

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK
Band: - (1978)
Heft: 1741

Nachruf: Ruth Huggenberg
Autor: [s.n]

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SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY'S AGM

The Society held its 89th Annual General Meeting at Swiss House on 18th March.

Among those present, the Chairman, Mr. F. O. Hausermann, welcomed Mr. J. P. Zehnder, Counsellor of Embassy; Mr. J. Keller, Commercial Attaché; Mr. Ch. Glauser, Swiss Council and Mr. B. J. Riddle, Chartered Accountant.

Reporting on the activities of the Society during the year under review, the Chairman stated that the activities had followed traditional lines. A welcome improvement in the attendance at meetings could be noted, particularly those to which members of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique had been invited, an innovation worthy of repetition.

No less than eight members of the Society had been awarded the "Wappenscheibe" of the S.K.V. at the veterans' meeting at Zug on 21st September, a record number for London.

As usual, the main activities at Swiss House were centred on the College. The Chairman was able to announce a remarkable increase in the attendance during 1977. The number of full-time students was 623, the average monthly attendance being 234, compared with 546 and 208 respectively during the previous year.

In addition, a special course for Swissair trainees was held from July to December, comprising 25 students, divided into two classes, with two days' attendance each week, being employed practically during the rest of the time. Trainees had previously attended ordinary courses on an individual basis. This innovation had proved successful and was to be continued with certain amendments.

Moreover, preparatory day courses for the Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English were held from January to May (one class) and from September to November (two classes) attended by a maximum of 15 and 34 students respectively.

The diploma examinations, held nine times during the year, were taken by 383 candidates, of whom 367 were successful, compared with 329 and 320 respectively in 1976.

Only students who reached the sixth grade, after having passed the customary monthly tests, were able to sit the examinations. A high standard had to be attained to obtain the diploma, which

Continued on page 4

News from The Colony

OBITUARY

RUTH HUGGENBERG

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of the pianist Ruth Huggenberg, of 3 Peregrine Way, Woodhays Road, London SW19. She died on 31st January and will be sadly missed by her family in Switzerland and her many friends.

Up to a couple of years ago, she gave concerts and recitals in London and was well known in the Swiss community at one time. From the many write-ups in the files of the *Swiss Observer*, we know of her successful concerts also in Switzerland and elsewhere. She was a serious artist and very good music teacher, but her retiring nature did not allow her to go into the limelight as much as her art and ability warranted. We send our sincere sympathy to her family, especially to her sister, Mrs. M. Schneebeli, Hochwachstrasse 38, 8400 Winterthur.

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