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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.

The *Swiss Oboist Heinz Holliger* is Soloist in concerts given by the *English Chamber Orchestra* on Wednesday, 9th February at 7.30 p.m. at All Saints Church, Northampton; on Friday, 11th February at 7.45 p.m., at Queen Elizabeth Hall; on Saturday, 12th February at 7.30 p.m., at Chichester Festival Hall.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE: Swiss Hostel for Girls, 9 Belsize Grove, Thursday, 17th February at 7 p.m. Open Meeting. Film Show: Personal film enquiry on the Swiss people by Jacques Thevoz.

CITY SWISS CLUB: Tuesday, 22nd February. Monthly Meeting, 6.30 for 7 p.m. Dorchester Hotel.

SWISS CLUB EDINBURGH: Tuesday, 22nd February at 112 Hanover St. Monthly Meeting, 8 p.m.

SWISS CLUB MANCHESTER: Thursday, 17th February at Grand Hotel at 8.15 p.m. AGM. Buffet at 7 p.m.

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY: AGM at Swiss House, Wednesday, 16th February at 7.15 p.m.

CONGRATULATIONS

It is with great pleasure that we announce the marriage of Miss Pamela Constance Bircher to Mr. Arthur James Muirhead. It took place at St. Mary Abbots Church in Kensington, on Saturday, 15th January, and a Reception was held afterwards at Basil Street Hotel.

The bride is the elder daughter of Dr. E. M. and the late Mrs. Constance Bircher. Dr. Bircher was for many years at the Swiss Embassy in London and took a very active part in the life of the Swiss community. He married again a few years ago, and he and his wife spend their time between Bissone in the Ticino and London.

The young couple have left for India, and we wish them every happiness for the future.

JANUARY EVENTS

The Colony Children Celebration took place on 1st January at the YMCA Headquarters. It was, as usual, a great success and attended by over 110 little Swiss. They were entertained by slides on the Nativity commented by Mrs. Zwicky; by their friend the Magician, who comes regularly to perform for them each New Year; by an SNTD tourist film and by two Walt Disney cartoons. They were given all sorts of lovely gifts by Father Christmas, impersonated by Mr. G. Godet and enjoyed traditional tea given after the Show. The organisers would like to thank once again all the ladies who have helped to make this youthful function a success and all the members of Swiss societies who so generously signed the "little black book".

Rarely had an SMS Monthly Meeting lately been so well attended than on Wednesday, 12th January, when Members, and a high proportion of ladies, came to hear Mrs. M. Meier's exposé on the "changed position of women in Switzerland". The speaker showed that women enjoyed great advancement in Switzerland, despite the imagery surrounding them and their political "backwardness". Mrs. Meier showed that Swiss women were in the theoretical position to deprive their menfolk of political rights and that Switzerland's institutions aiding, they wielded more power than any other of their kind in the world.

Equally well attended was the January Monthly Meeting of the NSH, devoted to the "Loneliness of long distance radio", presented by Mr. Joel Curchod, head of Swiss Short Wave Services. We hope to reproduce his conference in a future issue.

We should mention two gastronomic events: A Festival of French meridional cuisine is held from Thursday, 27th January to Wednesday, 2nd February at the "Inn on the Park", managed by our compatriot Mr. E. Wagner. The Swiss Centre has organised a "Basler Festival" and offers first class Basle dishes throughout February.

SWISS CHURCH

SERVICES EN FRANÇAIS: à l'Eglise Suisse, 79 Endell Street, W.C.2, tous les dimanches à 11h15 et 19h00.

SAINTÉ-CÈNE: 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 Messager".

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

REUNION DE COUTURE: le 2e mardi du mois.

LUNCH: tous les dimanches à 13h00.

VISITES: sur demande.

PASTEUR: A. Nicod, 7 Park View Road, London, N.3. Téléphone 01-346 5281.

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SERVICES IN GERMAN: at Eglise Suisse, 79 Endell Street, W.C.2, at 10 a.m. At John Southworth Centre, 48 Gt. Peter Street, S.W.1 at 6.30 p.m.

HOLY COMMUNION: every first Sunday of the month at evening service only. On major feasts at morning and evening services.

CONSULTATIONS: every Wednesday 4-6 p.m. at Eglise Suisse.

DISTRICT GROUPS W.4 and S.E.21) and SERVICES OUTSIDE LONDON: see "Stimme".

SERVICES IN ENGLISH: every fourth Sunday at 7.30 p.m.

"KONTAKT" (Youth Group): every Wednesday 4-10 p.m. at Eglise Suisse. Supper at 6.30 p.m. Programme at 8 p.m.

SWISS Y.M.C.A.: see Forthcoming Events.

WOMEN'S CIRCLE: every first Tuesday of the Month.

MOTHERS' REUNION: 3rd Wednesday in the Month, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

VISITS: by request.

MINISTER: Pfr. M. Dietler, 1 Womersley Road, N.8. Telephone 01-340 6018.

SWISS CATHOLIC MISSION: at St. Ann's Church, Abbey Orchard Street (off No. 25 Victoria Street), S.W.1.

SATURDAYS: Ecumenical Service at 6.30 p.m.

SUNDAYS: Holy Mass at 9 and 11 a.m. (in English). At 6.30 p.m. (mostly in German).

CONSULTATIONS AND CONFESSIONS: preferably on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays in the afternoon or by appointment.

SERVICES EN FRANÇAIS: Notre Dame de France, 5 Leicester Place, W.C.2, on Suns. at 9, 10, 11 a.m. 12.15, 6, 7 p.m.

SWISS CATHOLIC YOUTH CLUB — Meeting every Sunday after Evening Mass (8-11 p.m.) Discussions, dance, lectures with members of other denominations at John Southworth Centre, 48 Gt. Peter Street, S.W.1.

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

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Swiss Centre, 10 Wardour Street, W.1.
49 Golders Green Road, N.W.11.
19 Heath Street, N.W.3.
46 King Street, Manchester 2

