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REPORT OF THE WELFARE OFFICE FOR SWISS GIRLS IN GREAT BRITAIN

President's Annual Report for 1961

(Abridged)

A first glance at the figures for 1961 reveals a drop in the number of registrations, due no doubt to the fact that fewer Swiss girls came to work in households in England, a fact confirmed by the employment agencies of the Amies de la Jeune Fille in Switzerland. This does not necessarily mean reduced activity, as a registration may involve a simple enquiry or a case lasting weeks or months.

As in 1960, nearly 80% of the girls who availed themselves of the services of the Welfare Office were German-speaking, approximately 18% were French-speaking and the remainder Italian-speaking, with a few Romansh-speaking girls.

Approximately 57% were Protestants and 42% were Catholics.

The President once again expressed appreciation of the co-operation given to the Welfare Office by the two organisations in Switzerland and of the close and friendly relations with the Swiss Benevolent Society. Tribute was also paid to the assistance given by the two Wardens of the Hostel and the Clergy of the Swiss Churches. As in previous years the Welfare Office received valuable help from the Ambassador and Mme. Daeniker. The Federal subsidy was maintained, largely due to the good offices of H.E. the Swiss Ambassador, and the annual contributions of the two organisations in Switzerland, as well as of the Swiss Benevolent Society, had been kept up. For the first time the Verband der Schweiz. Evangelischen Frauenhilfe paid a contribution.

In February a Concert was given to raise money for the Welfare Office and realised the sum of £70. Thanks are due to the artistes, Mme. Carola Grindea and Miss Mary Nemett, and to Madame Daeniker, to whose patronage we owe much of the success.

The satisfactory financial position shown at the end of the year was gratifying, but it should be borne in mind that during 1961 the salary of only one welfare worker had been paid. Expenses would increase in the future and we should be more than ever dependent on financial support from organisations devoted to our cause.

The President concluded with the announcement of her resignation as Chairman and member of the Committee on her appointment as Editor of the "Swiss Observer". Her 3½ years of office had not been easy, due to many staff changes and lack of funds at the beginning.

All this coincided with an exceptionally anxious period of her private life. But throughout her term of office she had experienced friendship and loyalty.

H.K.

ANTOINE PONCET EXHIBITION

An exhibition of works by the Swiss sculptor, Antoine Poncet, will open at the Brook Street Gallery, 24 Brook Street, W.1, on Tuesday, 8th May 1962.

Antoine Poncet was born in Paris in 1928. As his first work he executed a pedestrian statue of Don Quichotte. Encouraged by his family he entered the "Ecole des beaux arts de Lausanne", where he worked under the direction of his father, Marcel Poncet (1894-1953), and of Casimir Reymond.

Subsequently he became a pupil of Germaine Richier in Zurich and Paris. Mme. Antoine Bourdelle lent him a studio and encouraged him to study at "La Grande Chaumière" under Ossif Zadkine.

In 1925 he met Jean Arp, who became his friend and collaborator. This proved to be the turning point in his artistic work and transformed his sculpture from "figurativisme expressioniste" to "formel poétique". Since 1955 he has worked in this direction convinced that this is his natural tendency.

A gifted artist, Antoine Poncet has had works shown at several important exhibitions, such as the Venice Biennale, the Antwerp open-air exhibition and the "Salon de la jeune sculpture" in Paris. The Winterthur "Kunstmuseum" also held an exhibition devoted to his sculpture.

GALA PERFORMANCES OF THE "EUROPEAN RENDEZ-VOUS REVUE"

Voli Geiler and Walter Morath

Thursday, 14th June, and Friday, 15th June, at the French Institute Theatre, Queensberry Place, S.W.7

We wish to direct the attention of our readers to the leaflet inserted in this issue concerning the above-mentioned Gala Performances of the "European Rendez-Vous Revue".

Voli Geiler and Walter Morath are Switzerland's leading cabaret stars. They are at present touring in the United States of America, with much success.

As the receipts for these performances are ear-marked for Swiss charities in London, and considering the excellent artists taking part in the programme, it is hoped that a "Full House" for both performances will be registered.

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