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Autor: W. L.

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HOLIDAYS IN SWITZERLAND.

The Swiss Federal Railways and Swiss State Travel Bureau, 11b, Regent Street, S.W.1, have just published a revised and very useful pamphlet entitled: "*Can I have a Swiss Holiday?*"

It gives the following welcome information:

At present you can buy through your own Bank or an accredited Travel Agent a maximum of £75. 0. 0 (children under 16, £40. 0. 0) of Travellers' Cheques for use in Switzerland. But before you do so, you should obtain from the Swiss Tourist Traffic Authorisation Office, 1, Great Cumberland Place, London, W.1, the necessary Certificate without which you will *not* be able to cash your Travellers' Cheques in Switzerland. If you need your full £75. 0. 0 ($\frac{1}{3}$ in cash, maximum £20, and $\frac{2}{3}$ in Hotel- or local Transportation Vouchers) to defray the cost of your Holiday, your Certificate will be made out accordingly; if not the amount may be reduced in accordance with your needs, the proportion between cash and vouchers remaining the same. It is, therefore, in your interest to go, after obtaining the Swiss Visa, to the Authorisation Office first, and then to your Bank. The rate of exchange is pegged at Frs.17.35 to the £ sterling. You must apply to your bank for the money in the usual way on Form "T."

Persons who have private accommodation (not in Hotels) are entitled to 200.—frs. per week up to a maximum of £75. 0. 0.

In addition, you may buy your ticket to Switzerland and back by any direct route, and pay in sterling without formality or a Bank of England Permit (V-Form).

All this looks, and is, simple and straightforward, but of problematical value unless you are "booked," i.e., unless you have a seat reserved on the train or 'plane. You should, of course, also book your hotel accommodation in good time, although there should be no difficulty on that score.

Travelling facilities to the Continent are still limited, and you should make sure of accommodation as early as possible. Let's come back to this point later, and now see what else you require.

You want, of course, a valid Passport. Your present one — unless you used it during the war — has either expired (if it is more than 10 years old) or requires renewal. British subjects should apply to the British Passport Office, 1, Queen Anne's Gate Buildings, Dartmouth Street, London, S.W.1 (Liverpool: 36, Dale Street; Glasgow: 10, Bothwell Street). Nationals of other countries should approach their respective Legation, Embassy or Consulate.

The necessary Swiss Entry Visa for three months or less is granted at once to Nationals of Great Britain and certain other Countries. For longer periods, also in the case of stateless persons and some Nationals other than British, there may be a delay of several weeks, as the application has to be referred to Swit-

zerland. Please apply to the nearest Swiss Consulate, or to the Swiss Legation, Visa Section, 86, Duke Street, Grosvenor Square, W.1.

You will also require a Transit Visa for the countries you are travelling through. They are granted at once and without much formality. Application should be made (after you have obtained your Swiss Visa) to the nearest Consulate or to:

The French Embassy, Visa Section, 29, Queen Anne Street, St. Marylebone, London, W.1 (*all routes*).

The Belgian Embassy, 103, Eaton Square, London, S.W.1 (*Ostend route*).

The Luxembourg Consulate-General, 27, Wilton Crescent, London, S.W.1 (*Ostend route*).

Holders of British Passports issued in the U.K. do not need a French, Belgian or Luxembourg Visa.

Non-British nationals, who are returning to this country, must obtain from the British Passport Office, Alien Section, 28, Princes Gate, London, S.W.7, before leaving, a Re-Entry Permit.

Now, your Passport, your Visas, and your Swiss money will be of no avail unless you are booked either by train or 'plane, i.e., unless you have a seat reserved. As already mentioned, transportation facilities will probably not accommodate everybody who wishes to go to Switzerland. You should, therefore, first of all make sure of a seat by applying either to this office or to the Southern Railway, Continental Department, Victoria Station, S.W.1, or, if you propose to go by air, to the B.O.A.C., Airways Terminal, Buckingham Palace Road, London, S.W.1 (who are agents for Swissair), or to Air France, 2b, Eccleston Street, London, S.W.1, and obtain a confirmed booking for a definite date.

All the foregoing is written for the "lone wolf" who wants to do things for himself. There is, however, especially under present circumstances, a better way. Why not go to a Travel Agent, and let them see to the Passport formalities and the money, booking, and hotel reservation? For a small fee they will relieve you of all the bother, and save you time. The following are the Head Office addresses of some of the principal Travel Agencies:—

Messrs. Thos. Cook & Son Ltd., Berkeley Street, London, W.1.

Messrs. Dean & Dawson Ltd., 81, Piccadilly, London, W.1.

Nouvelle Société Helvétique

(LONDON GROUP)

MONTHLY MEETING

followed by a talk on
"SWISS POLITICAL LIFE"

by

Mr. Peter Dürrenmatt,
Editor for Home Affairs of the
"Basler Nachrichten,"

at the

Vienna Café, Berkeley Arcade, Baker St., W.1.

on

Monday, April 28th, 1947, at 7 p.m.

Crafton Restaurant

(Swiss Proprietor: G. BONETTI)

86, CLEVELAND STREET, W.1.

- Messrs. Frames' Tours Ltd., 80, Southampton Row, London, W.C.1.
- Messrs. Polytechnic Touring Assoc., 309, Regent Street, London, W.1.
- Messrs. Pickfords Travel Service, 205, High Holborn, London, W.C.1.
- Messrs. Sir Henry Lunn, Ltd., 29, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.
- Messrs. Workers Travel Assoc., 49, Cannon Street, London, E.C.3.
- Messrs. American Express Co. Inc., 6, Haymarket, London, S.W.1.
- Messrs. Wayfarers Travel Agency, 33, Gordon Square, London, W.C.1.
- Messrs. Planned Travels, 27, South Molton Street, W.1.

Whatever method you adopt, *do it early.*

For full particulars of Services and fares, overland and by Air, please see separate leaflets.

IN SWITZERLAND, you are sure of a friendly welcome, and will find conditions practically normal. Although food-rationing is still in force, there is plenty to eat, and the service is as good as ever.

Upon arrival at the Swiss Frontier or Air Terminal, you will be handed Meal Coupons for 3 days. Your Hotel will then see to those for the rest of your stay, or you can obtain them yourself from the local Food Office.

You can move about freely in Switzerland. Transportation facilities by rail or road are, if anything, better than pre-war. Make use of your vouchers for local excursions as well as for the payment of your Hotel bill, and meals in Restaurants.

Gang lueg d'Heimat a!
 Va revoir ton beau Pays!
 Va a vedere il tuo Paese!
 Va a vera teis Pajais!.....

.....and tell your English friends making holiday plans of the warm and sincere Welcome awaiting them in Switzerland.

For full particulars of fares and Services, please apply to:

**SWISS FEDERAL RAILWAYS and
 SWISS STATE TRAVEL BUREAU,
 11B, REGENT STREET,
 LONDON - S.W.1.**

SWISS OBSERVER EIGHTEEN YEARS AGO.

We give below a summary of the events which have taken place in the Swiss Colony eighteen years ago. (January — December 1929).

January, 1929:

Cinderella Dance of the City Swiss Club at the Metropole Hotel, Northumberland Avenue, W.1.

February, 1929:

Annual Banquet and Ball of the Swiss Mercantile Society, at the Midland Grand Hotel, St. Pancras, N.W.1, in the presence of the Swiss Minister, Monsieur C. R. Paravicini. (President: Mr. A. C. Stahelin.)

Annual General Meeting of the Unione Ticinese, at the Swiss Club (Schweizerbund), 74 Charlotte Street, W.1. Mr. W. Notari is re-elected President.

Lecture by Mr. A. F. Suter on "East Indian Copals and Damar" at the Royal Society of Arts.

"Schweizerbund" Sick Society held its fiftieth General Meeting. In the Chair: Mr. C. Gentsch, President, who is re-elected.

Annual Banquet and Ball of the Swiss Choral Society at the 1st Avenue Hotel, High Holborn, W.C., under the Chairmanship of the Swiss Minister, Monsieur C. R. Paravicini. (President: Mr. E. Bommer.)

March, 1929:

The death is reported of Mr. Henri Hoesli, at the age of 70. The deceased was a resident in this country for forty years, where he enjoyed great popularity. He was a member of the City Swiss Club and the Swiss Mercantile Society for many years.

General Meeting of the Swiss Club (Schweizerbund), at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1. Mr. L. Pasche is elected President.

Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Mercantile Society, at Swiss House. Mr. M. Paschoud is elected President.

Swiss Institute Orchestral Society takes part in a concert given by the "Croydon Excelsior Musical Society." Conductor: Mr. E. P. Dick.

Banquet and Ball of the "Société Culinaire Suisse de Londres," at 1, Gerrard Place, W.1, in the presence of the Swiss Minister, Monsieur C. R. Paravicini. (President: M. Juriens.)

Swiss Bank Sports Club. Dinner and Dance at Maison Lyons. (President: Mr. C. J. Searle.)

The death is reported of Mr. J. J. Geilinger, the doyen of the Swiss Colony in London, at the age of 85. The deceased came to this country in 1866 and was in business in Mincing Lane. For a great number of years he took a keen interest in the work of the Swiss Colony in London. He was a member of the committee of the City Swiss Club for many years.

Swiss Gymnastic Society gives a Gymnastic Display at 1, Gerrard Place, W.1.

Annual Dinner and Ball of the Swiss Club (Schweizerbund), at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1. Principal guest: Monsieur W. de Bourg, 1st Secretary of Legation. (President: Mr. Pasche.)

April, 1929:

Annual General Meeting of the City Swiss Club, at Pagani's Restaurant. Mr. E. Werner is elected President.

Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Club, Birmingham. Mr. P. Brun is elected President.

The death is announced of Mr. G. E. Colomb, at the age of 63. He was, for twenty years, President of