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NEWS FROM THE COLONY

NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE

London Group

The Annual General Meeting of the London Group of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique took place at the Swiss Hostel for Girls, 9/11 Belsize Grove, Hampstead, N.W.3, on Friday, 2nd April. The Council's Annual Report was accepted by the members. From it could be seen how active the society had been during the past twelve months. For the benefit of readers who may be interested in the activities of Swiss societies in England, the list of lectures and functions is reproduced from the Annual Report: 1964:

May: Dr. R. Schaller, Director of the Cantonal Labour Exchange, Zurich, spoke in German on "LABOUR PROBLEMS AND THE RECENT MEASURES OF ECONOMIC RESTRAINT IN SWITZERLAND".

June: A discussion on current questions of interest to our Colony (support of the project of a Swiss Centre) and SOCIAL EVENING.

September: Monsieur W. Roch, First Secretary, Swiss Embassy, a talk in French on "PICTURESQUE EGYPT" with his own slides.

October: Mr. A. Keller, U.K. Manager of Swissair, spoke in English on "SWISSAIR'S INTERNATIONAL SERVICE", illustrated with films.

November: Monsieur Max Feller, Commercial Counsellor, Swiss Embassy, a talk in English on "BRAZIL THROUGH SWISS EYES", illustrated with his own slides.

December: A musical evening "SWISS COMPOSERS THROUGH THE AGES", a selection of "Expo" festival discs.

1965:

January: ANNUAL FILM SHOW, by courtesy of the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad: Swiss newsreels of 1964, and other short films.

February: Madame Sophie WYSS, talk in English on "HER CAREER AND WORK IN ENGLAND", illustrated with records.

March: Mr. Daniel Frei, a talk in English on "THE SWISS SENSE OF NATIONAL UNITY".

All these meetings were held at the Swiss Hostel for Girls, to whose management the N.S.H. remains deeply indebted for the ever ready hospitality shown to us.

The Annual Report continues:

"Our Group deeply regrets the death of two of its members in the course of the year: Mr. Maurice Juzi and Mrs. Olga Wiesendanger. Ten members retired or left the country, while eleven new members joined the Group. We always take particular pride in the large attendances at our functions devoted to the cultural, spiritual, political and patriotic interests of Switzerland. We are of course anxious to have the active support of everyone in the Colony sharing these interests and wishing to further them through our joint effort. We always welcome non-members at our functions in the confident hope that they will wish to join the Group sooner or later if their stay in this country is prolonged.

"We particularly appreciate the constant participation in our work and at our functions by the Ambassador himself as well as by members of our Embassy of all ranks, without whose help our activities would greatly

suffer. The Editor and publishers of the "Swiss Observer" also render us an inestimable service in making our functions and work known in the wider circle of its readership.

"It is much to be regretted that our hopes for the establishment of a Cultural Swiss Centre in the heart of London have not so far been realised and that the chances of the project coming to fruition are receding again owing to financial difficulties."

The Annual Meeting on 2nd April also accepted the accounts and re-appointed the two Honorary Auditors Messrs. D. E. Bonnet and M. A. Rothlisberger. The Council for the next twelve months was elected by secret ballot; the officers will be chosen by the Council at their next meeting.

A report on the work of the Organisation for the Swiss Abroad, the Secretariat in Berne and the activities of the Commission of the Swiss Abroad, our "Parliament", was given by one of the two representatives of the Swiss Community in Great Britain, Mrs. Mariann Meier. Special reference was made to the Solidarity Fund, the scholarship scheme for young Swiss and the collection on 1st August, which, this year, is in aid of the Swiss abroad.

The Meeting was followed by a Dinner. It was a very informal, but happy gathering. The President having expressed his thanks already at the business meeting, welcomed the Ambassador's representative First Counsellor of Embassy Monsieur M. Heimo and Madame Heimo, and voiced his pleasure at the presence of Mrs. Weist, whose late husband had for years looked after the accounts of the N.S.H. He also welcomed the Chairman of the Presidents' Assembly Mr. V. Berti, The Rev. M. Dietler and the Rev. F. Jacot of the Swiss Church.

Monsieur Heimo brought apologies from the Swiss Ambassador whose absence was due to the regrettable (unavoidable) clash of the N.S.H. meeting with that of the Swiss Rifle Association. Some generous donors who want to remain anonymous were again responsible for a gift to every lady present, this year in the form of a pretty coffee cup made in Switzerland.

Another guest was the Editor of the "Swiss Observer" who particularly appreciates the encouragement given by President and Council of the N.S.H., especially by recommending the S.O. to their members. Considering that there are still members of Swiss societies who do not subscribe, this effort is very valuable and worthy of imitation.

Mariann.

SWISS CLUB BRADFORD

We have received the sad news that the Swiss Club Bradford regretfully decided at their General Meeting to amalgamate with the Yorkshire Swiss Club. The Club has been in existence since about 1870, but in spite of valiant efforts by its committee, there have been great difficulties, and the decision to merge with the Yorkshire Swiss Club was unanimous.

PERSONAL

We deeply regret to announce the death of Mr. Ernst Schmid, of "Rothbury", Barton Court Road, New Milton, Hants. We extend our sympathy to his relatives and friends.