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Autor:	MM.
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STAMP AUCTION FOR CHARITIES

Successful Annual Dinner of the Philatelists

It is a very commendable tradition which allows for generous donations to charities year after year, when members and friends of a society meet to enjoy themselves. At their Annual Dinner, the London Swiss Philatelic Society hold a raffle, always well supported by generous donors of handsome prizes and by willing ticket purchasers. Its proceeds are earmarked for the club funds. The raffle is followed by a stamp auction, and the money realised goes to two charities, the Swiss Benevolent Society and an English charity. At the end of this year's Dinner which was held at the Montana Hotel on 15th March, the President, Mr. W. Burren, was able to announce that over £20 was collected by the sale of raffle tickets, and that the £24 realised by the auction would be divided between the S.B.S. and the British Spastics Society.

Raffle and auction, however, were only a part of a busy evening. After dinner, the President welcomed members and guests, among them the Editor of the "Swiss Observer" who was later asked to present the cups to the lucky winners. The Club Competition had been judged by two members of the Middlesex Philatelic Federation, who had selected as the overall winner a thematic entry on Florentine Art, submitted by Miss Alma Grunberg, Honorary Secretary of the Swiss Philatelic Society. Mr. D. Langley who had won the cup last year, received the replica. He was first in the "adhesive section", apart from gaining several international awards.

The gathering was a happy one, attended by 35 members and friends, and the pattern ran its usual course, with one exception: the President expressed great pleasure at being able to announce that four persons had unanimously been elected Honorary Members by the Committee:

- 1) Mrs. Kay Goodman, Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society, Secretary of the Middlesex Philatelic Federation, member of the Executive Committee of the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain, Officer and member of numerous other Societies, a valued supporter of the Swiss Society.
- 2) Mrs. Mariann Meier, Editor of the "Swiss Observer", whose support of the Society's activities through the medium of her paper is much appreciated.
- 3) Mr. Edmond Meyer, whose continuous support of the Society is greatly appreciated, particularly by the winners of his generous gifts.
- 4) Miss Sylvia Streit, without whose help the raffles would not be what they are, and without whose typing there would be no bulletins to read.

The announcement was applauded with cheerful readiness, and the four new Members of Honour, all present that evening, were delighted — I should know, I am one of them. Thank you very much!

MM

P.S. *The London Swiss Philatelic Society is a go-ahead group of keen and enthusiastic collectors, both British and Swiss, and everyone interested is assured of a friendly welcome. Information regarding membership may be had from any member of the committee at 35 Fitzroy Square, London W.I.*

YET ANOTHER FAREWELL

The Tosios leave London for Karachi

A Communiqué issued in Berne on 21st March stated soberly that the Federal Council had decided to move the Swiss Embassy in Pakistan from Karachi to the new capital of Islamabad and to open a Consulate-General in Karachi. As the first Consul-General, Monsieur Enrico Tosio had been appointed. To this honourable appointment his many friends congratulate him most warmly. For us in London, however, the joy at his promotion is marred by the sadness of seeing him and his wife leave.

This is the third time, a period of residence in Great Britain has come to an end for Rico Tosio. He was born here in 1913, a citizen of Poschiavo in the Grisons. (This may account for his outstanding gift for languages, speaking several of them with equal ease and total lack of foreign inflexion). He studied in St. Gall and joined the Federal Postal Administration in 1932. Seven years later, he changed over to the Poitical Department, and that gave him his opportunity to return to England where he was stationed throughout the war. At the end of hostilities, he was appointed Chancellor and transferred to the Swiss Legation in Stockholm. From 1949 to 1957, he was Vice-Consul in Sydney, and a year later, he was attached for a short time to the Foreign Interests Section of the Swiss Embassy in Cairo. Back in Berne, he was appointed *Chef de Service* in the Federal Political Department, and in 1962, he succeeded Monsieur E. Ribi as Consul in London.

He has other ties with Great Britain than only those of birth and profession; in 1942, he married Miss Marjorie Cunningham at the Swiss Church in London. It is no wonder, therefore, that their return pleased them both, and by the same token — their daughter Renata remains here happily married to an Englishman — leaving London now is not exactly joyful. But every member of the Consular and Diplomatic Services knows that promotion means constant uprooting and replanting. The Tosios do this with great ease and a knack of making themselves at home in no time. They are a friendly and intelligent couple, ever ready to help and assist in every possible way, making contact with strangers immediately and, what is more, making themselves liked and respected in the process.

Having said all this, it is only a small step to enumerating the many fields of activities in which Marjorie and Rico Tosio have taken an active interest during their stay in London. The Swiss Benevolent Society, the cultural undertakings of the N.S.H., the Swiss Church in all its aspects, the Ticinesi and many more — all had the ready support by the Tosios. In his capacity as Consul and as member of committees, Enrico Tosio's integrity and his fighting spirit for what is right are beyond question. But he never offends, and he uses tact and a conciliatory attitude to great advantage. Men of his calibre are all too rare, and we congratulate the Swiss community in Karachi — the Swiss Club there is only some 15 years old — on their new "acquisition".

The Tosios took leave of their friends at various social gatherings in the London Colony and at a Reception they gave on 22nd March at the Dorchester Hotel. Their generous hospitality at all times will long be remembered.

They may be sure of our lasting affection, just as we know that the London Swiss community will always have a special corner in their hearts.

Good luck in the new place, and God bless you both!

MM