

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK

Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

Band: - (1972)

Heft: 1637

Rubrik: News from the colony

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NEWS FROM THE COLONY

THE MIDDLESEX PHILATELIC FEDERATION CONVENTION

The London Swiss Philatelic Society were hosts to several hundred Philatelists who gathered for the 22nd annual Convention of the Middlesex Philatelic Federation, which was held on Saturday, 8th April, at the Polytechnic of Central London in New Cavendish Street, W.1.

Mrs. K. F. Goodman, F.R.P.S.L., President of the Federation, extended a hearty welcome to all present and particularly to the guests of honour, Dr. J. A. Iselin, Chargé d'Affaires at the Swiss Embassy in London, and Madame Iselin, as well as to the three Judges, Mr. Ritchie Bodily, Mr. Derick Ray and Mr. F. V. Twining, who had worked hard during the morning in judging the many entries for the Bishop Cup Competition.

Dr. J. A. Iselin, after a short and witty address in which he related his early boyhood interest in stamp collecting which, however, had later to give way to other pursuits, officially opened the Convention. He said he was particularly pleased that this year's event had been organised by the London Swiss Society, which although originally formed by mainly Swiss Nat-

ionals living in London, now had equally as many British members. This he said was only right since stamp collecting is a universal hobby and is being enjoyed by all nationalities. Dr. Iselin's address was warmly applauded.

Mrs. Goodman then called upon the Judges to announce the winners of the Bishop Cup Competition which had attracted a record number of 59 entries from the various member societies of the Federation. The Judges praised the very high standard of the entries and commented on their difficult task in selecting the best entries. However, after some lengthy deliberations they had unanimously agreed to give the awards to the following entries:

Class 1—"STAMPS": "British Forces Concession Seals" entered by the Hounslow Phil. Society.

Class 2—"POSTAL HISTORY": "Australia Prisoners of War Services" entered by the British Society of Australian Philately.

Class 3—"THEMATICS": "History of Canada" entered by the Greenford Phil. Society.

The overall best entry was considered to be that by the Hounslow P.S. who therefore were winners and recipients of the Bishop Cup.

Madame Iselin was given the pleasant task of presenting the three miniature cups and the principal Bishop Cup to the representatives of the three Societies. This was received with great acclamation.

Mr. W. Burren, President of the London Swiss Philatelic Society, with a few well chosen words expressed his pleasure and that of the members of the Society in having been given the task of organising this year's Convention and thanked all those who had contributed to make this event such a success. He singled out the Society's Hon. Secretary, Miss Alma Grunberg, on whose shoulders fell a large part of the preparatory work during recent months and who had spent much of her spare time in planning for today's function.

As a pleasant interlude, three beautiful baskets of flowers were then presented to Madame Iselin, Mrs. K. F. Goodman and Mrs. W. Burren, which were greatly appreciated.

Mrs. Goodman, the Federation's President, then once more took the stand and in turn expressed her thanks, on behalf of the Federation, to the London Swiss Society and its members for the work done in organising this year's Convention. She also expressed

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thanks to the many helpers from other societies of the Federation who had lent a willing hand in setting up the exhibition stands.

Mrs. Goodman then pointed out that the Bishop Cup entries as well as a special display of stamps by some members of the London Swiss Society would be on show until 6 o'clock. There were also many interesting side shows and philatelic competitions and she urged people to buy raffle tickets with several Premium Bonds as prizes. Furthermore there was a great selection of stamps for sale at several dealers' stands and there was a special Post Office stand at which all recent commemorative stamps could be purchased. A souvenir cover was also on sale which would receive the circular district postmark if posted at this stand.

After announcing that the winners of the raffle and various other competitions would be announced at 5 o'clock, Mrs. Goodman closed the official part of the Convention and wished everybody a happy and enjoyable afternoon.

There was ample time to study the many interesting exhibits showing stamps or specialised studies of stamps of many parts of the world. The subject "Postal History" was particularly well represented with some most interesting entries showing great knowledge of this particular field of philately. There were equally as many entries with "Thematics" as the main theme and such subjects as "Sport", "Flowers", "Transport", etc. were well represented.

Those who wanted to fill some of the empty spaces in their albums had ample opportunity of browsing through the great array of stamps from the world over which were offered at the dealers' stands and it appeared that "business" was brisk the whole of the afternoon. Equally happy were the winners of the Premium Bonds and the many other prizes from the raffle and philatelic competitions, and it was well past 6 o'clock before the last visitors left the Hall.

E. M. Huber

"IT'S ALL HIGHLY INVOLVED"

The Hounslow Philatelic Society who won the "Bishop Cup", were the first to win the cup, in 1952. Its entry consisted of nine sheets representing examples of the postal seals issued to the British Army in Egypt by the NAAFI (Navy, Army and Air Forces Institute) during the war. The historical background to this entry was that the normal postal services available to the forces in the Middle East were rather inefficient, and that the NAAFI, an organisation responsible for the Armed Forces' canteens and entertainment, consequently issued "postal

seals" used for payment of mail, which it undertook to send to Britain.

Hardly anyone thought at that time about preserving these seals, and that is why they are so rare today and constitute a most valuable thematic item. The winning competitor had presented the standard frames of 20 seals sold to the forces, the original pull sheet—as produced by the printers (Hanbury, Tomsett & Co. of Willesden, to be precise). But the achievement which must have caught the Judge's main attention was the "plating" of these frames of twenty seals, consisting in assembling used seals to build up the original frame seal by seal, their identification being possible owing to minute differences in each seal. The ardent philatelist who did all this actually managed to show that the printing plate used in the manufacture of the original pulls was slightly askew to the outline of the frame as cut for sale. No wonder he won the cup!

(PMB)

SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION AGM

The Swiss riflemen of London put up an exceptional attendance at the 1972 AGM, which was held as usual at the Glendower Hotel, on 17th April.

The Secretary, Captain M. Mathey, read the minutes of the previous AGM. These were duly approved. The accounts were commented by Mr. H. Straub. They showed a total income of £327.50 set against an expenditure of £267.80, leaving a healthy surplus of £59.70. It was noted that the sale of badges, which had been stamped only last year, produced the disappointing revenue of £2.40. Members present later contributed to improve this situation by buying from the box of badges brought by the President, Mr. M. Bucherer.

The main statements of his report referred to a record 5,300 rounds of

ammunition fired during the last season (as compared with 5,050 the year before, in 11 traditional competitions held during the eight annual shooting meetings at Bisley. Mr. Bucherer recalled two outside matches, one against the Surrey Rifle Association, and the other against the Kensington Rifle and Pistol Club. Although the Swiss team just managed to beat the Londoners at home, they were flatly beaten in an indoor competition away. Consequently, the Swiss Rifle Association have asked the Kensington club not to field their best men (which include international shots) in their competition with them in order to keep these matches "friendly".

The President recalled a recent outing to Holland, where he had taken part in a match against a Dutch team. One of the English team, a 22-year-old youth, scored 598 points out of 600, equalising the world record. He hit 58 tens and two nines. The second in that particular contest had 596 points. The President was too modest to reveal his own score.

Mr. Adolf Schmid, founder-member of the Association, took over as President *pro tem* and expeditiously handled the re-election of the Committee. Everyone naturally supported Mr. Bucherer's re-election as President. There was one resignation, that of Mr. Francis Magnin.

A few items were discussed under the AGM's "miscellaneous items".

Members were reminded that they could compete for the eleven cups whenever they chose, with the exception of the *Feldschiessen* and the *Obli-gatorisch*. These two contests will take place on 21st May and 16th June. The *Grumpelschiessen* is the only other competition fought out on a fixed date: 1st October, the last shooting Sunday. Earlier, Mr. Bucherer had pointed out that the match against the Marylebone Pistol Club will take place at Bisley on 25th June, and the match against

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