for the rent and rates for the proposed quarters to be used by the Colony, which represents a considerable amount, providing that the Colony as such, will provide for the furnishing and decorations for such quarters, including restaurant, at an estimated cost of £20,000.

Mr. Kunz mentioned that although this means a large outlay for the Colony, it should be nevertheless possible to get this amount together by voluntary contributions from Swiss firms and Societies and members of the Colony. He said that by making this contribution the Swiss Colony would have a unique chance to have an up-to-date home of its own, as so many Swiss Colonies abroad have, a chance which should not be missed. He mentioned that the City Swiss Club had promised a donation of about £6,000, being the actual balance of their "Club House

Fund", providing that at the General Meeting, which will be held on the 28th of this month, sanction will be given to the committee's proposal.

"Thus a good start could be made", Mr. Kunz said, "towards the attainment of a wish, dear to all Swiss, to have a *pied-à-terre* in this great Metropolis."

After a prolonged discussion, the president in closing the Meeting, warmly thanked Mr. Kunz for the capable way in which he had explained such a very important matter for the Colony.

Close of the Meeting 10 o'clock. ST.

Press Reporter C.S.C.

PERSONAL

In our last issue we reported the death of Mr. Henry Pfirter. We should like to add that he was also a loyal and generous member of the London Section of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique for many years. We regret the omission.

* * *

It is with great regret that we report the death of Mr. W. Schumacher, of 94 St. Mary Street, Weymouth, Dorset. We express our deep sympathy to his relatives.

* * *

A young Swiss viola player, Mr. Philippe Etter, took part in a concert given by the London Soloists' Ensemble at the Wigmore Hall on 4th April. Unfortunately, we received news of this event too late to be included in our last issue. We have been asked to state, however, that the first L.P. record by this Ensemble playing Concerti Grossi by Vivaldi, Gemiani, Telemann and Scarlatti is available, recorded by ORIOLE MG 20067. This was voted one of the best records of the year 1963 by the "Observer".

CITY SWISS CLUB

DINNER

AND

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

DORCHESTER HOTEL, PARK LANE, W.1

TUESDAY, 28th APRIL 1964

(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 27th April.