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NEWS FROM THE COLONY

A Swiss Painter in a Mayfair Gallery

An excellent opportunity of seeing the work of the Swiss landscape painter Johann Jakob Frey (1813–65) in his first one-man show to be held in England is offered this July by the Maltzahn Gallery, 3 Cork Street. The exhibition, opened by the Swiss Ambassador on 2nd July, comprises over 60 paintings and drawings, mainly landscapes of Italy, Switzerland and Egypt as well as delicate nature studies.

Frey, one of eleven children of the painter and engraver Samuel Frey (1785–1836), was born in Basle in 1813. He received the rudiments of his training under his father and under the well-known Swiss artist Hieronymus Hess, and subsequently left for Paris where he taught himself by copying 17th century Dutch landscapes. A journey to Munich in 1834 brought him into contact with the famous patron of young artists, Emilie Linder from Basle. It was thanks to her that Frey was able to travel to Rome in 1838, where he settled to live permanently among the lively German-speaking artists' colony.

Initially influenced by his early affinity with 17th century Dutch painting and by such leading German landscape painters of Rome as J. A. Koch, Frey soon developed a more personal idiom. Stimulated by the vast, unspoilt countryside surrounding Rome he started on a career of intense artistic activity and soon his studio was one of the most popular of Rome. His diary which fortunately survives, records 112 sales to Germany and over 60 each to Switzerland and England besides numerous commissions from Russia, France and America. Frey travelled widely all his life and in 1842 took part in the Prussian expedition to Egypt under his friend Richard Lepsius. His Egyptian studies caused a great sensation in Europe and provided him with such royal patrons as King Ludwig I of Bavaria and the Kings of Prussia and Württemberg.

In 1845 he became a founder-member of the progressive "Deutsche Künstler-Verein" of Rome and was friendly with Salomon Corrodi, the first Swiss to become President of the society in 1854. He regularly visited his home town and as early as 1847 one of his Italian landscapes was commissioned

by Basle Museum, which also houses the largest collection of his work today.

His later work, characterised by a new interest in direct nature studies, reflects the changing attitudes towards landscape painting which were simultaneously being expressed by Corot and the Barbizon School in France, the Düsseldorf School in Germany and Constable in England.

Frey died of typhoid in Frascati in 1865 and was buried in Rome's Protestant cemetery near the Cestius pyramid.

Charlotte Haenlein

Obituaries

FERN MAJERUS

We regret to hear of the sudden death of *Mr. Fern Majerus* at the age of 48. He was the son-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. Gene Ulmann.

Mr. Majerus was Managing Director of Stunzi Silks Ltd. for a number of years and succeeded to this position on Mr. G. E. Suter's retirement to Switzerland.

We extend our deepest sympathy to his bereaved family.

NINA PFAENDLER

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Mrs. Nina Pfaendler, of 15 Ringwood Avenue, N2 9NT. She died on 5th June after being ill for some time. She was 86.

Nina Pfaendler was born in Kensington, her father Swiss and her mother French. She had a happy childhood and it must be considered quite an achievement that she was allowed to train at Whitelands College in Sloane Square. She did some secretarial work and in December, 1911, she married Jean Jacques Pfaendler, a stalwart Swiss from the Toggenburg. He was one of the eminent personalities in the Swiss community in London who had come to Britain in 1904. He worked at a stockbrokers' office and in 1908 he joined the Employment Office of the Swiss Mercantile Society, whose manager he became two years later. He was an active member of the S.M.S. for 38 years, and his sterling services are still remembered, well over 20 years after his sudden death in 1950.

The Pfaendlers were a happy couple and blessed with three sons and a daughter. He did not live to experience the untimely death of their son Milton. The blow was a hard one, but Mrs. Pfaendler bore it courageously. She was a woman of energy and many interests, and she carried on undauntedly. She was interested in many cultural matters, played the piano well and took an active part in the Townswomen's Guild, where she conducted social studies and gave lectures. She took up dressmaking at the age of 70.

Her children and grandchildren will

miss her badly, even though death brought release from the sufferings of old age. It is to her daughter, where she spent the last years of her life, and the family that we express our heartfelt sympathy in their bereavement. We who knew Jack and Nina Pfaendler as friends shall remember them both with affection.

M.M.

B. T. BOOG & H. I. ROGNON

We have been informed of the death of two other readers. *Mrs. B. T. Boog* of 48, The Boulevard, Pevensey Bay, Sussex, passed away on 26th March. *Mrs. H. I. Rognon*, of 350 Chichester Road, Bognor Regis, Sussex died on 3rd April. We should like to express our deep sympathy to their families.

THE WORK OF THE NESTLE FOUNDATION

Professor Alexander von Muralt, a leading Swiss physiologist, Chairman since 1952 of the Swiss Research Council, was not only one of the most eminent speakers to address the London Group of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique in recent years, but his exposé at the May Open Meeting was probably the most fascinating and thought-provoking that we have personally been given to enjoy at these gatherings. President of the Nestlé Foundation, Professor von Muralt had come to speak to the Society on the vital problem of malnutrition in Africa. While this problem confronts humanity as a whole, Professor von Muralt limited his exposition to the situation of a small country in Africa, the Ivory Coast, in which the Nestlé Foundation has chosen to launch a pilot programme to understand the causes and effects of malnutrition and find means of solving this problem under the conditions prevailing in the Third World.

Professor von Muralt recalled that the Nestlé Foundation was set up following the 1966 Shareholder Meeting marking the Centenary of the company. It was to be a totally independent body devoted to the world's food problem. The then Chairman of the Board, Max Petitpierre, former President of the Confederation, offered Professor von Muralt the job of directing this new organisation. The offer was accepted as Professor von Muralt was about to retire from academic life and was willing to devote the last part of his life to one of the most pressing problems of mankind.

Ivory Coast was chosen because of its political stability, and because there already existed a Swiss research institution in that country. Ivory Coast is

a developing nation and ranks as one of the major economic successes of black Africa. This is due in part to the wisdom of its President, Felix Houphouët Boigny. A former doctor and Prince of the Boualé tribe, the President took a great interest in the work of the Nestlé Foundation and established a close relationship with Professor von Muralt.

This placed the new enterprise under good auspices. As the speaker explained, there are various degrees of malnutrition. One must consider nutrition in its calorific and qualitative aspects. Professor von Muralt said that only a third of the world population enjoyed the calorific intake of 3,000 calories a day, internationally accepted as the norm for health. But the figures were far worse for the composition of the food, particularly in respect of animal proteins. While the majority of the world was inadequately nourished, a great portion suffered from "moderate malnutrition", which was enough, however to affect physical growth and mental development.

The geographical area studied by the Nestlé Foundation is about a hundred miles north of Abidjan, the capital, at a point where the jungle of the south meets the savannah to the north. These studies, which are still actively pursued, concentrate essentially on children. Although the film which was shown to us following Professor von Muralt's exposé spared us the sight of children suffering from kwashiorkor and marasmus, frequent deficiency diseases among

African children, these were common diseases among the villages under study.

The purpose of this research is to establish reports helping the Government of Ivory Coast to tackle the problem. The Speaker stressed the importance of experience at first hand, and the necessity of trying things out before reaching conclusions. He recalled that President Houphouët Boigny had warned him that he didn't stand a chance of introducing rice in the area because this food would be rejected outright for traditional and other reasons. Five years after the project was launched, the villages not only produced an important tonnage of rice which they sold for hard cash, but had actually introduced it as part of their eating habits. This example showed that one should sometimes be careful with the advice of "experts".

The 24 specialists of the Nestlé Foundation's Ivory Coast project are based near Abidjan. This is where their facilities and laboratory are located. To reach the bush, they set out in a caravan of Citroën vans early in the day and reach their destination after having covered many miles of paved roads and then dirt tracks. They are invariably greeted by gleeful and shouting children who by now have learnt to know them well.

The teams consists of agronomists, psychologists and doctors. The agronomists are concerned with the improvement of the quantitative and nutritional value of local crops. The alteration of existing crops can conflict with environmental and traditional

circumstances. The inhabitants of that region have a staple of yam ground with casava called *foukou*, which is rich in calories but poor in other components. A high-yield variety of Mexican maize called "opec 2" has been successfully introduced. It stands out among all other strains because it contains Lycine, the most important of the basic amino-acids required by the body naturally found in meat and food of animal origin.

The psychologists belong to Piaget's school in Geneva. They are concerned with the intellectual development of children and the way it is affected by nutritional deficiencies. Professor von Muralt said that there was a "vulnerable phase of brain development" in very early life during which inadequate nourishment led to irreversible brain damage. By conducting psychometric tests devised by Piaget and his school, the Foundation's psychologists are attempting to establish a precise relation between the cause and effects of this aspect of food deficiency. Professor von Muralt said that it was essential to realise that the "slowness" shown by many African schoolchildren, a situation likely to discourage European teachers, was not due to an innately inferior brain but to these children's nutritional history.

The medical specialists in the team are concerned, among other things, with the physical effects of malnutrition. They have established data on the size of skull, arms, chest and height of 300 children and derived various relationships between these parameters. They have analysed



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urine and blood samples and even sent samples of hair to Switzerland, where they are examined by electron scanning microscopes. These studies have yielded new insight into the intimate deficiencies of inadequately fed children, all of which is gradually recorded in a series of voluminous reports for the Ivorian government and the health authorities at large.

This was the gist of Professor von Muralt's fascinating conference later illustrated by a film. The speaker stressed that the Nestlé Foundation did not intend — neither did it have the means — to undertake to carry out its recommendations on a large scale. This required great and patient efforts. Professor von Muralt recalled that development aid often had a very small yield. He estimated that in the 25 countries classified by the UN as the poorest in the world, investors could only hope to recoup 10 per cent of what they had put up. In the more prosperous and better managed countries, a 40 per cent result could be expected. For these reasons and because of the drought in the Sahel region, the findings of the Nestlé Foundation were of little use to Ivory

Coast's northern neighbours, namely Upper Volta and Mali.

Among the many interesting aspects connected to his work, the Speaker outlined the mentality of the African. He said that there was a fundamental difference in attitudes towards the notion of help and co-operation. Whether religious or not, people brought up in the West were educated to be "helpful" to others in difficulty. In Africa, this was not the case and one's loyalty was exclusively limited to one's tribe or clan. Thus a woman falling on an Abidjan pavement would be ignored by passers-by. This basic social reality had a fundamental bearing on development and explained why favouritism and clan relationships overruled other considerations in government ministries, and impeded the task of creating a new country and a new national consciousness. Professor von Muralt stressed that the understanding and respect of these realities was essential for successful co-operation and human entente with a people to whose welfare the Nestlé Foundation was so deeply committed.

P.M.B.

Mr. Edward John Hansell and the Church was nearly full with both families and friends.

The Rev. Dr. Marcel Pradervand had been asked by the bride, who is his niece, to come to London especially to conduct the wedding ceremony as he had officiated at the wedding of her parents, Renée and John Bertschinger, in this same sanctuary in war-time London in 1944.

This made the ceremony especially moving for those who were aware of this fact. The presence of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Durnat and of Mrs. Jamieson, who had attended the parents' wedding, was a lovely surprise and deeply appreciated.

The bride was attended by her sister Claire as bridesmaid, and the groom by his brother Michael as best man.

As was to be expected, Pastor Pradervand spoke very clearly on the significance of Christian marriage and many young people remarked afterwards that an added meaning had been given to the whole marriage ceremony.

A reception and wedding luncheon were held at the Shaftesbury Hotel.

R.P.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

The following couples will celebrate their wedding anniversaries: Mr. and Mrs. Kaluza on 5th August (1948), Mr. and Mrs. V. Bataillard on 11th August (1919), Mr. and Mrs. H. Suter on 22nd August (1921) and Mr. and Mrs. E. Zwicky on 28th of the month (1922).

The following subscribers will celebrate their birthdays: Mr. V. Bataillard on 2nd August (87), Mr. B. Truninger (Zurich) on 4th August (67). Mrs. A. Schmid (Glendower Hotel) will have her birthday on 6th August, the same day as Dr. H. Rast will be 83. On 8th August, Mrs. T. Senn will be 60, and Mrs. A. Bachofen will be 74 on 10th August, the same day as Mrs. Mariann Meier will celebrate her 60th birthday. On 15th August, Mr. F. Good will be 74, and Mr. G. Godet (La Neuveville) will be 83 on 28th August.

Congratulations and best wishes to all concerned!

We should also like to make a special mention of *Mr. and Mrs. Emil Ritzmann*, of 28 Bodenweg, Arlesheim, who on 1st August will be celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary. Mr. Ritzmann, who has actually been a subscriber to our paper for the same number of years, lived for 27 years in England where he worked for the Swiss Bank Corporation. Mr. and Mrs. Ritzmann came back to Switzerland in 1951 leaving many friends in this country. We should like to congratulate them most warmly and wish them many more years of happiness.

WEDDING BY THE REV. PRADERVAND

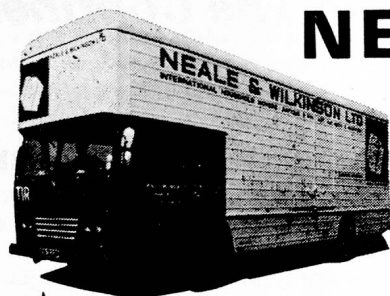
On Saturday, 25th May, a moving ceremony took place in the Swiss church in Endell Street which was beautifully decorated for the occasion: *Miss Anne-Marie Bertschinger* was married to

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

LONDON NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION: Merton Town Hall, Wimbledon on 1st August, 7.30 p.m.

SWISS CLUB MANCHESTER: Thursday, 1st August, 1974, National Day celebration at the Cottons Hotel, near Knutsford. Friday, 27th September, Disco Dance at the Clayton Aniline premises, Clayton, Manchester.

We have just learnt of the deaths of three other well known members of the Swiss community in Great Britain: MR. E. BERNER, MR. H. H. BAUMANN and MRS. CHAPUIS. For each of these deceased friends of our paper we shall be publishing an obituary in our next issue. We should like in the meanwhile to express our sincere sympathy to their bereaved families.



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