

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: - (1983)
Heft: 1803

Rubrik: Society and social scene

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UN relations to be Zurich ASA theme

"SWITZERLAND and her relations with the United Nations" is the theme of the Assembly of Swiss Abroad to be held in Zurich from August 26 to 28. Questionnaires regarding the main topic have been sent to societies and appeared in the "Review", so that Swiss residents abroad have a chance of expressing their opinions about whether or not Switzerland should join the United Nations Organisation.

At a meeting organised by the Nouvelle Société Helvétique in London, the subject was discussed on May 19. The

Minister at the Swiss Embassy, Monsieur Claudio Caratsch, introduced three of his colleagues who gave short talks on the message of the Federal Council to Parliament, the constitutional position of Switzerland, her neutrality and how a possible accession might affect Switzerland's "good services" in the Red Cross organisation.

A lively discussion under the chairmanship of Mrs Mariann Meier followed, and it became clear that a large number of questions had to be answered for many members of the audience

before they could make up their minds. More information was, in fact, wanted by 36 per cent, 36 per cent voted for Switzerland's entry, 14 per cent against, while another 14 per cent would not wish to vote in the final plebiscite one way or another.

★ ★ ★

In April the NSH had organised a talk, illustrated by a film, by Monsieur Robert Gaillard on "The International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva," of which he is a delegate. A discussion followed the talk on this great humanitarian institution.

The New Helvetic Society also took part in the Swiss Cultural Week, from May 20 to 25 both at the Institut Français and the Swiss Embassy.

MM

Yorkshire's evening with a difference

THE Yorkshire Swiss Club brought a new meaning to the phrase "self-catering" recently when they held their Social and Games evening.

Members brought along a whole range of tasty salads to add to a supper of Swiss meats and French bread – and for those with a sweet tooth, other members brought delicious cakes, including cantonal specialities.

The event brought together 31 members, including four who had never attended the event before, and two new members. A further six members sent their apologies.

Good food and good company made the evening a very successful one – so successful in fact that the revellers had to be turned out of the premises by the caretaker who had hopes of reaching his bed before midnight.

The group's next event will be the Treasure Hunt and Picnic to celebrate August 1, and we wish them bon voyage and bon appetit.

Bristol club's details

MRS Ruth Cole of the Schwyzclub South West has pointed out that details of the newly formed Swiss Club Bristol were omitted from the list of Swiss societies published in last

month's *Swiss Observer*.

Anyone wishing to contact the Bristol club should contact Mrs Myrtha Hack, 2 The Mews, Church Road, Leigh Woods, Bristol (tel: 735302).

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THE annual dinner of the London Swiss Philatelic Society took place at the Throgmorton Restaurant.

After the enjoyable meal, the president, Mr W. Burren, welcomed those present, especially those who had come a very long way. He gave a special mention to Mr and Mrs Hausermann who had returned from Australia to be present.

After thanking the secretary, Mr R.A.G. Foster, he proposed a toast of the guests.

The reply was given by Mr Orme, one of Mr Foster's accountant colleagues. Since it was not his first dinner with the "London Swiss" he decided to make his speech short and thanked the society for inviting him.

The next item was the tombola in aid of the society's funds which, thanks to generous gifts, produced a handsome result.

This was followed by the auction, the main items being a royal

wedding gutter pair (£4), a mint set of 1912 Swiss Pro Juventute (£14) and a 1953 green 10Fr stamp (£9).

The proceeds were divided between the Guide Dogs for the Blind and the Swiss Benevolent Society. The society's thanks were expressed to all those who had so generously donated various items.

The 40th Anniversary Celebration took place at Swiss House. It had been decided to make this meeting part social and part display. The president greeted members on this special occasion, and then made the presentation of the annual cup to Mr M. Spycher.

The possible entry of Switzerland to the UNO was discussed next, and the president of the New Helvetic Society gave details

of the discussion and voting at a meeting devoted to the subject.

Mr Burren then gave a brief history of the society. He recalled that 22 people had attended the first meeting in 1943 in the middle of wartime. It heralded the success of a philatelic society noted for not being very local in its membership. Even Mr Paschoud was able to be present, although residing in Dorset, as did Mr and Mrs Huber.

Many members who had joined the society since its foundation, people like Mr Thompson, Mr Beken and Mr Streit, were remembered with honour. The official business was completed by the members passing a vote of congratulation to Mr Burren on becoming president of the Swiss Mercantile Society.

Generous refreshments pre-

pared by members of the society and their ladies were then offered, and then followed an interesting display of rare stamps such as French Art stamps (Mr Gay) and the Swiss Evangelist high value stamps. Indian stamps included the well known three-value Gandhi set (Mr Burren).

A selection from the German collection of the late president, Mr Streit, was submitted by his daughter, as was his collection of Swiss charity stamps. Finally, there was an interesting display of League of Nations items and many others by Mr Smith.

The evening finished with an auction of the remaining few unopened bottles of wine and the president's vote of thanks to all those who had contributed to the success of the evening.

(From the Bulletin of the LSPS)

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