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with lots of desks like the check-in at an airport. Even the system has been modernised with your number coming up when the formalities are complete and you are called to the desk.

Now my visit is nearly over, but what's this? A long queue near the exit? Perhaps we are given a little memento, but no—your name is required in a big book (for statistics, I guess). Someone exclaims "... I have to catch a train ..." but "oh, well" say the friendly porter "... a little bit of English patience and it won't take long ..." So we sign before leaving and give the visitors' book a good start.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Bezirksgericht Kulm Ediktalladung

Die nachstehend genannte verschwundene oder abwesende Person sowie jedermann, des Nachrichten über dieselbe geben kann wird hiermit öffentlich aufgefordert, sich innert der unten erwähnten Frist zu melden, ansonst die verschwundene oder abwesende Person für verschollen erklärt wird. (Art. 35 bis 38 ZGB)

Keller-Wabel Anna Maria, geb. 25. September 1853, Witwe des Siegfried Fürchtegott Keller, von Reinach, unbekanntem Aufenthalts, verbeiständet, Beistand: Rechtsanwalt Dr. Josef Scherrer, Seefeldstr. 7, 8008 Zürich. Die genannte hat sich in England aufgehalten und ist seit 1874 nachrichtenlos abwesend.

Personen, welche Auskunft über die Vermisste geben können, werden aufgefordert, sich spätestens bis zum 11. März 1973 beim Bezirksgericht Kulm in 5726 Unterkulm zu melden, ansonst die Verschollenerklärung ausgesprochen würde.

Bezirksgericht Kulm/Schweiz
Kulm, 7.3.72.

TO YODEL OR NOT TO YODEL —A LESSON IN PUBLIC RELATIONS

The following incident shows how people in Switzerland often remember their compatriots abroad at the last moment only:—

Recently the President of a Swiss Club in the North of England received a letter from the Director of the Office du tourisme de Genève notifying him of the arrival of a Geneva-Yodler-Club on 8th March, which was to give a few performances in the town.

The Director expressed a desire to have a delegation of Swiss Club members who could spare some of their time for the Swiss guests. This proposal would certainly have been welcomed, if the letter concerned had not reached its destination only the day before the arrival of the group. Moreover, it did not contain details such as the exact time of arrival and the arrangements which had been made concerning accommodation. Therefore, it was not possible to organise a delegation of the Swiss Club within less than twenty-four hours. It was also too late to arrange a pleasant evening together with the guests, which would have been very much appreciated by many of the Swiss Club members.

It is always a pleasure to support visits of a cultural nature and to assist the visitors in every possible way. Early and adequate information should be regarded as essential.

E.R.

POST-WAR CREDITS

Holder of post-war credit, who can produce at least one certificate, will be able to start submitting claims for repayment on an alphabetical basis from 6th April, 1972.

Those with the surname beginning A to C should submit claims during April; D to G during May; H to L in June; M to O in July; P to S in August and T to Z in September. Those who possess certificates should claim during the appropriate month, but if someone happens to slip past the end of the

month, the claim will not necessarily go to the end of the queue.

For those who have lost their certificates, there must be a more laborious tracing process before repayment can be made. They will be covered "in due course" by separate Government regulations.

Repayment of Post-War Credit forms DC251 can be obtained at Post Offices.

ANGLO-SWISS SOCIETY

The most recent Anglo-Swiss Society Dinner took place at the Dorchester on 14th March. Members were to hear Sir John Pope-Hennessy, Director of the Victoria and Albert Museum, speak on the theme: "Does the modern world need museums".

But first the Society's President, Lord Selkirk, introduced the speaker and the distinguished guests of the evening, which included Lady Lee, former Minister of Arts. Having congratulated our ambassador for playing host to the first-ever Head of Political Department to visit London, Lord Selkirk made flattering references to Marie-Therese Nadig, the 17-year-old girl who had reaped two gold medals at the last Winter Olympics for Switzerland, and finally briefly described the important contribution of the Speaker to the study of art.

Although Sir John spoke for barely more than fifteen minutes and left his audience uncertain as to whether museums were actually desirable in this day and age, his talk was extremely dense and showed a deep understanding of the subject.

Sir John began by recalling that museums became a properly established institution of western culture in the 1850's, as a conscious product of industrial society. In those years, said Sir John, museums were at the heart of a heated controversy. Leading thinkers believed that museums were there to yield social dividends, Ruskin said that they should offer "an example of perfect order to the disorderly and rude populace". Corbet criticised

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them for "exciting the desire" for the objects which they contained.

Sir John noted that the etymology of the word "museum", suggesting the notion of "temple of the muses", was averse to the idea, often associated with museums, that they should serve as depositories. "Storage" and "aggregation" of objects were principles rejected by museum managements. Depicting the psychology of museum visitors, the speaker said that, owing to its "temple" character, people tended to enter museums in a reverential frame of mind actually inhibiting their enjoyable viewing of the exhibits. Another way museums were considered was as a kind of encyclopaedia or reference work.

Sir John referred to the purchasing policy of museums, on the way prices of works of art fluctuated according to supply and trends, and on the bargains which museums have lost in the past by misappreciating the actual or future importance of certain masterpieces.

The growth of tourism and the institution of package tours had considerably increased the museum's public. This institution tended nowadays not so much to be "useful" but to provide an experience. "People expect to be seduced", said Sir John. This was an attitude which the Speaker appeared to welcome. He underlined the importance for museums to uphold the "quality of experience" which they afforded. This expression was repeated three times and it appears that Sir John's conclusion was that museums are required in the modern world, not so much for their "civilising influence", or for their practical use as agents of conservation, but for the enriching experience which they can provide for modern man.

(PMB)

CONCERT AT THE SWISS CHURCH

A concert in aid of the Swiss Church in London arranged by Mr. Lennart Rabes, Organist of the German-speaking parish, was held at Endell Street on 3rd March. A rather small audience listened to the Welwyn Garden City Choir from the Church of St. Francis of Assisi sing a series of melodious works by old and modern English composers. It was a pity that so few parishioners managed to attend the concert, as the quality of the performance was well worth a bigger turn-up. Most soothing of all were songs by Thomas Tallis and William Byrd, two Elizabethan composers. Other works included in the programme were by Henri Purcell, William Mundy, Anthony Holbourne, to name but a few. The Organist John Marsden and the Brass Quintet from Monks Walk School played further works by Matthew Cambridge and Johann S. Bach.

When the expenses of the performers had been accounted for, the exercise brought about £25 to the Swiss churches.

INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF YOUTH ORCHESTRAS

The Trustees of the International Festival of Youth Orchestras, the President of which is the Prime Minister, Mr. Edward Heath, held a gala reception at Christie's, King Street, on 20th March. We have already in the past written about the International Festival of Youth Orchestras. It is a recently instituted annual event, which has taken place in Lausanne on the past two occasions, and at St. Moritz previously. The SNTO and various

Swiss organisations have, among other businesses, sponsored the event.

Rarely have I attended a reception with such a high density of top brass. There were 18 ambassadors, nine gentlemen which one could not get away with without calling them "Sir", as many "Ladies", four Lords, one Dame, one Countess, a couple of Brigadiers, one Rear Admiral, one Air Commander, about three MP's and a host of distinguished businessmen, the wealthiest of whom appeared to be Mr. Paul Getty. Guests of Honour included the Lord Mayor of London, Mr. David Rockefeller, Lord Eccles, the Mayor of Lausanne, Mr. Andre Chevallaz, and Dr. Werner Kaempfen, Director of the Swiss National Tourist Office.

Guests arriving at the Reception were greeted with delightful sounds of a Mozart Flute Quartet who were playing from the minstrels' gallery. This quartet called the Aulos Quartet was specially formed for this occasion by four young ladies from the Royal College of Music.

Mr. Lionel W. Bryer, I.F.Y.O. Chairman, announced a \$25,000 grant to the International Festival of Youth Orchestras Foundation from The Chase Manhattan International Foundation, who President is Mr. David Rockefeller. Mr. Rockefeller, a well known collector of beetles, was presented with an "entymological type" British beetle specially entombed in a perspex cigarette box for his desk.

Mr. Bryer also announced the ISRAEL SIEFF VIOLIN SCHOLARSHIP which will be awarded annually at the I.F.Y.O.'s festival in Lausanne. The Scholarship has been established in the name of Lord Sieff of Brimpton, one of Britain's pioneers in modern commerce and also an amateur violinist.

A short concert was given in Christie's Main Auction Room by a combined youth orchestra made up from the Midland Youth Orchestra, who participated at last year's Festival, and the Mreseyside Youth Orchestra who are representing Great Britain this year. The soloist for the Mozart Violin Concerto was 14-year-old Ruth Ferguson from Coventry. The conductor was Bylth Major, Festival Director of Music.

Dr. Werner Kaempfen, Director of the Swiss National Tourist Office, replying on behalf of Switzerland, said, "I wish to express the gratitude of the whole of Switzerland to the initiators of this brilliant idea who have today conquered the youth of the world through music".

Christie's opened their Geneva office five years ago, where approximately seven sales are held each year at Hotel Richmond. During the five years they have sold £9,052,201 worth of works of art, thereby establishing Geneva as a new art centre.



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