

# Swiss Mercantile Society

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## NEWS FROM THE COLONY.

## SWISS ORCHESTRAL SOCIETY.

Amongst the numerous Swiss Societies in London is the Swiss Orchestral Society; a Society, it is true, which does not advertise itself much, but every year they give to their supporters and to the Colony at large a concert, just to prove that they are by no means a dormant or extinguished concern.

Apart from this special concert, they are and have been ever ready to take part in the various functions which are held throughout the year in the Colony; I need only mention the "Fête Suisse" at the Westminster Hall, where their performance before a Swiss audience of over a thousand has become the star turn in the programme.

The orchestra has also rendered a helping hand at several functions arranged by the Nouvelle Société Helvétique, in short they have ever been ready to lend a helping hand, when their services were required, and by doing so, they have often strained their slender financial resources to the breaking point.

It would be wrong to say that their collaboration has not received due appreciation, as many members of the Colony, have, on various occasions, either privately or publicly expressed their pride that the Swiss Colony, alone amongst all the foreign colonies in this Metropolis, should have such an excellent orchestra.

Although this has been very gratifying to the Society, they would like to see their services honoured in a still more tangible way, either by swelling the ranks of their contributing members, or perhaps even more, by a substantial audience at their Annual Concert.

Unfortunately the Annual Concert during the last few years has suffered from lack of attendance, which is greatly to be regretted, as these performances have reached a remarkably high standard.

This omission, or one might call it by its proper name, viz., lack of interest, should be remedied at once, and I am glad to say that there is a splendid opportunity to do so almost immediately.

The Swiss Orchestral Society, under the leadership of its energetic conductor, Mr. E. P. Dick, is giving their Annual Concert, on Friday, March the 12th, at the Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, W.C.

I make a strong appeal to the readers of this paper and their friends, to show the orchestra their appreciation for so many enjoyable hours which they have given us in the past, by attending this concert in great numbers.

Monsieur C. R. Paravicini, the Swiss Minister, under whose patronage the concert is taking place, has promised to be present.

The programme is a very varied one and is sure to appeal to the audience. The principal soloist will be Miss Dorothy Davis, violin-cello, who on a previous occasion at Conway Hall, delighted the audience with her fine playing, in addition Mr. Teddy Weil, the youthful Swiss artiste will give a violin solo, and those who heard him play before, will be glad to learn that he is well on the way to become a fully fledged musician of no mean talent.

The Orchestra will be augmented to its usual concert strength of about 30 performers. The programme, as already mentioned, is kept on the light side, and comprises Adam's overture to "Si j'étais Roi," "Invitation à la Valse" by C. M. Weber, the "Gypsy Baron" overture by Joh. Strauss and Delibes' Ballet Suite from "Sylvia" as *pièce de résistance*. It is a programme which studies all tastes.

There is thus no excuse for not booking this evening and to turn up in large numbers on Friday, March 12th, at Conway Hall, I have not the slightest doubt that it will be an evening well spent.

ST.

## SHERRY PARTY AT THE LEGATION.

The Swiss Minister, who was supported by his two daughters, Milles, Livia and Jacqueline Paravicini, gave a Sherry party at the Legation on Wednesday, February 24th, to the members of the various teams who are taking part in the World and European Ice Hockey Championship.

Apart from the members of the following teams: Swiss, English, French, German, Czechoslovakian, Rumanian, Polish, Canadian, Hungarian, there were present the Czechoslovak Minister, Monsieur Jan Masaryk, M. P. Vassar Hunter, C.B.E., President of the British Ice Hockey Association and M. J. F. Ahearne, Secretary of the British Ice Hockey Association.

Professor Carl Burekhardt, the newly appointed High Commissioner for Danzig was also amongst the numerous guests.

## SWISS EVENING AT PAGANI'S.

It has often been said, and not without justification, that some of the functions held by Swiss Societies in London, are devoid of a homely Swiss atmosphere. I well remember that some years ago, a speech in "Schwizerdütsch" at any Banquet or dinner used to be almost obligatory. For some reason, for which I can find no excuse, this custom has been dispensed with of late, much to the regret of those who still like to hear one of our mother tongues, if only on rare occasions.

The City Swiss Club is to be congratulated upon its initiative in arranging a real homely Swiss evening by having invited the famous "William Tell" Yodle Choir from Berne, which is paying a visit to this country, to be their guests at Pagani's on Tuesday, March 9th.

The invitation is extended to all members of the Colony and I feel sure that it will be a most enjoyable affair.

The Yodlers are looking forward to this evening with great expectations, hoping to spend a few happy hours with their countrymen, this expectation is undoubtedly shared by a large number of London-Swiss.

In order to enable the Committee of the City Swiss Club to make adequate arrangements it is necessary that all those who wish to be present on that evening, should apply as early as possible for tickets which can be had from any members of the committee, or at the offices of the Swiss Observer, 23, Leonard Street, E.C.2. (Tel. Clerkenwell 9595-9596) Price 6/6 which includes dinner.

ST.

## SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

The Sixth Ordinary General Meeting of the Swiss Mercantile Society (Limited by Guarantee) was held at Swiss House, 34/35, Fitzroy Square, W.1, on Wednesday, February 17th.

About 40 members were present and Mr. A. Steinmann, President of the Society, was in the Chair.

The Secretary read the notice convening the Meeting and the report of the Auditors.

*Accounts:* Mr. Percy H. Green, F.C.A., elucidated the accounts for the period under review as circulated among the members and these were duly adopted.

*Reports:* The Chairman then reported on the activities of the S.M.S. during its 48th year of existence.

Whilst the membership had remained almost stationary the Society had left no stone unturned to make the meetings and other functions as interesting as possible and the President exhorted the Members to support him in rallying yet in larger number to the meetings arranged by the Society. A detailed account of meetings, lectures, social functions, sports, etc., was given which showed that the Society could look back upon another year of fruitful activity. The President concluded his report by expressing thanks to the Federal Authorities in Switzerland, the Swiss Legation in London, the Central Secretariat of the association in Zurich as well as the numerous friends and benefactors of the Society for their continued loyal support and he hoped that the Society would be favoured with this patronage in the future as it had been in the past. He finally thanked the Members of the various Committees and the Staff for the work done for the Society.

Mr. W. Meier, Chairman of the Education Committee, presented the report of his Committee. The College, he said, had passed through another year of animated activity and an increase in the number of students attending the College could be recorded. The report went on to give full particulars of attendance, Teaching Staff, curriculum, results of examinations, Holiday Course, Visitors to the College, excursions, lectures, social functions and sports, Old S.M.S. Students' Clubs, etc., etc.

The report clearly showed that the activities of the College are indeed manifold and that the educational advantages and amenities offered are fully up to the high standard the College has set itself.

A new illustrated prospectus was issued containing apart from a general survey of the history, organisation and working of the College a number of photographs showing students at work and at play. A new departure was the Holiday Course which met with success and this new venture will be repeated this summer.

Mr. H. H. Baumann, Vice-Chairman of the Education Committee, reported on the Evening Classes which despite the restrictions on immigration are still meeting a great need, over 300 students having taken advantage of the educational facilities. The curriculum comprises Language, commercial and shorthand classes and whereas there was a decrease in the number of classes held compared with the previous years the number of students was proportionately higher. The report gave full particulars of classes, attendance, teaching staff, etc.

Finally Mr. J. J. Boos, Chairman of the House Committee, reported on the activities of his Committee. He gave a concise account of the repairs, alterations and renovations effected at Swiss House for the comfort of and as amenities to the Members and Students. The report concluded with a record of the affiliated Societies who have their headquarters at Swiss House and the Society's friendly relations and connexions with the other Swiss Societies.

The reports were thereupon duly adopted and a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to those who had so efficiently compiled them.

*Elections:* The Auditor, Mr. Percy H. Green, F.C.A., was re-appointed auditor of the Society for the financial year 1937.

The Chairman then reported that with the exception of Mr. W. Deutsch, a Member of the Council and Mr. Hardmeier, a Member of the Education Committee, all the retiring members of Committees and the Council had consented to stand for re-election.

He mentioned that despite the efforts made to retain the services of the two resigning members they could not see their way to stand for re-election. The President on behalf of the Society expressed thanks to them for their many years of devoted work for the Society. There being no further nominations the Chairman declared all nominees duly elected.

Mr. A. C. Stahelin proposed a vote of thanks to the Committees and the Council expressing the Society's appreciation for all they had done, often, in trying circumstances. This was seconded by Mr. A. Stauffer and received with hearty applause from the body of the Meeting. The Chairman in the name of the Council and Committees thanked Mr. Stahelin for his words and the Meeting for the vote of thanks to which he added his personal gratification at being re-elected President and at the confidence reposed in him as well as for the loyal support he receives. The proceedings then terminated.

## CONSTITUTION OF THE COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 1937.

## COUNCIL.

*Chairman:* Mr. A. Steinmann.

*Vice-Chairman:* Mr. J. J. Boos.

9 Members:

Messrs. Ch. Chapuis, G. E. De Brunner (Trustee), O. Grob, E. Hardmeier, G. Jenne, L. W. Krueker, W. Meier, J. J. Pfändler, M. Schneider.

## GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE.

*President:* Mr. A. Steinmann.

*Vice-President:* (Chairman Education Committee): Mr. W. Meier.

*Vice-President:* (Chairman House Committee): Mr. J. J. Boos.

*Hon. Secretary:* Mr. M. Schneider.

*Hon. Treasurer:* Mr. O. Grob.

3 Members:

Messrs. R. Chappuis, M. Heilinger, J. Trachsel

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

*Chairman:* Mr. W. Meier.

*Vice-Chairman:* Mr. H. H. Baumann.

Messrs. G. Haberstich, M. Rothlisberger, F. Streit, R. Weist.

## HOUSE COMMITTEE.

*Chairman:* Mr. J. J. Boos.

*Vice-Chairman:* Mr. J. Trachsel.

2 Members:

Mrs. T. Lunghi-Rezzonico, Mr. P. Mathys.

## AUDITOR.

Mr. Percy H. Green, F.C.A.

## PRESS REPORTER.

Mr. W. Burren.

## DELEGATE on the ADVISORY BOARD of the EMPLOYMENT DEPARTMENT.

Mr. Ch. Chapuis.

## DELEGATES on the SWISS SPORTS COMMITTEE.

Messrs. W. Burren, R. Chappuis, F. von Bergen.

## DELEGATE to the N.S.H.

Mr. F. Streit.

The Annual General Meeting was immediately followed by an Ordinary Monthly Meeting.

The Chairman referred to the lecture which will be held at the Monthly Meeting on March 10th when Lord Passfield will address the Society on "What about U.S.S.R.?" The hope was expressed that a large number of members and their friends would attend to hear an expert unravel the mysteries of those vast tracts of land which we can never quite fathom.

The Members' attention was also drawn to a Dance, the last one of the season, to be held at the Royal Hotel, Woburn Place, Russell Square, W. 1, on Tuesday, March 2nd. Tickets 2/6 each can be obtained from the office (Museum 6693).

Mr. Meier reported on the recent activities of the College and informed the Meeting that the Football Team of the College, on February 13th, defeated the Metropolitan Police (Tottenham Court Road), Cup Semi-Finalists of the North

London League by 9 goals to 2. This announcement was loudly cheered.

Mr. Meier then proposed that a Philatelic Section of the Society be formed for the purpose of exchanging postage stamps among the many philatelists of the Society. This suggestion found general approval and it was decided that all stamp collectors who are interested should meet members and friends of the Society at Swiss House on Wednesday, March 3rd, at 7.30 p.m.

On the motion of Mr. Boehringer a cordial vote of thanks was passed to the Chairman and this concluded the Meeting.

W.B.

### CONCERT NEWS.

The Swiss pianist, Edwin Fischer, played a programme of Bach, Beethoven and Chopin on Tuesday night at Wigmore Hall. The audience showed itself appreciative of his noble gifts.

There is, indeed, a generous breadth of mind in Mr. Fischer's performances which earns him the right to the title of a great pianist. He played the "Waldstein" sonata and brought home Beethoven's size and variety.

There have been giants — D'Albert and Busoni — who both did this and also achieved a more consistent execution than Mr. Fischer. But if in the Rondo not all the articulation was perfect, the essential poetry was there, and, as well as a leonine spirit, Mr. Fischer commanded a range of beautiful soft tones.

Chopin was represented by the whole set of Preludes. This was on the whole a less suitable field, for the artist was rather wanting in the nervous fineness and scintillation required by some of these pieces, e.g., the 14th and the 16th. But he was admirable both in tenderness and strength, and after his performance, powerful but not heavy, of the mighty D minor concluding piece one had to say again, "A great pianist!"

R.C.

### SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY COLLEGE.

We offer our congratulations to the College football team on their magnificent victory (9 : 2) over the Metropolitan Police at Imber Court.

### ICE HOCKEY MATCH SWITZERLAND v. HUNGARY. Semi-Final Pool A.

Switzerland beat Hungary in a semi-final Pool A. match at Wembley on Monday evening by 4 goals to 2.

At the end of the first period the score was 1—0 in Hungary's favour, Jeney having scored for them. In the second period Switzerland drew level when Toriani scored from an arisust by H. Cattini, and a few minutes later took the lead when F. Cattini scored, once again arisusted by H. Cattini. Just before the end of the second period Hungary scored their second goal through Jeney to make the scores 2—2.

Switzerland were the superior team in the third period, and scored two more goals, the first a brilliant solo effort by F. Geromini and the second by A. Geromini from an arisust by F. Cattini.

There were five penalties during the match, three against Switzerland and 2 against Hungary.

The results up to last Thursday are:

Switzerland beat Norway 13 : 2.  
Great Britain beat Switzerland 3 : 0.  
Czecho-Slovakia v. Switzerland 2 : 2.  
Switzerland beat Poland 1 : 0.  
Great Britain beat Switzerland 2 : 0.

Names of Swiss Team:—

A. Kuenzler, F. Geromini, Ch. Badrutt, Ferd. Cattini, H. Kessler, H. Cattini, H. Lohrer, R. Toriani, Ch. Kessler, Beat Rüedi, A. Hirz, A. Kuenzler, E. Eberle, A. Geromini, H. Lohrer, M. Keller, S. Kessler, J. Bachtold.

### INTERLAKEN WILL AGAIN PRESENT "WILLIAM TELL."

Open-air performances of Schiller's drama "William Tell" will again be a feature of the summer season at Interlaken in the Bernese Oberland. The presentations will be given on Sunday afternoons, beginning July 11 and ending September 12th.

As customary, about 350 amateur actors, all natives of Interlaken and environs, will participate. The "theatre" itself is a plot of wooded projections of Mount Rügen, one of Interlaken's many points of views, bay-like embracing a meadow-plain and, on the other side, forming an amphitheatrical incline. The stage part includes in a most unique grouping the lake, the Rütli, the Hollow Road of Küssnacht, the home of Stauffacher, the tower residence of the nobles of Atinghausen, the castle of Zwing-Uri, the village of Altdorf with its familiar church, and the home of the Tell family.

The costumes are made after the drawings of the late Rudolf Muenger, foremost authority on heraldry and medieval dress in Switzerland. Colours of the woollen and silk materials are cleverly blended and toned down and each costume is a study in medieval garb.

In the opening scene of the first act, the spectators will not simply hear some tinkling of bells behind canvas to indicate the return of the cattle from their summer pastures high up in the mountains. They will, in fact, see a big herd of the finest Bernese Oberland cows. Their tuneful bells, as well as the hauntingly beautiful "Kuhreigen" melodies played by alphorn blowers, will furnish a never-to-be-forgotten overture. The cattle are seen descending from the alpine pastures where they spent the summer. In their wake follow the herdsmen with the quaint and interesting equipment used in the dairy huts. Hunters are coming down the heights where they have been engaged in the pursuit of the elusive chamois, the fishermen are busily engaged mending their nets by the waterside.

The impressive "Oath of Rütli," the dramatic episode of the "Shot of the Apple" and "Gessler's Death," they are some of the high lights in a drama which consists of an uninterrupted succession of memorable scenes.

For those who are not conversant with the German language, textbooks in English are available, explaining the scenes as they come in short, pointed sentences, so that they can easily follow the action.

For the convenience of the spectators the open-air auditorium is covered. The performances will, as usual, start at 1.30 P.M., and fees of admission, which include community tax, will, as heretofore, range from 3.30 Swiss francs to 12 Swiss francs each, according to location.

### AN ALPINE FETE.

Welcome, welcome, ye day of days — welcome ye valleys — and welcome ye waves! a hearty welcome to you snow-capped peaks — adieu to the toil of the few past weeks.

Away to the mountains — the Swiss soon fly — not an idle moment — is let passed by — dancing merrily — in costume gay — drinking readily — 'till break of day.

A gladsome song is quickly heard — a rosy garland worn — merry yodlers humming faint — and numerous children quaint — cowbells tinkling — and frolics ever new — the crowds loud shout — Alpine Fête — a long adieu!

Mary E. Brandwood.

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### CITY SWISS CLUB.

Messieurs les membres sont avisés que  
**L'ASSEMBLEE MENSUELLE**  
aura lieu mardi 9 Mars à 7 heures très précises.  
au Restaurant PAGANI, 42, Great Portland Street,  
W.1. Cette assemblée sera suivie à 7h.30 d'un  
diner auquel prendra part le "William Tell Jodel  
Choir" de Berne (prix 6/6).

#### ORDRE DU JOUR:

Procès-verbal. | Démonstrations.  
Cinderella | Divers.  
Admissions.

Pour faciliter les arrangements, les participants sont priés de bien vouloir s'inscrire au plus tôt auprès de Monsieur P. F. Boehringer, 23, Leonard Street, E.C.2. (Téléphone: Clerkenwell 9595)

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Tuesday, March 2nd — College, Swiss Mercantile Society — Dance — at the Royal Hotel, Russell Square, W.1.

Tuesday, March 9th, at 7 p.m. sharp — City Swiss Club — Monthly Meeting. — 7.30 p.m., Dinner in Honour of the "William Tell" Yodel Choir from Berne, at Pagani's Restaurant, Great Portland Place, W. (See special announcement.)

Wednesday, March 10th, at 8 p.m. — Swiss Mercantile Society — Monthly Meeting followed by a lecture on "What About U.S.S.R.?" by Lord Passfield, at "Swiss House," 34/35, Fitzroy Square, W.

Thursday, March 11th — Schweizerbund (Swiss Club) — Fancy Dress Ball — at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1. Extension till 2 a.m.

Friday, March 12th, at 8.15 p.m. — Swiss Institute Orchestral Society — Annual Concert — at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, W.C.1.

Saturday, March 13th, at 7 o'clock — City Swiss Club — Dinner and Dance — at the Mayfair Hotel, Berkeley Square, W.1.

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Dimanche 28 Février 11h. — M. Paul Besson.  
cand. miss. de Courtelary.

11h. — Ecole du Dimanche M. R. Hoffmann-de  
Visme.

6h.30 — M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme — Réunion  
de prière.

### SCHWEIZERKIRCHE

(Deutschsprachige Gemeinde).

St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2.  
(near General Post Office.)

Sonntag, den 28. Februar 1937.

11 Uhr morgens, Gottesdienst und Sonntag-  
schule.

7 Uhr abends, Gottesdienst.

8 Uhr, Chorprobe.

Dienstag, den 2. März 1937.

3 Uhr nachm., Nähverein im "Foyer Suisse."

### ST. BONIFATIUS KIRCHE.

47, Adler Street, Commercial Road, Aldgate, E.1.

Katholisch-Deutscher Gottesdienst während der  
Fastenzeit.

Sonntag, den 28. Februar, 7h. Abends Fasten-  
predigt, gehalten von Pater Dangelmaier von  
Fribourg.