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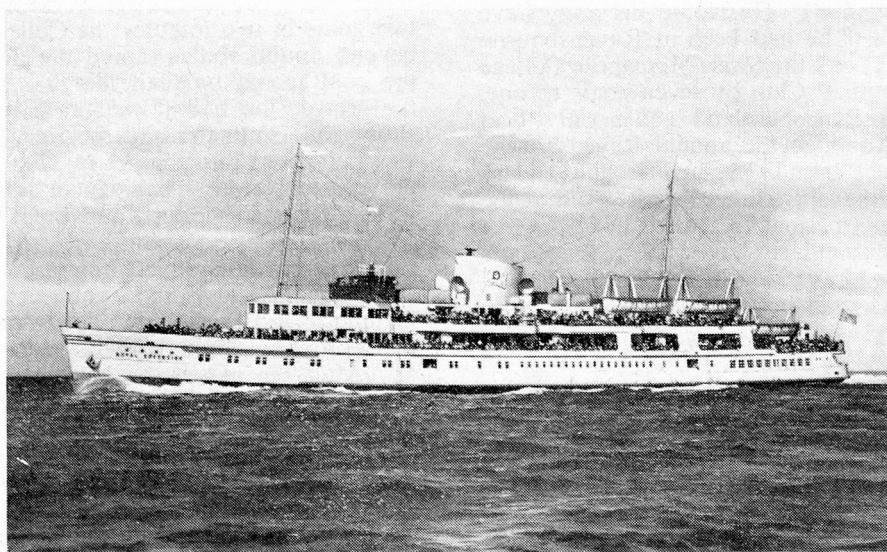
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# FETE SUISSE 1964



M.V. "Royal Sovereign"

Before the war, the Fête Suisse generally relied on local talents. When it was held again after hostilities ceased, the custom gradually started of having groups of artists coming over from Switzerland. There were choirs and folkloristic groups, and every year the organisers tried to make the Fête more attractive and less expensive. For it must be faced, whilst we enjoyed listening to attractive songs and watching picturesque dancing, the cost of bringing over Swiss groups and artists was a very heavy burden. The organisers, therefore, decided to find out whether the Fête was still really wanted by the Swiss Community in and around London, and if so, to make it into something different which would possibly be more attractive.

The Chairman of the Fête Suisse, Mr. R. L. Thomas, and his Committee sent out a questionnaire. To their surprise, the answers were overwhelmingly in favour of continuing to hold this annual get-together.

The plans for this year's Fête Suisse have now been announced, and they carry every promise of success. It will be held on Friday, 12th June, and will take place on board ship. The Motor Vessel "Royal Sovereign" has been chartered for the evening. It can carry a minimum of 1,500 people and is eminently suitable for a pleasant gathering of the Swiss Colony. The boat will leave Tower Pier at 6.30 p.m. sharp and return at 10.30. There will be music and dancing and surprise entertainment. Refreshments may be had on board.

This will be an excellent opportunity of paying off some of our individual entertainment debts and invite friends, Swiss and English, for an evening party on the river. The Swiss Ambassador and Madame de Fischer are giving their patronage to the Fête, and the Swiss Societies and organisations are giving their support. Admission has been fixed as low as possible (15/-) in order to enable a very large number of our compatriots to come. Families are being helped by the fact that children under twelve will be admitted free of charge. A new arrangement is that young people under twenty-five will pay half price only. This should induce students and youngsters with a slender pocket money to come in large numbers. All

round it seems to be a very attractive proposition, and the organisers are to be congratulated on taking the initiative for arranging a novel event.

Whilst tickets may be had at Tower Pier before departure, it is no doubt a wise precaution to ensure admission by getting them in advance. Please consult the advertisement on the next page for details.

Having attended the last meeting of the Fête Suisse Committee, I am convinced that it will be a very pleasant party. In order to make it a complete success, also financially, the boat should be filled to capacity. The organisers are doing everything to make it an outstanding social event in the Swiss Colony. It is up to us to support them. There is only one thing which does not lie within our power — though even that should not spoil the party — need I mention it at all? It is raining at the moment .....

*Mariann.*

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We wish to thank the following subscribers for sending donations in addition to their subscriptions and for taking out or renewing gift subscriptions: Mrs. A. Baume, Miss M. Dreier, Mrs. S. A. Eisenegger, Mrs. G. Ferrari, Mrs. A. Strubin, Monsieur W. Roch, Dr. A. C. E. Wander and Messrs. C. Abderhalden, V. Berti, F. Blaser, A. Blunier, F. E. Brunner, J. Frei, C. Fuchs, W. Graf, T. M. Hagenbach, H. Humbel, R. Marchand, E. Rietmann, G. N. Ross, J. Scheiwiller, H. Schmid, J. Steiner, M. Weber. We are most grateful for their kind and welcome support.

## OUR NEXT ISSUE

Our next issue will be published on 22nd May. We shall be grateful to receive reports and articles by the first post on Wednesday, 13th May. Only short news items can be accepted later. It will help us greatly if subscribers who are in arrears with their subscriptions will pay up promptly.