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DO YOU COLLECT STAMPS ?

Among the numerous readers of the *Swiss Observer*, there must be hundreds who take an interest in postage stamps.

There is the collector for whom stamps are his pet hobby. Perhaps he specialises in old Swiss or British stamps, and if he is the possessor of a perfect specimen of the *Basic Dove* or the *Penny Black*, he will proudly show it to his friends, but there are many who maintain that school-boy instinct of collecting all the stamps of which they can get hold. Once, it was a rich uncle in America who sent them hundreds of overseas stamps, and what a thrill they were. To-day, our friends hold leading positions, perhaps as Managers of a Bank or a Merchant House, and still they have an eye for the foreign and colonial stamps on their overseas mail. Maybe the stamps are kept in a drawer — once upon a time it was father's empty cigar-box — and there they rest until, perhaps, a son or a nephew evokes a keen interest for these philatelic treasures and . . . history repeats itself!

What is the aim of publishing this short article? It is to catch the eye of those readers of the *Swiss Observer* who are interested in stamps but unaware of the fact that there is a Swiss Philatelic Society in London which gladly welcomes any stamp collector, highbrow or lowbrow.

The objects of the *London Swiss Philatelic Society*, which was founded in January, 1943, by the late Mr. P. F. BOEHRINGER in conjunction with other Members of the Swiss Colony, are the following:—

- (a) to encourage good fellowship among stamp collectors;
- (b) to facilitate the exchange of philatelic material between its Members;
- (c) to propagate knowledge of philately by arranging lectures, displays, etc., and in such other ways as the Committee may devise.

The Society holds monthly meetings at *Swiss House*, 35, Fitzroy Square, W.1. — Stamp packets are circulated regularly by post, and Country Members, as well as London Members, are thus provided with the means of selling their surplus stamps and, in turn, buying any of the stamps offered by their colleagues.

Last, but not least, the L.S.P.S. publishes a monthly *Bulletin* containing a host of information on everything connected with the Society.

You may say to yourself that there are other philatelic societies offering similar advantages. True, but the "*London Swiss*" at the London Swiss Philatelic Society is known, aims at giving something additional.

At the monthly meetings under the guidance of a popular President who is supported by an efficient Committee, we try to infiltrate a friendly and even jolly atmosphere into the formal business, so that, at the end of a meeting, Members feel that they have spent a pleasant evening among congenial friends. We want to hear members laugh — yes, we do not even object to some harmless leg-pulling.

Can we do better than publish the following extracts of a report which recently appeared in one of the leading philatelic periodicals:—

"There was a delightful friendly spirit abroad at Swiss House when the Editor and Assistant Editor of S.C.F. visited the Society."

"The enjoyable lack of formality of the proceedings culminated in a pot of beer, an excellent Swiss custom, and it was with regret that the editors left the hospitable home of the London Swiss Philatelic Society."

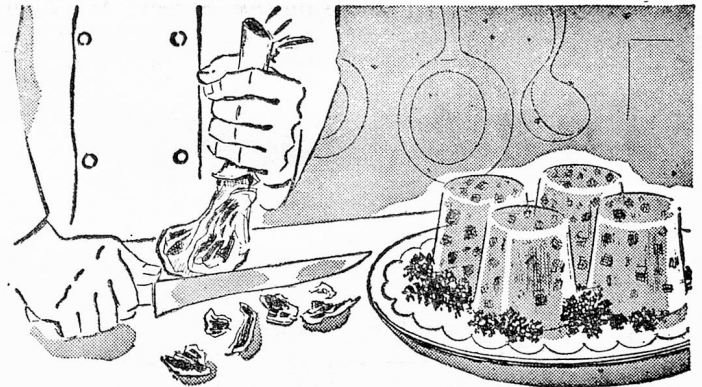
Do you notice that there is even a glass of beer for a thirsty throat, if desired?

All this, unfortunately, will be missed by Country Members unless they are able to attend our meetings, but, at least, they have the benefit of the monthly *Bulletins* and the Exchange Packets which are regularly sent to them. Country Members are, of course, most welcome to compete for the yearly Challenge Cup — appropriately called the BOEHRINGER CHALLENGE CUP — and to send in stamps for sale by auction as and when held.

The "*London Swiss*", although a youngster among the Swiss Societies in the U.K., has over one hundred Members, and this number could be doubled, if philatelic-minded readers of the *Swiss Observer*, who are not yet enrolled, were to join it.

The entrance fee is 5/- and the annual subscription 7/6. Application Forms for membership and Rules of the Society may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, EMIL A. GOTZ, 58, Etheldene Avenue, London, N.10. Whatever your interests in stamps, the Society welcomes you and you will not regret joining this happy Circle of Philatelists.

E.A.G.



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