

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK

Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

Band: - (1936)

Heft: 741

Rubrik: Forthcoming events

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. [Siehe Rechtliche Hinweise.](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. [Voir Informations légales.](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. [See Legal notice.](#)

Download PDF: 01.04.2025

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

ports of battles took the place of dull theory; tactics were learned in the actual field. The real military school, in fact, was war itself. Youth, inspired by the deeds of its elders, acquired a dangerous taste for heroic feats and adventures. In 1477 more than a thousand children who had followed the army as far as Nancy, had to be brought home by force. In Zurich, Berne and Freiburg hundreds of youths fought pitched battles in the public squares. Energetic measures had to be taken to curb the excessive eagerness of these future defenders of the Fatherland.

In olden times Switzerland also had her sports festivals, her Olympiads — events organised on a grand scale which often coincided with the anniversary of a victory or signing of a political treaty of alliance. They opened with a religious ceremony. The populace cheered the procession, which was preceded by heralds in the colours of the Canton. The banners were attended by a guard of honour. This tradition has been preserved down to the present day in the shooting and gymnastic festivals. With a rattle of drums and a blare of pipes and trumpets, the combatants entered the lists, there to swear a solemn oath that they would observe the rules of the contest and abide by the verdict of the umpire. The programme of the Federal "Olympiad" of 1465, for instance, reads as follows: Foot race over 400 paces, endurance race over 10,000 paces. Jumping: three leaps on one foot over three standard measures of length and height. Putting the Stone: over three distances with three stones of from 45 to 67 pounds weight. Wrestling: three rounds with elimination. Riding: race over 1,000 paces, obstacle jumps. Cross-bow Shooting: free-arm, butt against shoulder, over distances of from 100 to 300 paces. — There were also fencing championships and exhibition bouts between lancers and halberdiers.

In the intervals popular ballad-singers praised the heroic deeds of the last military campaign. To the excited enthusiasm of the multitude Veit Weber struck up his famous "Murten Song":

"Sad winter-time has fled away
And birds in the wood are singing;
Now the wooing month is here,
But also the time for battle.
To arms, then, comrades bold!
With God to victory and safe return!"

Substantial prizes were offered, consisting of richly decorated horses, bullocks and sheep, or golden rings which the soldiers wore in their ears; there were silver or gilt goblets, too, and daggers and doublets (in the colours of the Canton), weapons, suits of armour, and lance-pennants embroidered by the senators' wives. The champion marksman received a golden chain, so long that he could put it three times round his neck. Victors became exempt from taxes, tolls and socage. The mountain-dwellers from the heart of Switzerland, their bodies tanned by the Alpine sun, were loudly cheered as they presented themselves before the umpires; the laughing, lively Appenzellers, too, with alproses in their hats, were loudly applauded, as were the tall athletes of the Grisons, the archers from Lausanne, the shepherds of Gruyère, while joyous, unending yodel songs echoed from one group to the other.

These festivals, many of which lasted a full month, ended with songs and merry feasting in which the participants swore eternal friendship. The return of the victors to their native Cantons was a veritable triumphal procession.

Such peaceful contests, which were repeated nearly every year, strengthened the bonds of Federalism, aroused a sound spirit of rivalry between the districts and Cantons, and promoted agility, daring and endurance — the best qualities a soldier can possess.

Thus the old Confederacy, with its allies and subjects (barely two million citizens in all) was in a position to train an army of 100,000 soldiers about the year 1470, put men in the field who were experienced in the art of war, and face every one of its adversaries with a superior force — the famous foot-soldiers whom Machiavelli called the "Conquerors of Kings."

S.V.Z.

ARMS OF VAUD.



Per fess argent and vert, in chief on three lines the words "Liberté et Patrie" or, fimbriated sable.

The arms of Vaud symbolize particularly *romand* into the Swiss Confederation as a separate canton in 1803. No arms existed prior to that date.

Green, a colour much in favour with the liberals, was the distinctive sign of the inhabitants during the French invasion that put an end to the rule of Berne. The insurgents had, in addition to the green cockade, a green flag and the motto: "Liberté, égalité," borrowed from the French.

Green remained popular and was readily adopted for the national emblem, and the motto, altered to *Liberté et Patrie*, incorporated into the escutcheon. In order to comply with the heraldic usage that two metals cannot come into contact but must be contrasted with a tincture, the gold letters of the motto are surrounded with a black border.

The arms of Vaud mark the entry of the *Pays* with the splendid nature and pastoral charm of this beautiful canton.

Drink delicious "Ovaltine" at every meal—for Health!

NESTLÉ'S MILK
Richest in cream

CITY SWISS CLUB.

Messieurs les membres sont avisés que
L'ASSEMBLÉE MENSUELLE
aura lieu mardi 4 Février au Restaurant PAGANI,
42, Great Portland Street, W.1. et sera précédée
d'un souper à 7h 15 précises (prix 5/-).

ORDRE DU JOUR:

Procès-verbal. Admissions. | Démissions. Divers.

Pour faciliter les arrangements, les participants sont priés de bien vouloir s'inscrire au plus tôt auprès de Monsieur P. F. Boehringer, 23, Leonard Street, E.C.2. (Téléphone: Clerkenwell 9595).

Le Comité.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Tuesday, February 4th — City Swiss Club — Monthly Meeting — (preceded by dinner 7.15 sharp) at Pagani's Restaurant, Great Portland Street, W.

Saturday, February 15th, at 7 o'clock sharp — City Swiss Club — Dinner and Dance, at the Hyde Park Hotel, Knightsbridge, S.W.1. Provisional Date.

Saturday, February 22nd, 1936 — Annual Banquet and Ball — Swiss Mercantile Society — at the Trocadero Restaurant, Piccadilly, W. Provisional Date.

SWISS BANK CORPORATION,

(A Company limited by Shares incorporated in Switzerland)

99, GRESHAM STREET, E.C.2.

and 11c, REGENT STREET, S.W. 1.

Capital Paid up £6,400,000
Reserves - - £1,560,000
Deposits - - £39,000,000

All Descriptions of Banking and Foreign Exchange Business Transacted

: : Correspondents in all : :
: : parts of the World. : :

DRESS WEAR —



The Tail Suit is rapidly ousting the Dinner Suit for all dress occasions.

We are specialists in all Dress Wear and our Head Cutter has a wonderful reputation for his smart west-end cut. No better value can be obtained.

DRESS SUITS FROM - 5 GNS.
Lounge Suits from 3½ gns.
ORDER NOW FOR XMAS

W. PRITCHETT

183 & 184, TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD, W.1.

2 mins. from Swiss Mercantile School
Telephone: MUSEUM 0482.

Divine Services.

EGLISE SUISSE (1762).
(Langue française).

70, Endell Street, Shaftesbury Avenue, W.C.2.
(Near New Oxford Street).

Dimanche 26 Janvier. 11h. — Service spécial en mémoire de feu Sa Majesté le Roi Georges V. Monsieur le Ministre C. R. Paravicini prendra la parole.

Liturgie: M. R. Sauty, suffragant.
Prédication: M. le pasteur C. Th. Hahn.
6h.30 — Prédication: M. R. Sauty.

M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme reçoit à l'Eglise, 79, Endell Street, W.C.2, le mercredi de 11h. à 12h.30 et sur rendez-vous à son domicile, 102, Hornsey Lane, Highgate, N.6. S'adresser à lui (téléphone: ARChway 1798) pour tous renseignements concernant les instructions religieuses, les mariages et autres actes

SCHWEIZERKIRCHE
(Deutschsprachige Gemeinde).

St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2.
(near General Post Office.)

Sonntag, den 26. Januar 1936.

11 Uhr morgens.

Gedächtnisgottesdienst der Colonie aus Anlass des Ablebens Seiner Majestät Georgs V. in der Eglise Suisse in Gegenwart des Schweizerischen Gesandten in Grossbritannien.

Liturgie: M. R. Sauty, suffragant.

Predigt: Pfarrer C. Th. Hahn.

Ansprache: Herr Minister C. R. Paravicini.

7 Uhr abends, Gottesdienst in St. Anne und St. Agnes, 9, Gresham Street.

Anfragen wegen Religions-bezw. Confirmandenstunden und Amtshandlungen sind erbeten an den Pfarrer der Gemeinde: C. Th. Hahn, 43, Priory Road, Bedford Park, W.4 (Telephon: Chiswick 4156). Sprechstunden: Dienstag 12-2 Uhr in der Kirche; Mittwoch

Printed for the Proprietors, by THE FREDERICK PRINTING CO., LTD., at 23, Leonard Street, London, E.C.3.

Telephone: MUSEUM 2982
Telegrams: Foy Suisse London

FOYER SUISSE
12 UPPER BEDFORD PLACE
RUSSELL SQUARE,
LONDON, W.C.1

Quiet position in centre of London.
Central heating and hot & cold water throughout.

Continental cooking.

Management: SCHWEIZER VERBAND VOLKSDIENST.