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SMS celebrates a 50th anniversary

THE 92nd annual general meeting of the Swiss Mercantile Society, held at Swiss House, London, coincided with the 50th anniversary of the society's registration as a company limited by guarantee, which gave it legal status.

In the absence of the chairman, Mr F.O. Hausermann, the meeting was presided over by Mr A. Jaccard, who welcomed the guests, including Dr. M. Baldi, Counsellor at the Swiss Embassy, and Mr Julius Keller, who he congratulated on his recent promotion to Consul General.

Reporting on the society's activities the chairman said that some functions had been arranged by the SMS, and others by the NSH. By combining forces attendances had generally been satisfactory and the discussions following talks more animated.

It had, however, to be emphasised that the integrity

and raison d'être of both societies had in no way been impaired by these joint efforts.

Due to the highly increased charges for accommodation in London, as well as the steep rise in fares and the less favourable rate of exchange, the number of students attending the College was below that of previous years. The average monthly attendance was 189, compared with 246 in 1979.

Thanks to the very active support of the parent association, the Schweiz. Kaufmännische Verband and the Schweiz. Kaufmännische Stellenvermittlung, the SMS College was considerably less affected by the recession than many other language schools in the UK.

It was consequently possible

to arrange a full programme of studies. Apart from the normal courses, special day classes for Swissair trainees and preparatory courses for the Cambridge Proficiency in English Examinations featured again in curriculum.

The College diploma was awarded to 285 candidates. For reasons of economy a larger number of students than usual had to curtail their period of study and were consequently not able to progress to the sixth grade, which they have to reach in order to sit for the final examination. The standard, however, was fully maintained.

Evening classes were almost entirely confined to preparation of the First Certificate and the Certificate of Proficiency in English examinations of Cambridge University. These numbered 14, with a total of 235 enrolments, compared with 18 classes and 331 enrolments in 1979.

The results obtained by SMS students at external examination were most encouraging. Out of 146 candidates, no less than 136 (93 per cent) were successful in the Cambridge First Certificate in English examinations, 37 obtaining an "A" (First Class) pass.

The coveted Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English was awarded to 27 SMS candidates out of 53 who sat. One obtained an "A" pass, a rare distinction.

In the English examinations of the Royal Society of Arts, two candidates in Stage III and three in Stage II obtained a distinction. Out of 33 SMS candidates

who sat for these examinations, 25 were successful.

Full-day excursions to places of historic and cultural interest were arranged periodically and class visits to Lloyd's, the Stock Exchange and industrial undertakings, as well as theatre parties at reduced rates, were organised throughout the scholastic year. In sport, the students matched their prowess with English teams in football and tennis practice and games were arranged during the summer months in nearby Regent's Park.

In concluding the report, the chairman expressed the society's appreciation to all who had taken an active interest in the Society's activities and contributed to another successful year.

Mr E.M. Huber was appointed a trustee to replace the late Mr M. Röthlisberger and Messrs. E. Ruchti, Central Secretary SKV, Zurich, and J. Keller, Consul General, were elected as new members of the council. All serving members of the council and the committees were re-elected.

WB

Manchester's diary

COMING events at Manchester Swiss Club:

June 14: Treasure hunt; June 18: Ladies' outing; July 29: First of August celebration; September: Bowling competition and barbecue; November 7: Dinner dance; December 5: Children's Christmas party.

Budding artists on show

MADAME Caillat, the wife of the Swiss Ambassador, M. Claude Caillat, and Madame Fritschi, wife of the Minister at the Embassy, M. Karl Fritschi, helped to organise a special exhibition of paintings by children of members of the Diplomatic Corps in London.

It was held at the Roy Miles'

Gallery in St James from May 5 to 8, and was a great success.

Proceeds from the exhibition went to help UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund.

Among the young artists whose work was hung in the exhibition were three children of members of the Swiss Embassy.

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