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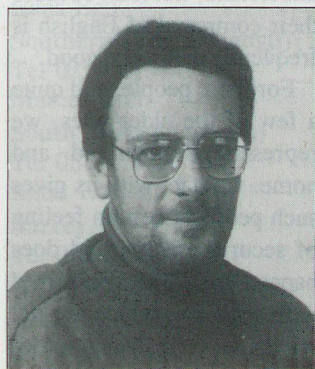
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1st August Celebrations

Swiss Clubs up and down the country are preparing to celebrate the Swiss national day on 1 August. Many will be holding their celebrations on the day itself: Yorkshire Swiss Club, for example, has arranged a lunch at Steeton Hall, near Keighley. The biggest celebration will, however, be held in London, but not, this year, on 1 August itself.

After many years of masterminding the national day celebrations for the Swiss community in London, Virgil Berti has retired as chairman of 1st August Committee. His successor is Chris Dyke. Chris is married to a St Gallerin, Erika, and together with their three young children they live in Maidstone, Kent. Chris fills

in the time between meetings of the 1st August Committee by lecturing in horticulture. On the right he sets out the plans for this year's 1st August celebrations and



Chris Dyke

extends a warm invitation to everyone to attend the party in London on 18 July. For details of other events which are being organised, contact your local Swiss society. ■

To hold any major Swiss celebration in the United Kingdom is always going to be a compromise between the perfect and the possible. In recent years our 1st August celebrations in London have been on the right day, weatherproof and not too costly. This year, with a new-style, outdoor event, we are trading in these advantages for a new set: more space, more scope and fresh air! This year's biggest 1st August celebration in Britain will be held at King Alfred's School in Golders Green — on 18th July.

By holding an outdoor event we will be more in line

with the traditional celebrations. The children, too, will have more room to enjoy themselves, while adults will have wider access to good food, music and celebrating. We want a mini-Battersea — but at a lower cost.

Now all we need is you! At least 1,500 of you to be precise. If you are able, buy your tickets now from your club or society: that way we can lay on enough food! If you are fit, give us a hand to set up, run and, most importantly, clear-up afterwards.

See you on 18th July.

As readers will observe the *Green Pages* are no more! The new *Regional News — UK* will, however, be published quarterly. In the next regional issue Mariann Meier considers the history of the Swiss Embassy in London and Till Geiger reviews *The Swiss Bank Job*.

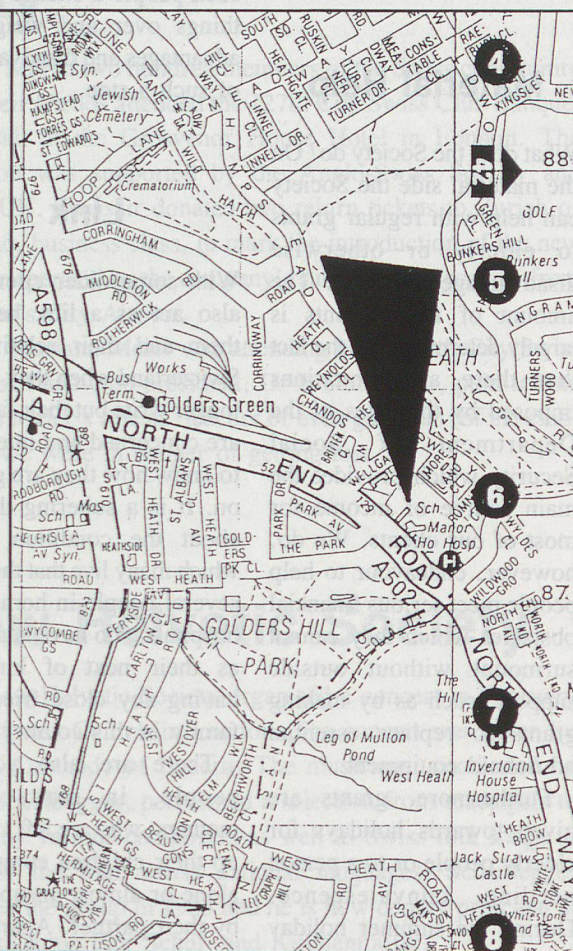
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The Swiss Benevolent Society

by Regula Sharp

The Swiss Benevolent Society is at the disposal of Swiss people resident in the London consular district who are in need of material help, advice or just a listening ear at a period of crisis. The Society came into being in 1870 as an extension of work which had been carried out by the Swiss Church in London, but it operates today without distinction as to creed. Only proof of Swiss nationality is required.

Responsibility for the activities of the Society rests in an annually elected executive committee while day to day business is conducted by the secretary/social worker. She provides the executive with the background information before informed decisions are made on the applications received.

Material Help

What does the Society do? On the material side the Society can help with regular grants to elderly or otherwise disadvantaged persons. The amount of these grants is largely determined by the fact that there are limitations imposed by the rules of the Department of Social Security which provides the main source of income for most of our clients. We do, however, endeavour to help people meet serious financial obstacles which they cannot surmount without outside support, such as by making grants to replace essential household equipment.

Furthermore, grants are given towards holidays for elderly people or to a person needing convalescence. During the summer holiday

we assist with the fares of children of Swiss parents who have a chance to spend a few weeks in Switzerland with either relatives or a host family.

On the personal side, our activities are varied and we are in touch with quite a wide spectrum of problems. There are, for example, elderly people who have gone into homes and find the transition difficult, who need support and, on occasions, someone to speak for them and someone who helps to iron out certain initial problems. We may also be in touch with the person who is about to make the fateful decision of giving up his or her home and moving into residential accommodation. This is obviously a period of great anguish and stress and we try to be supportive and give such people a chance to talk things over and weigh the advantages and disadvantages of such a step.

Link

With some older clients we also act as a link between them and their relatives in Switzerland when they can no longer write but their families are concerned and interested to know how they are getting on. It is a sobering thought about the condition under which many live that there are several people in homes and hospitals who have named us as their next of kin, not having any close friends or family in this country.

There are also younger people, in many cases mothers, who are left to bring up their children completely alone or almost unsupported by their partner. Apart from

the obvious material problems which such a situation entails, they also often have to cope with legal proceedings which might be bewildering or difficult to understand, not least because their command of English is frequently not very good.

For these people, and quite a few of the older ones, we represent Switzerland and home. Contact with us gives such people a certain feeling of security. It can and does happen that we are confronted with problems which are not within our competence but we are usually in a position to guide the applicants towards appropriate resources. Also, if the distances involved are great, it is frequently better for someone with an ongoing problem to be in touch with a local agency that can be reached more easily.

The social worker maintains contact with our clients through correspondence, visits and frequently by telephone. Whenever possible, she meets each client at least once to establish a personal contact.

Inflation

What does the future hold? We are, at the moment, at a crossroads in the history of The Swiss Benevolent Society. Legacies have left us with a considerable capital and the income of this, plus donations from individuals and Swiss firms, have allowed us to give the support that people require. With high inflation in the last few years and support from both firms and individuals falling off, while expenses have increased steadily, we are now in the unfortunate

position of having to forego the help of our secretarial assistant. In practice, this leaves the social worker as the only staff and, whilst we endeavour to continue to give as much service as we can, it is obvious that her chances of visiting people, most of whom are too infirm to come to our offices, must be severely reduced. This step has been taken with the greatest reluctance and after much thought, but only severe measures will permit us to stay within the limits of our income.

We would stress, though, that this evolution should under no circumstances deter any members of the Swiss community from getting in touch with us if it is felt that we might be able to offer help. We shall certainly endeavour to do our level best to assist them or search with them for the right resource to meet their needs.

■ *Regula Sharp is the Swiss Benevolent Society's social worker. Readers should note that two similar organisations, The Swiss Relief Society and The Swiss Benevolent Fund for Scotland, provide a similar function to that performed by The Swiss Benevolent Society for Swiss citizens resident in the north of England and Scotland.*

Swiss Clubs & Societies

Aberdeen

Tel 0224 318316
Mrs M Grieve

Anglo-Swiss Society

Tel 0227 721 855
Mrs F Cobb

August 1st Cttee

Tel 0622 39361
Chris Dyke

Bournemouth

William Tell Group
Tel 0202 731720
Mrs Trudy Bryant

Bristol

Tel 0454 775042
Mrs Trudy Soper

Bucks/Herts

Tel 0494 763030
S Singh

Cercle Genevois

Tel 0923 221704
Mrs Suzy Allan

City (London)

Tel 071 975 6000
Dr R Duttweiler

Commission of the Swiss Abroad

—North of Britain
Tel 061 926 8153

Berni Simon

—South of Britain

Tel 081 741 4224
Giuseppe Broggin

Consistoire

Tel 081 346 8094
Mrs E Crack

Dunfermline

Tel 0383 723540
Dr Ursula Ditchburn

Edinburgh

Tel 031 331 3366
Mrs Trudy Bott

FOSSUK

Tel 071 727 4113
Mr Jeffrey Long

Frauenverein

Tel 081 422 3545
Mrs B Laskowski

Guernsey

Tel 0481 48188
Mrs Ferbranche-Ammann

La Causerie

Tel 081 673 4955
Annette Yucottier

Liverpool

Tel 051 427 1816
Mrs M Moor

Manchester

Tel 053 833291
Derek Meakin

Midlands

Tel 021 631 4050
Erich Westacott

New Helvetic Society

Tel 071 727 4113
Rosemarie Breitenstein

Northern Ireland

Tel 0232 648239
Hans Egli

Southern (Farnborough)

Tel 0252 615149
Marcel Gret

South West (Taunton)

Tel 0823 74237
Katra Haskell

Surrey

Tel 081 647 9630
Heidi Miller

Torbay

Tel 0803 842355
Max Singer

Tyne and Wear

Tel 091 536 1047
Nelly Scott-Niederberger

West of Scotland

Tel 041 956 5127
Mrs M-T Cramer

Yorkshire

Tel 0535 569121
Janina Clough

Union Ticinese

Tel 081 741 4224
Giuseppe Broggin

Swiss Benevolent Fund

Scotland
Tel 041 644 1645
Mrs Trudy Drysdale

Swiss Benevolent Society

Tel 071 387 2173

Swiss Church

Tel 081 340 9740
Rev. P von Orelli

—Mothers' Group

Tel 081 340 9740
Johanna von Orelli

Swiss Economic Council

Tel 0952 7346737
Mr C J Pennington

Swiss Mercantile Society

Tel 071 636 2892
Mr R Kaenzig

Swiss National Tourist

Office
Tel 071 734 1921

Swiss Relief Society

— Manchester
Tel 0260 272407

Mr P Senn

Swiss Rifle Association

Tel 081 850 4117
Urs Schaerer

Around and About

Aberdeen

Aberdeen Swiss Club held its AGM in Old Meldrum on 21 March. The success of the club has always lain in its informality, but it was decided that it would be necessary to introduce a slightly (but only slightly!) more formal structure in order to comply with rules of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK. Accordingly an annual membership fee of £5 per household has been introduced. The club also decided to produce a quarterly newsletter. The first edition of this, which includes news about local events and information received from FOSSUK and the Consulate-General, was published in April. Bruno Schraner retired as secretary/treasurer and was warmly thanked for the hard work which he has put into the running of the club. Brigitte Marshall succeeds Bruno as secretary, while Edith Burnett takes over the duties of treasurer. Madeleine Grieve remains club president. The club will hold its summer barbecue on Saturday, 20 June and the following meeting will celebrate the Swiss national day. A warm and friendly welcome awaits any Swiss nationals who have not yet attended one of the club's events.

City

On 14 March two hundred members of the Swiss community and their friends attended the 127th City Swiss Club Banquet and Ball at the Grosvenor House Hotel in London. The function was supported by the Anglo-Swiss Society and FOSSUK. Swissair donated two return tickets to Zurich or Lugano, business class, to mark the introduction of the new service operated by the company's subsidiary, Crossair, from London's City Airport.

Mrs Mariann Meier was attending her sixteenth City Swiss Club ball and club president, Dr R Duttweiler, paid tribute to Mrs Meier's role as 'teacher or even guardian (of the club) when we were in danger of getting lost.'

New Helvetic Society

The New Helvetic Society organised a concert in February at the Swiss Church in London. The concert was given by Rondo Cantando of Luzern. The musicians, conducted by Josef Scheidegger, performed a selection from madrigals to lieder by various composers as well as Swiss folk songs in each of the four Swiss national languages. Scheidegger founded the group in 1983 and he is now deputy principal at the Akademie fuer Schul- and Kirchenmusik.

Finance Review

Eric Westacott, president of the Midlands Swiss Society, is a financial planning consultant by profession. In the following article he offers readers advice about unit trusts.

When investing capital, consider these three golden rules. Firstly, always keep some money handy. It is not advisable to tie up all your money in long-term investments and not have any to fall back on in the event of an emergency.

Secondly, place as much as you feel able to in investments which aim for capital growth as well as providing an income. Even when inflation is low, the value of your capital is gradually being eaten away if it is left in a purely interest-bearing account over a long period.

Thirdly, never keep all your eggs in one basket. Always spread your money across a range of different investments. This increases your financial security if any one particular investment should not perform as well as expected.

For many people a building society or a high interest bank account is the ideal home for emergency money.

Risk

The remainder of your capital can then be placed where it has the scope for growth and the prospect of an attractive income without excessive risk. But remember the old investment adage: the higher the return, the higher the risk. Don't be seduced by promises of large percentage returns without being aware that you

are taking a gamble.

In the short term you can make a very large profit, but you can also make a large loss if the stock market takes a nose dive. Over the long term, however, with a portfolio of shares you have a good chance of maintaining their value against inflation or even outpacing it.

Direct investment in shares remains a risk but the risks can be significantly lessened if you have a sufficiently diversified portfolio — that is, your investment is spread over a large enough number of shares so that if one or two go wrong the effect will be diluted.

One way to do this is to use pooled funds such as unit trusts. Each investor gets a stake in a ready made portfolio of normally 50 to 100 shares, so the risk of losing money is considerably reduced, though if the whole market goes down some fall cannot be avoided. The price of the unit trust directly reflects the value of its underlying investments.

Other advantages of investing in unit trusts rather than directly into shares are that you do not have to worry about when to buy and sell individual holdings — professional investment managers do it for you. The cost of unit trusts are also relatively modest compared to direct investment. You normally pay around 5% when you first invest and an annual management fee of 1%-2% thereafter.

The problem which faces investors, however, is choosing from the wide range of unit trusts available. In recent years funds have become increasingly specialist — investing only in particular types of stocks or

by Eric Westacott

individual economies.

The snag is that the more specialist a fund, the less the risk is diversified and the more volatile its performance tends to be. In order to minimise risk it is much better to start off with good, broadly-based UK growth or income unit trusts and then add on some general overseas funds. With these types of funds the investment manager is not too restricted as to the stocks or the countries he can invest in and can take advantage of the best opportunities available.

Besides choosing the types of fund, you will also have to decide on a unit trust group. It is a good idea to examine the overall performance record of different groups. Don't just look at short term results. Check for long term consistency. One way of doing this is to refer to the personal finance sections of the newspapers and to specialist publications such as *Planning Savings* and *Money Management* which publish unit trust performance statistics every month. ■

Do you consider this article useful, interesting and appropriate for incorporation in the *Swiss Review*? The Editor would be interested to learn of readers views about the possibility of publishing a regular financial column in the *Review*.

Charles Wander
BDS LDS RCS
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Letters

6th Switzerland

Sir,
Thank you for publishing Ruth Johnson's letter in issue 4/91 of the *Green Pages*. It was so refreshing! As a seasoned *Auslandschweizer* I share her views. It is interesting to ponder whether we are protected from facts by the anodyne writers in the *Swiss Review* or whether our home land is protecting itself from the bare facts, which Durrenmatt, the clear-headed surgeon he was, diagnosed so clearly. Most of us living abroad have to accept a great number of problems, some very difficult. We come of age quickly. We are ill-served by self-praise and backslapping — however patriotic that seems to you. We do need to know the truth — before we step on a stray hyponeedle in Zurich or meet the inner malaise of a rich and isolated nation over the coffee-table during our visit there. We should be, and want to be, intelligently informed. We do not want to wait for a playwright to do this.

Yours sincerely,
A Sophie

Forrester-Zimmerman,
Glascwm, nr. Llandrindod,
Powys, Wales

Northants Calling

Sir,
I would like to thank you for publishing my letter, Calling Northants, in the December issue of the *Swiss Review*. Since then my telephone has almost not stopped ringing. I had never realised how much we needed a Swiss Club around here. The delight from compatriots in this area was unbelievable. We had calls from Buckinghamshire,

Leicestershire, Lincolnshire and Rutland. I never dreamt of such a response.

On 15 February we all met at the Royal Hotel in Kettering. Everyone had always thought that they were the only Swiss in this area. What a pleasant surprise that was. Thirty-six people attended and another twelve were sorry not to be able to come due to skiing holidays. We have now made a choice and are naming our club The Northants Swiss Family Club and we held our first event, a Fun Day, on 25 April at the Pytchley/Kettering Village Hall. The 1st August will also be a big event at the same place.

Would you please mention Heidi Miller from the Surrey Swiss Club? I send her a big thank you for helping with ideas for our start. She is a wonderful lady and nothing is too much for her.

Yours sincerely,
Rosemarie Jessiman-Hanni,
Kettering.

Business Contacts

Sir,
I read the *Swiss Review*, and in particular *The Green Pages*, with great interest. Due to lack of time I have not yet joined a local club.

I am sure there are many Swiss expatriates living in the UK who unfortunately experience this same problem. However, what I would be interested in (as are — hopefully — many other UK-based Swiss businessmen), is a list of Swiss business people in the UK. Such a list would then contain such things as the business address and the type of industry and activities.

This would enable us all to help each other in business, whether in the UK or overseas, by using our business contacts. Maybe a CH-UK Business Club could be established, by setting up a Business Contact List initially.

Yours sincerely,
B Grob,
Managing Director,
Edale Ltd.,
Budds Lane,
Romsey,
Hants SO51 0HA.

■ Both the commercial section of the Swiss Embassy and the Swiss Economic Council may be of assistance. Ed.

French and Nasty

Sir,
Why, apropos of *The Green Pages* 1/92, is there not a single committee member of FOSSUK whose native language is French?

Why, apropos of the same issue, such a nastily critical article on John Wraight's book on the City Swiss Club? To me its particular virtue was its placing the club so aptly against the historical and social background of the times.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs F R Cobb,
Canterbury.

Swiss and British

Sir,
I am most grateful to you for drawing attention to John Wraight's book *The Swiss and the British*. I find it extremely absorbing and rewarding.

I do not, however,

completely agree with your reviewer, as he seems to have missed the point made by the author that the Anglo-Swiss relationship really is unique — not least as Switzerland is the only European country which Britain has never fought against.

Even if the book may not be complete in every way, I look upon it as an outstanding and excellent source of reference. It also shows astute understanding of Anglo-Swiss relations, obviously due to the fact that Sir John Wraight was British ambassador to Switzerland for a number of years. A most interesting book which I can certainly recommend.

Yours sincerely,
Paul Davies,
Witney,
Oxon.

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Small, international, English-language boarding school would like to hear from Swiss nationals or persons with working permission for Switzerland, interested in full-time employment from September 1992. Qualified elementary school teachers for English-speaking children 6 to 14, or persons interested in serving as Housemother or household Assistant or cook should write to:

William Lovell, Director
or telephone:
(030) 4.13.72

Compatriots Recalled

Paul Frederick Boehringer was born in Basel on 11 August 1879. His grandfather came from Germany in 1831 to study theology in Zurich. Five years later he became a citizen of Herrliberg (ZH). Their son, also a theologian, went to Basel, where he later acquired honorary citizenship in 1887.

Young Paul Frederick lost his mother when only 18 months old. He grew up in Basel, a bright and gifted youngster, musical too. He finished his commercial training in Bern.

Shortly before the end of the century he came to London. First he worked in a bank and in 1914 he and EA Scheidegger formed the Polyglot Printing Company. After six years Paul Boehringer founded his own company, the Frederick Printing Company, in a converted church building at 23 Leonard Street in the City of London.

From the beginning of his stay in England Paul took a keen interest in the Swiss community and he supported a number of organisations and clubs. He joined the City Swiss Club in 1905 and was elected vice-president in

1916, an office which he held for four years. He chaired the first banquet after the war in 1920, when he became president. He held the same office again in 1936-37.

Observer

His lasting achievement was the foundation of the *Swiss Observer*, a unique service to his compatriots. He was publisher and at one time editor. Shortly before his death he even corrected proofs on his sick-bed. It was his devotion, generosity, coupled with energy and determination, which made him overcome manifold difficulties. The *Swiss Observer* was a 'shining memorial to a great patriot', wrote Fred Stauffer, the longest serving editor, in Paul's obituary.

Among Boehringer's many activities was his work as an ardent freemason. He was the oldest member of the *Entente Cordiale Lodge*. A few years later he joined the *Capitre la France*. In 1927, with 21 of his countrymen, he founded the only Swiss lodge under the English Constitution, the *Helvetica Lodge*. He was its second master in 1928-29, a well-deserved honour.

In 1913 he married Elsie Martha Grey. They had one son, Oscar Frederick, who carried on much of his father's work, not least the *Swiss Observer*.

Paul Frederick Boehringer died on 6 April 1948, aged 69. Many were the friends who mourned his passing. Those who are still alive remember him with deep gratitude and affection.

[MM]

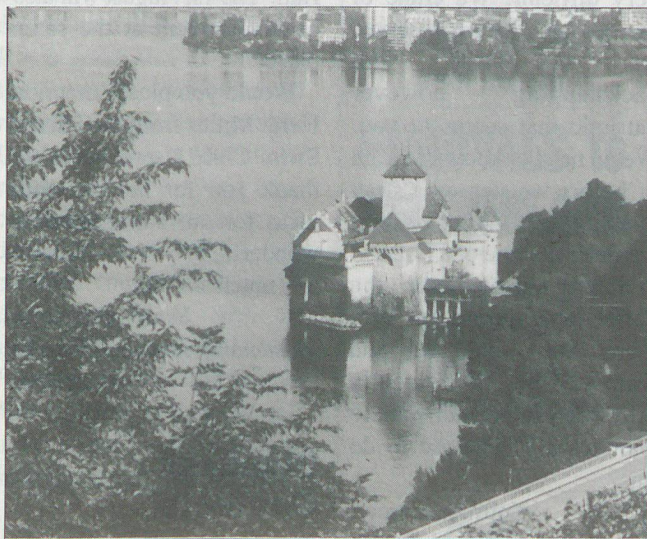
The Swiss Riviera: Haven for the Famous

For hundreds of years politicians and painters, poets and princesses, soldiers and singers, novelists and industrialists, have sought inspiration in the beauty of Montreux and Vevey, two resorts of the Swiss Riviera, set between the blue waters of Lake Geneva and the sparkling Alps.

Among the early visitors were Edmund Ludlow, the seventeenth-century politician who sat on the tribunal which sentenced Charles I to death.

Stravinsky, who wrote the *Rite of Spring* during his visit; French novelist Victor Hugo; English writer Graham Green; actor and writer Noel Coward; comedian supreme Charlie Chaplin, who lived in the area for many years and who is buried in a nearby cemetery; and American novelist Ernest Hemingway.

It is the last of these many famous visitors who has given his name to a new leaflet produced by local Swiss tourist boards. *On the*



Chillon Castle

Ludlow was forced to flee to safety on the restoration of Charles II to the throne. Other visitors included Lord Byron, the poet, who toured the lakeside resorts with his friends, the Shellys; King William III of the Netherlands, whose villa was later taken over by the composer Tchaikovsky; and Henri Nestle, who founded the famous milk and chocolate company.

The serenity and scenery of the region have also attracted the Russian composer Igor

Trail of Hemingway invites visitors to follow in the footsteps of their famous predecessors by plotting two absorbing routes for walking tours which take in some of the most interesting buildings and beauty spots in the area. The colourful leaflet gives thumbnail sketches of forty famous visitors, along with descriptions of buildings linked with their stay. It is obtainable free of charge from the Swiss National Tourist Office in London. [HR]

St. Moritz

SWISS RESTAURANT

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Anniversary Boosts Tourism Twin Towns

Switzerland's 700th anniversary celebrations helped to give a substantial boost to the country's tourism fortunes in 1991.

Despite the depressing effects of the Gulf War, Switzerland managed to buck the generally negative trend with an increase of 0.8% in overnight stays compared with the previous year.

The total figure of 77.6 million overnights was the highest achieved since 1981 and the second best year on record.

The Swiss are still their own best customers when it comes to tourism and the 700th anniversary led to an increase of 1.6% in the domestic market.

The figure for British

tourists was down by only 8.7%, which is regarded as something of a success by the Swiss National Tourist Office's UK director, Joseph Buehler.

'Given the double effect of the Gulf War and the difficult economic situation in this country, we are quite pleased to have contained the fall in numbers to such a relatively low figure,' he said.

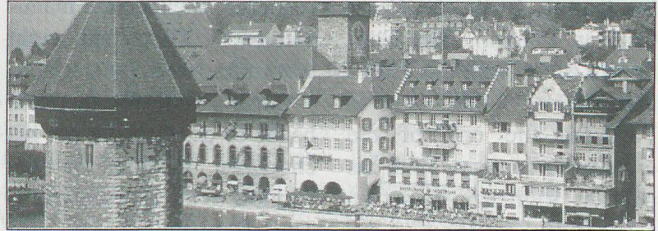
Early figures from 1992 are also encouraging. Helped by good snow conditions the number of British overnight stays in January increased by 16% compared with the same month last year. The SNT0 in London reports an increase of 25% in the number of enquiries for information in the first two months of this year. ■

30 May 1992 marked another milestone in Bournemouth's 101 years, for on that day Bournemouth had been twinned with Luzern (a slightly older sister) for ten years.

To celebrate this special

Bournemouth Borough Council; and representatives from clubs and organisations who have made many friends in the Bournemouth's Swiss sister town.

The evening commenced



Luzern

occasion, the Bournemouth Twinning Association organised a gala evening. Guests included the president of Luzern, Franz Kurzmer, and his wife; the president of the Anglo-Swiss Society from Switzerland; members of

with a luxury coach trip to Poole. Guests then boarded a boat for a cruise around Poole harbour. After landing at Bournemouth Pier a gala buffet was held in the Pier Cafe.

J.P. Avenell ■









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Book Review

by Mariann Meier

Felicity Kinross, *Coffee and Ices. The Story of Carlo Gatti in London* (Lavenham Press, 1991, 64pp. Illustrated. ISBN 0 9517745 0 6. £9.95).

Coffee and Ices is the name Felicity Kinross has given her fascinating book on Carlo Gatti in London. The Gatti family came from the Ticino and Carlo's father went to Paris at the end of the eighteenth century. With his partner, Righenzi, he set up a successful business in the chestnut trade. Stefano married Apollonia de Righetti and they had six children, Carlo being the youngest. He had little schooling but was intelligent. At the age of 22 he married a village girl from Castro and their first three children were probably born in the Ticino.

There is no record of Carlo's exact arrival in London. He was still poor and started making his first money with a coffee stall and by selling *goffre*, a kind of sweet waffle. In winter he supplemented his income by selling chestnuts. He and later his family lived in squalor.

In 1849 there was a change in his fortunes. He joined forces with Battista Bolla, who had premises in Holborn Hill, and they established a café-restaurant. Later they acquired a shop and were recorded as chocolate manufacturers. They had eight workmen from Switzerland.

Carlo's flair for business began to develop: he put his chocolate machine in the window to attract customers. The Gatti/Bolla café also served ice cream. At the Great Exhibition in 1851 their chocolate-making machine was shown.

Carlo then opened pastry shops in Hungerford Market and his penny-icecream served in tiny pastry shells was a great success. It was there that Gatti opened his first continental café, an entirely new venue.

Felicity Kinross gives an excellent insight not only into the growing success of Carlo Gatti and his brothers who had joined him but also into social conditions and events like the coming of the railway and the construction of

Charing Cross railway station on the site formerly occupied by Gatti. He received handsome compensation and embarked on a new venture: the import of ice from Norway, the cornerstone of his increasing wealth.

The Norwegian ice industry is described in detail and well illustrated. It was revealed that Gatti owned a whole fleet of ice trawlers. When the Unione Ticinese was founded in 1874, most of its 101 founder members were employed or came from the Gatti enterprises.

In 1858 Carlo Gatti acquired British citizenship and his business expanded to more and more cafés, shops, a chocolate manufacturing business and steam works. In the 1860s he opened a Palace of Varieties, later the Royal Adelaide Gallery Refreshment Rooms. The building is still there today, renovated, but known as Gatti's. Famous became his restaurants, serving mainly English food but with continental music in the evening and at weekends.

The Gattis also organised

concerts and pantomimes in Covent Garden and they acquired theatres. But Carlo always went back to the Ticino and he died in Dongio on 6 September 1878, at the age of 61.

Felicity Kinross's fascinating book ends with a chapter 'Who was Carlo Gatti?', the climax to a well-researched story about the tough businessman and the 'man with a great heart, with much natural intelligence, matured in the school of life'. He deserves to be better remembered.

Swiss Review: UK News

The editor of the *Regional News UK* welcomes letters from readers. Correspondence should be addressed to Dr David Ditchburn, Department of History, University of Aberdeen, King's College, Old Aberdeen AB9 2UB (Tel. 0224 2729999). The deadline for issues 3/92 and 4/92 are 31 July and 15 September.

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