

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: - (1981)

Heft: 1780

Rubrik: Society and social Scene

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: 18.04.2026

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

Is Herr Vogel the oldest Swiss in Britain?

IT IS with great pleasure that we announce the 100th birthday of Mr Jakob Vogel, of "Ceres," Shobdon, Kingsland, near Leominster, Herefordshire. He was born on July 2, 1881, and may well be the oldest Swiss in Britain.

Mr Vogel is a citizen of Schaffhausen and was born at Neunform, Unter-Thurgau. After completing his apprenticeship as saddler and upholsterer he worked in various places, among them with a specialist in harnesses and collars in Zurich. While in a job at Mézières (Vaud), he met the future General Guisan.

In 1906 he cycled to Goeschenen, put the bicycle on the train and walked over the Gotthard. He then cycled to Milan for the International Exhibition, then on to various towns in Italy and along the Riviera to Cannes where he worked as an upholsterer.

Later, at Meiringen, Heinrich Vogel was engaged in repairing the Old Grimsel and Furka postal coaches – horsedrawn at that time. One of his jobs took him to the Hotel Rosenlauri to repair furniture and remake mattresses. The glacier at that time came down much lower, and he loved the mountains and was a keen mountaineer.

Mr Vogel then left for Germany, working in various parts,



NEW president of the City Swiss Club is Mr Christoph Roth, from Basle. Aged 53, he has been in Britain since 1955.

He is chairman of Seacon, the shipping firm, with a fleet of 16 vessels.

He married his Swedish born wife in 1957 and they have four children of 23, 21, 19 and 14.

The family has a house in the Grisons and spends holidays there.

including Frankfurt, where he was employed by the Adlerworks trimming motorcars. In 1909, he arrived in London, and for three years he worked at the Vanden Plas plant as assistant foreman and cutter in the trimming department. During that period, cars were built for King George V and the Swiss Minister, Monsieur Paravicini.

He married a Swiss girl from the Thurgau in 1914 and then returned to Switzerland to do service in the Landwehr. After the war, he came back to London and opened his own business as coach and motor trimmer.

Heinrich Vogel lost his wife in 1946. Eleven years later he retired and moved to Herefordshire to live with one of his daughters. Until he was 96, he went to Switzerland on his own every summer to visit relatives. But he is still in reasonable health and as proud of his Swiss citizenship as ever.

We send him our sincerest congratulations.

Mariann Meier

Dr Rast celebrates

DR. Hugo Rast of 9 Weymouth Street, London W1 and Landhaus Obstbergli, 3126 Kaufdorf, Berne, celebrates his 90th birthday on August 6.

He was born in 1891, the son of a member of the management of the Federal Postal Services and of an art-loving woman from Herisau, Appenzell AR. She introduced young Hugo to all things beautiful in music and the arts, and from his father he learned the values of discipline.

As a student Hugo Rast played the violin and was leader of the orchestra of the "Städtisches Gymnasium." On occasions he performed with the Berne Municipal Orchestra.

He also started to collect old Swiss prints, paintings by old

masters, and he has since added a collection of Nyon and Dresden china, books, clocks and other rare objects, and records.

But his great hobby has always been medicine which he studied in Berne, Lausanne and Paris. His main interest was centred on surgery and in due course he became assistant to Professors Kocher and De Quervain at the Surgical Clinic of the Inselspital in Berne.

Since Dr. Rast was anxious to understand the personality of the patient – a part so often neglected in the medical profession – he enrolled as assistant at the Psychiatric University Clinic.

Having been ill with typhoid fever during the first world war Dr. Rast was granted long sick leave from military service. He acted as medical officer supervising the trains which carried prisoners of war to be repatriated under the Geneva Convention.

In 1919 he came to England, where he started as house surgeon at the German Hospital in London. He attended post-graduate courses at other hospitals and just for fun sat the English conjoint examination at the Royal College of Physicians and the Royal College of Surgeons. He was successful and thus privileged to call himself "Mr" and FRCS and LRCP.

After two years he wanted to return to his post in Berne but the German Hospital refused to accept his resignation and appointed him honorary assistant surgeon, with subsequent appointment to full surgeon.

During the last war the War Office appointed him chairman of the mixed medical commission for prisoners of war and civilian internees of the allied forces. At the same time he was appointed medical superintendent of the German Hospital, and when the National Health Service came into being the North-Eastern Metropolitan Hospital Board elected him honorary consultant surgeon.

Dr. Rast believes in *Mens sana*

in corpore sano and has always led a well-balanced life, averse to excesses. He was a great mountaineer and skier and indulged in both sports until a few years ago.

At the age of 70, he climbed the Matterhorn again, having done so on a record climb in 1930. Horse riding, too, was one of his favourite pastimes.

In the Swiss community he is still affectionately called "Dr" Rast. Until a short time ago he was a well-known figure in many societies, and a member and holder of offices in several of them. He had the privilege of attending every Swiss Ambassador from Monsieur Carlin up to recent times, as well as being medical adviser to many foreign embassies in Britain.

He was a distinguished member of the Royal Institution, the Royal Society of Medicine, the International Society of Surgeons, and many more both in Britain and in Switzerland.

In May, 1970 Hugo Rast married to the delight of his many friends and grateful patients. Just as many will be thinking of him with great affection on his birthday and wish him and his wife Ruth good health and contentment for many more years.

Mariann Meier

Happy birthday!

OUR very dear friend Frank Zimmermann was 91 years young on July 17. As far as we know he was born at Wohlen, Aargau, where his family was well liked. From the time he came to England he spent practically his whole life with the firm of P. Walser and Co Ltd, called Reslaw House, makers of the famous hats of that name. For many years he was a director of the company.

Frank still lives in his charming house in Purley, Surrey, where he and his wife look after the lovely garden. He has one of the prettiest collections of alpine flowers and also a considerable stamp collection. He also used to play golf with his wife. He still visits his beloved homeland regularly.

His good spirits and sense of fun delight his friends, and we all wish him the best of health and happiness and many more happy years with his wife and family – Frank's faithfuls from hüben and drüben.

Federation holds its AGM

MORE than two dozen presidents and other representatives met at the Swiss Embassy for the annual general meeting of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom.

The Swiss Ambassador, Monsieur Claude Caillat, and the Minister at the Swiss Embassy, Monsieur Karl Fritschi, Consul-General Charles Glauser and Consul-General Karli from Manchester were present, and the president of the federation, Mr Bernard Simon, introduced the two visitors from abroad, Prof. Josua Werner from Stuttgart, delegate from the executive committee of the Commission of Swiss Residents Abroad, and Mr Marcel Ney, Director of the Auslandschweizersekretariat in Berne.

Mrs Mariann Meier, delegate to the Commission for the South, and Dr Alex Lang, in the same capacity for the North, reported on the work of the Commission during 1980/81. They mentioned the Assembly last August in Lugano and urged members to attend the forthcoming Assembly in Solothurn from August 21 to 23. Mrs Meier also reported on a meeting of the Commission on Information and the regrettable death of the Echo, for 60 years the official organ of the organisation.

No report would be complete without mention of the Solidarity Fund, of which Mrs Meier attended the AGM, and two council meetings. She recommended membership not only for reasons of solidarity, but also as a wise precaution in uncertain times.

Both Mrs Meier and Dr Lang from Manchester, as well as the latter's deputy, Dr H.J. Wirz from Edinburgh, were re-elected for another four years. A new deputy for the South was elected for the same period in the person of a young Ticinese architect, Mr Giuseppe Broggin, vice-president of the Unione Ticinese and member of the Council of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique.

Both Prof. Werner and Mr Ney addressed the meeting. Apart



WINNER of the Swissair challenge trophy at Manchester Swiss Club's annual car rally was Swissair's new Northern area manager, Max Zimmerli, who is seen here with his wife Margot receiving the award from club president Paul Neher, pictured left.

from bringing greetings and good wishes from Berne they stressed the value of close co-operation and thanked the federation and its members for their work.

Other subjects discussed included the Swiss Observer, whose editor, Mr Derek Meakin, was present, and the voluntary old-age insurance for Swiss abroad.

A report was given on the work done so far by the NSH council on plans for streamlining functions and events in the colony. A detailed questionnaire had been worked out by Mr Broggin, and the president of the NSH asked

for the meeting's approval that this should be sent out with a covering letter by the federation's president.

Once membership structure, traditions, aims and special interests of every society and organisation was known, proposals could be made for more intimate co-operation and possible mergers, working together in the interest of the Swiss community and ultimately of Switzerland.

This, basically, was the reason why the Presidents' Assembly was founded in June 1949 by Dr H.W. Egli, who was present at the

meeting as vice-president of the federation, and the late Messrs. Raoul de Cintra and Walter Meier. The federation later grew out of the Presidents' Assembly and became a more formal and important body.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the chairman, and the Ambassador invited all present to an excellent buffet supper which was much appreciated by everyone. The remainder of the evening afforded welcome informal discussion and companionship in congenial surroundings.

Mariann Meier

News from the Unione Ticinese

CONGRATULATIONS to Adriana Jacomelli, who on August 1 marries Rolf Kuepfer in the ideal Ticinese setting of the local church in Semione. Best wishes to the couple and many happy days in their new home in Teddington, Middlesex.

VICE president of the UTL, Mr Giuseppe Broggin, was unanimously elected deputy delegate to the Assembly of Swiss Abroad at the AGM of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK. The Assembly is held twice a year in Switzerland.

UTL members have been pleased to learn that Mr and Mrs John and Barbara Kempton of Torquay, Devon, have a new grand-

son, James Michael Bennett. The baby's great-grandparents were the late Silvio and Giuseppina Campana, immigrants to England from the Vall Colla in Southern Switzerland.

Silvio Campana remained a dedicated member of the society until his death in Torquay.

THANKS to the customary hospitality of hostess Mrs Cynthia Parrott, the Unione Ticinese has again held its traditional barbecue. A number of old established members with several new and most welcome ones, about 40 in all, met at Hurstpierpoint in Sussex for a relaxing though somewhat chilly Sunday gathering.

The risotto and steak were as usual very tasty indeed, while for

the many children present the strawberry and ice-cream dessert was more than well received.

THE members' list circulated to everyone in the UTL has been well received and several members asked why this had not been thought of and distributed earlier.

We are not a secretive society – on the contrary – and if members have suggestions to make in terms of improving the information content of the list, they should contact the secretary Mr D.F.A. Poglia. For instance, would active members agree to see the name of their commune of origin in the Ticino included, or would members object to seeing the name of a married lady member followed by her Ticinese maiden name?

G. Broggin