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# UNIONE TICINESE ANNUAL BANQUET & BALL

at 'PAGANI'S on Wednesday, February 22nd 1939.

G. EUSEBIO, President.

It is said, that the surroundings into which we human beings are born and are brought up, reflect to a great extent on our character, as well as on our attitude towards life in general.

This should mean, that people who live in a warm and sunny country, would be of a jollier and even happier disposition than, say for instance, those born in the arctic regions.

If one talks of a southern temperament, one invariably has in mind people very temperamental, generous, and above all enthusiastic.

That there is a great deal of truth in this assumption, I experienced at the Banquet and Ball of the Unione Ticinese. Although not born anywhere near the North Pole, I found that it takes us Northerners much longer to warm up and to get, what is called "into the swing."

Here at least our Ticinesi have a distinct advantage over their countrymen beyond the Gott-hard.

They seem to me more generous in expressing their feelings, and their patriotism comes straight from the heart, enthusiasm for a cause or their country is often expressed with a warmth and conviction which baffles the "onlookers." Their wrath, of course, can go to equal lengths, in which case the "onlooker" can be made positively uncomfortable.

Having every cause to feel happy at their Annual Festival, the atmosphere was one of unbounded jollity, which was at once reflected on the visitors and guests. And long before, the company, which numbered about 150, sat down to a really excellent meal, the walls resounded with laughter and mirth.

The reception was held by Monsieur C. R. Paravicini, the Swiss Minister, ably assisted by the President of the Society, M. G. Eusebio.

It is always a pleasure to meet old and good friends, and as the reception was accompanied with cocktails, an opportunity was given to cement friendships in an even more tangible way.

True enough, some of the familiar faces were missing, but I have not the slightest doubt, that although not present, for one reason or other, they were in thoughts with us.

Soon after 8 o'clock the toast-master announced that dinner was served and the company adjourned to the Alexandra Hall, which was very handsomely decorated.

The really lovely Ladies present competed successfully with the beautiful flower decorations, in fact it was difficult to say to whom the first prize should be awarded.

Having started to pay compliments, I would add another to Messrs. Pagani's who prepared a Menu which was fit not only for Kings, but also for Republicans. I hate to make the mouths water of those who had not the privilege of being present, and I therefore will not enumerate every item of this excellent eight or nine course Dinner.

The usual Toasts to "The King" and to "The Swiss Confederation" were proposed by the Swiss Minister, and both toasts received a hearty reception.

Shortly before coffee was served, M. Paravicini proposed the Toast of the evening "The Unione Ticinese."

The Minister received a spontaneous reception on rising, he said that for many years now he had had the pleasure to propose this toast, in fact he had spoken so many times at functions of the Society that it became quite embarrassing to find new inspiration. To loud applause from the entire gathering, Monsieur Paravicini said, that if we Swiss abroad asked ourselves, which is the best place to live in, apart from home, he could not imagine a better place than England, where the spirit and mentality are so much alike to our own country.

"What we Swiss admire most in this country," he continued, "is the spirit of work, fairness and the will to preserve the precious liberties of its people."

The speaker said that it is now, more than ever, necessary that we Swiss keep in touch with our country, and that this could best be done through the various existing Societies.

The Minister then made some humorous allusions to a recent visit to the lovely canton of Ticino, which caused much hilarity.

He concluded his oration by asking them to drink the toast to "The Unione Ticinese," and "All the Beautiful Ladies present."

This toast was greatly cheered, and especially appreciated was the reference to the Ladies.

During a short interval a telegram was read out which came from Dr. C. Rezzonico, a former Counsellor of Legation in London and member of the Unione Ticinese, it read:

"Unione Ticinese, Pagani's Restaurant  
London.

Vivissimi Auguri e Patriotico  
Saluto Tutti Presenti.

Rezzonico.

The applause which greeted the reading of this telegram was proof enough, that although Dr. Rezzonico has "gone," he has not "been forgotten."

The toast-master then announced that the President wished to address the gathering.

This announcement was heartily cheered, and I noticed that all the beautiful Ladies showed great interest because the President is still on the list of the eligible ones, what a lucky chap M. Eusebio is to preside over a Society, which can produce such a bevy of beauties, it would make me feel awfully nervous.

After the cheering subsided the President said:

Although — unlike our Minister — I have not had the pleasure of being present at a great many of our Annual Banquets, having been called to my exalted position in my tender years; I have to confess to a similar predicament.

You already know that the Society has had a reasonably good year despite all alarms and excursions; you may be taking it for granted also that our finances are on an even keel, serious calls on them notwithstanding. You may not know on the other hand that for the first time for a few years our membership roll shows an increase, and it is good to add that all the new recruits are youngsters. Furthermore you are all aware of the fact that since I spoke to you last, we have joined forces with the "Pro Ticino," as their London Branch, on terms which fully safeguard our own independence. The only undertaking that was asked for, and that was gladly given, was that we further the aims both cultural and economic of this well-known association. A small yet not unimportant benefit accruing to us is the monthly bulletin which each of our members receives from the "Pro Ticino." The warm reception I received at Bienne, when I attended the General Meeting of Delegates of the "Pro Ticino," convincingly testified to the gratitude felt for our collaboration. Most of you will remember our 1st of August celebration of last year, a belated but ever so successful revival: "minestra," "polenta e cotechini," not to mention the "nostrano," never were so popular.

Having looked at the past, what can I tell you of the future? If the year 1938 was for the Society a period of readjustment, the present one is to be a year of achievement. This is at any rate the challenge thrown out by the last general meeting. It put youth at the helm, by electing a Committee whose average age is under thirty-five. Then it voted an addition to our statute to allow of the admission of subscribing members. Furthermore, to encourage the study of our native tongue it passed a scheme for an essay competition with a cash prize of five guineas. And last, but scarcely least, it instructed the Committee to

bring into the world a ladies section of the "Unione Ticinese." In this delicate task I hope I may enlist the assistance of all the fair ladies present.

So much for our past, and our future. I have now the privilege of welcoming you all on behalf of my Committee, and of thanking you very cordially for having responded to our appeal.

We are grateful to our Minister, Monsieur C. R. Paravicini, for having consented to take the chair here this evening. I need not tell you, Sir, we are keenly appreciative of the honour you have thus done us, as well as of the interest which you take in our well-meant endeavours. For the diplomatist, even more than for the man-in-the-street, the times we are traversing are not free from anxiety, and I avail myself of this occasion to assure you, Monsieur le Ministre, that in the discharge of your delicate duties both you and your collaborators at the Legation can at all times count on the whole-hearted support of the "Ticinesi" in London and the Provinces.

To the excellence of our relations with our Sister Societies bear witness the numerous Representatives they have sent us:

M. Louis Chapuis, President City Swiss Club, with Mme. Chapuis;

M. R. Dupraz, Vice-President "Fonds de Secours," with M. Roethlisberger;

Mr. J. J. Boos, President Swiss Mercantile Society, with Mlle. Boos;

Mr. H. Caluori, Vice-President "Schweizerbund" with Mrs. Caluori;

Dr. W. H. Egli, representing the "Nouvelle Société Helvétique";

Mr. A. Gandon, Swiss Accordeon Club;

Mr. E. P. Dick, of Swiss Orchestral Society, with Mrs. Dick;

Mr. Bleiker, of Société de Secours Mutuels and Mrs. Bleiker;

M. J. S. Rey, President of Union Helvetia, Section de Londres.

We are delighted to greet the representatives of the Press, Mlle. D. Du Bois of "La Suisse," and Mr. Stauffer, of "Swiss Observer" fame. To this hard-worked gentleman I express our gratitude for the generous portion of space he always allots to us, and also for his "gingering up" campaign which is certain to benefit the Colony as a whole and probably also its indispensable weekly.

Before ending I wish to pay a generous tribute to our Honorary Vice-President, Signor Arturo Meschini and his family, who are also our hosts to-night, for the ever increasing support they afford the "Unione Ticinese." It is all very well for me to be young and energetic, but my task would be well-nigh impossible, did I not know that I can always count on Signor Meschini's ready encouragement and understanding. A word of thanks is due to our Socio Benemerito, Mr. Willie Notari, who is responsible for all arrangements connected with this function.

I now call on you to charge your glasses, and drink to the health and prosperity of our Guests.

Mr. Eusebio's oration was enthusiastically acknowledged.

M. Arturo Meschini, who is Hon. Vice-President of the Unione Ticinese, thanked the President for his kind allusion to him and his family. He also expressed to the Minister his gratefulness for the ever forthcoming support and encouragement which the Society receives from him. M. Meschini also extended thanks to Mr. Willie Notari, a former President, who was responsible for the arrangements. — M. Notari has, as it is undoubtedly known presided over a Swiss Society in London for more years than anyone else, a proud record indeed.—

M. Meschini concluded his address with a fervent appeal for unity amongst our countrymen.

That the Unione Ticinese are not easily forgetting the manifold services rendered by its popular Hon. Vice-President was proved by the sincere applause.

The next speaker was M. J. J. Boos, President of the Swiss Mercantile Society, who was entrusted by the guests to thank the Unione Ticinese for their generous hospitality. Although M. Boos has only very recently assumed his responsible office, he is, of course, no novice in the art of speech-making, he thanked the Society in a very witty manner for an evening which will linger for a long time in the memory of all those who had the good luck to be their guests. Mr. Boos also mentioned that the Colony is proud of the Unione Ticinese for the generosity shown by the Ticinesi towards their countrymen in need.

This was the last speech, but before the company adjourned a very touching ceremony took place, Monsieur Paravicini, in his capacity as Chairman, presented two lovely bouquets in our national colours to Mme. Eusebio, the mother of the President, and to Mme. Arturo Meschini, on behalf of the members of the Society.

This ended the official part of the evening and after a short interval dancing began, it was a merry crowd who danced to the accompaniment of an excellent orchestra, and for those who found dancing too exacting a cabaret provided a welcome diversion.

At 2 o'clock a.m. this very happy and enjoyable function came to an end, it was an evening which makes one proud to call the Ticinese members of our Swiss Confederation.

ST.

#### LUCULLUS LODGE. Ladies' Festival.

The Lucullus Lodge, which comprises amongst its members a large contingent of our countrymen, held its Ladies' Festival on Monday, February 27th, at the Piccadilly Hotel, London, W.1, Mr. A. Indermaur being in the chair.

This very enjoyable function was preceded by a reception held by the President, who was ably assisted by his charming wife. During the dinner an attractive programme of music was played by the Billy Bell's Dance Band.

The Lodge, I understand, takes its name from that famous Roman General Lucullus, who was not only a great warrior, but an equally celebrated *gourmet*. This illustrious person, when once served with a mediocre meal, turned with disgust to his attendant, exclaiming: "Ne savais-tu pas que Lucullus soupaît ce soir chez Lucullus?" It is further reported that one single meal which he served to his friends cost £2,000, and Lucullus was the first man who imported cherry trees from Africa into Europe, this alone to my mind, apart from his merits as a warrior, should secure him a place amongst famous men. The Swiss should be especially grateful to him, remember "no Lucullus, no Kirsch," and to express their appreciation, all the Ladies present were supplied with a bunch of cherries, I had high hopes that the Gentlemen would be presented with a bottle of Kirsch, but it did not "come off." —

Well, this time Lucullus dined at the Piccadilly Hotel, and the menu was so select and excellent, that I am convinced that even Lucullus himself would have enjoyed it.

It is the custom at these functions that numerous toasts are proposed and drunk; these are heralded in by loud knocks with a wooden hammer, and two other gentlemen, whom I could not locate, lustily provided the echo, thus preventing anybody from taking a few winks in between the sumptuous courses.

The speeches were short. I greatly enjoyed the one by the President, Mr. A. Indermaur who dwelt on the charitable work this young Lodge has been able to perform since its foundation some eight years ago, especially in connection with the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls. He concluded his interesting address by wishing the company an enjoyable evening.

Mr. E. Upton eulogized the Ladies, and Mrs. Wyss shortly and adequately replied to this

toast. The toast to the President was proposed by Mr. G. H. Scott, and was enthusiastically responded to. A Gentleman then, amidst great applause, presented to Mrs. Indermaur, on behalf of the members of the Lodge, a diamond ring as "a slight compensation for the absence of her husband from home on so many occasions, and as a token of the great esteem in which she is held." I thought this idea a capital one, and I only wish that some of my friends, who at times keep me out late, would follow this example.

During the evening an enjoyable entertainment was provided by a cabaret which was greatly appreciated, in addition Mlle. Daphne de Wyt, who is well-known to the Swiss Colony in London, entertained the revellers with some Burlesque Dances. This charming young artiste at once captured the hearts of everyone with her exquisite performance, and the thunderous applause which was so spontaneously given, was well deserved.

The dancing, which was greatly enjoyed, lasted until 2 a.m. when the Festival, which was attended by about 230 members and guests, came to a close.

It was truly a very happy evening, and the Lucullus Lodge may be heartily congratulated on the success of their Ladies' Festival.

ST.

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Le Comité.

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### FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Saturday, March 4th at 3 o'clock — Nouvelle Société Helvétique — Film Show "Fusilier Wipf" at the Gaumont Theatre, Film House, Wardour Street, W.1.

Tuesday, March 7th — City Swiss Club — Monthly Meeting (preceded by Dinner at 7 p.m. sharp) at Pagani's Restaurant, Great Portland Street, W.1.

Thursday, March 9th — Symphonic Social Choir — Annual Dinner and Ball — at the First Avenue Restaurant, High Holborn, W.C.1. (Tickets 6/-.)

Saturday, March 11th, at 7 o'clock — City Swiss Club — Cinderella Dance — at the Mayfair Hotel, Berkeley Square, W.1.

Friday, March 17th — Nouvelle Société Helvétique — Monthly Meeting (supper at 3/- to be served at 6.30 p.m.) followed at about 8 o'clock by a causerie on: "Der Kampf um das Schweizerdeutsch" by Mrs. Sylva Brunner, Dr. phil., at the "Foyer Suisse," 15, Bedford Way, W.C.1.

Wednesday, March 29th, at 8.15 p.m. Concert given by Swiss Orchestra and Swiss Accordion Club, Jodels by Frau Aus-der-Au, specially engaged from Switzerland, at Queen Mary Hall, Great Russell Street, W.C.1 (One minute Tottenham Court Road Tube Station)

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Mittwoch Nachmittags : Schweizerkränzli von 2.30 an, 15, Bedford Way (Zwanglose Zusammenkunft der jungen Schweizerinnen im Foyer Suisse, wozu alle Schweizerinnen freundlich eingeladen sind).

Anfragen wegen Religions — bzw. Konfirmanden Unterricht sind erbeten an Herrn Pfarrer E. Bommeli. Sprechstunden: Jeden Dienstag von 12-2 Uhr in der Kirche, Jeden Mittwoch von 5-6 Uhr im Foyer Suisse, 15, Bedford Way, W.C.1.

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