

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: - (1951)

Heft: 1171

Artikel: "Le roy est mort, vive le roy!"

Autor: [s.n.]

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-695389>

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"LE ROY EST MORT, VIVE LE ROY !"

The November meeting of the Yorkshire Swiss Club was a particularly happy and memorable occasion. A surprisingly large crowd of Swiss gathered together at 7 o'clock as usual in the familiar atmosphere of Hagenbachs' Café. They not only come from all parts of Leeds; there was a large contingent from our sister city of Bradford and several representatives from towns and villages round about, among these Harrogate, Halifax, Huddersfield and Wakefield. Within a short time the room was packed with about a hundred men and women whose ages ranged from below 18 to over 80.

There were at least two good reasons for such an exceptional attendance: it was the annual general meeting, and at the same time Mr. Oscar Schneider, our new Consul, had come from Manchester to pay us his first visit. This was the occasion to say: "Le Roy est mort, vive le Roy !", although we were happy to know that Mr. Huber was very much alive in his new post at the Swiss Legation in London. Those who know Mr. Schneider will not be surprised to hear that he won the confidence of everyone from the start, and the hope was expressed that he would continue to justify in England, as he had done in the Philippines, the friendly title of "Travelling Consul". He joined in our songs: French, German, Italian, and patois fribourgeois; and he saw each one of us stand up as our own Canton was called out in chronological order. How pleased were the St. Gallois to discover him among their own number, and how proud the Zurichois to beat the Bernois by 21 to 12 !

The proceedings were tactfully reduced to a minimum and the Committee's older nucleus welcomed the addition of fresh and youthful elements, so that we remain a lively movement and avoid becoming a crystallised organisation. News of absent members was exchanged and messages sent to them from the meeting.

The friendly staff of Hagenbach's Café surpassed itself in coping with such a crowd and revealed gifts of acrobacy in providing everyone with coffee and biscuits. For three hours we forgot our daily problems and worries, and in a truly Swiss atmosphere found a new sense of purpose to face the future.

C.M.I.

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