

**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:** - (1974)

**Heft:** 1697

**Rubrik:** Swiss Mercantile Society

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memory of all those who had the privilege to partake. Some of them – the writer included – were at the 75th anniversary on Sunday, 23rd October 1949, at the Dorchester Hotel. Then it was dinner jackets and all the trimmings of a banquet. This time it was informal, but the atmosphere was truly splendid, patriotic in a way which is rare today, yet mingled with respect for the country which has given hospitality to the Ticinesi for centuries. It may have been a coincidence, but a significant one: the same evening as the celebrations took place, the result of the plebiscite on “over-foreignisation” in Switzerland was announced. The people had rejected the stringent and inhumane proposals, and this may be a good omen for our Ticinesi compatriots in London for a safe, happy and prosperous second century.

M.M.

### BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Mr. and Mrs. A. Jaccard will have their wedding anniversary on 12th December (1931).

Mr. F. Burri will be 62 on 2nd December, and Mrs. W. Renz will have her birthday on 3rd December. Mr. M. Ehsam will be 78 on the 14th of the month, and Mrs. F. Delaloye will have her 87th birthday on 15th December.

Congratulations and many happy returns to all our readers who will be celebrating birthdays and anniversaries shortly.

## SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY-LONDON

### INAUGURAL CEREMONY-1st NOVEMBER 1974

Friday, 1st November, was a veritable red-letter day in the annals of the Society and its College. Swiss House was officially reopened after building operations extending well over a year. The work undertaken had resulted not only in the enlargement of the buildings, but also in their partial reconstruction and complete renovation.

The formal ceremony of cutting a ribbon at the entrance was performed by Dr. F. Leutwiler, President of the Swiss National Bank.

In the presence of the Swiss Ambassador, Dr. A. Weitnauer, numerous guests from Switzerland and England, members of the Society, teachers and students of the College, the Mayor of the London Borough of Camden, Councillor Mrs. F. Parnell, then unveiled the plaque commemorating this auspicious occasion.

In a short address, she mentioned that the S.M.S. had been at Swiss House for nearly 50 years and formed part of the cosmopolitan population of her Borough. She praised the good work being done by the College in acquainting young people from Switzerland not only with the English language, but also with British life and institutions. In this way, the College was making a valuable contribution to the fostering of friendship between the two nations.

After having been shown over the building, members and guests were conveyed by coach to the Dorchester Hotel in Park Lane, where a luncheon party had been arranged.

In welcoming the guests, the Chairman, Mr. A. Jaccard, expressed appreciation to the Mayor of Camden for having graced the occasion with her presence. He thanked the Ambassador and his collaborators for their interest in the Society's activities and their constant support.

He extended cordial greetings to the Swiss contingent, including Dr. Fritz Leutwiler, President, Swiss National Bank, Fürsprecher Hans Dellsperger, Vize-Direktor BIGA, Berne, Mr. Richard Maier-Neff, President S.K.V., Dr. A. Rossi, Secretary, Association of Zurich Credit Institutes, National Councillor Hans Rüegg, President of Association Patronale suisse des Constructeurs de Machines et Industriels en Métallurgie and Dr. D. Aebli, Manager (ditto), former National Councillor A. Favre-Bulle and Madame Favre-Bulle, Mr. Robert Moser, Vice-President S.K.V., Mr. Otto Müller, Central Secretary, S.K.V., Mr. Eduard Ruchti, Central Secretary S.K.V. and Mrs. Ruchti.

Among the English guests were Miss D. G. L. Wynn-Cornish, Bursar, Bedford

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