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

the UK

Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

Band: - (1977)

Heft: 1728

Rubrik: News from the colony

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. Mehr erfahren

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. En savoir plus

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. Find out more

Download PDF: 02.07.2025

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, https://www.e-periodica.ch

LIFE AS A SWISS DIPLOMAT'S WIFE

In line with its new policy of enriching its activities by a more frequent participation of the fair sex, the City Swiss Club had the bright idea for its February meeting at the Dorchester, of inviting Madame Paula Thalmann as an afterdinner speaker, both of unusual interest and charm. It proved a great success—not least thanks to the presence of numerous other members' wives and a particularly good dinner.

Madame Thalmann's delightful talk on her life as a Swiss diplomat's wife was laced with witty asides: such as her introductory remark that the President, as a very wise man, had evidently found out that the best way of running a men's club is to let in the ladies. Glamorous as the life of an ambassador's wife may appear, she said, it also requires much hard work and self-discipline. Apart from her demanding share in her husband's social obligations, she has to adapt her mode of life to one foreign country after another, bring up her children and look after the household just like any other wife of say a Swiss firm's representative abroad. The ambassador and his wife must be able to count, in particular, on the good will and assistance of the Colony so generously shown to them during their first year in London. Without any other contract than her marriage tie the ambassador's wife fulfills a function, in the words of a

fellow diplomat, which would be amply paid by any private employer. Far from such bounty Mme Thalmann had to give up her work as a dentist which the Political Department regarded as detrimental to her husband's career!

Mme Thalmann's cooking perience in Paris, the place of her husband's first appointment abroad, proved a big help in his later career, as the way to a diplomat's, as well as any other man's heart, notoriously is largely through his stomach. The Thalmanns' next post, this time as chargé d'affaires, was in Prague, the so-called Paris of the East – but rather more East than Paris, however beautiful this baroque capital and the countryside of Czechoslovakia undeniably are. Three years back home at Berne enabled Mme Thalmann to devote more time to her children as a welcome consolation for the loss of all allowances for representation

There followed five happy years in Washington with Monsieur Thalmann as Deputy Head of Mission where his wife — apart from their more important relations with the Eisenhowers, the Johnsons, the Nixons and the Fords — busied herself with a mixed club of senators' and diplomats' wives, as well as with the "Club der Stauffacherinnen" of patriotic ladies, whose average age was over 60. With particular pleasure Mme Thalmann re-



called an opening of the Maryland Annual Tobacco Fair, performed by her husband generously distributing Swiss watches, in return for which, not to mention the publicity value to our industry, she was presented with an outsize Maryland ham.

Of their later stay in New York, where Monsieur Thalmann was accredited to the United Nations as Permanent Observer and Ambassador from 1961 to 1966, the speaker remembered with special pride meeting the famous Swiss bridge-builder Othmar Ammann and helping to establish friendly relations with the third-world by giving her expert advice to newly arrived wives of its delegations. Ten more years of the Thalmann's life were thereupon spent in Berne, where Monsieur Thalmann rose to become Head of the Political Division before his appointment as Ambassador to the Court of St. James's. **HWE**

Our little corner of Hyde Park.



In a manner that can only be described as dedicated, the Inn on the Park has carved quite a niche for itself just off Park Lane.

Not only as quite the most beautiful hotel in London, but also the perfect place to wine and dine.

There are two splendid bars and one of the few really civilised lounges left in London, where you can take your favourite beverage and nibble something delicious. For incurable romantics we

have a superb nightspot, the Vintage Room, which at lunch time also offers



the businessman an unbeatable fixed price menu.

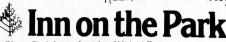
And for the true gourmets, the Four Seasons Room is unquestionably one of

Europe's finest restaurants.

When it comes to the big occasion, there's no finer place to be than the Inn on the Park.

From 4 to 400, wedding receptions, 21st parties, even the occasional soiree de gala' take on the special character of an event when placed in our expert hands.

All in our little corner of Hyde Park.



Hamilton Place, Park Lane, London, W1A 1AZ Ample car parking available.