



## Message from the President



Farewell to Ambassador H.E. Blaise Godet and Claudine Godet

### DEAR FRIENDS AND MEMBERS OF THE SWISS SOCIETY BANGKOK,

IT HAS BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE YOU HAVE RECEIVED A NEWSLETTER FROM YOUR COMMITTEE AND I MUST APOLOGIZE FOR THIS. TIME HAS INDEED GONE BY UNBELIEVABLY FAST AND THIS IS PROOF THAT LIFE IN BANGKOK REMAINS VERY HECTIC, CHALLENGING AND BUSY FOR ALL INCLUDING MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE SWISS SOCIETY WHO TOIL HARD TO BRING FUN AND JOY TO YOU DEPRIVED MEMBERS.....

SINCE WE LAST TOUCHED BASE WE AGAIN ENJOYED A VERY NICE AND FUN FILLED 1ST OF AUGUST CELEBRATION OF WHICH, BELATEDLY, YOU WILL FIND PICTURES IN THE NEXT PAGES. THE EVENING WAS AGAIN A SUCCESS WITH OVER 250 MEMBERS AND GUESTS ATTENDING AND WE ARE ONCE MORE THANKFUL TO ALL YOU GENEROUS SUPPORTERS FOR YOUR DONATIONS. AS A FITTING 'FINALE' TO THE EVENING WE BADE FAREWELL TO OUR ENERGETIC AND FUN LOVING AMBASSADOR COUPLE, E. H.E. BLAISE & CLAUDINE GODET WHO HAVE TAKEN UP RESIDENCE IN CAIRO.

IN THE NAME OF THE SWISS SOCIETY I WOULD NOW LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO WELCOME OUR NEW AMBASSADOR H.E. BERNARD FREYMOND AND MADAME PAULE FREYMOND AS WELL AS THEIR YOUNGEST DAUGHTER TO THE KINGDOM. AS YOU CAN

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SEE FROM HIS CV, AMBASSADOR FREYMOND IS NO STRANGER TO THE FAR EAST AND IS VERY HAPPY TO BE BACK IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD—WE WISH THE ENTIRE FAMILY A HAPPY AND INTERESTING TIME AND LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING THEM TO OUR FUNCTIONS.

TALKING ABOUT FUNCTIONS OUR PLOY KRATHONG' EVENING WAS SOMETHING THAT THOSE OF YOU WHO CAME WILL NO DOUBT TALK ABOUT FOR A LONG TIME TO COME. DRIFTING DOWN THE 'CHAO PRAYA' WE WERE ALL SINGING 'ROW, ROW, YOUR BOAT ASHORE....' UNTIL OUR SAVIOR MR JONAS SCHUERMANN OF THE 'ORIENTAL' ARRIVED TO SAVE US AND THE EVENING BY ACCOMMODATING A LAST MINUTE PLACE ON THE TERRACE FOR US 40 POOR SWISS THUS SAVING THE EVENING.

THE YEAR IS NOW FAST CLOSING AND IT IS TIME TO PREPARE THE FUTURE—THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON JANUARY 30, 1997 AND THE INVITATION IS FORTHCOMING—IT IS ALSO TIME TO BRING 'NEW BLOOD' TO THE COMMITTEE AND I WILL NOT RUN AGAIN FOR THE PRESIDENCY—WE WOULD LIKE TO ENCOURAGE YOU TO JOIN THE COMMITTEE AND CONTRIBUTE TO THE SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT OF OUR COMMUNITY, IF YOU ARE INTERESTED PLEASE LET US KNOW AND DON'T BE AFRAID IT'S FUN.

THE INVITATION AND DOCUMENTATION FOR THE EVENING WILL BE MAILED SHORTLY.

MEANWHILE, WE WISH YOU A VERY HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON AND OUR BEST WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR.

BEST REGARDS,



**75. Auslandschweizer-Kongress**  
(Lugano, 22.-24. August 1997)  
**75e Congrès des Suisses de l'étranger**  
(Lugano, 22-24 août 1997)

Kulturelle Präsenz der Schweiz im Ausland  
Présence culturelle de la Suisse dans le monde

**Eröffnung / Ouverture**

Ansprache von Jean-Jacques Cevoy alt

Nationalrat,

Präsident der Auslandschweizer-Organisation

Allocution de M. Jean-Jacques Cevoy, ancien Conseiller national, Président de l'Organisation des Suisses de l'étranger

Il Congresso degli Svizzeri all'estero si ritrova di nuovo in Ticino dopo otto anni. La ragione per cui abbiamo scelto questo cantone per evocare il tema di quest'anno, e che il Ticino ha la fama di essere terra di artisti e in particolare di architetti. In effetti, che si parli di Solari, Borromini o Trezzini, in Ticino sono emersi grandi architetti che hanno contribuito ad abbellire le città europee del Quattrocento e Settecento. Questa vocazione non si è spenta visto che oggi le realizzazioni degli architetti ticinesi contemporanei sono conosciute dal grande pubblico del mondo intero. Ecco perché gli Svizzeri dell'estero sono sempre felici di ritrovarsi in questo bellissimo cantone. Il Ticino, non è forse la Svizzera al superlativo?

Puisque cette soirée est dédiée à la culture, je me servirai de la peinture et de la musique pour vous orner mon propos. Comment mieux traduire qu'avec des couleurs vives et lumineuses la nature exubérante et les paysages grandioses du Tessin? Si un musicien devait composer un hymne aux Tessinois, ne serait-ce pas une musique rapide et légère qui illustrerait le mieux leur gaieté et leur décontraction? Merci donc aux autorités cantonales de nous avoir accueilli et d'avoir rendu possible cette manifestation. Un grand merci également à la ville de Lugano et en particulier à l'Office du tourisme pour leur parfaite coopération.

Ich möchte vor allem für jene Anwesende, die nicht zu den Stammgästen unserer Anlässe gehören, darauf hinweisen, dass es diese

Auslandsschweizerinnen und Auslandsschweizer sind, welche die Mehrheit des Publikums von heute abend ausmachen. Die Gemeinschaft der Auslandsschweizer oder der "Fünften Schweiz" umfasst mehr als eine halbe Million Landsleute in aller Welt. Sie bilden eine Art "Antennen" der Schweiz, die Manifestation der Marke Schweiz im Ausland.

Zu einer Zeit, in der das Image unseres Landes leidet, können wir von unseren Landsleuten aus dem Ausland nicht verlangen, dass sie ihrem Heimatland zu Hilfe eilen und in gewissen Sinne als Wunderheiler wirken. Es ist jedoch unbestritten, dass gerade ihnen durch ihre Präsenz in den kommenden Jahren eine wichtige Rolle bei der Krisenbewältigung zukommen wird. Gibt es überhaupt bessere Katalysatoren für das Aufpolieren eines angekratzten Images als Auslandsschweizer, die das Bild einer modernen, innovativen und kreativen Schweiz repräsentieren?



Jean-Jacques Cevey

#### Editor's column

This issue arrives late! Sorry! I tried to be on time, but there were so many events and to wait for photographs and comments consumes much time and energy.

Finally I received more than expected and so I have to shorten or even to put them on the waiting list.

I hope to have the next issue ready at the AGM on January 30th

, 1998.

My New Year's resolution: To be more on time

My New Year's wish: To get more response and participation from our readers.

But for now I still hope it's not too late to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Albin

Ich bin deshalb der Überzeugung, dass es heute so wichtig wie nie zuvor ist, die Kommunikation zwischen den Schweizern im Inland und jenen im Ausland zu intensivieren.

Après cette parenthèse politico-philosophique, revenons à notre soirée. Notre idée initiale était de mettre en scène les domaines artistiques variés dans lesquels des artistes „Suisse de l'étranger" sont actifs. Malheureusement nous avons vite dû nous rendre compte que ce projet attractif était aussi trop ambitieux. Nous nous apprêtions à l'abandonner pour des raisons financières, lorsque la Radiotelevisione Svizzera di lingua italiana s'est montrée disposée à offrir au compatriotes et au public tessinois un concert de son Orchestre symphonique.

Grâce à cette largesse, nous savions dès lors que ce projet verrait le jour même s'il devait être reorienté. Merci donc à la Radiotelevisione Svizzera di lingua italiana pour son engagement et son excellente collaboration dans ce projet. Sans elle, cette soirée culturelle n'aurait tout simplement pas pu avoir lieu.

Ce soir, ce sera surtout par la musique que nous rendront hommage aux artistes de la Cinquième Suisse. A l'exception de l'oeuvre de Camille Saint-Saëns, tous les morceaux interprétés seront des compositions de Suisse „de l'étranger". Le chef d'orchestre Matthias Aeschbacher est, lui aussi, Suisse de l'étranger. En effet, il est né en 1945 à Zurich où il a suivi sa formation musicale. Depuis 1976 il vit en Allemagne et poursuit une carrière internationale. Quant à Yvan Monighetti, violoncelliste, il a suivi exactement le parcours inverse de Matthias Aeschbacher, puisqu'il est né et a suivi sa formation musicale à Moscou et n'est revenu que récemment en Suisse, terre de ses ancêtres.

Wie ich soeben erwähnt habe, bestand die Grundidee darin, Ihnen im Rahmen einer Show die Vielfalt der Schweizer Kultur zu präsentieren. Zwar können die Schweizer Künstler heute abend nicht auf der Bühne anwesend sein - doch sie werden sich via audiovisuelle Medien an Sie wenden. Meine Damen und Herren, die Radiotelevisione svizzera di lingua italiana hat die beiden Filmbeiträge, die Sie heute abend sehen

werden, eigens für unseren Kongress hergestellt. Diese Filme werden Ihnen die Realität der Schweizer Kunst auf zwei verschiedenen Kontinenten nahebringen.

Der erste Film wurde an Elfenbeinküste gedreht. Wenn man die beiden Begriffe Afrika und Schweiz in Bezug zueinander setzt, so assoziiert man damit noch immer häufig die humanitären Aktivitäten der Schweiz. Der Film dagegen zeigt eine andere afrikanische Realität. Die Elfenbeinküste ist hier nicht Empfängerin von Hilfeleistungen, sondern ein privilegierter Ort des kulturellen Austauschs zwischen schweizerischen und afrikanischen Künstlern. Wer von Austausch spricht, impliziert eine gleichberechtigte Beziehung, in der man ebensoviel gibt, wie man erhält. In diesem Film werden Sie zugleich eine neue Dimension Afrikas und vor allem ein neues Bild der Schweiz auf diesem Kontinent entdecken.

Der zweite Film, nach der Pause, wurde in New York gedreht und zeigt Porträts einiger Schweizer Künstler, die in dieser Metropole leben. Welches sind ihre kulturellen Aktivitäten, wie sind sie integriert, wie werden sie von den Amerikanern wahrgenommen?

Ne souhaitant plus retarder le début de cette manifestation, je vous laisse vous plonger dans cette atmosphère artistique. Une telle soirée ne se discute pas, elle se ressent. Donc place au spectacle!

### Official Visit to Thailand of Federal Councillor Prof. Dr. Arnold Koller, President of Switzerland

Prof. Dr. Arnold Koller, President of the Swiss Confederation and Head of the Federal Department (Ministry) of Justice and Police, was here on an official visit as guest of the Prime Minister of Thailand. He was accompanied by his wife, Mrs. Erica Koller and by a delegation of senior government officials.



The delegation included Bernard Freymond, Swiss Ambassador to Thailand, Jean-Marc Boulgaris, Ambassador and Deputy Head of the Political Directorate, Federal Department (Ministry) of Foreign Affairs, Nicolas Imboden, Ambassador and Delegate of the Federal Council (Swiss Government) for Commercial Agreements.

His Excellency Mr. Arnold Koller was the first Swiss President to pay an official visit to Thailand, which coincides with the Centenary of the official visit to Switzerland of His Majesty, King Chulalongkorn, in 1897.



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# Swiss National Day August 1st 1997



Don Renato doing his performance with a little help from Kurt Müller



Our President, Beat Breu, Markus Ruprecht, Don Renato



Tombola prizes galore



Smiling Happy Winner



"Im Gärtli vor em Huus"



Don Renato with Alphorn



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Heinz Kaufmann



Two patriotic gestures from our Members





*Only a few impressions*



*what was going on*



*Oct.  
9th  
1997*



*on  
the*

*wild party at*



I always wanted to spend my holidays on the island of Capri



*and how it ended*



*Pottery..... Pottery..... Pottery.....*



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*Pottery..... Pottery..... Pottery.....*



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# Loy Krathong



All participants of the Swiss Society Loy Krathong outing had been looking forward to having a pleasant evening on the River of Kings - but for technical reasons ( the boat had a damaged generator ) the happy folk were put in darkness and

the engines didn't work!

Fortunately, our compatriot Mr. J. Schuermann mastered the situation and made a very appreciated decision: He invited the whole Society onto the Oriental terrace for a delicious dinner buffet!

The present committee members decided to return the prepaid money to all participants.

Finally: Everybody enjoyed this auspicious evening at the Oriental Hotel (Number one in the world) very much.

The Oriental was generous to cancel any bills for this event. We would like to give The Oriental (and specially



Mr. Schuermann) a big hand. We appreciate and will remember this generous gesture.  
Swiss Society  
AR



Our New Ambassador H.E. Bernard Freymond (right) enjoys the evening with our members.



Our President in serious discussion with Mr. J.Schürmann



Madame Paule Freymond (left) in conversation with Mrs. Tschannen

Esther Kaufmann taking the situation easy



Loy loy krathong..... Oriental style!

*This could be your ads*

**It was very interesting indeed for me to join as a deputy, not only for Thailand but for South East Asia, the Congress of the Swiss living abroad.**

Unfortunately the congress was, for many deputies I suppose, somewhat frustrating as well. The president of the "Auslandschweizererrat", Mr. Jean-Jaques Cevey, doesn't give the impression of understanding the problems of Swiss people living abroad and he seems to be a man who likes to listen to himself speak. He successfully demonstrated to all of us that he is able to speak the 3 major Swiss languages, but didn't seem to care or realize that the language of most Swiss outside of Europe is English. Certainly, I'm not very happy to be obliged to use a foreign language (English) for basic communication. However, in the Swiss Society in Bangkok, it is a matter of politeness to speak English in cases of messages concerning all members. Only a few Swiss living here are able to speak three of the four Swiss languages, so it is a necessity to use a neutral, an international language.

Deputies representing more than half a million Swiss living abroad, pay their own air ticket, hotel and most other expenses. Yet they have to be quiet: they are ignored even if they pre-announce their speech. Members having ideas other than the prepared ones are told to slow down, that there is no time to listen to Mr. Pestalozzi, no time for some critical voices about joining of so-called Swiss Societies with only religious proposals.

On the other hand: It was very interesting to listen to Architect Botta; the speech of Bundesrat Ogi was encouraging; the efforts and votes in favor of the Swiss schools abroad made by people understanding the situation were remarkable; the cultural events impressive and the outing with boat and bus was very nice.

**Contact for Information and membership**

our president, Philippe C. Guinand (Tel/Fax: 229-4483)

our secretary, Esther Kaufmann (Tel: 711-2962 / 381-1257; Fax: 711-2936)

or at the Swiss School Albin Ruffner (Tel: 518-0340; Fax: 518-0341; Email: ruffnera@ksc.net.th)

our Home Page: <http://ksc.goldsite.com/~risswiss/ssb.html>

The minutes of the assembly, as well, are a mix of Swiss languages, so that most of us will understand only part of them. If you would like a copy, please write us a note. We'll provide one as soon as possible.

MARKUS RUPRECHT

## Outgoing members

Ms. Cecil Burri

Ms. Michelle Bohren

## New members

Mr. & Mrs. Hans & Karla Bosshard

Mr. Marcel Fiocchi

Mr. Perre-Henri Darbellay

Pfr. Dieter Kanduth

Mr. & Mrs. Christian & Nicole Stöckling

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