

# Two notable Swiss memorials

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nous ayons à lui faire c'est que, le banquet fini, débarrassait les tables, la danse commençait et toutes les dames demandaient après M. Borsinger qui, alors était déjà à mi-chemin entre Londres et Brighton!

Je tiens encore une fois à remercier M. Borsinger pour les grands services qu'il nous a rendus, j'espère qu'il sera bientôt de nouveau parmi nous et que son remplaçant fera autant pour nous que M. Borsinger.

M. Micheli, on behalf of his colleagues at the *Legation*, said:

Je crains que la modestie bien connue de Borsinger n'ait beaucoup souffert et ne souffre encore beaucoup. Lorsqu'on est au Service public on est souvent exposé aux critiques—aux éloges aussi, oh, pas souvent, une fois tous les 20 ou 30 ans! Il faut en prendre son parti. Mais je ne crois pas que Borsinger aura ce soir l'impression que les Républiques sont ingrates. Je ne veux pas vous entretenir des nombreuses qualités de Borsinger au point de vue professionnel, diplomatique, administratif, etc. Ce n'est pas à moi à lui décerner un brevet que vous lui avez du reste depuis longtemps délivré.

M. Micheli raconte quelques anecdotes et incidents de la vie de Borsinger qui prouvent à quel point il a à cœur les intérêts des moins fortunés de l'existence. Il relève ses qualités de compréhension, de bonne humeur et la façon sympathique et réconfortante dont il accueille les nombreuses personnes qui journellement sollicitent d'une manière ou autre l'appui et les conseils de la Légation—le petit employé en quête d'une place, l'institutrice en difficultés avec ses patrons, l'étudiant préparant une thèse, la veuve et l'orphelin. Il mentionne l'hospitalité que les Suisses ont toujours trouvée à Brighton chez M. et Mme Borsinger, et, en terminant, exprime les profonds regrets de tous ses collègues, collaborateurs et collaboratrices à la Légation de voir partir M. et Mme Borsinger, ainsi que les vœux les plus chaleureux pour leur avenir.

M. Paschoud, on behalf of the *Swiss Mercantile Society*, said:

After all the speeches I have heard, I am at a loss what to say. I shall only say how much we thank M. Borsinger for all he has done for the Swiss Mercantile Society. On the numerous occasions we required his services (for permits and other matters) we always found him most helpful. I have myself come for help many times and have always found it. We greatly regret that M. Borsinger is leaving London: he will carry with him our best wishes, and our kind remembrances; we hope to see him with us again soon.

M. Block, on behalf of the *Gymnastic Society*, said in Swiss German how greatly his Society had always appreciated M. Borsinger's ever-present sympathy for their efforts, and how much they regretted his departure.

Mr. Suter, on behalf of the *Nouvelle Société Helvétique*, said:

Nobody has said anything about the ladies! Nobody has mentioned the fact that they left aside their daintiness to show their devotion to M. Borsinger! Would we be prepared to do the same?

M. Borsinger was always ready to help and assist everybody. His great kindness will always be appreciated wherever he goes.

Mr. Schmid, on behalf of the *Swiss Rifle Association*, said:

It is certainly a great pleasure to me to say a few words. I can but endorse all that has been said regarding Mr. Borsinger's kindness. We hope he is leaving us only for a short time. I shall say *au revoir*. We thank him cordially for the support given to our Association, and wish him every success and prosperity and good health.

Mr. Dupraz, on behalf of the *Fonds de Secours*, said:

I am happy that so many members came here to-night to wish Mr. Borsinger god-speed in his new career. As President of the Fonds de Secours I wish to thank him most heartily for all he has done for us during the ten years he has been here. We write to him weekly and his answers are always a model of correspondence in which the signature alone is illegible! Mr. Borsinger has always worked hard, always had a kind word for everybody. All our best wishes for the years to come.

M. Notari, on behalf of the *Unione Ticinese*, said:

Signor Presidente, Sig. Borsinger, Confederati di tutte le nostre, stirpe e favelle nazionali.

E nella certezza che ho, che sia consono allo spirito che anima questa adunanza, ed ai nostri costumi nazionali, che io ardisco rivolgermi a Voi nella bella lingua di Dante, che è l'idioma del mio bel Ticino.

Come in ogni occasione nella nostra stirpe, le parole sono ispirate dal cuore. E parlo dal cuor mio, non solo come individuo privato, ma sicuro dell'unanime planso della mia Società

Unione Ticinese delle intiera Colonia ticinese in Londra. Nella cerimonia di questa sera vi è per noi Ticinese, un po di mestizia-poiché perdiamo nel festeggiato un amico intimo, e un sincero e generoso simpatizzante.

Ci consola il pensiero che nelle sue nuove sfere di attività vorrà sempre conservarci la sua preziosa deferenza e serbare per noi, in un canticcio del suo cuore, dolce e cortese ricordo, come son certo lo serverà per tutti i ticinesi con cui verrà in contatto nella sua illuminata missione a favore della Patria nostra.

Brindo a lunga e prospera carriera al Sig. Borsinger Viva la Svizzera—Vivano le nostre istituzioni.

To conclude the eulogistic chorus, Mr. Boehlinger, in the name of the Colony, presented the souvenir to Mr. Borsinger, with the following words:

There are a few things that may mar the enjoyment and digestion of an otherwise excellent dinner and one of them is the spectre of having to make a speech. One of our learned compatriots has recently informed us that in the course of his medical researches he established the fact, that once upon a time in ancient Rome, when they used to feast the lions with superfluous Christians one of the intended victims prevailed upon the beast, that he would have to make an after-dinner speech, which prospect was sufficient to save his life. I am glad to say that on this occasion I have not been overcome with any such trepidation, for I am performing the delightful though delicate duty of conveying to the guest of the evening a tangible token of the high esteem and sincere affection which he enjoys from each and every one in the Colony.

As no after-dinner speech is complete without the traditional story, I may be permitted to introduce a little anecdote about our distinguished guest. Years ago, when his family lived in the country, his diplomatic duties used to keep him late in town and prevented his returning to the conjugal abode at which we ordinary mortals put in a regular and early appearance to cultivate domestic felicity. However, a small photograph of the pater familias in diplomatic uniform adorned the mantelpiece of his home. We have already been informed of the propensity of young master Borsinger for the science of orography whereby the existing notions about the size of Switzerland may undergo a radical change; he also seems to display a keen interest for the more practical side of life, for when he reached the age when modern boys will become inquisitive about the doings of their parents, he casually asked his mother, pointing to the photograph, "and is this the gentleman who sometimes stays with you over the week-end?" I very much regret that I cannot present you with a full-sized portrait in that stately livery so as to enable Master Borsinger to become thoroughly familiar with the official appearance of his father—and a portrait which I feel sure you, Sir, would contemplate nightly before retiring from your affairs of state in silent and reverent admiration.

The presentation which I am now about to make will, I trust, be acceptable to Monsieur Borsinger. It has been subscribed for in equal parts by the clubs and societies and is meant to convey to you, Sir, in a durable though inadequate manner, our appreciation of the kindness and the rare feeling of fellowship which you have always extended to us. Not all of us have had the privilege to come into personal contact with you, but those who have had that good fortune, amongst whom I include myself, have been overwhelmed by the profundity of your knowledge and singular talent of *savoir faire*, two accomplishments which you have always generously placed at the disposal of your less cultured compatriots. In handing you these candelabra a large part of our heart will go out to you, and may their lights for ever reflect the happiness which is our sincere wish and may they also in moments of gloominess transport you, like Aladdin's lamp, back to us for solace and inspiration.

Mr. Borsinger, who was visibly moved by the numerous expressions of appreciation and sympathy, replied to each of the speakers in the same humorous strain.

Miss Vuffray, of the Legation, added a few words of regret at Mr. Borsinger's departure, skilfully rebutting some teasing remarks about her and her companions' disguise. Mr. Werner wound up the evening with a final hearty good-bye and *au revoir* to Mr. Borsinger.

During the dinner seven members of the Choral Society—Messrs. Weber, Conrad, Suter, Nachburr, Gerber, Bonner and Titzmann—delighted the company with three well-rendered songs. Further much-appreciated entertainments were given by three professional artists, chosen with a discerning eye by the organising committee, to whom special thanks were given for their excellent arrangements for the evening. After fully five hours the company and, we hope, their chief guest, parted in the best of spirits.

## TWO NOTABLE SWISS MEMORIALS

Sculpture, during the last hundred years, has been at a low ebb; lower, even, perhaps, than architecture, and with less excuse.

It is true that the architect has for his inspiration the function of his building. His programme to that extent is drawn up; he has a starting point. But in many respects the programme is a hindrance, for there are few architects of standing who could not design finer elevations were all practical restrictions to be removed. So true is this that we even find the case of men who can design really well only in those cases where requirements are sacrificed or over-ridden. The resulting work is not fine in the highest sense; but scenically it may be successful. Plastically, sculpturally, it may be interesting, and so it should be where abstract ideas can govern and composition is untrammelled.

In a sense, the sculptor has the same initial advantage as the few architects who find occasion to work under these unusual conditions. True, he is limited like the architect, by materials and cost. But his monument has no practical requirements of service to perform. The sculptor is expressing a thought, or an ideal, or is working along representational lines; but, in any case, his whole energy can be concentrated on the conception and its expression; there is only one issue involved, and that is concerned with conveying the message of his inspiration through the medium of form.

The memorial to the Reformation movement at Geneva is a work embodying sculpture and architecture on a scale seldom realised in a monument which cannot be in any sense classified, like the Lincoln memorial in Washington, or the Victor Emmanuel monument in Rome, as an actual building. One could scarcely fail to be moved by the dignified simplicity of the conception of a great wall edged with water, against which are aligned static figures, bound by panels of lettering and small bas-reliefs into a continuous *motif*. In truth, this Geneva monument is one of the finest of modern memorials, conceived with grandeur and simplicity, executed with gravity and restraint, but imbued at the same time with an atmosphere of spiritual fervour.

It is a monument to the leaders of the Reformation movement, and to the movement itself, the force of which is an important factor in the history of Switzerland, and more particularly Geneva.

The Reformation gripped Geneva at a time when political discord ruled, and when Jean Calvin as a refugee from Paris sought shelter there. In company with Farel, the chief protagonist of the new movement in Geneva, he rapidly attained great influence. In 1538 he was banished, but returned three years later to inaugurate an almost sovereign rule of ecclesiastical power, not unaccompanied by tyrannical severity towards his opponents.

Calvin died in 1564, but his doctrines remain firmly rooted in Geneva, and the Reformation monument was inaugurated in 1909, a period of exactly 400 years after his birth, the cost, amounting to £30,000, being met by international subscription.

The site is a public garden of the town, with a broad terrace facing the memorial which acts as a boundary wall to one side of the garden, the long line of warm stone being enhanced by a continuous background of trees. At either end are inscriptions in English recording the ratification of the edict of Reformation on May 21, 1536, and the repulse of the Duke of Savoy in 1602, by which latter feat of arms the political and religious independence of Geneva was assured.

In the centre is a magnificent group of four figures of Calvin, Farel, Beze and Knox, treated with a spiritual sense of dignity that recalls the mediaeval sculpture of Chartres. Against the background is the simple inscription in large letters, "Post Tenebras Lux." The other figures of the memorial represent Frédéric Guillaume, Guillaume le Taciturne, Coligny, Roger Williams, Cromwell and Boesky, and are all finely characterised. The smaller relief panels represent historical incidents, and though in these series of sculpture there are three different scales of figure work, there is very little sense of incongruity, so strongly does the central group of four figures dominate the lesser *motifs*.

The architectural treatment is faultless, and bears the stamp of modern simplicity. It is the work of two Swiss architects, La Verrière and Talliens, while the sculpture is due to two Frenchmen, Henri Bouchard and P. Landowski. The collaboration of these four designers has produced a work which any country would be proud to claim, and it is a pity that the Reformation monument has achieved such small publicity, for its beauty is an inspiration.

Of quite another order, but of fine quality, is the comparatively unknown monument to the Swiss soldiers who died during the war period, erected in the Swiss Jura mountains at Les Rangiers, on the road between Basle and Geneva.

It is not generally realised that Switzerland, though a neutral country, lost many of her citizens who were mobilised during the long war years, exposed as these soldiers were to hardships and the rigours of climate, deprived of any but a negative incentive to the performance of military duties.

The stalwart qualities of the Swiss soldier are admirably suggested in the figure by l'Éplatinnier, which stands on a pedestal in the centre of a mountain roadway looking out across the valleys of the Jura.

We all know, from experience of our own memorials, how difficult it is to give strength and vigour to a single figure of this kind without over-dramatisation, or the suggestion of bravado and truculence. In this work realism is not suppressed, but it is translated into the material with sympathy and a real mastery of composition in which every accessory in the design is made to add its quota.

The chief success of this memorial lies, however, in its harmony with a mountain setting. How easy it would be to lose scale and power with such surroundings, and what a temptation to attempt the crude or colossal!

(Reprinted from *The Architect & Building News*.)

#### HOME NEWS—continued.

cessible en hiver, depuis la Lenk, elle était très fréquentée par les skieurs. Un gardien y demeurait en été. Ce gardien, M. Bradschi, a téléphoné au président de la section Moléson, M. Schorderet, qu'ayant été chercher du foin à Iffigenalp, il avait remarqué des traces de pas et des débris de vêtements, qu'il suivit jusque sur l'emplacement de la cabane, dont il ne reste rien.

On a vu, ces jours derniers, à la Lenk, trois individus de mauvaise mine, qui ont demandé le chemin du col du Rawil. Bien que la route ne fût pas praticable, ils n'en partirent pas moins pour le col par Poeschenried. On a constaté le cambriolage de quatre chalets sur l'Iffigenalp. De là, les voleurs se sont dirigés vers la cabane du Wildhorn, sont revenus vers Iffigenalp d'où ils semblent avoir pris la direction de Langermatten.

#### TRIBUNAL D'YVERDON.

Surtout depuis qu'elle est interdite, bien des gens trouvent à l'absinthe un attrait tout particulier. Il s'en fabrique encore de-ci de-là à l'abri des regards inquisiteurs des représentants de la loi. Il s'en fabrique aussi à Yverdon et de la fort bonne et le fabricant n'aurait jamais été inquiet s'il n'avait remis de la drogue prohibée à des gens dans lesquels il eut trop grande confiance.

Le Tribunal d'Yverdon avait à juger, dans sa dernière séance, les cinq individus qui s'étaient laissés prendre dans ce coup de filet de la gendarmerie. L. J., domicilié à Yverdon, a été condamné à 120 fr. d'amende et au paiement des 12/32mes des frais de la cause. C. H., domicilié Yverdon, a été condamné à 80 fr. d'amende et au paiement des 8/32mes des frais. H. P., domicilié près de Couvet, à 60 fr. d'amende et au paiement des 6/32mes des frais. P. S., sans domicile connu, à 40 fr. d'amende et au paiement des 4/32mes des frais. E. V., domicilié à Moudon, à 20 fr. d'amende et au paiement des 2/32mes des frais. G. L.

#### PROCES DE PRESSE.

A la suite d'une polémique de presse M. Albert Gigon, publiciste et ancien avocat à Berne, collaborateur du journal le *Travail*, avait intenté un procès en dommages-intérêts à M. René Leyvraz, rédacteur en chef du *Courrier de Genève*.

Rejetant le recours de M. Gigon, le Tribunal fédéral a confirmé le jugement de la Cour de Genève déboutant le demandeur de sa prétention de 5000 fr. de dommages-intérêts.

#### LA PEINTRE VALLET.

Mercredi est décédé à Cressy (Genève) le peintre et graveur Edouard Vallet, né à Genève en 1876. Peintre de talent, c'était surtout un maître de l'eau-forte. Il excellait à représenter la vie rustique. Vallet avait longtemps établi sa demeure en Valais au milieu des montagnes.

#### PERSONAL.

We have pleasure in announcing the birth on May 1st of a daughter, Rosemary Jacqueline, to Nina, wife of Mr. J. J. Pfaendler, of 61, Woodland Rise, Muswell Hill, N.10.

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#### UNIONE TICINESE.

Once again the Ticinese colony was gathered to a social evening on the 25th ult., at the "Schweizerbund," and over 90 members and friends sat down at about 8 p.m. to an unassuming but good and well-served banquet.

The many Ticinesi who had looked forward for weeks to the opportunity of spending a few hours with their friends did not waste time in making the most of the chance offered to them. Our good friend Monsieur G. Marchand evidently did not desire to lose favour with the fair sex, and on this occasion also presented a nice bracelet watch, which was drawn for in the course of the dinner, together with a cut-glass vase, as second prize, presented by our friend Mr. Dwelley. The young lady chosen to draw the winning tickets had the pleasurable surprise of picking out her own ticket for the second prize.

Towards the end of the banquet our President, Mr. Notari, addressed a few words of welcome to the gathering and read out a communication, full of patriotic sentiments, from our Secretary, Mr. Gambazzi, who was unfortunately prevented from being present, due to influenza. Our Hon. Vice-President, Mr. A. Meschini, as he could not be with us, sent his greetings and best wishes for a successful evening.

The banquet ended, the dancing enthusiasts soon monopolised the hall and were reinforced by the substantial number of those who, not having had the opportunity of partaking of the banquet did not in any case want to miss all the fun. The additional accommodation provided by the enlarged hall of the "Schweizerbund" made sure, however, that everyone should spend the evening in comfort.

The atmosphere which prevailed throughout was exceptionally friendly and homely and, by all appearances, even that small number of habitués who are not themselves Ticinesi could not have wished for a more pleasurable few hours. Their presence was greatly appreciated and we hope to see them again on future occasions also. Two a.m. came all too soon for most of us, and friends scattered with real regret, but with the determination of not missing the next opportunity, which will be given by the usual Annual Outing, fixed for the 30th of June.

All those who took part in the entertainment will also be glad to know that they have substantially contributed towards a good cause, as the net profit made is being sent to the Ticinese Children's Welfare Centre, which the Society has supported on many other occasions, and which is doing such good work in saving young lives in the Ticino. O.B.

#### SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

The Swiss Benevolent Society held their quarterly meeting on the 6th instant, at Swiss House, 34/35, Fitzroy Square, with Mr. Borsinger, Swiss Chargé d'Affaires, in the chair.

The minutes of the last meeting and the quarterly accounts were duly approved. Unfortunately the latter show again an increase on the corresponding figures for 1928, due to the heavy calls made upon the Society for aged people and for our numerous countrymen still out of work. On the other hand, a letter from the Swiss Federal Authorities was read intimating that their contribution for 1929 will be reduced by 25 per cent. The auditors reported that the accounts for 1928 were found in perfect order, and asked the meeting to vote special thanks to the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. F. M. Gamper, which was done by acclamation.

A new pensioner, 80 years old, was elected, and a few cases of special interest were submitted to the consideration of the members present. It was stated that the Annual Report was at the printer's.

#### SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

##### EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

In connection with the scholastic programme the following lectures were given by the students during last week:—

H. Wucher, Zurich: "The Origin of Rugs." Miss E. Keller, Zurich: "The Arrival of a Steamer." R. Schoen, Zurich: "Ideals in Life." F. Schleinger, Rorschach: "The Vatican." A. Job, Olten: "Retail Trade." F. Streit, Utzenstorf: "Belgium." Miss C. Stoffel, Samaden: "The Romance Language." W. Kramer, Zollikon: "A Journey on Skis." A. Suter, Winterthur: "A Trip by Air." Miss G. Pey, Lucerne: "The Buergenstock."

The debating classes dealt with the following subject:

"Do you believe in Platonic Friendship?" Proposer, Mr. Grellet; Opposer, R. Schoen.

"Are you in favour of World Disarmament?" Proposer, H. Roggmann; Opposer, L. Bacilieri.

Friday: A lecture was given by the Rev. M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme on: "Sous les bannières flammées."

Saturday: Visit to the Houses of Parliament. Monday: A Students' Dance was held at the First Avenue Hotel, High Holborn. 270 Students and friends were present.

## SWISS BANK CORPORATION,

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West End Office, 11c, Regent St., S.W.1,

which is situated next door to that of the Swiss Federal Railways.

## Swiss Rifle Association

Head-quarters: 1, Gerrard Place, W.1

Shooting Range: Opposite Welsh Harp, Hendon.

### Swiss Sports Shooting Competition

will be decided during the week-end

MAY 11-12 and 18-19.

Luncheons and Teas provided for on Sundays.

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### Divine Services.

EGLISE SUISSE (1762),  
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79, Endell Street, near New Oxford St., W.C.3.

Dimanche, 12. Mai: 11h.—*Reception des Catéchumènes.* M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme.

3.30: Au Presbytère: Anciens Catéchumènes.

6.30: Dernière étude sur Ste. Paul (xxviii).

7.30: Répétition du Choeur.

Jeu, 16 Mai: Visite aux oeuvres de l'Armée du Salut. Rendezvous: 3h.15, Angel Tube Station.

### SCHWEIZERKIRCHE

(Deutschschweizerische Gemeinde)

St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2.

(near General Post Office.)

Sonntag, den 12. Mai, 1929.—11 Uhr vorm.: Gottesdienst. Sonntagschule.

7 Uhr abends: Gottesdienst.

Mittwoch, den 15. Mai: abends 6.30: Gemeindeversammlung im Foyer Suisse, 15, Upper Bedford Place, W.1.

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Saturday and Sunday, May 11th and 12th.—SWISS RIFLE ASSOC.: Swiss Sports Shooting Competition at Shooting Range, opposite Welsh Harp, Hendon.

UNION HELVETIA CLUB.—Last date for playing in SKITTLE CHAMPIONSHIP! May 15th.

Wednesday, May 15th, at 8.30 p.m.—SWISS MERCANTILE SOC.: Monthly Meeting at Swiss House, 34/35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.

Wednesday, May 15th, at 7.45 p.m.—NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE: Monthly Meeting of the London Group, followed by a causerie by Mr. Robt. Schiess on "Life in the Swiss Guards in Rome," at Swiss House, 34/35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.

Thursday, May 16th, at 8.45 p.m.—SWISS SPORTS COMMITTEE: Meeting at Swiss House, 34/35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.

Saturday, May 25th, at 2.30.—SWISS SPORTS at Herne Hill Athletic Grounds.

SWISS RIFLE ASSOC.: Every Saturday and Sunday, Shooting Practice on the Rifle Range near the Welsh Harp, Hendon.

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