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The Swiss Observer

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE SWISS COLONY IN THE U.K.

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RESIDENCE OF CHAPLAIN: Bossard, Swiss Catholic Mission, 48 Great Peter Street (2nd floor), London SW1P 2HA. Tel: 01-222 2895.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Mr. Gamper's letter in our last edition has provoked a rapid response from Mr. Meschini and we are glad to publish his letter here without comment. The Swiss Observer can make no comment about any individual's standing vis-à-vis his National status – in any country. The legal implications are legion and complex and individual cases have to be interpreted by legal experts. Equally, a person's reasons for renouncing or acquiring citizenship in any country must be respected as being entirely personal.

WGS

Sir,

With reference to Mr. Gamper's letter which appeared in your August – September issue of the S.O., it most certainly does not fill me with sadness; it does, however, fill me with the utmost perplexity.

I am a London born Ticinese yet, as an officer in the Royal Artillery, I served in the British Army throughout the 1939-45 war, being demobbed in April 1946.

My brother, F. Meschini, and also my brother-in-law, Oscar F. Boehringer, did likewise, yet none of us renounced our Swiss Nationality, and enjoy to this day our very much appreciated Dual Nationality. I do, however, know of various Dual Nationals who renounced their British Nationality in order to be exempt from serving with the British Army. This made them solely Swiss citizens.

C. Meschini

ARE YOU A YOUNG SWISS?

Do you know the biggest Swiss happening in town? The SWISS YOUTH CLUB, 48 GREAT PETER STREET, LONDON S.W. 1.

Every Sunday from 4 p.m. onwards the Swiss Youth Club under the auspices of the Swiss Churches in London is staging a "get-together" with a variety of happenings. From 4 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. "do-it-yourself" entertainment followed by an ecumenical Church service for those who wish to participate.

At 7.30 p.m. a communal dinner party opens a night of dancing and talking (In Schwizerdütsch). Refreshments are served at the bar by Club members.

Looking forward to seeing you!
Committee of the Swiss Youth Club.

ON THE FRONT PAGE

Altdorf's William Tell theatre is in financial difficulties. It badly needs restoration but the money has yet to be found. Perhaps this general view of that beautiful town will stir suitable memories in some of our readers. Meanwhile, read the "cri de coeur" from the William Tell Players of Altdorf on pages 22-24 of this issue. Photograph by courtesy of SNT0.

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Will readers and contributors please note that items intended for inclusion in the next edition of the *Swiss Observer* should reach the Editor no later than 30th September.

WGS



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THE LONDON SWISS CHURCHES AND THEIR BAZAAR

NEWS FROM THE COLONY

From the two annual reports (French- and German-speaking Protestant Parishes and Swiss Catholics) one gleans a fair amount of what the three communities do. But nobody outside can really know of just how much work and worry, effort and money goes into looking after hundreds of young compatriots, the old and the infirm, mothers and children, not even mentioning the difficulties those in charge have in getting the right ministers, youth workers and organisers, and in collecting enough cash to run the various activities.

The German-speaking Parish and the Catholics have been very lucky in the fact that their ministers have stayed in London for a number of years each. Father Paul Bossard is a well-known figure in the colony, as was The Rev. Marcel Dietler who worked here for ten years. When he left, his Assistant The Rev. Uli Stefan took over, and it was then that one had to do without an Assistant Minister, but employ a youth community worker. And now, after ten years, Mr. and Mrs. Stefan, too, are leaving London, and though we are pleased that they will get "promotion" in Switzerland, we deeply regret their departure. The French-speaking Parish have been less lucky and have not enjoyed the valuable continuity which has been so important in the development of the German-speaking community. The man who has been holding the fort in recent months, is The Rev. Raymond Renou; but he, too, is leaving shortly with his wife and family to return to Switzerland. The succession is still in the balance. Mr. Stefan's successor, The Rev. Paul Jungi, has been here

with his wife and twin daughters already a couple of months, and he will continue the work of his predecessors, together with the *Romands* and Father Bossard. Appreciation of the fine work the departing Ministers achieved, and welcome to the new Minister have already been expressed at various times, but as readers of the *Swiss Observer*, we should like to add our own good wishes to all concerned and our hope that the wonderful co-operation between the various communities of three languages and two creeds will continue for the benefit not least of the Swiss Colony as a whole.

A word here for the outgoing President of the Consistoire, Mr. J. Bader. He had done good work for the Church, and we regret his resignation. We wish him the best of luck for the future. Thus the Consistoire has to look for a new head, and it is hoped that they will be as lucky as the Committee of Swiss Catholics in London who, due to the untimely death of Mr. Oscar Grob, KSG, under whose untiring presidency the Catholic community thrived, had to look out for a new Chairman. They have found him in Mr. F. A. De Maria who will continue the good work.

There are many ways one may help the valuable activities of the Swiss Churches in London. The annual reports enlighten the reader on the general state of affairs, and the two Parish Magazines *Les Messager* and *Die Stimme* give details of the many events and services available, from meetings of the clubs for young people "Jeunesse" and the ecumenical "Youth Club of the Swiss Churches", the mothers' union and the two ladies' groups

who also work for the Swiss Benevolent Society and provide food for Christmas and old people's parties and for ecumenical gatherings at the Church in Endell Street and the John Southworth Centre in Westminster. There are services and meetings in suburbia and outside London, as well as other events.

If anybody is interested, please ring 01-340 9740 or 01-340 6018 (German-speaking Parish), 01-346 5281 (French-speaking Parish) and 01-222 2895 (Catholic Priest). That applies, too, to anyone not able to get about and who would like to have a visit.

Every two years, the Churches are organising a Bazaar. Much work and effort and expense goes into this event. The whole Swiss community in and around London help in making the Bazaar a success. This year it will be held at Central Hall Westminster on Saturday, 6th November. It will be opened at 11 a.m. and finishes at 4 p.m. There will be luncheons and teas and light refreshments from 12.30 onwards, and a rich variety of goods will be on sale, food, clothing and useful Christmas presents. The event is also a wonderful meeting place for old friends, so remember the date. Gifts may be delivered to the Churches (see advert), and donations are welcome.

To read the annual reports with appreciation and to congratulate the Churches and those in command on their sterling work is one thing – to help actively is the real way of giving full recognition to the invaluable services the Swiss Churches in London are rendering.

MM

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