

**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:** - (1975)  
**Heft:** 1703

**Artikel:** Henry Fuseli Exhibition  
**Autor:** [s.n.]  
**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-687297>

### **Nutzungsbedingungen**

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

### **Conditions d'utilisation**

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

### **Terms of use**

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

**Download PDF:** 09.07.2025

**ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>**

philosophy and theory behind democratic government in general. He cited the case of Britain today, saying that the "dictatorship of the majority" into which the country was moving was not really ideal and claimed, like Gilbert a hundred years ago, that the party system was swamping independence of thought.

Dwelling on the problem of government, Lord Selkirk marvelled at the fact that Switzerland was constantly being run by a coalition. He also expressed his admiration at the way political power has in his view been effectively de-centralised in Switzerland. He referred to current concern over the future of the political structure. "I do not know whether the Cantons really have too much power, but I suspect it is untrue to say "den Bunden die Kannonen, die Kultur den Kantonen."

As for the possibility of abandoning neutrality, Lord Selkirk believed there would be sharp divisions if ever the problem came to a head. He said that Switzerland would probably have to abandon its position in the Red Cross organisation and other facets of neutrality. His listeners had the definite impression that he would advise the Swiss against taking such a step. "I believe it is important to us all that the foundation on which Switzerland is built should be continued." The speaker added that the country which André Siegfried called the "heart of central Europe" should follow Shakespeare's motto: "Unto thyself be true then cannot thou be false to no one."

#### DEPARTURE OF THE CULTURAL ATTACHE

Dr. Franz Birrer, who succeeded Dr. Paul Stauffer as Cultural Attaché at the Embassy early in 1970, is to leave London and take on a new assignment in West Germany. Born in 1932, Dr. Birrer is a citizen of Entlebuch where he received his primary education before attending secondary school at Disentis, in the Grisons. He is a graduate in economic and social sciences and obtained a doctorate in law on the problems of patenting from the University of Fribourg. He was later called to the bar of Lucerne but joined the Political Department in 1961. He trained there

and in Geneva for a year before being sent to Paris as a member of the Swiss mission to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) where he remained until September, 1966. He then returned to Berne to work in the Section of Political Studies of the Political Affairs Division. He was posted to London in January, 1970, and worked there not only as Cultural Attaché, but also as a specialist in British political affairs. His cultural responsibilities led him to attend virtually every musical, theatrical and artistic event in London involving Swiss artists. Many budding Swiss musicians have enjoyed his co-operation for their Wigmore Hall première. Mr. Birrer will now serve in the same capacity in Switzerland's Embassy in Cologne.

Dr. Birrer is married with three delightful young daughters. We wish the whole family plenty of happiness and success in Germany.

Dr. Birrer's successor as Cultural Attaché will be Mr. Jean-Jacques Indermuehle. He is expected shortly in London.  
P.M.B.

#### BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

The following readers will celebrate their birthdays during the next few weeks.

Mr. H. Vonwiller will be 81 on 20th March; Mr. Albert Ferber will be 64 on 29th March; Mr. J. Ammann will have his 89th birthday on 30th of the month, the same day as Mr. R. H. Senn, who will be 64. Mrs. K. Michel will have her birthday on 1st April, and Mr. T. Haller will be 60 on 2nd April. On the same day, Mr. Paul Lerch, of 30 Southleigh Drive, Leeds, Yorks, will be 75. On 6th April, Mr. A. Jaccard will be 69 and on 10th of the month, the former Federal Councillor, Prof. Dr. F. T. Wahlen (Berne), will be 76. Mr. L. Portmann will have his 82nd birthday on 13th April and Dr. H. Gysin (Basle), will be 62 on 16th April.

Mr. and Mrs. G. Keller (Kuesnacht), will celebrate their wedding anniversary on 14th March.

Congratulations and best wishes to all these readers and any others who will be celebrating birthdays and anniversaries in the near future, details of which we do not have in our records.

#### HENRY FUSELI EXHIBITION

The Friends of the Tate Gallery arranged a private view party to mark the opening of the Henry Fuseli Exhibition still going on in London. The Anglo-Swiss Society was invited to join in this function and many members turned up.

Henry (or Johann Heinrich) Fuseli was an 18th century artist from Zurich who made his career and his name in London where he died in 1825. Born in Zurich in 1741, he came early under the influence of the leading figures of the age of enlightenment in his home town. But it was in Britain that he achieved fame as a most original artist. The Tate Gallery Exhibition, which runs until the end of March, is the first large-scale show of his works in Britain. The exhibition, which was previously on view in Hamburg and is going to Paris, is remarkable and well laid out.

Fuseli's paintings and sketches are wild and tormented while at the same time respectful of classical discipline. Some are reminiscent of Blake, with whom he was closely befriended. All theatre lovers will appreciate his many illustrations of the works of Shakespeare (particularly Macbeth and Hamlet), Dante and Milton. There are also entire rows of illustrations of the Niebelungen and the works of the Greek classics. Fuseli's self-portraits show him as anguished and dreamy — a feature fairly common among other Swiss artists who, like him, have escaped their small environment to seek inspiration and success abroad. Many of the drawings have a sadistic element and can therefore be said to be of modern inspiration. Fuseli was throughout his life concerned with sexual problems and has produced many erotic works but these are not included in the exhibition.

Certainly, we do not remember any exhibition of this size ever devoted to a Swiss artist in London. The Boecklin exhibition held at the Hayward Gallery three years ago and the Klee exhibition held there recently, cannot be compared to this one for its variety and the number of the works on show. We can therefore only recommend it.

#### RECEPTION AT SWISSAIR

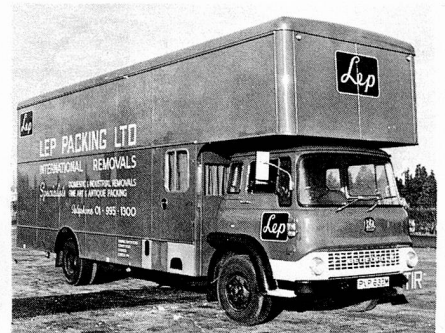
A reception was held on 24th



#### TRAVEL WEEKLY TO AND FROM SWITZERLAND AND ENGLAND

Providing DOOR TO DOOR SERVICES with vans specially equipped to carry

- Household Removals.
- Exhibition Goods.
- Works of Art. — Machinery.



For full information contact

In Switzerland FRITZ KIPPER, Statthalterstr. 101, 3018 Berne. Tel: 031/55 50 55. Telex: 32693  
In England LEP PACKING LTD. Corney Road, Chiswick, London W.4. Tel: 01-995 1300 (Ext. 110) Telex: 23944



# SWISS DIPLOMATS IN THE U.K. AND IRELAND

Swiss Embassy, 16/18 Montagu Place, London W1H 2BQ (01-723 0701)

Dr. Albert Weitnauer	Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Dr. Karl Fritschi	Minister
Dr. Benedikt von Tscharnern	Counsellor (Economic & Labour)
Dr. Franz Birrer*	Counsellor (Cultural Affairs)
Monsieur René Serex	Counsellor (Protocol, International Organisations Affairs)
Monsieur Paul André Ramseyer	First Secretary (Press, Legal & Tax Affairs)
Herr J. F. Lüthi, Ing. agr.	Counsellor (Commodities & Agriculture)
Colonel Hans W. Fischer	Defence Attaché
Captain Peter Buergisser	Assistant Defence Attaché
Herr Fritz Adams**	Consul-General (Head of Consular Section and Administration)
Herr Julius Keller	Consul (Commerce)
Herr Werner Reutlinger	Consul (Commerce)
Herr Willy Kuenzi	Vice-Consul (Consular Section)

\* will be replaced as from 1st April, 1975, by:

Monsieur Jean-Jacques Indermühle  
Counsellor (Cultural Affairs)

\*\*will be replaced as from 20th April, 1975, by:

Monsieur Charles Glauser Consul (Head of Consular Section and Administration)

Swiss Embassy, 6 Ailesbury Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4  
(69.25.16/69.15.66)

Dr. Richard Aman	Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Monsieur Fernand Rochat	Second Secretary of Embassy
Herr Arthur Burkhardt	Vice-Consul (Head of Chancery)

Swiss Consulate-General, Sunley Building, 18th Floor, Piccadilly Plaza,  
Manchester M1 4BH (061-236 2933)

Monsieur Horace Jacques	Consul-General
Herr Max Weggmüller	Vice-Consul

## Swiss Scientists and Engineers in Britain

The Swiss Embassy has a limited number of Bulletins published by the Office of the Scientific Attaché to the Swiss Embassies in Washington D.C., and Ottawa, Canada, which are available to Swiss scientists, engineers, medical doctors and members of similar professions interested in Swiss scientific policy and research and in the activities of Swiss scientists abroad.

Those interested are requested to complete the slip below and post it to:

The Swiss Embassy,  
Attn. Mr. J. F. Lüthi, Counsellor,  
16-18 Montagu Place,  
LONDON W1H 2BQ

Name .....

Address .....

.....

Title .....

Activities .....

.....

February at the Portman Hotel by Mr. Franz J. Fraefel, Swissair's departing General Manager for the UK and Ireland, to introduce his successor, Mr. Louis Nart and his wife. This function was attended by many members of the Swiss business community in London and by several correspondents of Swiss papers. Mr. Fraefel, who has held his London post for the past five years, will take up the newly-created position of Regional Manager, Africa (Southern Countries). This departure will be a sad break with the many friends he has made in London. Swissair officials are rather like diplomats and sent on new assignments in other parts of the world when they have just about had time to settle in a particular country. Mr. Fraefel will have to leave his two teenage children in England because Kenya doesn't provide the educational facilities that would enable them to work for their GCEs. Mr. Nart, who joined Swissair in 1948, was last posted as the company's Manager in Johannesburg.

## ANGLO-SWISS

### The Times Shopping Basket

The *Times* monthly "European Shopping Basket" gave the following prices for Switzerland and Britain during the month of February. Prices are expressed in £ per pound except milk which is for per pint. The first price indicated is for Geneva, the second for London.

Rump steak: 2.29-1.16; Pork chops: 1.36-0.69; potatoes: 5p-4p; butter: 70p-28p; margarine: 44p-27p; cheese: 98p-41p; chicken: 53p-27p; fresh cod: 76p-54½p; bread: 25p-8p; milk: 11p-5p.

The above list shows that food prices in Geneva are at least twice as high as those of London. This list of course doesn't reflect the true picture since wages in Geneva are considerably higher and the cost of accommodation cheaper.

**BARTHOLDI**  
TEL. 01-  
636-3762-3



**SWISS  
SPECIALITIES**  
SAUSAGES  
TINNED GOODS  
CHOCOLATES  
CHEESE  
&  
FRESH MEAT

**(RAIL & PARCEL SERVICE)**  
**4 Charlotte St.,  
LONDON, W1P 1HE**