

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: 1681

Artikel: A visit to the kensington hilton

Autor: [s.n.]

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-686506>

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The St. George's Hotel, which is in Langham Place, next to the West End BBC Headquarters, is managed by Mr. P. R. Spittler, a Swiss hotelier and restaurateur who has been a resident in Britain for more than ten years. The Summit Restaurant of the St. George's will be presenting typical Swiss specialities in the near future.

J.S.

A VISIT TO THE KENSINGTON HILTON

The employees of the new Kensington Hilton were surprised to see a group of visitors who differed somewhat from their usual clientèle. On Sunday, 17th December, the youth group of the French-speaking Swiss parish toured this magnificent 640-room hotel opened only six months ago under the guidance of Marcel Christinat, Assistant Minister at the Swiss Church. A French girl called Françoise working at the reception let the party into the various departments of the hotel, which was relatively empty (about 40 per cent occupancy) owing to the off-season. The occupancy figure will rise to over 80 per cent by the end of March

and be accounted for mainly by indefatigable parties of Japanese on a tour of Europe with their heavy and costly camera kits. Françoise explained that the Americans were also important customers. But the hotel also expected many French and German guests, and even a few Swiss!

The au pair girls who constituted nearly all the party were delighted to see trim little rooms equipped with automatic breakfast and drinks dispensers, all of which were constantly monitored by a central computer. Despite their small size, the cost of spending a night in one of these rooms amounted to three times the weekly pocket money of the country lasses who viewed them with wondrous eyes! The group was then shown round the reception and its ultra-modern electronic room monitoring system. Françoise explained that to achieve complete automation of the room control system, which includes such things as occupation, payment and cleaning, all that would be required is a television camera in each room which would allow the Reception to know at any one time whether they were ready for cleaning and inspection. This would

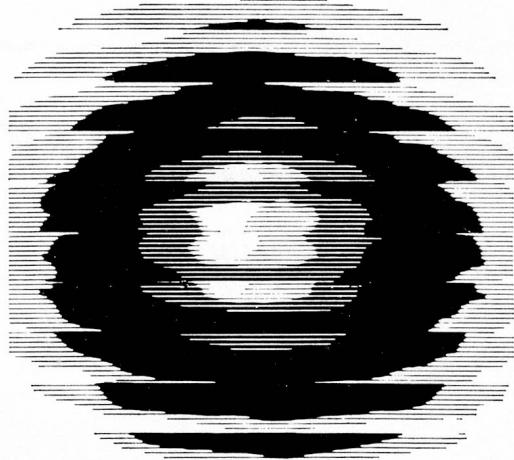
save additional labour. As a matter of fact, such a system will eventually be installed. Attesting to the manpower saved by the introduction of this electronic gadgetry is the fact that a staff of about 200, or one person for three rooms — much more than in more ancient hotels — is enough to keep the Kensington Hilton operating. Not only is it enough to keep it operating, but also to make it very profitable right from the start.

The visit ended with a visit to the kitchen and its almost exclusively

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continental staff. The girls from Fribourg and Vaud then enjoyed a two-hour chat in the lounge. They baulked at the cost of a cup of tea (20 pence) but the atmosphere was well worth it!

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WEDDING AT LEEDS

We have great pleasure in announcing the marriage of *Miss Collette Inebnit*, daughter of Professor Jean Philippe and Mrs. Lucile Inebnit, of La Capucine, 15 The Drive, Adel, Leeds 16, to *Mr. Badi Lenz*, of Kilchberg, Switzerland. The couple were married during a Quaker ceremony at the Friends Meeting House at New Adel Lane, Leeds.

We should like to congratulate them both and wish them every happiness for the future.

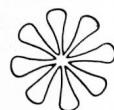
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FORTHCOMING CULTURAL EVENTS

Thursday, 2nd April. Queen Elizabeth Hall, 7.45 p.m. "4 pieces breves" by the Geneva composer *Frank Martin* are among the works performed in a guitar recital by Michael Lorimer.

Thursday, 11th April. Purcell Room, 7.30 p.m. *Peter Humbel* (flute) and Harold Lester play works by Bach, Devienne, Filcher, Roussel and Francois.

Saturday, 20th April. Purcell Room, 7.30 p.m. *Anne Galley* plays harpsichord works by Francois and Louis Couperin, Forqueray, Rameau and Duphly.

Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. The Swiss singer *Eric Tappy* sings the title role in a new production of *La Clemenza di Tito* by Mozart. Performances start at 7.30 p.m. on

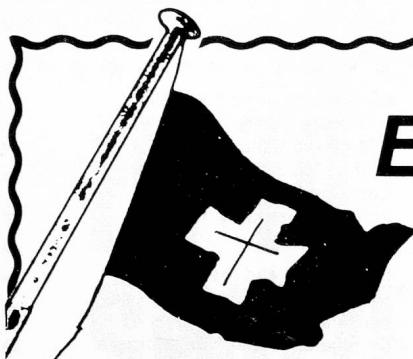
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