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following year. The SSS had been founded in 1879 and the Secours Mutuels Society in 1703. The Swiss Mercantile Society saw on its November Monthly Meeting a film lent by the Legation on the Swiss National Exhibition and four films supplied by the Ministry of Information presented by Mr. G. Keller. The City Swiss Club, with 48 members and six guests present, held its November Meeting at Brown's Hotel and heard a political exposé by Dr. H. Egli.

The Christmas Greeting tradition was started in the December 1941 issue of the S.O., both as a result of postal difficulties and an appeal for war-time support. Forty-six families sent greetings, nine of them had sent greetings in the 1971 Christmas issue.

The City Swiss Club heard one of its members, Mr. M. Preiswerk, relate his experience during a 20,000 mile journey through America, during its December Meeting. The SMS unanimously elected Mr. J. Fleur de Lys to membership and saw six films produced by an Englishman, Mr. T. S. Lotas, on Switzerland.

The Swiss Observer 1941 Volume closes on the news of the unveiling of a Memorial to the late pilot-officer Roy A. Marchand by the Rev. A. Praderwand, and the announcement that Mr. V. M. Albrecht, an RAF pilot officer, had been missing on active service since 21st November, 1941.

(PMB)

HOLIDAY IN SWITZERLAND

All Swiss parents wishing to send their children to holiday camps organised by the Pro Juventute Foundation this summer are asked to contact Mrs. B. Kaluza, 14 Amberley Court, Christchurch Park, Sutton, Surrey (Tel. 01-643 5941), before 25th March. The "Ferienaktion" 1972 for young Swiss abroad offers a series of holiday camps and holidays in Swiss families for children from 7 to 16 from July to September. All details on expenses and conditions will be supplied by Mrs. Kaluza.

WELFARE OFFICE

for

SWISS GIRLS IN GREAT BRITAIN

(For Information, Advice or Help)

31 Conway Street, London, W.1

(Nearest Underground Station:
Warren Street)

Telephone: 01-387 3608

RECEPTION HOURS

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

2 p.m. to 5 p.m. or by appointment

MADELEINE SERRA-TOSIO



On 18th December, 1971, a veteran member of the Swiss Club of Manchester died in Bergamo, Italy. She was Mrs. Madeleine Serra-Tosio who was married to the grandson of Vincenzo Vela of Ligornetto, Ticino, the well-known Swiss sculptor. She leaves her daughter, Laurer Berner, four sons, 14 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren and the step-daughter Ena Pozzy of Poschiavo, behind her.

Born in Quimper, France, on 8th November, 1881, her ancestors hailing from Switzerland, had at that time, created a very flourishing Swiss Colony in Finistere, France. One of her many relations is Mr. Enrico Tosio, for many years Swiss Consul in London and now Consul-General in Karachi.

The many signs of sincere esteem and warm affection received from the Swiss in Bergamo and her many friends were of great comfort to the near ones she had so suddenly left, and her name will be well remembered.

THE SWISS FORUM IN THE SWISS PRESS

The London correspondent of the "Tages Anzeiger" has sent his editorial chiefs a detailed piece on the failure of the Swiss Forum. It was published in the weekly foreign edition of the "Tages Anzeiger" of 21st December. Certain circles directly involved with the setting-up of the Swiss Forum during its frustrating years were displeased with the story because it emphasised the faulty forecasts that had been made in its connection, and mentions the findings of a market-research report undertaken by Movenpick and a team of Swiss businessmen interested in the project, at the cost of between three and four thousand pounds. The report forecasted that the rent and running cost of the Forum premises would be of the order of £5,000, whereas the real figure that finally emerged turned out to be over £15,000.

The article was well researched. Mr. Samuel Plattner had done his homework and interviewed Mr. Th. Von Speyer, of the Swiss Bank Corporation. Dr. Hans Egli, Mr. O. Gontersweiler of Swiss Fairs Ltd, and many other personalities during his quest of information. His article rather sensationistically describes the whole Forum episode as a "debacle". This accent on the errors of appreciations committed over the Forum, was not to please all those who had believed in it and done their best to make it take off. Some feared that the story, which after all was read by the Tages Anzeiger's readership of 220,000, would have disagreeable repercussions.

As far as we know, there were none. The Forum, an episode of Swiss

life in London which has caused much toil, effort and frustration, is definitely over and part of history.

Mr. Samuel Plattner will allow me to quote some of the figures he has obtained during his painstaking research: The money pledged by the Forum by the Swiss societies amounted to the equivalent of 103,000 francs. The funds sent in by the Swiss resident colony in the U.K. as a result of a personal appeal by Mr. René Keller, our former Ambassador, totted up to the equivalent of 115,000 francs. This is the money currently being refunded by the Swiss Embassy. For the anecdote, the Appeal was addressed to 8,000 persons and it took Mr. Keller three full days to sign all the letters. They will probably be remembered by him as his "three wasted days".

(PMB)

FORTHCOMING CULTURAL EVENTS

31st January to 5th February, University of Lancaster; 14th to 19th February, University of Edinburgh; 28th February to 4th March, University of Dundee. *Exhibition* of Swiss learned and scientific books and periodicals.

Until 26th February, Swiss Centre, Leicester Square, *Exhibition*: "Basle—City of Arts".

Until 5th February, Gimpel Fils, 50 South Molton Street, W.1., drawings for relational paintings by Fritz Glarner.

13th January to 5th February, University Theatre, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Play Strindberg by Friedrich Dürrenmatt (British premiere).

Thursday, 3rd February, The Polish Hearth, 55 Princes Gate, S.W.7, 7.30 p.m., Peter-Lukas Graf (flute) and Jörg-Ewald Dähler (harpsichord) in a programme of works by Handel, Rameau, Mozart, etc.

Monday, 7th February, St. John's, Smith Square, Westminster, 1 p.m. The flautist Peter-Lukas Graf plays two Mozart Flute Quartets with the Italian String Trio.

Monday, 7th February, Purcell Room, 8 p.m. Peter-Lukas Graf (flute), Heinz Holliger (oboe) and Jörg-Ewald Dähler (harpsichord) with Thomas Igloi (cello continuo), play works by Telemann, W. Fr. Bach, J. S. Bach and P. E. Bach.

Wednesday, 9th February, Purcell Room, 7.30 p.m. *Sequenzen on St. John, Chapter 1*, by Heinz Holliger is one of the works played by the harpist Vera Badings.