

News from the colony

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NEWS FROM THE COLONY

THE GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE S.K.V. VISITS THE S.M.S. LONDON

The General Secretary of the S.K.V., Mr. Richard Maier-Neff, who had been attending an international conference in London, combined his first trip to England with a visit to the Swiss Mercantile Society and its College.

He was received at Swiss House on Thursday, 16th March, by the President, Mr. A. Jaccard, where the Principal, the Teaching Staff and members of the Education Committee were introduced to Mr. Maier-Neff.

After having seen some classes at work, the General Secretary addressed the students, who were assembled in the lecture room. He urged them to make the most of their stay in London by acquiring a sound knowledge of the English language and making a profound study of the commercial subjects taught at the College. This would stand them in good stead in their future career which he hoped they would further, on their return to Switzerland, by attending some of the specialised courses held by the S.K.V. By way of encouragement, he instanced how some leading personalities in Switzerland had remarked to him that they had once been students at the S.M.S. College and recalled their days in London as some of the happiest of their lives. For many thousands, the College had been a stepping stone to a successful career at home and abroad, enabling them to play an important part in the development and growth of the Swiss economy. The speaker concluded by wishing the students a pleasant and profitable stay and was accorded a cordial ovation by all present.

A visit to London would hardly have been complete without seeing some of the highlights of the Metropolis, including the adjacent Post Office Tower, which the guest from Switzerland was able to do with a suitable escort provided by the Society.

On the Friday evening, the members of the Council and the Committees entertained Mr. Maier-Neff at an informal dinner at the Montana Hotel, which was honoured by the presence of Monsieur R. Gaechter, Secretary of Embassy.

In a brief address, the President, Mr. A. Jaccard, expressed the Society's pleasure at having been able to welcome Mr. Maier-Neff and the hope that he had been favourably impressed by what he had seen and heard during his two days with the S.M.S.

He stressed the close relations which had always existed between the London Section and the parent association and asked Mr. Maier-Neff to convey to the Central Committee and his colleagues at the Central Secretariat the Society's appreciation of their continued support and encouragement. In this, the distinguished guest, like his predecessors, had played a leading role, for which the S.M.S. were deeply grateful.

Replying to the Chairman's toast, Mr. Maier-Neff conveyed the greetings of the central authorities and his

colleagues at home, adding that they were all proud of the ties with London, the oldest and largest of the foreign sections, and, in particular, of the reputation its College had gained throughout Switzerland.

He also referred to the very friendly relationship which had at all times existed between the Society and the Swiss Embassy, to which Monsieur Gaechter's attendance bore testimony.

Finally, Mr. Maier-Neff voiced his delight with all he had experienced during his brief sojourn and thanked all concerned for having made his stay a pleasurable and memorable one.

W.B.

AN INTERESTING ART EXHIBITION

Adolphe Milich in London

On 1st April, a selection of paintings by the Swiss painter Adolphe Milich was opened at the Circle Gallery, 455 Fulham Road, London S.W.10. What made the occasion a special one was the presence of his widow, Mrs. Carla Milich-Fassbind, a lively octogenarian, daughter of a Schwyz *Landammann*, who had run the Rigi-Kloesterli hotels and then married the Polish artist 37 years ago. Today, she lives partly in Paris, partly in Lugano, and when she recently celebrated her 80th birthday, many well-known artists and art lovers who had known and admired her husband, came to pay homage.

Her stories made the pictures in the exhibition come to life. In three rooms over forty paintings, mostly in oil, are displayed to advantage. A large number of them are landscapes, but there are attractive still lives and a few portraits, one of them that of Madame René Clair. Two watercolours from the Lugano district bear witness to the painter's love of Switzerland. The show also includes *Pannier des Raisins*, painted in 1946, which belongs to the "Musée National d'Art Moderne" in Paris. Adolphe Milich's works are in twenty-seven museums in France, Israel, Poland and Switzerland (Schaffhausen, Berne and Lugano). In 1966, the town of Lugano opened the Milich Museum in the Villa Ciani. In June, there will be a retrospective exhibition of his works at the "Salon d'Automne" in Paris.

Adolphe Milich was born in Poland in 1886. He studied in Germany, Italy, Spain and France, and in 1915, he went to Switzerland where he spent the summer months until 1960, though he settled in Paris as early as 1920. When he became paralysed in 1951, with tremendous energy he learned to paint with his left hand. In 1952, he became a citizen of Lugano and died peacefully on 18th October 1964. He is buried beside other artists in the Montparnasse cemetery in Paris.

The London exhibition is open until the end of May.

MM