

# News from the Liverpool consulate

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At long last, details were also to hand of the deliberations of the last Delegates' Meeting at Baden.

To celebrate the 25th anniversary of the admission of lady members into the association, a jubilee meeting is being held at Basle on March 27th and 28th and in the name of the twelve lady members of the London Section, a telegram of good wishes is being sent.

The fourth course at the English Centre of the S.K.V. at Frohburg began on March 8th. These courses are a war-time substitute for the S.M.S. College in London and the good attendance which they enjoy proves how eager our young compatriots are to learn the English language and business methods. They are, of course, looking forward to the time when they can again come to this country.

The President had been informed that through the courtesy of the Swiss Legation a number of the leading Swiss daily papers would be placed at the disposal of the Colony. These papers will be available in the Members' Room at Swiss House for all those who are interested in reading the latest news from Switzerland.

On account of longer evenings approaching and to enable members and friends to attend to their gardens and allotments, it was decided that during the summer months, i.e., April to September, the meetings be again held on Wednesday evenings. The next meeting was fixed for April 14th (6.15 p.m.) when Mr. E. v. Graffenried, First Secretary of Legation, will address the members on "To-days' Economic Position of Switzerland and Future Plans." The Committee hopes that a large number of members and friends will take the opportunity of meeting Mr. v. Graffenried, who has but recently joined the staff of the Legation, in charge of commercial affairs. The lecturer, with his expert knowledge of a subject which closely affects most members, will no doubt be able to tell a great deal from his personal experience. Please, therefore, do not fail to book April 14th for the S.M.S.

This concluded the official part of the meeting, which was followed by a talk by Mr. Gottfried Keller, President of the Foreign Press Association and London Correspondent of the "Basler Nachrichten" and the "Agence Télégraphique." The lecturer began by saying that the title of his lecture, "Views on the News," might equally well have been "News behinds the Headlines." Mr. Keller once again gave proof of his outstanding qualities as a lecturer. The audience listened with rapt attention as he unfolded chapter after chapter of the drama now being enacted on the international stage. When reading the news piecemeal and without the discerning eye of a journalist, it is often difficult, nay impossible, to obtain a clear picture of what is actually happening and to see things in their proper perspective. Mr. Keller, step by step developed his theme and unravelled one entanglement after another until gradually a clearer pattern emerged. Events which had been viewed from a narrow angle could now be seen in their broader aspects. He did, however, not confine himself to topics of international importance but also gave a good deal of home news, for which all present were truly grateful.

On concluding his most interesting address, the lecturer was accorded a very hearty ovation. Mr. W. Deutsch, in proposing a vote of thanks, paid an eloquent tribute to Mr. Keller's qualities as a lecturer, to which the President added his personal thanks. Thus came to a close another interesting and enjoyable afternoon at Swiss House.

WB.

## NEWS FROM THE LIVERPOOL CONSULATE.

At the Annual General Meeting of the Geologists' Association in London on Saturday afternoon, 6th March, the President, Prof. H. H. Read, F.R.S., addressed the Recipient of the Foulerton Award for 1943 as follows:—

Mr. Montag — An Ambassador has been defined as a man who lies abroad for his country's good and I suppose the same definition applies to Consuls. For some 50 years now you have lain abroad. Whatever may be the opinion of your country as to the good it has derived by this, we are certain here that it has been to ours, for from your personality, energy and enthusiasm, generations of geologists have received lasting benefits. You have acted as Excursion Secretary for the Association on six occasions, you have contributed to the knowledge of the geology of our country by your publications, and you have made available to us in your admirable translations the classics of your Swiss master, Heim. On all these counts and others you have deserved well of geologists and, in handing you the Foulerton Award, I express the appreciation and gratitude of this Association. I desire to add my personal thanks for your many kindnesses when I found myself unexpectedly transferred to the Liverpool district.

Mr. Montag replied as follows:—

Mr. President, Fellow Members, You, Sir, have given one definition of a diplomat, I will give you another. A diplomat is a man so skilful that he can persuade his own wife that the neighbour's wife looks



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shabby in a new fur coat. Of course, such skill can only be expected from Excellencies such as Ambassadors or Ministers Plenipotentiary. Much more homely qualities are sufficient for the Consul for Switzerland.

I wish to thank the Council for the friendship of their award. To you, Sir, for your most generous address. You are deep in the affections of all your friends in Liverpool.

I consider it a happy privilege for me to receive the Award from your hands.

Owing to the kindness of the Swiss Minister who invited him to lunch, Mr. Montag was able to see him, Mr. de Jenner and a few other Swiss during his brief stay in London — an opportunity which he greatly appreciated. Unfortunately he had to miss hearing the conference of the Revd. Mr. Pradervand at the Société littéraire française Liverpool over which our country-woman Mme Davidson presides with so much distinction, but Mr. L. J. Faivre, the Chancellor of the Consulate, and Mrs. Cheetham with a number of other countrymen and women attended, while Mrs. Macquarie acted as hostess to him and made, we feel sure, excellent arrangements for him. Everybody was pleased with his visit and once again we are at the Consulate, indebted to these Swiss ladies to make such a Reunion possible with a service by one of our own Ministers of Religion, including the christening of twins (boy and girl) of whom Mr. Troxler is the happy grandfather.

#### CITY SWISS CLUB. (Monthly Meeting.)

The Monthly Meeting of the City Swiss Club took place on Saturday, March 6th, at Brown's Hotel, and was preceded by the customary Luncheon.

M. L. Chapuis, President, was in the Chair, 65, members and guests were present.

Admissions 4, no resignations.

The President, on behalf of the members of the Club welcomed Monsieur de Graffenried, the newly appointed Commercial Attaché at the Swiss Legation, and informed him that he had been made a *membre de passage* of the City Swiss Club. Monsieur Poulin, Attaché at the Swiss Legation, Special Division, has also been elected a *membre de passage*. Monsieur de Graffenried thanked the members for having admitted him to the Club, and intimated his intention to become a useful member thereof.

M. Chapuis informed the meeting that Monsieur Girardet, Counsellor of Legation, who was present, was shortly leaving for Switzerland on a visit, he wished him a pleasant journey and a safe return.

Messieurs de Pourtalès and Burekhardt, Delegates of the International Red Cross in Geneva were welcomed as guests. Monsieur de Pourtalès thanked the Club for the hospitality extended to him and his colleague.

M. E. Sommer, who celebrated on the 6th of March the 37th Anniversary as a member of the City Swiss Club was congratulated by the President on this event.

The report concerning the future activities of the City Swiss Club presented to the Committee by the Special Commission was further discussed and some good progress was registered.

The Annual General Meeting of the Club was fixed for Saturday, April 10th, at Brown's Hotel.

Close of the Meeting at 4 p.m.

ST.

#### LONDON SWISS PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

At to-days meeting of the above society, the two booklets published by the Swiss Postal Administration to commemorate the first issue of stamps a hundred years ago, will be on view. For this we are indebted to Monsieur Walter Thurnheer, Ministre de Suisse, who has graciously placed a presentation copy at our disposal for a few days.

The historical part contains a number of superbly printed colour plates illustrating the Swiss stamps issued in the last hundred years. The jubilee stamps — Zurich 4 and 6 Rappen which have currency until the end of the year — are given singly and in blocks, mint and cancelled with different postmarks. P.F.B.

#### SWISS STAMPS IN LONDON AUCTIONS.

Keen bidding produced high prices for Swiss stamps at the sale of the "Woodburne" Collection of European stamps at H. R. Harmer's rooms in Bond Street on March 16th.

Highest price was one hundred guineas paid for a copy of the Geneva 5+5 cts. stamp issued in 1843, and eighty pounds each was paid for a Zurich 1842 4 rappen stamp on its original envelope, and for the Vaud 1849 4 cts.

Other interesting figures were: Zurich 1842 6 rappen, £13; Geneva small eagle 5c., £17 10s.; large eagle blue green 5c., £20; Vaud 1850 5c., £13; Neuchâtel 1850 5c. on cover, £29; Winterthur 1850 2½r., £21.

In normal times this week would be a gala week for Swiss stamp collectors for it marks the centenary of the issue of the first stamps of Switzerland, indeed the first ever issued on the European Continent, the much-prized 4r. and 6r. stamps of Zurich.

The Swiss section of the "Woodburne" Collection was the *pièce de résistance* of an unusually interesting philatelic auction covering all the most popular European Countries and although it came at the end of the second day of the auction, the sale room remained filled right to the end, so keen was the interest.

This is not surprising for the stamps of Switzerland command the closest attention from collectors in all countries and their pre-eminent popularity is well-deserved. All members of the newly-formed Swiss Philatelic Society would do well to give pride of place to the stamp of their home country. They will repay close study and have a strong investment value.

#### AN ENGLISH BROADCAST FROM SWITZERLAND.

Our compatriots will welcome the news that the Swiss Radio is now transmitting a regular news bulletin in the English language; it can be heard from Schwarzenburg 48.66 m. and 25.28 m. every evening at 9.50 p.m. We sincerely hope that the reception will be better than is the case with most of the broadcasts from our country. Some of the Swiss listeners will have been annoyed by the continual jamming of the Sottens station. It now appears that the offender has been located and our Government is making representations to the belligerent power concerned in order to restore the free use of the wave-length allocated and guaranteed under the international Lucerne Convention.