Annual Report
FORTY-EIGHTH SAHS ANNUAL MEETING

SWISS-AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Friends’ Meeting House
Fourth and Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2011

PROGRAM

9:00 a.m.  Arrival and informal gathering, Coffee, Rolls
9:30 a.m.  Business Meeting
Noon       Luncheon
1:00 p.m.  Dr. Robert Sherwood: “Swiss Soccer”
1:30 p.m.  Ms. Sue Sodomin: “An Interpretation of Clara Barton”
2:00 p.m.  Break, Coffee
2:30 p.m.  Hans Wyss: “The Film ‘Flying Home‘ with discussion
4:30 p.m.  Departure
FORTY-EIGHTH SAHS ANNUAL MEETING

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2011

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Call to Order

2. Approval of the Minutes of the 47th Annual Meeting of October 9, 2010

3. President's Report: Fred Gillespie

4. Elections: Board of Advisors, Class of 2011-2014: Ernie Thurston

5. Membership Report: Ernie Thurston

6. Treasurer's Report: Heinz Bachmann

7. Publications: Professors H. Dwight Page, Leo Schelbert


10. New Business

11. Next Annual Meeting

12. Adjournment
2. Reports

Minutes of the 48th Annual Meeting, October 8, 2011

1. The meeting was called to order by President Fred Gillespie at 9:30 AM. President Gillespie asked attendees to introduce themselves.

2. The Minutes of last year's Annual Meeting were approved unanimously.

3. President's Report. Fred Gillespie informed the meeting that being appointed the President of the Swiss American Historical Society was the greatest honor of his life. President Gillespie then asked that everyone remember Albert Gallatin, a Swiss politician who helped frame the United States government.

President Gillespie then asked Dwight Page, a North Carolinian who has also been much honored by his own appointment as Editor-in-chief of the Swiss American Historical Society Review, to say a few words about the recent Tercentennial Celebration of December 10-11, 2010, at New Bern, North Carolina, which Dr. Page co-directed with Heinz Bachmann, then President of the SAHS Society. At the Philadelphia meeting, extra copies of the Swiss American Historical Society special New Bern Tercentennial Review were made available through the kindness of Dr. Heinz Bachmann, who generously edited this issue with the assistance of Dr. Leo Schelbert. These copies were available to anyone who wanted them.

Dr. Page proceeded to report with enthusiasm on the event. He reported that there was a very elegant buffet reception and supper at the New Bern Convention Center Hotel on the evening of Friday, December 10th, 2010. The supper was honored by the presence of Kaye Williams, Directress of the Tryon Palace Commission, and Wilda Thomas, the seventh great-granddaughter of the Baron de Graffenried, founder of New Bern in September, 1710.

Dr. Page further explained that the symposium of Saturday, December 11th, 2011, at the North Carolina History Center, was well attended. Society members and guests had the opportunity to meet several descendants of the original Swiss and Palatine colonists of New Bern, and everyone enjoyed a convivial Saturday lunch at various restaurants in the environs of the Center.
In addition, Society members from all over the Carolinas and the United States came to the special New Bern meeting. Citizens of Craven and neighboring Jones Counties and other eastern counties of North Carolina also attended. Dr. Page further reported that this special SAHS Tercentennial commemorative event culminated with a grand historic evening holiday event at nearby Tryon Palace, one of the world’s most architecturally perfect buildings and former residence of the royal governor of the British province of North Carolina. The Palace and grounds were illuminated by candlelight, and Society members and guests enjoyed a great variety of brilliant medieval Christmas performances—amazing jugglers, clowns, contortionists, magicians—in tents especially set up for the occasion.

While waiting in line to tour the illuminated interior of Tryon Palace, Society members and their guests enjoyed Christmas carols sung by local New Bern church groups, while the town crier in eighteenth century costume strolled the Palace grounds announcing the latest news of 1770, the date of the completion of the construction of the Palace. Once inside the Palace, Society members and their guests toured the illuminated rooms, watched performances of the elegant minuet in the Palace ballroom and were regaled with tales of colonial British New Bern told by witty actors and actresses in sumptuous eighteenth century period dress. Many participants reported that they felt as though they had been transported in a time machine back to the halcyon days of the British Empire.

Finally, Dr. Page ended his remarks by stating that the Tryon Palace Christmas festivities concluded with the most beautiful and spectacular fireworks display he had ever seen, displayed above the back Palace lawn and over the Trent River and viewed by thousands of overjoyed spectators. In conclusion, Dr. Page expressed his hope that, given the extraordinary success and beauty of this event and given the profound satisfaction of all participants, the Society would sponsor this historic commemorative event in New Bern once every ten years, so in other words next in the year 2020.

After Dr. Page’s address, President Gillespie stated that the first order of business was to change the by-laws of the SAHS to make possible that the vice presidents of SAHS in Switzerland may continue in that position. The current by-laws state that the president and vice president of the Society may only serve two terms. This issue had already been addressed last year. The new proposal would allow the vice president in Switzerland to serve more than six
years. Specifically, the last sentence of Article VI Section 1 was amended to read, “Presidents may not succeed themselves more than once.” In other words, the office of Vice-President was removed from the sentence.

Fred Jenny was nominated as the Vice President of the SAHS in Switzerland. He was approved unanimously.

Albert Winkler was nominated as the recording secretary of the SAHS. He was accepted unanimously.

Finally, President Gillespie telephoned Dr. Leo Schelbert in order to congratulate him on receiving the Heinz K. Meier Award for his long and dedicated service to our society.

4. **Elections.** Ernest Thurston announced the names of the board of advisors of the SAHS.

5. **Membership Report.** Ernest Thurston reported that the Society presently has 248 members.

6. **Treasurer’s Report.** Heinz Bachmann presented the Report which was accepted unanimously.

7. **Publications.** Dwight Page, as Editor-in-Chief of the *Swiss American Historical Society Review*, gave a report on the *Review* and stated that all issues are planned through February 2013. Dr. Page also gave the report on the SAHS Society’s book series, as Dr. Leo Schelbert, the SAHS Society book editor, was unable to attend the Philadelphia meeting.

8. **Report on SAHS Switzerland.** Fred Jenny, Vice President of the SAHS, Switzerland, gave the annual report of the Swiss Chapter, providing details concerning the excursion of July 9th, 2011, organized by himself, to visit the Trubschachen area of the Emmenthal. Several members of the SAHS, including President Fred Gillespie, were in attendance and were most favorably impressed by the event.

9. **Proposed Budget for 2012.** The budget was approved unanimously.
10. **New Business.** A proposal was made to appoint a book review editor who would oversee placing short book reviews in the Review, so as to increase the variety of and public interest in the Review. The proposal was approved unanimously. Dr. Robert Sherwood was nominated as the book review editor. He was accepted unanimously. Therefore, the Editorial Board of the *Review* will now include Monika Bachmann, Nicole Butz, Dwight Page, Leo Schelbert, Albert Winkler, and Robert Sherwood as book review editor. Brian Wages sent an offer to the Society to do publicity work. He would locate the addresses of history departments of the various colleges and universities in the U.S. and would send each of them flyers urging faculty and students to join the Society. This service would be free to the Society. His generous offer was accepted, but he would be considered ex officio and would be given no title for his work.

The question of a regional meeting of the Society was discussed. California or Chicago were proposed as meeting places, but there was some concern that few would attend these meetings, and the idea was not accepted.

Albert Winkler distributed new flyers advertising the Society. He urged the members to make copies of these flyers or to create their own and to distribute them to anyone potentially interested in joining the Society.

Randy Gafner showed the SAHS Web Pages. Albert Winkler said that he would continue to oversee the web site. Randy Gafner also discussed the possibility of creating a Facebook account for the Society. No decision was made.

Finally, Albert Winkler proposed that the Society accept the offer made by the EBSCO company to post copies of the *Review* on its academic electronic databases. The Society would be paid a small fee for allowing the *Review* to be posted. The idea was approved, but Fred Gillespie suggested that EBSCO answer a few more questions.

*Special Note by the Editor:* Since the Philadelphia meeting in October, 2011, negotiations with the EBSCO corporation have been finalized and a formal business contract has been made between the EBSCO corporation and the Swiss American Historical Society.

11. **Next Annual Meeting.** The next Annual Meeting will be held on October 13, 2012 in New York, New York, possibly at the Swiss U.N. Mission.
12. **Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at noon.

*Submitted by Albert Winkler, Recording Secretary*

**B. President's Report**

In this report I would like to summarize for the readership the remarks which I, as President of the Swiss American Historical Society, made during the annual national meeting at the Friends’ Meeting House in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on October 8th, 2011. First, everyone was welcomed and introduced themselves. I began my address by remarking that being the President of the Swiss American Historical Society was the greatest honor of my life. I then gave a summary of my activities during the past twelve months during my first year of office.

There was, for example, a book launch in New York City for *Westwards*. SAHS Members Margot Amman Durrer, Rosa Schupbach and I (representing my mother, Ellen Carney) were on the panel to discuss the book and field questions from the audience. We noted with sorrow the passing of Dr. Durrer. In March 2011 he had returned to New York City in order to attend a lecture on Albert Gallatin, America’s Swiss founding father, that was delivered by Nicholas Dungan. SAHS was a sponsoring organization to the event. 2011 marks the 250th anniversary of Gallatin’s birth, and it is important that we commemorate the birth of this influential and distinguished Swiss American citizen.

I then asked Dr. Dwight Page, Editor-in-Chief of the *Swiss American Historical Society Review*, to report on the special SAHS meeting in New Bern, North Carolina on December 10th-11th, 2010. Dr. Page co-directed this important meeting in collaboration with Dr. Heinz Bachmann, the then President of the Swiss American Historical Society, and we are deeply grateful for Dr. Bachmann’s efforts in this regard.

After Dr. Page’s address on New Bern, I myself reported on my own attendance of the annual summer meeting of the SAHS in Switzerland. On July 9th, 2011, I personally attended this annual social event in Switzerland. It was superbly organized by Fred Jenny, and we are deeply grateful to Mr. Jenny for his efforts in this regard. I encourage all members of the SAHS to attend these fine annual summer events in Switzerland.
I further announced that members were encouraged to respond via email to the invitational letter announcing the annual general meeting. Most responders did respond via email. This should reduce future mailing expenses. Fred Jenny noted that only six members of the Swiss chapter were not using email.

Finally, we telephoned Professor Leo Schelbert, Editor Emeritus of the SAHS Review, in order to congratulate him on receiving the Heinz K. Meier Award for his long and dedicated service to our society. The award read:

“On this day October 8, 2011, the Swiss American Historical Society hereby confers upon Professor Leo Schelbert the “Heinz K. Meier Award” for his long, distinguished and devoted service and scholarship. Without Leo’s decades’ long efforts, many SAHS publications would not have been possible.”

C. Elections: Board of Advisors, Class of 2011-2014

by Ernie Thurston

Class of 2009-2012
Susan Keller
Dwight Page
John Kenneth Schelbert
David Sutton
Franz von Arx

Class of 2010-2013
Marianne Burkhard
Donald Hilty
Diana Larisgoitia
Urs peter Schelbert
Donald Tritt

Class of 2011-2014
Randall Gafner
Karl Niederer
Franz Portmann
Elsbeth Reimann
Paula Sherman
D. Membership Report
by Ernie Thurston, Membership Secretary

SAHS has 248 current members, a 1% increase over the 245 reported last year at this time. We welcome two new LIFE members this year, Herrn Richard Blatter, of Schaffhausen, Switzerland, and Mr. Robert Ronus of Los Angeles, California. We are sad to report the deaths of three long-time members, Dr. Margot Ammann Durrer, of New York, a member since 1988 and of the Board of Directors; Mr. Walter J. Peyer, of Illinois, member since 1991; and Herrn Dr. Niklaus E Schiess, of Basel, Switzerland, member since 1967.

CURRENT MEMBERS BY TYPE AND COUNTRY:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership Type</th>
<th>U.S./Canada</th>
<th>Switzerland/Other</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regular ($50/yr.)</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>143</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student ($25/yr.)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institution ($75/yr.)</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Life Members</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>47</td>
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<tr>
<td>Complimentary</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>200</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>248</td>
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MEMBERSHIP CHANGES, 10/01/2010 TO 09/30/2011

Members as of 10/01/2010                                    245

Plus: New Members Enrolled                                      11

Plus: Former Members (not “Current” last year) who have Rejoined          0

Less: Dropped by Request or Deacease                                - 5

Less: Dropped for Non-Payment of Dues                             - 3

Current Members, 09/30/2011                                        248

BREAKDOWN OF CURRENT MEMBERSHIP
BY COUNTRY AND STATE:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>AK</th>
<th>CA</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<th>IN</th>
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E. Treasurer’s Report
by Heinz Bachmann, Treasurer

1. Consolidated Accounts ($)

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<tr>
<th>Income</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual Dues</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donations incl. life membership</td>
<td>3,188</td>
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<tr>
<td>Book sales</td>
<td>144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>182</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Appreciation</td>
<td>-427</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Income</td>
<td>13,471</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expense</th>
<th>Total</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meetings / Events¹</td>
<td>2,201</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>1,285</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administration / Postage</td>
<td>484</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publications</td>
<td>11,344</td>
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¹Net of participants’ contributions.
Miscellaneous .................................................. 127²
Total Expenditure ........................................... 15,441

Net Result ..................................................... -1,970

Balances
Opening Balance, Oct. 1, 2010 ...................... 80,244
Closing Balance, Sept. 30, 2011 ..................... 78,274
Net Result ..................................................... -1,970

2. Balance Sheet

United States ($)
CLOSING BALANCE (as of Sept. 30, 2011)
Checking
First Bank & Trust of Evanston ...................... 17,609.00
Savings
Vanguard STAR Fund .............................. 45,922.78
Total Checking/Savings ......................... 63,531.78
Recent expenditures awaiting payment ........ 256.85
Total Assets ........................................... 63,274.93

OPENING BALANCE (as of Oct. 1, 2010) ........ 67,595.29

Net Change during FY 2009/2010 .................. -4,320.36

Switzerland (SFr.)
by Fred Jenny, Vice President, Switzerland

PostFinance, Vereinskonto
Closing Balance (as of Sept. 30, 2011) .......... 13,499.55
Opening Balance (as of Oct. 1, 2010) ............ 11,383.40
Net Change during FY 2010/2011 .................. 2,116.15
(2,351.13)

Overall net change during FY 2010/2011 .......... -1,969.23

² Incl. internet fees.
F. Publications

1. Report of the SAHS Book Editor

At the SAHS annual meeting of 2009, it was decided to publish as the next SAHS book a biography of the natural scientist Arnold Henri Guyot (1807-1884), to be written by Professor Philip Wilson of Pennsylvania State University. Professor Wilson has not yet been able to complete his study, but it might be ready by mid-2012.

First, in its place I propose a vote that the SAHS distribute to its members for annum 2011 the book of Ellen Carney, *From Here to There. An Illustrated Memoir of a Swiss Childhood*. Morgantown, Pennsylvania: Masthof Press, 2006. It is a beautiful memoir that will also make a nice Christmas gift.

Second, in case Professor Wilson's book should not be ready by next year, I propose a vote that the following project be selected as next year's project as the SAHS book for 2013/2014, otherwise as the next SAHS book publication:

Susann Bosshard-Kalin und Leo Schelbert, eds.

_Taking Measure: Fifteen Accounts of Twentieth Century Swiss American Men_  
Part One:  
_Seven Autobiographical Sketches_ edited by Leo Schelbert

Part Two:  
_Eight Interview Portraits_ by Susann Bosshard-Kalin

The book, of which Part One is complete, Part Two to be done in 2012, would be a sequel to the book _Westward: Encounters with Swiss American Women_ in order to feature the experience of 20th century Swiss immigrants to the United States.

Respectfully submitted by

Leo Schelbert
2. Report of the Editor of the SAHS Review

As the Editor-in-Chief of the SAHS Review, I would like to preview for you some of the upcoming issues of our Review. Leo Schelbert will prepare a special November 2011 issue which will deal with the activities in America of the Swiss American Union Officer, Andreas Hanselmann, during the American Civil War. This issue will also give Hanselmann's personal observations of life in old California during the post-Civil War period. This particular issue will thus make an important contribution to scholarship concerning both the American Civil War and the European colonization of the American Far West. In this sense, this issue complements beautifully another famous analysis of the American West written by a Swiss American traveler and colonist, Heinrich Lienhard. The latest edition of the latter Lienhard memoirs, edited by Christa Landert, is in fact reviewed in our present February 2012 issue. Thus both the November 2011 issue of the SAHS Review, dealing with the life of Andreas Hanselmann, and the latest German edition of the Lienhard memoirs, reviewed in this present issue, should be on the shelves of all serious Americanists. Both texts and editions provide invaluable new insights into the culture and mentality of nineteenth century Victorian America and will be of great benefit to all professors and students of American history.

Another upcoming issue of great importance will be the June 2012 special issue, dealing with the life of the early eighteenth century Swiss entrepreneur and colonizer of America, Johann Rudolf Ochs. This special issue will be prepared by the eminent Ochs and Franz Ludwig Michel scholar, Andreas Mielke, of King of Prussia, Pennsylvania. The readership will be most impressed by this work of extraordinarily impeccable scholarship and importance, which will most certainly receive great praise from scholars everywhere. This issue is a true gem of scholarship which will be a jewel in the crown of the SAHS.

Finally, our February 2013 issue will be prepared by our new book review editor, Robert Sherwood. We are certain that this latter issue will likewise be of excellent academic quality and of great public interest. We all look forward to this issue, to be prepared by this young and brilliant scholar.

Respectfully submitted by
Dwight Page
G. Report on SAHS—Switzerland
by Fred Jenny, Vice President (Switzerland)

Dear Members of the Swiss American Historical Society:

I am pleased to attend once again today’s AGM of the Swiss American Historical Society.

I can again report that the Swiss Chapter is doing relatively well. At the end of the SAHS year 2010-2011, we had 48 members; one more than last year. One senior member unfortunately passed away, and another one is no longer interested; one member couple transferred from America to Switzerland, and one Swiss joined the Swiss Chapter as a life member. The Swiss Chapter therefore continues to represent approximately 20 percent of the total SAHS membership. All dues were paid.

On July 9, I organized again an Annual Social Event of the Swiss Chapter. This time in the Trubschachen area of the Emmental. In addition to the Swiss Chapter members, all SAHS members in the United States were also invited. After the usual ups and downs, the attendance amounted to 15 persons, three of them from the United States, this time including our new President Fred Gillespie. From Trubschachen, a bus brought us to Fankhausen and up to Hinter Hütten where an Anabaptist Hideout (Täuferversteck) was used to hide Anabaptists who, 300 years ago, were not accepted particularly by the Canton of Bern. With warm weather and sunshine, we had wines, cheeses, etc. outside this large farmhouse. Regina Fankhauser is living there with her family. She is a very dedicated lady, daughter of a pastor in Basel. She gave us a tour of the hideout, of course in English. After returning by bus to Trubschachen, we enjoyed drinks and a long joyous luncheon in the very nicely decorated ‘Schwingerstube’ (wrestlers’ room) of the ‘Gasthaus Bären’. These events—now a tradition—will continue to be on my program, but again hopefully with a larger participation, both from Europe and the United States. — I have not yet decided where our next meeting in the SAHS year 2011-2012 will take place—but I do have an idea where it could be...

My Annual Financial Report of the Swiss Chapter for the SAHS year 2010-2011 shows the following main results:
Dues amounted to CHF 2,260.00. This represents six life memberships, six institutional memberships, 28 individual membership and eight complimentary memberships. Note that, therefore, only 36 of 48 members—or 75 percent of them—are paying dues.

Administrative expenses. They are small this year. Having been very busy, I was too late to charge my administrative expenses in time to reimburse them via the Postal Account. These expenses will therefore be included in the accounts of 2011-2012.

The annual accounts therefore ended with a benefice of CHF 259.90.

For the SAHS year 2011-2012, I pledged a budget support of USD 3,000.00 to SAHS U.S.A.. or USD 1,000 more than in the past years. This is only possible because of the drastic loss of the dollar’s value, particularly against the Swiss franc.

In various ways, I continue to try to keep the Swiss Chapter finances healthy.

I have already one couple as an additional member effective October 1. Hopefully, there will be more during this SAHS year 2011-2012. As mentioned in my last annual report, this is a thorny task, not only in America, but also in Switzerland.

Should anyone have questions, please do not hesitate to ask me.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Fred Jenny
Vice President (Switzerland)
H. Proposed Budget for 2011-2012

**Swiss American Historical Society, October 8, 2011**

Expenditures Projected, 2011 to 2012

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual Meeting</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment rental</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paroz Prize</td>
<td>1,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SAHS Review</strong></td>
<td>6,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>three issues, includes postage and handling</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Book of the Year</td>
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<tr>
<td>250 copies (current number of members</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>plus a few extra)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distribution</td>
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<tr>
<td>Postage for 3 letters to the general</td>
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<td>Miscellaneous</td>
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<tr>
<td>internet fee, SAHS pamphlet, publicity</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>$12,600.00</td>
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I. Next Annual Meeting / Adjournment

The next Annual Meeting of the Swiss American Historical Society is scheduled for Saturday, October 13, 2012, in New York, New York.