

"The eastern block and Switzerland"

Autor(en): **[s.n.]**

Objektyp: **Article**

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

Band (Jahr): - **(1951)**

Heft 1169

PDF erstellt am: **22.07.2024**

Persistenter Link: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-695284>

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SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

At the monthly meeting held on 10th inst. at Swiss House, Mr. Hans Ballmann, c/o Impag Ltd., was made a new member, while A. E. G. Hierzeller, who transferred his membership to us from Neuchâtel in 1950, had to be struck off, having left London without leaving an address where our communications would reach him.

Mr. Meier again reminded the meeting that the date for joining the A.H.V. (A.V.S.) had been extended till 31st December, 1951, which date was irrevocable.

The President then referred to the Swiss Sports meeting for 1952. A meeting of the organising committee held earlier this year had not shown any overwhelming support for the idea for 1951 and therefore no such sports were held in the current year. In order to test the feeling of those present he called for a show of hands of all those who would support a Swiss Sports in 1952, not only personally but with their families and friends. The vote decidedly negated the idea.

Mr. Meier also mentioned that he had attended a cocktail party organised by the Foreign Office for the Swiss Press Delegation who were at present in London and that he was invited to this as *Dr. Meier*, President of the Swiss Mercantile Marine.

The official business of the meeting having thus been disposed of, we were treated to a most enjoyable and instructive talk by our veteran member, Mr. Louis Chapuis, who had just returned from his 35th trip to the U.S.A. in 45 years. He was thus able to draw on a rare and wide personal experience of the new world. His address was far more than a mere account of his trip which took him from New York to St. Louis, Denver, Salt Lake City, Seattle, Portland, San Francisco, Sacramento, Los Angeles, and finished up in Hollywood. An abundance of facts and figures which would, with many a speaker, have tended to become as dry as dust, was enlivened and spiced with a wealth of sparkling humour. When we parted shortly after 9 o'clock, those present voted the evening as one of the best for a long time.

E.H.S.

"TRURIGS UND HEITERS USM DORFLAEBE." A Dialect Evening at the N.S.H.

The invitation by the Nouvelle Société Helvétique to hear Mr. Robert Stäger read from his writings in dialect on the sorrows and joys of village life at home brought quite a large crowd of members and friends to the meeting of October 9th. Robert Stäger is heard from time to time on the Swiss radio as one of the foremost exponents and defenders of the pure dialect of the Freiamt in Aargau. It is very near to Züritütsch, but those of the audience hailing from other cantons experienced doubtless almost as much pleasure as the Aargauer and Züriheger in hearing Mr. Stäger's loving description of the fine characters and the events that make up the picture and essence of an old Swiss village community. The old man Thomas and Fräulein Sophie remain unforgettable characters also in the London Colony thanks to Mr. Stäger's lively, realistic and yet poetic pen pictures of them spoken so beautifully in the dialect of their narrow world of real contentment — in hard work, neighbourly kindness, simple joys and the daily experience of nature's beauty and blessings.

The long and warm applause showed Mr. Stäger that he had fully succeeded in his aim of warming our hearts with his art from far away Switzerland and rekindling the nostalgia for our long lost native background that lurks in the breast of all of us. Thank you Mr. Stäger!
Dr. E.

"THE EASTERN BLOCK AND SWITZERLAND." Forthcoming N.S.H. Lecture by Dr. E. Zellweger.

The next lecture of the N.S.H. on Tuesday, October 30th, promises to be of great interest. The former Swiss Minister in Belgrade, Dr. E. Zellweger, who is the lecturer on the above-mentioned theme, is of course, best qualified to give us an accurate picture and appraisal of the significance of the Soviet world and the break-away of Yugoslavia, looked at from the point of view of Swiss standards and interests. All Swiss and friends are, as always, heartily welcome.

FAREWELL DINNER TO MR. ANTON BON.

A farewell dinner offered by the Swiss Colony, under the auspices of the City Swiss Club, to Mr. Anton Bon, will take place on Monday, November 5th, 1951, at 7 for 7.30 p.m. at the Grosvenor House, Park Lane, W.1.

Tickets at 30/- (incl. service) can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary of the City Swiss Club. Gentlemen only. Town Dress.

The Monthly Meeting of the City Swiss Club, announced for *Tuesday, Nov. 6th*, will not take place.

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