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NEWS FROM THE COLONY

LONDON SWISS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Annual Dinner

Most Swiss societies keep their annual meetings and annual dinners separate, even if they are held the same evening. Some social gatherings have no other distinctive feature than certain specific references in official speeches; others may have some traditional entertainment.

The Annual Dinner of the Swiss Philatelic Society in London is rather an exception, for not only are presentations made, but there are a raffle and a stamp auction, both of which not only add to the evening's entertainment but also to the funds, the Club's and some charities.

Once again, when over thirty members met at the Montana Hotel on 10th March, some handsome sums were collected: the well-studded raffle resulted in over £21 for the Club's cash box and the stamp auction in £22.15.0, to be divided equally between the Swiss Benevolent Society and a British charity, this year Guide Dogs for the Blind. Mr. M. Rothlisberger, the new Hon. Treasurer of the Society, thanked members for the gift in his capacity as Hon. Treasurer of the Swiss Benevolent Society. He recalled that in the course of 23 years (Mr. F. Streit started the idea in 1944), £330 had been received by the S.B.S.

Of course, neither raffle nor auction could be possible without generous gifts of prizes and stamps, and the Chairman, Mr. W. Burren, referred to this in his welcoming speech. He thanked all the donors and bidders and buyers for their support.

First amongst the guests welcomed was Mrs. Kay Goodman, Hon. Secretary of the Federation of Middlesex and Associated Philatelic Societies, of which organisation the London Swiss Philatelists are members. Mrs. Goodman, accompanied by her non-philatelist husband, kindly presented the Challenge Cup for the best display in the Society's 1966 competition. It went to Mr. D. Langley, one of the committee members. A replica of the cup was handed to last year's winner, Mr. O. Grob, K.S.G. Mrs. Goodman, herself an exhibitor with the Swiss Philatelic Society, also presented the Dibben Challenge Bowl to Mr. F. Streit, the Patron of the Club, who had been awarded it earlier by the Twickenham and District Philatelic Society, of which he is President.

The Chairman also announced that a new Vice-President had been elected at the A.G.M. in the person of Mr. D. Paschoud. Miss A. Grunberg was the new Hon. Secretary in succession to Mr. W. R. Thompson who, however, was keeping on the Hon. Editorship of the Bulletin.

Mr. Burren also mentioned the remaining committee members, Hon. Packet Supervisor Mr. H. C. Gay, Mr. C. Hausermann, Mr. and Mrs. M. Uehlinger (Mr. Uehlinger's performance as auctioneer was most creditable) and another English member, Mr. J. Beken whose fluent Swiss was acquired in Winterthur.

The President extended a warm welcome to the Editor of the "Swiss Observer" who had every reason to be pleased with the evening; not only was she able to enjoy a first-class *Bernerplatte* (the food was of the highest standard the Montana Hotel was renowned for), but she managed to get a real bargain in the stamp auction and drew the last prize in the raffle! But apart from all this,

the atmosphere was a happy and gay one throughout the evening, and stamp collectors and non-philatelists alike were agreed that the Annual Dinner 1967 proved another winner in every respect. MM

It may be of interest to a number of readers that the Swiss Post Office (PTT) will have a stand at the Stamp Exhibition held at Central Hall, Westminster, from 10th to 15th April.

MR. JOHN JENNY 90

Usually, mistakes are annoying. In this particular instance we are glad a silly slip happened, because through it we heard that Mr. John Jenny, of 14 Ivy Road, Moorhead, Shipley, Yorkshire, celebrated his 90th birthday on 14th February. We are sorry we did not know of the great event in time, but our congratulations are heartfelt nevertheless.

Mr. Jenny was born at Ennenda (Glarus) in 1877. He passed his apprenticeship in Glarus and then spent a year in Neuchâtel. He next held a position in a Swiss agency business in Bucarest (Rumania) for three years, followed by two years in Paris (during the 1900 Exhibition).

"Accepting an appointment in Bradford through a local firm we represented in Rumania", Mr. Jenny recalls, "I arrived in England on Whit Monday 1901. Of course, no passport was then required, but what further surprised me was that there were no Customs to face, and I gained the impression of arriving in a free country indeed! But stranger still, I appeared to be practically the only passenger on the afternoon train from Newhaven to London where, again, I was staggered by the comparatively quiet streets after the bustle of Paris. I was unaware that my arrival coincided with a general holiday!"

Mr. Jenny stayed with that firm for 42 years, and he was a director of it (Heymann and Alexander, Yarn Merchants in Bradford) until he retired twenty years ago.

He was President of the Swiss Club of Bradford (now amalgamated with Leeds in the Yorkshire Swiss Club). His wife died over thirty years ago. He has two married daughters, six grandchildren, one of whom unhappily lost her young life in a motor accident.

Mr. Jenny is indeed a model nonagenarian; he is still active and enjoys gardening and reading. We join his family and friends in wishing him many happy returns of the day. MM

"SWISS OBSERVER" PUBLISHING DATES

The "Swiss Observer" is published every second and fourth Friday of the month. Our next issue will appear on 14th April. We shall be glad to receive articles and reports not later than Tuesday, 4th April. Short news items only can be accepted after that date.

The next issue but one will be published on Friday, 28th April. Material for that issue should be to hand not later than Tuesday, 18th April.