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Thirdly, it is worth remembering that, from the beginning of the eighteenth century, London, separated from our country by a long and difficult journey, was sheltering Swiss groups and institutions which had grown strong enough to give real help to newly arrived compatriots, guide them, and introduce them to those personalities and circles which could play a useful part in their future evolution.⁸

Indeed even before the eighteenth century there existed in London and in other parts of Great Britain a considerable nucleus of Genevans and Vaudois.⁹ The Genevans gathered in the 'Compagnie des Genevois' while the Vaudois, numbering 700 to 800, were not yet organised. In 1703, however, the Vaudois approached other compatriots and together they constituted the United Society of Swiss in London. In 1718 that organisation again amalgamated with another and then, after absorbing also the Ancient Company of Genevans, became in 1720 the powerful and solid Mutual Aid Society of the Swiss in London, which is still flourishing.

The Genevan and Swiss community of those days seems to have been quite comfortably off, since it is known that some of its members (with such names as Pages, Marcet, Favrot, Buisson, Saladin, Lullin, Perdriau, Favre, etc.) decided in 1703 to invest jointly in government bonds the substantial sum of £300,000, 'which would return an annual income of £20,000'.

Between 1722 and 1725 a Glarus man, Stehelin, and a Vaudois, Hollard, were the pastors of a bilingual 'Church of the Switzers', which depended on the Bishop of London and for which King George I had given the land near Charing Cross. (This particular piece of land was not used, however.) A second religious community was set up in 1762, in the form of a French-speaking 'Eglise suisse de Londres',¹⁰ whose first pastors were Antoine Bugnon (1762-1771), A. J. Roustan (1764-91), an admirer of Jean-Jacques Rousseau and himself a writer, and A. Sterky (1792-1839), French Reader to the future Queen Charlotte.

At that time there also existed a French Hospital (a different one from that founded in 1867) which was open to the Swiss and to which wealthy Genevans such as Anne Colladon and Pierre Gausson made important donations. Ten members of the Duval family, of Geneva, were successively directors of this institution.

These institutions soon lay at the heart of Swiss life in London. But one should not forget, either, the houses of diplomats, high civil servants and officers, the scholars' chambers and the artists' studios where Swiss who had already attained important positions gave their juniors, in a splendid spirit of mutual aid, the benefit of their professional guidance and social support.

⁶ Markus Meier, *Die diplomatischen Beziehungen Englands mit der Schweiz im 18. Jahrhundert* (Basel 1952).

⁷ Emil Boesch, *Albrecht von Hallers Lebenslauf* (Bern 1877).

⁸ Ernest Boos, *Die Schweizerkolonie in England nach Berufsgruppen* (Bern 1966).

⁹ There must have existed a small colony of Genevans in Ireland too. The father of General Dufour met it there when he emigrated (Marcel Du Pasquier, *La Suisse Romande, terre d'accueil et d'échanges*, Lausanne 1965, p. 85).

¹⁰ Albert Roehrich, Claude Reverdin, *L'Eglise suisse de Londres* (London s.d.).

(To be continued.)

SWISS CHURCH

SERVICES EN FRANÇAIS : à l'Eglise Suisse, 79 Endell Street, W.C.2, tous les dimanches à 11h00 et 19h00.

SAINT-CENE : le premier et troisième dimanche du mois, matin et soir.

PERMANENCE : chaque jeudi de 15h00 à 18h00.

REUNION DE QUARTIER : huit veillées en automne et au printemps; voir "Le Messenger".

CLUB DES JEUNES : tous les dimanches de 12h00 à 22h30, tous les jeudis de 15h00 à 22h30.

REUNION DE COUTURE : le 2^e mardi du mois.

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VISITES : sur demande.

PASTEUR : A. Nicod, 7 Park View Road, London N.3. Téléphone 346-5281.

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SERVICES IN GERMAN : at St. Mary Woolnoth Church, Lombard Street, Bank, E.C.3, every Sunday at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.

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MINISTER : Pfr. M. Dietler, 1 Womersley Road, N.8. Telephone 340-6018.

SWISS CATHOLIC MISSION

CHURCH and SERVICE : St. ANN's Catholic Church, Abbey Orchard Street (off No. 25 Victoria Street), S.W.1.

SUNDAYS : Holy Mass at 9 and 11 a.m. in English. At 7 p.m. for the Swiss community with regard to the different language groups.

HOLIDAYS of obligation : Holy Mass at 7.30 and 9 a.m., 1 p.m. and 5.45 p.m.

WEDNESDAYS and THURSDAYS : Holy Mass at 1 p.m. afterwards time for consultations.

CONFESSIONS : (German, French, Italian and English) Sundays, one hour before Evening Mass. Saturdays: 11 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and from 5 to 7 p.m. or by appointment.

SWISS CATHOLIC YOUTH CLUB — Meeting every Sunday after Evening Mass (8-11 p.m.) at Westminster Ball Room, 30 Strutton Ground, S.W.1.

CHAPLAIN : Paul Bossard, St. Ann's Church, Abbey Orchard Street, S.W.1. Tel: 01-222 2895.