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and agricultural goods. The problems that would be raised by total freedom from duties on industrial goods from the Third World are at present under discussion. It is to be expected that such a move will meet with a certain resistance on the part of the textile industry, fearful as it is of competition from these products. It is an ironical fact that the quality of the looms manufactured by the Swiss industry allows their purchasers in the developing countries to weave fabrics which are in no way inferior to those produced by the Swiss textile industry. Thus, the good fortune of some is often the misfortune of others.

After this survey, all too superficial, I fear, you will perhaps be inclined to suspect a certain pessimism on my part. Admittedly, rather than paint a rosy picture of the Swiss situation, I have preferred to lay stress on the problems

that we are going to have to deal with, some of which it is highly desirable to solve on a world-wide basis.

It is often said that happy people have no history. This, I believe is quite wrong: Switzerland, since that is our subject, has a history of which she is proud, but she is no less happy for that. Indeed, in my opinion, it is in solving problems that happiness is to be found. Thus in my country we have prospects of an ample harvest of happiness. But we will need all our energy to achieve it. Although prosperity, wherever it may be, has created a mood of complacency and unconcern – and Switzerland is no less a victim of this than other nations – I think that the country has a sufficiently solid moral backbone to confront the difficulties and uncertainties of a still undefined future.

This solidity, which is born of

traditions of independence and freedom for which we have not ceased to fight, also finds its source in the linguistic and cultural diversity of a country that is the meeting-place of the currents of European thought. Benefiting by ideas and incentives flowing in from all sides, Switzerland has learned, I think, to assimilate them in her fashion and to cut them to her size, armed as she is with a certain critical sense – sometimes rather annoying for others – but which is not without moderation.

To have given in, like the frog in La Fontaine's fable, to the temptation of a growth which flew in the face of this moderation, is a timely lesson for her. It will be a salutary one only if the Swiss of today rediscover the virtues of patience, tolerance and measure that once were theirs, *put their house in order and cut it down to human dimensions.*

# NEWS from the COLONY

## ANNUAL DINNER DANCE OF THE MANCHESTER SWISS CLUB, ON THE 10th NOVEMBER, 1973

It was again at the Excelsior Hotel, Ringway Airport, that members and friends met for one of the highlights of Swiss activities in the North of England and the satisfactory attendance spoke also this time for the popularity of this yearly function.

Before reaching the Hotel we could admire the tremendous sight of the new cyclopic building of the expanding airport in a blaze of lights and combined with the name of our banqueting hall, "Trident-Suite", in what a European if not world setting we were moving and how strong we all were now united with economical and cultural ties, once distances and other impediments had been eliminated! The Hotel, as for the past years, had prepared everything in a most efficient way, an interesting and well stocked bar at arms length, tables well laid and decorated around a spacious central dancing floor. On one side of the room we could admire a tombola-table with a fine display of prizes promising well for a rich harvest in aid of club funds and our thanks must go to Mrs. Martha Themans who with other ladies worked very hard to organise this part of the evening.

It was a great pleasure to meet so many friends again, indulge in happy and lively chatter, enjoy the company of the faithful ones from the London Colony and have a word with our acquaintances from the Yorkshire Swiss Club. Time passed, we hardly noticed it, until we were invited to take our seats at the many round tables, again nicely decorated thanks to our President, and enjoy a well served dinner accompanied by excellent vintage wines or any other drinks one may wish... even "S. Pellegrino" could

be had, for the ones on a strict diet. After the loyal toast, proposed by our President Mr. Peter Senn and sweets and coffee having been served the time of the speeches had arrived and I am glad to say that nobody was disappointed by the quality and content.

Our President started this official part of the evening and we listened with great pleasure to his sincere and warm words. Welcoming everybody he wished us a happy continuation of the evening, expressed some nice thoughts for the ladies present and then introduced us to our guests a task specially pleasing to him. Referring to Mrs. Mariann Meier who was accompanied by Monsieur Henry von Gunten he said that she had already honoured us with her presence many years ago on the occasion of our Centenary Celebration when his father Mr. Gustav Senn was President. He told us of her many achievements and sterling work done on our behalf. For many years she was the able Editor of the *Swiss Observer*. Over a long time she has now represented the Swiss in the U.K. at Berne, and this most successfully. At the beginning she must have been the only lady-delegate. Actually, she is the President of the "Neue Helvetische Gesellschaft" in London and is most certainly also active in other spheres such as the Swiss Church in London, etc., etc.

He extended then a most hearty welcome to Dr. Iselin and his wife, Chargé d'Affaires at the Embassy who were here as personal guests of our immediate past President Dr. R. Bolliger. He asked him to convey our good wishes to our Ambassador Dr. Weitnauer. Our Consul-General and Mrs. Born were both thanked for all they do for our compatriots in general and our club in particular; alas, Mr. Born had to give us the sad news that both will soon leave us,

taking up a new appointment in Chicago, U.S.A., although they have always hoped that they could have stayed a little longer. A few kind words were also reserved for Mr. and Mrs. Berner, he being one of the doyens of the club and this year's President of the Yorkshire Swiss Club. A special welcome was reserved to Major and Mrs. Nicolson, President of the Manchester Rifle Club, a stout friend of Switzerland with strong links with the "Arquebuse" of Geneva, a rifle club formed around the middle of the 15th century. Particularly pleasing to us all was also the presence of Mr. and Mrs. Simon who drove all the way from the South to come to our gathering and how we had missed his wisdom and experience always so lavishly given to us in past years.

Living in a somewhat restless political climate and with so many uncertainties facing us he quoted a humble village parson, also keenly interested in politics but also bound to some restraint by his vocation, who wanted to remind his parishioners of the election to be decided the following Sunday and how he made a selection of hymns to cover all the eventualities.

Should the Conservative candidate win: "No. 397 – Now thank we all our God..." For a Socialist win: "No. 165 – O God our help in ages past..." Should the Liberal man get in: "No. 373 – God moves in a mysterious way, His wonders to perform..." In his concluding words he informed us that for the first time we would have the opportunity of voting, at the 1975 election, the "Nationalratwahlen" should we at that time be in Switzerland.

After his words had been warmly applauded he presented two lovely bouquets, one to Mrs. Born as a token of our appreciation for all she has done for us and the other to Mrs. Meier, the best

expression of our feelings and invited her then to address us.

Although used to speaking to large and important audiences in the capacity as Member of the Commission of the Swiss Abroad, it was to be her maiden-after-dinner address to major clubs in this country, but she did this gladly knowing how much she felt attached to us. She confessed to be a Liestalerin and as such an ardent adherent of the independent Baselbiet, but she wished to live in good harmony with her friends of Baselstadt, a town which loves her half-Canton for more than one reason. This is true Swiss spirit which could be applied to other parts of our country.

Sitting beside our President her thoughts wandered back to another occasion when in 1950 we celebrated the Centenary and she had had the privilege and pleasure to know Mr. Gustav Senn, our Centenary-President and father of our present one. She touched then very lightly on a few other topics of national interest, some influencing our own lives and activities and knowing what Mrs. Meier thinks and does we admired her for her great modesty.

Concluding, she took the opportunity to thank the club on behalf of all the guests for the kind welcome and generous hospitality and ending with a few words of encouragement to our President and his officers who do such sterling work for our Club. From everybody present she earned a warm and sincere applause.

It was then for our Consul-General Mr. Rolf Born to say a few words and he took the opportunity to confirm the news that after almost 5 years stay in Manchester he had been directed to take a very important position up in Chicago, U.S.A. On one side he looked forward to what must be a vastly enlarged range of activities but on the other hand he felt sad at heart to leave so many good friends behind and we all wish that the years in front of him may be interesting and pleasant ones, and also for Mrs. Born.

This concluded the official part of the evening and soon people started to crowd around a busy group selling tombola tickets and it took some time

before the last prize was disposed of, fortune or good luck choosing at random its recipients. For the committee a pleasing and rewarding exercise.

The latter part of the evening was taken up by dancing and the very inviting and excellent music lured more and more couples to the dance floor. A good blend of old and new allowed every body to show the skill in this healthy and pleasurable activity only to be halted when the time had arrived for the goodbyes and au revoirs and on leaving we took with us good and happy memories of an evening well spent.

E. B.

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**HENRY FUSELI**  
**(JOHANN HEINRICH FUESSLI)**  
*Catalogue Raisonné*  
published by the Swiss Institute for  
Art Research

One of the national duties of any country is to prescribe its cultural heritage and to undertake research on a wide basis. In Switzerland, this is the task of the Swiss Institute for Art Research. It was founded in 1951 by the art historian Dr. Marcel Fischer and a group of university professors, directors of art museums and collectors. One of its aims is to make a comprehensive inventory of all movable Swiss art treasures, to examine it from a technical and historic angle and to publish the results in a suitable manner.

The Institute is the only independent private art clearing house and research organisation of importance to the whole of Switzerland. It has a membership of about 900. Of these 90 are institutions, 120 companies and societies and about 700 individual subscribers. The Institute is a non-profit making organisation and is financed by membership dues, donations, revenue from its own publications and some subsidies. It is registered as a friendly society and thus exempt from paying taxes.

The work of the Institute consists of systematic inventorisation. The material collected so far comprises already some 27,000 inventories and 32,000 negatives. Next, the Institute

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undertakes practical conservation and restoration. Another side of its activities is the publication of works on Swiss art and art collections. One of its important aims is the publication of *catalogues raisonnés* of Swiss artists. The library consists of 30,000 volumes and there is a documentation department on twentieth century Swiss art, to which are added some 1,000 files every year. Other cultural tasks comprise lectures, exhibitions and study tours.

The first number of the *catalogues raisonnés* on Swiss artists was published a short time ago. It concerns the Anglo-Swiss artist Johann Heinrich Fuessli, known in Great Britain as Henry Fuseli. He is considered the major artist of Zurich's past. This major work of art and cultural history was compiled by Gert Schiff and published by Verlag Berichtaus Zurich and Prestelverlag Munich. The author did his thesis on Fuseli in Cologne in 1957. Today he is Professor of Art History in New York. For ten years he worked on the two volumes. The cost of producing the 1,400 volumes amounts to about £75,000. Its publication was possible due to financial help from the Swiss National Fund for the Promotion of Art and Science Research, the Swiss First of August Fund, the Foundation "Pro Helvetia" and other private and public institutions. The two beautiful volumes are a kind of gift to English scholarship as large parts of the text deal with cultural life in England in the 18th and early 19th centuries.

The Zurich artist Johann Heinrich Fuessli, born 1741, came to London at the age of 23. He was encouraged by the great British artist Sir Joshua Reynolds to go to Italy where he subsequently spent eight years. That is where he found the basis of his mature style. From 1779 he was once again resident in London. Nine years later, he was elected an Associate to the Royal Academy and in 1790 he received the distinction of an RA. From 1799 onwards he was Professor of Painting. He died in Putney on 16th April, 1825, leaving a vast number of paintings, drawings, etchings and literary essays. Already in 1831, a comprehensive catalogue of his life and work was published by Knowles.

On 24th October, the Swiss Ambassador in London, Dr. Albert Weitnauer, gave a reception to mark the publication of the Monograph on Henry Fuseli. Dr. Hans Luethy, Director of the Swiss Institute for Art Research, introduced it to the various directors of museums and art galleries, art scholars and critics and other art lovers present. The two magnificent volumes were on show.

The 150th Anniversary of Fuessli's death will take place in 1975. The "Pro Helvetia" Foundation is preparing a comprehensive exhibition of Fuseli's works in Hamburg, Paris and at the Tate Gallery in London.

M. M.

## CITY SWISS CLUB CHRISTMAS DINNER

After a relatively well-attended Annual Dinner and Ball in November, the City Swiss Club Christmas Dinner suffered badly because of the railway strike. Those faithful members who managed to come only filled five tables in the Orchid Suite. Despite this low turnout, it was a lively and successful evening presided by Mr. E. Tangemann with the presence of the Ambassador, Dr. A. Weitnauer, and his second-in-command, Dr. J. Iselin.

The fare was good with traditional fish and a delicious Christmas pudding with ice. At £3.60 the bill had doubled in comparison to the Christmas Dinner of three years ago. Entertainment was supplied by Father Bossard who appeared in Father Christmas garb and made the startled attendance sing Christmas carols in three languages. Instead of grace, we were made to sing the first verse "Silent Night" and "O du fröhliche, o du selige gnadenbringende Weihnachtszelt" before terminating on "Il est né, le divin Enfant". Father Bossard, who was accompanied by a bearded devil brandishing a birch, stalked across the room and picked out a few members for an admonition or a congratulation, depending on each case. Your Editor was told that he would be forgiven on this New Year for his *mistakes* (printing mistakes, that is . . .) and after dispensing similar treatment on others amid the guffaws of the male attendance, Father Bossard made a well applauded exit.

After a short resumption of conversations, the Minutes of the October Meeting were read by the acting Secretary. That meeting had heard Dr. Schaefer, President of the Board of Directors of the Union Bank of Switzerland speak on inflation and monetary problems. 34 members and 60 guests had come to listen to what was, by all accounts, a fascinating exposé. The President then made an announcement concerning the promotion of Embassy staff: Consul Adams had been made General Consul; Dr. Franz Birrer, Cultural Attaché, promoted to "Botschaftsrat" and Vice-Consul Robert named Consul.

The last intervention by the President referred to the next January meeting. Mr. Tangemann asked members if they agreed to the idea of inviting their ladies for that meeting so as to secure sufficient attendance for the guest speaker who was expected to speak on the energy crisis. This led to a discussion on women's membership with some standing up to show strong opposition to such an eventuality. But the President stressed that he was not proposing to alter the club rules on male exclusivity — a theme that could only be broached at the AGM — but only to invite women for the exceptional occasion. With the odds that the rail and other trouble might continue, the next dinner with a speaker might well prove to be such an occasion, he said. When everybody was clear what was at issue, a

vote showed to two-to-one majority in favour of women attending for this special occasion.

## ESCALADE DINNER

About eighteen friends of Geneva met on Wednesday, 12th December in the Kensington flat of Mr. and Mrs. K. R. H. Allen, members of the Anglo-Swiss Society, to celebrate the *Escalade*, the failed attempt by the Savoyans to storm Geneva on the night of 12th December, 1602. Among those present were Mr. and Mrs. René Serex, Political Counsellor at the Embassy, Mr. and Mrs. H. Baumann, General Manager of George Fischer UK, and Mr. Michael Metford Sewell, Solicitor. The gathering enjoyed an excellent meal in congenial surroundings. They were supplied with Swiss and Genevese flags by the little son of their hosts and sang the traditional *Escalade* songs.

A chocolate *marmite* and large nougat eggs had naturally been sent over from Geneva. By all accounts, this was a most enjoyable and interesting evening.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The account on the life and work of Edward Gibbon which appeared in our Christmas issue under the title *Gibbon's Swiss Heritage* was not credited. It was in fact written by our young friend *Geoffrey Buchler*, a literature student in Lausanne converted to salesmanship. We extend to him our apologies for this egregious omission!

## JOSEPH ALFONSO COMPAGNONI

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of *Mr. Joseph Alfonso Compagnoni* on 17th September at the age of 82. Born in St. Leonards-on-Sea, he carried on the family business of confectioners in Eastbourne and later in Margate. He served in the Royal Engineers during the Great War. The latter part of his life was spent in Hove, where his wife, also Swiss, and his family still reside. He always kept in close touch with his family home at Poschiavo, in the Grisons, visiting it for the last time in 1972.

We should like to extend our sincere condolences to Mr. Compagnoni's widow and his family.

(continued from page 10).

of Europe and the world the importance that Switzerland once had. Switzerland could reconquer it again, amid the greatly changed conditions of the present time, if our people made a great effort to rise out of the trough of foreign criticism to a higher valuation in the eyes of other countries.

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