

**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:** - (1947)

**Heft:** 1077

  

**Rubrik:** Swiss Mercantile Society

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graciously accepted, and we arrived at our destination without any further troubles.

In fact I was quite pleased that I would have another opportunity to show my gallantry, and on paying the fare I warmly shook hands with the cab driver, who, quite unaccustomed to such enthusiastic acknowledgement for services rendered, gravely shook his head; was it a premonition of what was to come?—

As promised, I called the next day, and luckily, the lost article was handed over to me.

Needless to say, that I made use of this almost heaven sent opportunity to add a little *billet doux* with the parcel, which was duly forwarded to the fair recipient.

During the next day or two I was in a state of great excitement, because I was sure that my gallant efforts to redeem this historic shawl, and the accompanying letter would get some acknowledgement; — it did. —

On returning home two days after the event, I found a little parcel awaiting me, somehow or other it looked familiar to me, but after all parcels have a certain similarity. With trembling hands I opened it, and there a short note — not even signed — met my expectant eyes, it read “This does not belong to me!”.

I was at my wits end, what did it mean? I undid the packet and — lo and behold — it contained a pair of red bathing slips — not a costume, with which one is so familiar in this country, often adorning some bathing belles — no, simply an ordinary pair of bathing slips which boys used to wear in those days. —

My sister, who watched me, said afterwards, that my face reflected all the colours of the rain-bow, and no wonder; this was a terrible tragedy, how did it happen? The explanation was simple enough, the cupboard which temporarily harboured the shawl ready for dispatch, also contained a parcel of similar size in which the above-mentioned article was packed, ready for the next bathing season; an unlucky slip of the hand made me take the wrong parcel, thus nipping in the bud a romance which started in such a promising way.

Although a detailed report of this most unfortunate happening was at once sent, and an exchange of “goods” effected, no excuse was accepted, and I was accused of having played a very poor joke; and whenever I met a member of this distinguished family, I was treated with utter contempt. In fact, I felt so miserable that I seriously contemplated to leave this valley of sorrow, to a land where people do not wear shawls nor bathing slips, and even to this day I cannot look a ladies shawl straight in the face without getting the “shudders.”

#### OUR NEXT ISSUE.

Our next issue will be published on Friday, November, 14th, 1947.

We take the opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their kind and helpful donations, over and above their subscription: E. Hofstetter, A. J. Wymann, E. Krapf, W. Fischer, W. Flory, F. Matthey, E. A. Mermod, A. Muller, J. J. Huber, W. G. Walter, L. W. Krucker, J. Zimmermann, R. J. Bickel, W. Wagner, A. A. Bodenehr, W. Eichenberger.

## SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

### Monthly Meeting.

The Monthly Meeting of the Society, held at Swiss House on Wednesday, October 8th, was attended by a large number of members and friends, with Mr. W. Meier, President, in the Chair.

Three new members were elected, *viz.* Miss Irma Abate and Messrs. W. Genggis and J. E. von Felten.

Striking a personal note, the Chairman was pleased to announce the following happy events; the birth of a son to Mr. and Mrs. K. E. Ammann and the birth of a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. F. Burri. He further informed the meeting of the recent engagement of Mr. Marfurt. Messrs. Ammann, Marfurt and Burri are all connected with the Education Committee, the first two being Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively, and the announcement of this triple event was cordially greeted by all present.

Through the resignation of Mr. K. E. Ammann, who is shortly leaving the U.K. to take up an appointment in Switzerland, the Chairmanship of the Education Committee and *ipso facto* the office of a Vice-President, became vacant.

On the recommendation of the Education Committee, supported by the Council, the Chairman proposed that Mr. O. Roethlisberger, who had hitherto been a member of the Education Committee, be elected Chairman and Vice-President. There being no other nominations, a poll became unnecessary and on being put to the vote, Mr. Roethlisberger's election was passed unanimously.

In recognition of his valuable services rendered to the Society, first as a member of the General Purposes Committee, and later as a member and Chairman of the Education Committee, Mr. Ammann was thereupon elected a Corresponding Member, the Chairman, on behalf of the meeting, expressing best wishes to Mr. Ammann for every success in his new sphere of activities.

Professor Dr. G. P. Gooch, C.H., then addressed the Meeting on “The Outlook in Europe.” A full account of this lecture will appear in the next issue of the “Swiss Observer.”

W.B.

## SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY

### A Thé Dansant

will be held on

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8th, 1947,**

at 2.30 for 3 o'clock — 6 o'clock,

at the

**DORCHESTER HOTEL, PARK LANE, W.1,**

in the presence of the Swiss Minister, Dr. P. RUEGGER, National Councillor SCHMID-RUEDIN and Mr. STRICKLER, Central President of the S.K.V.

Tickets can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, 35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.