The eternal question

Autor(en): **[s.n.]**

Objekttyp: **Article**

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

Band (Jahr): **- (1939)**

Heft 911

PDF erstellt am: **19.03.2024**

Persistenter Link: https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-691603

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Inhalten der Zeitschriften. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern.
Die auf der Plattform e-periodica veröffentlichten Dokumente stehen für nicht-kommerzielle Zwecke in Lehre und Forschung sowie für die private Nutzung frei zur Verfügung. Einzelne Dateien oder Ausdrucke aus diesem Angebot können zusammen mit diesen Nutzungsbedingungen und den korrekten Herkunftsbezeichnungen weitergegeben werden.
Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. Die systematische Speicherung von Teilen des elektronischen Angebots auf anderen Servern bedarf ebenfalls des schriftlichen Einverständnisses der Rechteinhaber.

Haftungsausschluss

Alle Angaben erfolgen ohne Gewähr für Vollständigkeit oder Richtigkeit. Es wird keine Haftung übernommen für Schäden durch die Verwendung von Informationen aus diesem Online-Angebot oder durch das Fehlen von Informationen. Dies gilt auch für Inhalte Dritter, die über dieses Angebot zugänglich sind.

Ein Dienst der *ETH-Bibliothek*
ETH Zürich, Rämistrasse 101, 8092 Zürich, Schweiz, www.library.ethz.ch

http://www.e-periodica.ch

VISIT OF THE MAYOR OF ST. PANCRAS to the COLLEGE of the SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.



(From left to right):— Messrs. C. M. R. Boney, J. J. Schneider, J. Lockyer, Mrs. W. Meier, Miss R. H. Benzie, Messrs. A. Levy (Principal), R. Weist, Miss Watts, Mr. R. S. Thompson, The Mayoress, Messrs. F. W. Bevan, P. F. Boehringer, The Mayor, Messrs. A. Stauffer, J. J. Boos (President), V. H. Burraston, C. C. Bottoms, C. Slade, W. Burren.

Wednesday, April 19th, was another red-letter day in the annals of the College of the S.M.S. The Mayor of St. Pancras, Councillor G. A. Watts, J.P., accompanied by the Mayoress and Miss Watts, paid an official visit to Swiss House. He was received by Mr. J. J. Boos, President of the Swiss Mercantile Society, and Mr. A. Levy, Principal of the College. Mrs. Meier presented a bouquet of red and white carnations (Swiss colours) to the Mayoress.

Messrs. M. Heilinger, L. W. Krucker, J. J. Pfaendler and A. C. Stahelin, members of the Council; Messrs. G. Haberstich, M. Rothlisberger and R. Weist, members of the Education Committee, and Mr. A. Stauffer, Editor of the Swiss Observer, were presented to the Mayor.

The Mayor, Mayoress and Miss Watts then visited some of the classes to obtain an idea of the work of the College. The students assembled in the Lecture Room where they were addressed by His Worship, the Mayor, who said it gave him great pleasure, as Mayor of the Borough of St. Pancras, to have come to Swiss House. He encouraged the students to make themselves efficient in English as well as to learn the manners and customs of the English people. He had gathered from his visit to the class rooms that the students were endeavouring in a very short period to acquire all the knowledge needed for their future careers. He was well aware of the efforts required by students to perfect themselves in order to reach that high standard of perfection which they were now aiming at in the course of the short period of three to six months. The Mayor expressed to the students the cordial wishes of the Borough of St. Pancras and hoped that their stay at the College at Swiss House would prove to be a fruitful one. From what he had seen of the teaching he was convinced that the students would take back to Switzerland a complete knowledge of the subjects taught if they diligently applied themselves to their studies. Apart from their studies they were also able to learn something about the different institutions and organisations in this country which, together with their general education, must help them in understanding the English nation. He hoped that his country would also send its students to Switzerland for a similar purpose. The Mayor voiced the opinion that such an interchange must materially help in furthering international goodwill, as an interchange of views between various nationals must of necessity help to reach a better understanding and consequently contribute to world peace. He continued that if young people travelled in various countries those great aims would surely materialise. In conclusion the Mayor expressed his great pleasure with his visit to the College and wished the students a very happy stay in London and that they would reach that efficiency in their various walks of life which they all desired.

The Mayor's address was vociferously applauded by the assembly.

Mr. A. Levy, Principal of the College, then thanked the Mayor on behalf of the College. He wished to say how sensible all were of the great honour conferred on the College by the presence of the Mayor as well as the Mayoress and their daughter. The Mayor, he said, as First Citizen and as Magistrate of the great Metropolitan Borough of St. Pancras, despite his multitudinous duties had found time to visit the College that afternoon and to deliver a most interesting address which the students would ever remember. The Principal said that the College which had been situated in the Borough of St. Pancras for a number of years was perhaps not so widely known amongst its inhabitants as to the people in Switzerland for the work was carried on very quietly and unostentatiously. He pointed out that the reason why the College was only attended by students of Swiss nationality was due to the fact that the College was subsidised by the Swiss Federal Government. The students in general already possessed a high standard of general education when they reached Swiss House and the College curriculum included the study of the English language and literature, commercial subjects and an insight into the British Constitution, such as the Monarchy, Parliament, how laws were made and put into effect. The Principal felt very strongly that with a knowledge of language, literature, commerce and laws of a foreign country one would be able to learn and appreciate the beautiful qualities of the people of that particular country. Therefore, he continued, Swiss House was doing work of importance not only to Switzerland but as His Worship the Mayor had said to the whole world at large. He referred to a remark previously made by the Mayor that education in the course of time must help nations to live in peace. In conclusion the Principal again expressed his heartfelt thanks to the Mayor, the Mayoress and their daughter for the great honour bestowed upon the College by their official visit that afternoon.

The next part of the proceedings took place in the Members Room where the Teaching Staff joined the mayoral party and members of the Council and the Education Committee. Mr. Boos, on behalf of the Swiss Mercantile Society, thanked the Mayor for having visited Swiss House. He gave a brief outline of the history of Swiss House and in particular of the activities of the Society. He said that the College through which some 10,000 students had passed had been situated for the past 12 years in the Metropolitan Borough of St. Pancras which with about 200,000 inhabitants was one of the largest and most important Boroughs in the Metropolitan area. Mr. Boos mentioned that whereas before the War Swiss nationals were able to come to England and take up positions in various branches of industry this was no longer possible in post war years owing to restrictions on immigration. That induced the Swiss Mercantile Society to found a College in 1922 in order to give the young Swiss opportunities of obtaining in a comparatively short period a thorough command of the English language and business methods. With the subsidy granted by the Swiss Government and with the financial support of Swiss firms and individual donors it was possible to offer a comprehensive course of studies at moderate fees. Mr. Boos also mentioned the activities of the societies other than the S.M.S. which had their headquarters at Swiss House — in particular the Swiss Benevolent Society, which looked after the welfare of the poor and aged Swiss.

The Mayor responded to Mr. Boos's words of welcome and once more expressed his pleasure and satisfaction at having come to Swiss House. On the departure of the mayoral party several photographs were taken.

W.B.

THE ETERNAL QUESTION.

(After PETER ROSEGGER'S Allegory "Die Frage des Ewigen.")

A dream — a vision — haunted me last night,
Vouchsaving to my inner eye an awful sight,
For I beheld, upon His judgment seat,
A glimpse of the Almighty. — Gather'd at His feet
Sat those, who on their earthly pilgrimage,
Were leaders of mankind: Saint, warrior and sage.

Then God called Moses, speaking to him thus:
"*Thy gift bestow'd upon the tribes so numerous*
"*Name it!*" — And Moses answer'd Him: "The Law."
Said God: "*Did this turn their idolatry to awe,*
"*Or teach them where Salvation should begin?*"
"No Lord, they tried in vain and fell back into sin."

The Judge called Charlemagne next and asked him, too,
What was the greatest gift bequeath'd, of which he knew,
Upon the peoples under his domain?
He said: "The Altar should have been their holiest gain."
"*And did they sanctify it, for My Sake?*" ...
"No Lord, for answer they set up the ghoulish stake."

Napoleon rose and bowed before the throne,
God asked the selfsame question in the selfsame tone:
"*Tell me the greatest gift thou gav'st mankind?*"
"My wondrous deeds left glory with renown entwin'd."
"*And were those hopes fulfilled, as thou didst claim?*"
"No Lord, they turned to disappointment and to shame.

The Heav'nly Judge asked many great ones more
About their deeds on earth and on the fruit they bore,
But all and sundry, as the first three, told
Of sordid ashes where they looked for glitt'ring gold;
Of heritage misused, cast off, disgraced,
Of disillusion'd hopes and sacred trusts misplaced.

God, at the last, called His begotten Son
And asked, full of compass'nate love, if He had won,
By bringing to this sinful world His Peace,
That hatred, strife and war for ever ought to cease?
Christ answer'd not. — In pierced hands He kept
His face averted and, bowed down with sorrow, wept...

April 23rd, 1939. *GALLUS.*

AUSZUG AUS DEM POSTAMTSBLATT.
SONDERLUFTPOSTEN "SWISSAIR — EUROPAFLUG."

1) Aus Anlass der Schweizerischen Landesausstellung 1939 wird mit der Swissair ein Rundflug mit Postbeförderung durchgeführt, um die Kunde von der Eröffnung dieser grossen nationalen Veranstaltung in fast alle Haupstädte Europas zu tragen.

2) Der Rundflug besteht aus drei je mit einer Sonderluftpost verbundenen Teilflügen, die wie folgt durchgeführt werden:

I. Flug "Süd," 29. IV.—6.V., Zürich - Rom - Athen - Kairo - Athen - Sofia - Bukarest - Belgrad - Budapest - Zürich, 6700 km;

II. Flug "Nord," 15.—21.V., Zürich - Warschau - Kaunas (Kowno) - Riga - Tallinn (Reval) - Helsinki (Helsingfors) - Stockholm - Oslo - Kopenhagen - Berlin - Zürich, 4640 Km;

III. Flug "West," 22.—28.V., Zürich - Rotterdam - Brüssels - Antwerpen - London - Paris - Barcelona - Zürich, 3130 Km.

3) Zur Beförderung mit diesen Flügen sind uneingeschriebene und eingeschriebene Briefe bis 20 g und Postkarten nach dem In- und Ausland zugelassen. Auf Einschreibsendungen darf die Adresse nicht mit Bleistift geschrieben sein.

4) Die Taxe beträgt einheitlich 1 Fr.50; sie ist mit beliebigen gültigen Schweizermarken zu decken (liechtensteinische sind bei dieser nationalen Versanstaltung nicht zulässig). Für einzuschreibende Sendungen kommt noch die Einschreibgebühr von 30 Rp., für Eilsendungen die