

Zermatt carving presented to Sussex mountaineering centre

Autor(en): [s.n.]

Objektyp: **Article**

Zeitschrift: **The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK**

Band (Jahr): - (1966)

Heft 1506

PDF erstellt am: **25.09.2024**

Persistenter Link: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-696089>

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FAREWELL PARTY IN HONOUR OF MISS ROSIE PREISWERK

The many friends of the retiring Warden of the Swiss Hostel for Girls, Miss Rosie Preiswerk, especially those who had been in close contact working with her on various Committees, were anxious to bid farewell in an appropriate manner. Perhaps it was due to her modesty that she deliberately chose the middle of holiday time for her departure, so as to escape with the least possible fuss. Fortunately she did not quite succeed, and a handsome number of friends and collaborators — four-score and more — assembled in the pleasant lounge of the Hostel for an evening party on Friday, 29th July. It was by kind invitation of the *Conseiller Social* of the Swiss Embassy and Madame F. Ansermoz that the reception was arranged, and members of the Embassy, the Council of Management and the House Committee of the Hostel, the Welfare Office, the Swiss Benevolent Society, the Swiss Churches and the Nouvelle Société Helvétique, as well as some personal friends of Miss Preiswerk's came to pay their respects.

The event brought into focus the activities outside Hostel life in which Miss Preiswerk took part during her stay in London. She was a faithful member of the Swiss Church and the Council of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique. On behalf of his society, the President of the N.S.H., Dr. H. W. Egli, presented Miss Preiswerk with a token of gratitude and affection in the shape of an English silver biscuit tin. In his capacity as President of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom he also expressed thanks and appreciation in the name of the whole Swiss Colony. In a few well-chosen and sincere words he recalled the valuable services Miss Preiswerk had rendered not only in the development of the Hostel, but also by looking after hundreds of Swiss girls with wisdom and understanding. Her contribution in this field had ultimately been for the benefit of the whole Swiss community. The enthusiastic applause with which the party seconded Dr. Egli's presentation showed in which great esteem the departing Warden has been held and how much his words echoed the feelings of all those present.

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PERSONAL

We announce with deep regret the death of one of our old friends, Mr. Léon Jobin of Chemin de Béranges 8, La Tour-de-Peilz, Vaud. An obituary will follow in the next issue.

* * *

We have great pleasure in announcing the birth of a son Stefan Gottlob to The Rev. and Mrs. Peter Wipf, Pfarrhaus, 8124 Maur (Zurich). We send the baby, his parents and family our best wishes for a happy future.

* * *

We are pleased to congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Renaud Thomas of 30 Thurloe Square, S.W.7, on the birth of a daughter Letitia Juliette, sister to Benjamin and Guy. We extend best wishes for a happy future.

OUR NEXT ISSUE

The "Swiss Observer" is published every second and fourth Friday of the month. Our next issue will appear on 26th August. We shall be glad to receive articles and reports not later than Wednesday, 17th August. Short news items only can be accepted later.

ZERMATT CARVING PRESENTED TO SUSSEX MOUNTAINEERING CENTRE

In the Church of Our Lady of Minster near Tonbridge there is a statue of a Madonna and child with a dove in her hand. It is that figure which gave Mr. John Walters, Director of the Bowles Rocks Trust Ltd., the Sussex Mountaineering Centre, an idea. He had a photo taken and sent to Zermatt. An artist in woodcarving, Beat Gasser, at Lungern carved a statue copying the photo. It is this statue which was presented to the Sussex Centre by the people of Zermatt on Sunday, 10th July.

The Chapel at Bowles is a copy of the Schwarzsee Chapel near Zermatt, and on that Sunday morning, the Rev. Father J. Scherer of the Swiss R.C. Mission in London, celebrated Mass, followed by the blessing of the statue standing on a pedestal on the wall. There was a full chapel, also for the Anglican Service which was held immediately after the Roman Catholic worship. Both services were most impressive, and there was some good singing by student novices.

The climbing installations were then visited, and at the Club House, the Manager of the Zermatt Tourist Office, Mr. C. Cachin, gave an address. Refreshments were served, and visitors were able to stroll through the extensive grounds with their interesting rock formations used to train amateur and expert mountaineers for difficult climbing.

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ANOTHER BIRTHDAY IN AUGUST

We have just heard that Mr. Jacques Regamey of "Parva Domus", Hale Road, Wendover, Bucks, celebrated his 75th birthday on 1st August. As he was born on the Swiss National Day in 1891, he received the 600th anniversary medal from the City of Lausanne. He would be interested to know if there are any other recipients in this country.

Many happy returns of the day, even belatedly!

"SWISS MOUNTAIN MAGIC"

In our issue of 8th July, we published a review of a book on Switzerland called "Swiss Mountain Magic" by Desmond and Marjorie Parish. We have just been informed that marketing arrangements should be established for the Christmas trade, but that in the meantime, a limited number of copies at 55/- each are for sale.

Please apply to Mr. Desmond D. Parish,
Timperley,
Altrincham,
Cheshire.

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