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Combined events are a success

THREE events took place last month in which the Nouvelle Société Helvétique, the Swiss Mercantile Society and the Unione Ticinese worked together.

On January 13 a presentation was made to the retiring secretary of the SMS, Mr Walter Burren, at Swiss House. At the same meeting Mrs Mariann Meier gave an illustrated talk on Sark, the most unusual of the Channel Islands, which has no taxes and no cars.

On the following evening nearly 60 members of the NSH and the Unione Ticinese attended the première at the London Mime Festival of the famous Swiss clown Dimitri. The evening was a great success, for the great mime is not only a most accomplished acrobat, juggler and musician, but a most sensitive and endearing artist.

There was another mixed membership evening on January 24 when a talk was organised by the NSH at the lecture hall of the Swiss Embassy.

Mr Werner Kreis, a Swiss architect established in London, gave a fascinating talk, supported by two slide projectors, on "Architectural thoughts between London and Bellinzona". He talked of the great architectural traditions in the Ticino, both vernacular and more sophisticated, and referred to many well-known Swiss architects such as Botta and above all the great Le Corbusier.

All three meetings suffered from the rail strike, but attendances were nevertheless gratifying. Apart from the organised features, companionship and friendly chats came into their own at the SMS before the meeting when members could make use of the canteen at Swiss House, and on the other two occasions at supper at the Swiss Centre after the theatre and the meeting at the Embassy.

More combined events are planned in the interest of all the societies and to make it easier for the organisers.

THE ARTS

THE Zurich-born painter Jacqueline Reäl will have an exhibition of her paintings at Gallery Margaret Fisher, 2 Lambolle Road, London from March 12 until April 2.

Previously she has had exhibitions in both the Galerie Donschig and Galerie Commercio in Zurich and earlier this year she exhibited in Hamburg.

Although she finds it difficult to speak about her own work, she sums up her feelings in this way: "Kunst beginnt, wo Worte fehlen - sie erweitert unser Bewusstsein. Malen bedeutet für mich eine Art Meditation."

★ ★ ★

There will be an exhibition of lithographs by Alberto Giacometti entitled "Paris sans fin" from March 1 to March 20 at the MacRobert Arts Centre Gallery, University of Stirling.

★ ★ ★

Professor Yves Bridel, considered to be one of the foremost authors in French-speaking Swiss

literature, continues his lecture tour of Great Britain until early March.

He will give three lectures at the University of Lancaster. On March 1 his subjects will be "Ramuz et la Suisse" and "Giraudoux: La Guerre de Troie n'aura pas lieu" and on March 2 he will lecture on "Satre: Le Diable et le Bon Dieu."

His final appearance will be at the Swiss Embassy, London, on March 3 and invitations for this are available from the Embassy (01-732 0701 ext 248).

★ ★ ★

PIANIST Lennart Rabes, who has in the past organised many concerts for the Swiss community in London, is to play a major part in the Deal Summer Music Festival which will be held in August of this year.

He will open the festival with a piano recital on Sunday, August 8 and will also be involved in lectures and master classes. He will concentrate during the festival on the late works of Liszt.



Swiss visit for Archbishop Runcie:

specially in order to attend meetings in the two cities.

On Wednesday, March 10, Mr Invernizzi will address the annual general meeting and dinner of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique, and the following day he will give a talk to the Swiss Club in Manchester. The latter meeting will cover various problems concerning Swiss residents abroad.

The Solidarity Fund is a unique institution, an insurance against loss of livelihood due to political upheavals. At the same time it offers a way of saving for a nest-egg in Switzerland. In addition

to the cover which you can choose from three categories, you get back your contributions with interest.

Much information has been published in the course of nearly 30 years. Yet the fact that membership is still rather small seems to indicate that people don't quite understand the immense advantages of joining the Fund.

Mr Invernizzi's visit will give an excellent opportunity of learning all about this unique insurance scheme. So please make a note of the two dates.

Mariann Meier