

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: 1784

Rubrik: The Arts

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READER'S LETTER

SERIOUSLY outnumbered (wouldn't you know it?) may I please be allowed one last word before being banished to a life of Wursteli, Rösti and Süssli in a Schwyzer Hüssli.

I reiterate, no offence was intended. In England one's views are expounded, discussed and perhaps acted upon, which is why there is such turmoil at present. Most young are fighting for the truth and a goal in life, but what incentive is given them by the pessimistic views of your, obviously, elderly correspondents?

Why the furore on one person's not so rosy view of Switzerland? Why no voice showing even a vestige of understanding, apart from Mr Brentini, whose experiences were so similar to mine – even down (or up, depending on age) to the plumbing.

I am so happy that Harold Lipscomb, Lt. Cdr. RN rtd's marriage is withstanding the strain, but his remarks on England are wrong. He speaks of weakness – only his. England is not and never will be.

Patriotic? How can we be when people like him, probably having fought in the war, do nothing but deride us? From his title one must deduce he hasn't worked in Switzerland, relying on brief holidays to put his point

across. Tut, tut, sir. Look behind the handshake and the smiling greeting.

Mr Miller must be very happy living in such idyllic countryside – and that beach! Insignificant price increases? Then why so many trips to Germany, France, etc., by the Swiss ladies to buy meat, butter and other basics?

Work is not a dirty word for most over here, just the disruptive elements brought about by foreign doctrines and your like. Your remarks on the "bridge" episode are somewhat out of sequence, and regarding the "Rome" saying, I throw this back in your court.

I went there, learned the language, with Schwyzerdeutsch thrown in as a bonus, was hardly ever taken for English so feel able to speak as I do without dark glasses, bi-focals or whatever. Incidentally, do please try Terry's Old Gold. Es isch Toll, sicher Toll.

Mrs Burrow-Koch from Wales (another closed shop) – why the "Koch" incidentally? When in Rome . . . I promise to visit the pubs when I have a moment, but what with tennis, badminton, the business, voluntary work, socials,

this may be quite a while.

I could also criticise Miss Houlmann. After all, I wasn't too happy at side-treading the dung-heaps piled up outside farmhouse doors when visiting or going to partake of food but I won't because I feel this letter is sincere and unbiased and I'm a sucker for those ingredients.

However, do you know of the number of English people whose pride will not let them sponge off the state? And regarding the war, I never intimated that as a nation you were violent or cruel.

Could you honestly turn your backs on people humiliated and tortured, who sought your help? We couldn't. We actually fought to help them and, as you might know, terrible tragedies were brought to countless families – ours being one.

I agree entirely with you on cuckoo jokes wearing thin. They should be abolished altogether. But altogether.

One other thing though, Fräulein, you do rather lose the point I tried to make which is: We, as English people, prone to self-analysis and critical to a point of our own faults, and making even

jokes about them, don't look too kindly on another nation criticising us, yet extolling its own virtues. In other words, cool it – enough is enough.

Thank God for Mr Brentini. You have a very rare gift of words, perception beyond belief and a lovely touch of Latin. Whereas (I must admit) THEY now irritate me, you are able to summon up your traditional light-heartedness which must be inexhaustible.

Now this month's issue of S.O. is through the door and even two more indignant letters.

Lastly, please, why is it that my comments have frequently brought the trite remarks of jealousy on my part? I lived there, single and married, holding down a very good job. We both chose England and even now, on selling our properties and business, could live extremely comfortably in Switzerland, but we choose this country. Nothing is stopping us but choice.

Aufwiederhören miteinander.
– Joan Berger, Croydon.

● This correspondence is now closed – Editor.

THE ARTS

Christine Harnisch, piano, gives a recital of works by Scarlatti, Beethoven, Bartok, Liszt and Chopin:

Sunday, January 3, 7pm, Purcell Room.

Tamas Vasary conducts the Northern Sinfonia of England in the following concerts:

Wednesday, January 20, 7.30pm, St. Cuthbert's Church, Carlisle. (Works by Haydn, Kodaly, Haba and Mendelssohn).

Thursday, January 21, 7.45pm, Newcastle City Hall. (Works by Haydn, Kodaly, Haba and Mendelssohn).

Friday, January 22, 7.45pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall. (Same programme).

Charles Dutoit conducts the London Philharmonic Orchestra in the following concerts:

Thursday, January 21, 7.30pm, Royal Albert Hall. (Works by Beethoven and Men-



Christine Harnisch

delssohn).

Friday, January 29, 7.45pm, Royal Albert Hall.

Friday, February 5, 7.45pm, Royal Albert Hall. (Works by Beethoven and Rachmaninov).

Charles Dobler, piano, is the soloist in "The Magic Mountain" by John Hopkins in a concert

with the Cambridge Symphony Orchestra:

Saturday, January 23, 8pm, The Guildhall, Cambridge.

Dimitri, mime, performs in the London Mime Festival at Shaw Theatre, 100 Euston Road, London NW1:

Thursday, January 14, 7pm;

Friday, January 15, 7.30pm;
Saturday, January 16, 7.30pm;
Monday, January 18, 7.30pm;
Tuesday, January 19, 7.30pm;
Wednesday, January 20, 7.30pm.

Heinz Holliger, oboe, is the soloist in Bach Concerto for oboe and violin with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra:

Friday, December 4 at 7.30pm, Music Hall, Aberdeen.

Saturday, December 5 at 7.45pm, Queen's Hall, Edinburgh.

Sunday, December 6 at 7.30pm, Theatre Royal, Glasgow.

Friday, December 11 at 7.45pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall.

Peter Maag conducts the London Philharmonic Orchestra in Händel's Messiah:

Sunday, December 20 at 7.30pm, Royal Albert Hall.

Monday, December 21 at 7.45pm, Royal Albert Hall.