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## PROFESSOR MAX WILDI GUEST AT THE ANGLO-SWISS SOCIETY DINNER.

The Anglo-Swiss Society, which is the counterpart of the British-Swiss Society in Switzerland, was founded early in the year 1949, its main features being to maintain and develop closer unity between the two nations and to promote social and cultural relations between Great Britain and Switzerland. It has — after a good start — in latter years unfortunately lost some of its predominance and has thus only partly achieved its object.

There are, however, signs apparent that before long the Society will resume its former activities, and to innovate this new sphere it has offered a dinner to Dr. Max Wildi, Professor at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH), Zurich, and President of the British-Swiss Society, and Mrs. Wildi. The short notice given was perhaps the reason for the rather small attendance on this occasion, which is to be regretted in view of the reputation Professor Wildi enjoys as one of the leading Swiss educationists.

The dinner, which was preceded by cocktails, was held on Tuesday, March 26th, at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1, and Sir Clifford Norton, K.C.M.G., C.V.O., formerly British Minister in Berne, presided. Amongst the company was H.E. the Swiss Minister and Madame Daeniker, Dr. E. M. Bircher, Counsellor of Legation, Dr. E. M. Egli, President of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique, Mr. M. Wiesendanger, President of the Swiss Economic Council, and Mrs. Wiesendanger, Mr. W. Meier, President of the Swiss Mercantile Society, and Mrs. Meier, Mr. A. Stauffer, Editor "Swiss Observer", and Mrs. Stauffer, Lieut-Colonel St. Townend, Chairman and Director of the Anglo-Swiss Society, and Mrs. Townend.

After the usual toasts to H.M. the Queen and "La Suisse", Sir Clifford — on behalf of the Society — extended a cordial welcome to Professor Wildi and Mrs. Wildi.

The professor, receiving a hearty ovation on rising from his seat, said that it was a delightful and gratifying experience for his wife and himself to be received and welcomed as guests of the Anglo-Swiss Society after having at Zurich welcomed almost half a hundred distinguished British visitors. "It is all the more flattering", he said, "that Sir Clifford has consented to take the Chair on this occasion". He expressed thanks to Dr. H. W. Egli, President of the London Group of the N.S.H., for having suggested this visit, and to Lieut-Colonel St. Townend for having made the arrangements.

In perfect English Professor Wildi then spoke on the theme "British Travellers in Switzerland", a theme to which, he said, "one returns with ever renewed pleasure, for it links our two nations in the most peaceful and delightful way and recalls memories of remarkable men and lovely places".

Space unfortunately does not allow of enumerating all the many famous men, who, at one time or another, visited our country; their names, as the speaker rightly remarked, will be found in Sir Gavin de Beer's serviceable list of "Travellers in Switzerland" (which was reviewed in one of the issues of the "Swiss Observer").

"What is it," Professor Wildi said, "that brought all these famous men to Switzerland and the

Alps? It would be difficult to give an adequate list of the reasons and motives".

Amongst some of the chief motives, he mentioned, are the mysterious attractions exercised by the Alps with their sublime scenery, causing unforgettable and cherished sensations to travellers.

Referring to air travel the speaker said that it has given us back that old sensation in all its glory. "Who will ever forget", he continued, "to see the whole range of mountains slowly wheeling towards one?"

Professor Wildi then gave a *résumé* of how some of the famous travellers recounted their impressions after having visited Switzerland for the first time. Whilst some of them were enthusiastic of what they saw and experienced, others found much to criticize.

In concluding, the speaker mentioned some of the eminent British personalities he had been privileged to welcome recently in his capacity as President of the British-Swiss Society, and said that all members of the Anglo-Swiss Society would be always made welcome at their luncheons, which are held on the first Monday of every month at the "Kongresshaus" Zurich.

On resuming his seat Professor Wildi was enthusiastically cheered for his outstanding address.

The Chairman, Sir Reginald, on behalf of the company, warmly thanked the speaker for the great pleasure his interesting *exposé* had given to everyone present. H.E. the Swiss Minister joined the Chairman in rendering thanks to Professor Wildi, relating some of the impressions he had gained when he was the guest of the British-Swiss Society in Zurich, and finally Lieut-Colonel St. Townend spoke of the friendly relations which have always existed between the two Societies.

A most interesting and enjoyable evening thus came to its close, an evening which will not soon be forgotten by all those who were present.

May we express the hope that the Anglo-Swiss Society in their coming renewed activity will give us more such pleasant functions.

ST.

## LIVIO BERNASCONI EXHIBITION.

An exhibition of 20 paintings and some drawings and etchings by Livio Bernasconi was opened on April 2nd at the Arthur Jeffress Gallery, 28 Davies Street, W.1. The exhibition will remain open until April 26th, 1957.

Bernasconi was educated at Locarno and, after a period as a school-master, started serious studies as an artist only in 1954. Although still a student at the Brera Academy in Milan, he has developed a clear and distinctive style of his own. His method of painting is modern, but there is nothing hazy about his pictures. They are clearly conceived and powerfully executed. He is an artist of tremendous promise. Colour and shapes make you aware of the artist's determination and self-discipline. The choice of subjects as well as the rendering may still show a certain hesitancy of coming to grips with the warm, pulsating realities of life, but there is no doubt that there is a budding master hand at work. His future development will be well worth watching.

E.B.