



2-2008

Forty-Fourth SAHS Annual Meeting. 2. Reports

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2. Reports

A. Minutes of the Forty-Fourth Annual Business Meeting of the Swiss American Historical Society

Washington DC, October 7, 2007

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by Heinz Bachmann. He introduced Ambassador Urs Zizwiler, Swiss Ambassador to the United States, who welcomed the audience and briefly spoke about future plans for the Swiss Roots Project. The Ambassador had just returned from a visit to New Glarus and emphasized the importance of the planned website to improve communication among the Swiss living in the US. Heinz Bachmann also welcomed Ms. Daniela Stoffel, Head of Cultural Affairs at the Embassy.

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

3. **President's report.** Our Society was very active last year. First it published the Leo Lesquereux book, *Letters Written from America 1849-1893*, translated from the French by H. Dwight Page with a biography and illustrations by Donald G. Tritt. Second, it published the book *Postmaster in Klau* presenting letters from California by Otto Wyss, 1846-1927, also translated by Dwight Page. A new-book-launch of the Lesquereux book was organized by Donald Tritt in Columbus (OH) in September attended by Heinz Bachmann. Two book launches of the Wyss book are planned in California in October organized by Jürg Siegenthaler; Heinz Bachmann and a number of Wyss family members will also attend. Organizing such book launches has turned out to be very labor intensive. It has also shown how little our Society knows about its members.

The grant of \$1000 approved at the last Annual Meeting to help create a Lesquereux Archive at the Ohio State University Library has not been paid yet because the project has not advanced far enough. The Franz Ebner Project *Out of Switzerland*, has also been progressing slowly, so that no payment has been made yet and none is envisaged for this year.

Three SAHS *Reviews* were published, two edited by H. Dwight Page, one by Leo Schelbert.

A request for financial help for the creation of a *Swiss Nationality Room* at the University of Pittsburgh was submitted for consideration. After a short discussion initiated by John Geiser, Hon. Consul of Switzerland in New Orleans, it was decided unanimously to contribute a grant of \$1000 towards this project. Similarly, the granting of two awards was approved unanimously: a Gonzenbach price of \$1000 to Donald Tripp in recognition of his work on the Lesquereux book; and a Peroz price of \$500 to Claudette Holliday in recognition of a series of short stories she had published about a recent trip to

Switzerland organized to reestablish contact between the descendants of the dePurys of South Carolina and the dePurys of Neuchâtel.

Before concluding his report the President mentioned that Eric and Emily Gees, long time members of our Society who had attended the Annual Meeting regularly over many years, had passed away.

4. Elections. Rosa Schupbach, Chairperson of the Nominating Committee, announced that most of the Board of Directors was up for re-election. She has now served for two consecutive terms as Vice President for North America and, according to SAHS By-Laws is no longer eligible for re-election. In her stead, Jürg Siegenthaler agreed to be nominated. With no nominations from the floor, the following were elected unanimously:

President:	Heinz Bachmann
Vice President North America:	Jürg Siegenthaler
Recording Secretary:	Rosa Schupbach
Membership Secretary:	Ernest Thurston
Treasurer:	GionMatthias Schelbert

A new Class of the Board of Advisors 2007-2010 was elected unanimously, with Donald Tripp replacing Annemarie Gilman who chose not to be re-elected. The following are now members of this class:

Margot Ammann Durrer
 Marianne Burkhard
 Donald Hilty
 Urspeter Schelbert
 Donald G. Tritt

5. Membership Report. Ernest Thurston presented a detailed report. This past year SAHS gained 10 new members, only a measly four from within the United States. This is unsustainably low. A brief discussion followed how to attract more new members in the US with book launches, an improved website, including application forms in all SAHS *Reviews*. Fred Jenny suggested publishing a text in the *Swiss Review* and agreed to follow this matter up with the respective authorities in Bern. Leaving SAHS literature with membership applications at various Swiss Consulates does not look promising as few Swiss visit these offices. Past experience has shown that personal contacts are by far the most effective means. Hence, an appeal to all our members to become active recruiters for our Society, always keeping SAHS in mind in their contacts with family, friends, and colleagues.

6. Treasurer's Report. GionMatthias Schelbert distributed a detailed Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Account, attached below under *E. Treasurer's Report*. It was unanimously approved. Last year he spent considerable time to

establish a user-friendly SAHS **website** to attract new members. It can provide listings of current events, assistance with genealogy, and facilitate contacts among SAHS members. Karl Niederer and Donald Tritt volunteered to further improve the present set-up, in particular making it easier for prospective new members to find their way.

7. Publications. H. Dwight Page, editor of the *Review*, reported on articles to be published during 2008. Each copy the *Review* will include an application form to attract new members. He also emphasized the importance of assembling a list of e-mail addresses of Society members to facilitate communication. December 1 is the deadline for the February issue to publish material related to this Annual Meeting. Jürg Siegenthaler, SAHS book editor, talked about the two planned new-book-launches of the Wyss book in California in October which he and Heinz Bachmann will attend. The feasibility and usefulness of such book launches was discussed and whether it was desirable for the SAHS to get involved in substantial book marketing and selling. However, the main activity book-wise will be the publication of a book by Dr. Brigitte Bachmann Geiser about the Amish of Bern, Indiana. The book was published first in Switzerland in 1988. A second edition came out recently; its translation, to be paid by the Bachmanns, ought to be ready in March.

8. Report on SAHS Switzerland. Fred Jenny presented a report on the newly revived Swiss Chapter as detailed under *F. Swiss Chapter* below. He has spent considerable time and effort to put the house in order, collect unpaid membership dues for previous years, and to bring financial records up-to-date. As a result, the Chapter has now 47 fully paid up members. Future membership fees will be adjusted periodically to those paid in the United States.

9. 2008 Budget. Heinz Bachmann presented the budget for 2008 as detailed under *G. Proposed Budget* below. The proposal was approved unanimously.

10. New Business. John Geiser mentioned the possibility of holding a regional SAHS meeting in New Orleans. The subject will be discussed again at the next Annual Meeting. Fred Jenny proposed that future Annual Meetings be held on the second Saturday in October instead of the first as has been the tradition in the past. This will provide more time between the end of the Fiscal Year and the date of the meeting to prepare meaningful financial accounts including the possibility of presenting a joint account for operations in the US and Switzerland. After some discussion this proposal was approved unanimously.

11. Next Annual Meeting. In line with the above decision, it was decided to hold the next Annual Meeting on Saturday, October 11, 2008 in Philadelphia.

12. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 12.05 PM

Submitted by Rosa Schubach, Recording Secretary

B. President's Report

Welcome and Call to Order. It is always a special pleasure for the Society to be invited to the Swiss Embassy once every three years. This is an old privilege dating back to the early 1960s when the Embassy was actively involved in the resurrection of the SAHS and the Society was based at the Embassy for a number of years.

Before we start, I would like to give a very special welcome to Ambassador Urs Ziswiler, even though – I must say – I feel a little awkward, Mr. Ambassador, to welcome you in your own conference room. If you would like to say a few words before we start this would be much appreciated.

Welcome also to Ms. Daniela Stoffel, Head of Cultural Affairs at the Embassy, always ready to help, when help is needed.

Donations. Before reporting on last year's activities, let me express our sincere thanks to the Paroz family who once again made a most generous additional contribution to their earlier endowment. Furthermore, as Ernie Thurston will report in a minute, the Society received three new life membership contributions.

Citizen Fred Film. The first major event of the year was the official US Première of the film *Citizen Fred* last November at the Swiss Embassy – in fact right in this room. Most of you are likely to remember this film which was shown – prematurely and sneakily – at last year's Annual Meeting. Both Mr. Stich the film maker and Fred the main actor were present. Fred turned out to be quite a character. But the most interesting was a remark made by Mr. Stich, when I presented the Society's \$1000 grant to him, that the support he had been promised by SAHS early on, though small, was of crucial importance in his efforts to mobilize the necessary financing in Switzerland. That is an indication of the high reputation SAHS enjoys in the old country particularly relating to Swiss immigration into the US. Clearly its stamp of approval, combined with a limited amount of seed money, can do wonders, allowing the Society to have a surprisingly large influence.

Book publishing. The Society had a very busy year with two major book projects completed, the Lesquereux and the Wyss books. This is rather unusual and not likely to happen again any time soon. Early this year the Lesquereux book came out, after an unusually long gestation period. But I am sure you agree that the waiting was worth it. From a straight forward translation of the famous *Letters* by Leo Lesquereux the publication gradually expanded into a comprehensive book about Mr. Lesquereux, his work and life. As discussed at last year's Annual Meeting the Society used the occasion to organize a regional meeting in Columbus OH with the aim of making SAHS somewhat better

known and possibly recruit some new members. It took place just a couple of weeks ago. This new-book-launch was extremely well organized by Donald Tritt. After some hesitation, the Ohio Historical Soc. had agreed to co-sponsor the event; they let the Society use one of their beautiful conference rooms providing an outstanding venue for the event. Other sponsors included the Consulate General in Chicago; both Consul General Giambattista Mondada and Ms. Margreth Trümpi-Martin, the lady in charge of cultural affairs, attended the proceedings, which opened with a touching performance by the Columbus Swiss Singers, some 20–25 of them all in traditional costumes. Three lectures were given: Donald Tritt talked about Lesquereux as a person, Wendy Everham about his mind and ideas, and Dr. Richard Davis, professor of biology and geology, about him as a scientist (*founding father of paleontology*). Attendance may have been a bit less than expected, and the results in the way of improved publicity and recruitment of new members can only be judged over time. One thing that has become very clear already, however, is that organizing such an event is very demanding – not so much financially – but human resource wise. Even though the main organizer is a native Columbusite, who could find his way around town with his eyes closed – so to speak, it still was very time consuming.

A last point on Lesquereux: As you might remember, last year there were plans by the family and Donald Tritt to create a Lesquereux archive. The Society actually approved a grant of \$1000 to support this proposal. For a number of reasons, the project has been delayed and no funds have been disbursed so far. A meeting is scheduled for mid-October to further advance the project. It is proposed to carry over this grant into the 2008 budget.

The Otto Wyss book, *Postmaster in Klau*, has been completed and is in the process of being distributed to our members. At last year's Annual Meeting it was mentioned that with some luck the book might be ready before the end of the fiscal year. This deadline has been kept; not so much because of luck but mostly thanks to Jürg Siegenthaler's dedication and hard work; the first book he has chaperoned from a-z as book editor. Similar to the Lesquereux story, a new book-launch – or rather two – are planned in California towards the end of October, one in San Francisco and one further south in Paso Robles. In San Francisco because to have any real impact in California (*name recognition, etc*) one has to show its flag there; in Paso Robles because that's where the bulk of the Otto Wyss story played out [he lived there for 52 years from 1875 until his death in 1927], where there is strong local interest in this story, and where a considerable number of Otto Wyss descendants still live. It remains to be seen how this second book-launches will play out. For the meeting in San Francisco we have received strong support from the Cultural section of the Consulate General – in part certainly thanks to the help provided by the Office of Cultural Affairs at the Embassy. Among others, the Consulate General promised to make a special effort to mobilize the Swiss community in the San Francisco area. In Paso Robles the local historical society together with the Wyss family are playing this role. As you might remember, the family had contributed

substantially towards the cost of translating the book and two of their members will come specifically from Zürich to participate in the events in addition to the Wyss family from Washington DC. Again, in spite of this substantial family and local support, organizing these events has turned out to be quite labor intensive.

Once this second event is over, I propose that we sit back for a while, analyze costs and results before deciding whether the Society wants to continue with these new book-launches. One handicap SAHS has when organizing events like these –we have talked about this before – is the limited information the Society has about its members. Yes, we have members in forty states and know their names and addresses. But if the Society wanted to organize an event in or near their home town, would they be willing and able to help? Would they have the necessary local connections, as Donald obviously had in Columbus and the Wyss family in Paso Robles? We don't have the slightest idea. In an attempt to remedy this unsatisfactory situation, at least somewhat, in the next membership renewal notice in the spring of 2008 Ernie Thurston will include a few questions in addition to the customary address, such as e-mail address, age group, occupation and, possibly, whether the member would be willing to help the Society in case it needed help in his or her specific geographic area.

As has become a tradition for the *SAHS's Review*, two issues were prepared by Prof. Dwight Page in his usual competent way, presenting, among others, an in depth article about the first treaty of friendship, commerce, etc. between Switzerland and the United States concluded in the mid-1850s. The third prepared by Leo Schelbert presented his translation of an article about the Marbach family and their emigration to the Chicago area, set in motion – at least partially – by political troubles in their native Canton Lucerne during the 1840s.

Concerning **help and advice**, you might remember that at last year's Annual Meeting the Society decided to support a project by Franz Ebner to study the motivation of present-day Swiss immigrants to the US and western Europe. He thankfully acknowledged our support, pointing out that this seed money would be of major help to him in mobilizing the necessary financing in Switzerland. The Society's contribution was made contingent on substantial progress in this multi-year undertaking and no funds were included in the budget at that time. So far progress has been very slow and the project is unlikely to reach the trigger point for disbursement any time soon. Hence, again, no funding is proposed to be included in this year's budget.

As usual, the Society has received numerous requests for help and advice on genealogical and related matters, some from as far away as Argentina. My usual response has been (i) buy Lewis Bunker Rohrbach's *Guide to Swiss Genealogical Research*; (ii) go to the Swiss Roots website; (iii) contact Marylyn Wellauer. One, concerning specifically the Canton Graubünden I forwarded to Leo, who as you might know grew up in Ilanz; one concerning the Canton Ticino I suggested to contact Mr. Delprete, Head of Cultural Affairs at the Embassy and a Ticinese by origin.

A request for financial help concerns the creation of a *Swiss Nationality Room* at the University of Pittsburgh. It is submitted for your decision. This is an old project going back to the late 1990s when a Swiss Room Committee was formed to create such a room. At that time over 20 such Nationality Rooms existed already, classrooms embellished by historically accurate interiors of the respective countries. The Society learned about the project in 2002, asked for additional information and let it leave at that. In late 2006 the committee sent the Society a flyer listing progress made: \$65,000 collected and architectural plans being finalized, with total costs estimated at \$250,000. This being a University related project I asked our active and emeritus professors for their opinion. Most felt the project was worth supporting, while recognizing that the Society's contribution could not be more than a symbolic gesture, a drop in the bucket. Personally, I have some doubts. Obviously, this would not be seed money and would advance the project by very little. Would the amount of goodwill created in the Pittsburgh Swiss community be worth the cost?

Gonzenbach and the Paroz prize. It is proposed that two prizes be awarded:

First, a Gonzenbach prize in the amount of \$ 1,000 to Donald Tritt in recognition of his work on the Lesquereux book and book-launch. If one can trust the Society's files, the project started in early 2002. The book was distributed in early 2007. This means that Donald worked on this project on and off for nearly 5 years including a trip to Fleurier in the back-waters of the Canton Neuchâtel to make sure that no stone was left unturned in his research of the Lesquereux family.

Second a Paroz prize in the amount of \$500 to Ms. Claudette Holliday in recognition of the series of some 20 short stories she had published in the Lexington County Chronicle about a trip to Switzerland she had organized to reestablish contact between the descendants of the dePurys of South Carolina and the dePurys of Neuchâtel. We believe publications of this kind – even if they might not necessarily be of profound scientific value – merit to be encouraged as a means to put Switzerland on the map occasionally, in a positive way.

The program for next year will be presented by Profs. Page and Siegenthaler. About the Society **website** GionMatthias Schelbert will brief the meeting following his presentation of the financial accounts.

Miscellaneous. Before closing let me quickly share some miscellaneous pieces of information with you:

- 1st On July 1st, Fred Jenny invited my wife and myself to a lunch in Zürich he had organized by as part of his efforts to revitalize the Swiss Chapter of our Society, a subject he will talk about more in a minute. It was a very enjoyable get-together, a somewhat smaller group of members than Fred had originally expected but a very interesting and pleasant one.

2nd Last night there was another meeting of the Society's officers, the second ever following last year's meeting in New York. Hopefully, this will become an annual tradition. Being dispersed throughout the entire US and Switzerland, the evening before the Annual Meeting is virtually the only time of the year the officers can get together to discuss common issues.

3rd The US postal service has suspended mail service by boat to Switzerland. As a result the cost of sending the Society's books to Switzerland has doubled from \$10 to 20. The issue is being discussed with Picton and Fred with bulk sending one possible solution. For the *Review* the increase is much less severe.

4th A few days ago, a communication from an International Bundesbrief Society was received – an offspring of the Bundesbrief exhibition in Philadelphia – with a request to distribute it to our members. As the document had arrived shortly before the Annual Meeting I ran off a number of copies that you are welcome to pick up outside the conference room. Requests like this are received at least half a dozen times a year. By necessity they are ignored as it is physically impossible for the Society to run off and mail out documents to its 250 members every two months or so.

Finally it is my duty to inform you about the death of Emilie Gees, from Amherst. She was the wife of Eric Gees who had passed way in 2003. The Guees's were members since 1992 and attended several of the Societies Annual Meetings.

In conclusion, let me thank my co-officers for their dedication and hard work throughout the year. As usual, Rosa Schupbach has provided much help and advice, particularly on everything concerning New York. Jürg, Dwight, and Fred have already been mentioned. Ernie Thurston worked closely with Fred on sorting out the membership mess in Switzerland and establishing efficient procedures for handling membership and other issues across the Atlantic. In addition to his work as treasurer GionMatthias Schelbert has worked quite a bit on the website. Among the non-officers, Leo has continued to be a vital source of inspiration concerning new projects the Society might become interested in.

C. Elections, Nominating Committee Report

By Rosa Schupbach, Chairperson

The Nominating Committee this year comprises: Heinz Bachmann, Leo Schelbert, and myself.

This year we not only have to replace the Class of 2004-2007 of the Board of Advisors whose term has expired, but we also have to reelect most of our Board of Directors. According to our By-Laws, elections for the Board have to be held every three years, and the last Board election took place on October 2, 2004. It is hard to believe that three years have gone by so quickly.

Also, according to the By-Laws, both the President and the Vice-President can only serve two consecutive terms.

If you look at the slate voted in on October 2, 2004, you will see that Heinz Bachmann was elected for the first time for a term of three years, but I, however, have now served two consecutive terms as Vice-President for the US. This means that I have to be replaced. Juerg Siegenthaler has graciously agreed to be Vice President for the next three years. In that capacity he will continue to be Editor of SAHS Books. I will take on the duties of Recording Secretary and will continue to be the Liaison Person for New York City.

Fred Jenny was elected Vice President for Switzerland two years ago, therefore he is not on today's slate but has to be re-nominated for that office at the Annual Meeting next year.

Therefore, the nominations for the Board of Directors are as follows:

President:	Heinz Bachmann
Vice President North America:	Juerg Siegenthaler
Recording Secretary:	Rosa Schupbach
Membership Secretary:	Ernest A. Thurston
Treasurer:	GionMatthias Schelbert

Are there any nominations from the floor? If not, the nominations are closed. I move that those nominated for the Board of Directors be elected. (Was seconded) Therefore, all those nominated have been duly elected.

We are now coming to the nominations for the Class of 2007-2010 of the Board of Advisors.

Annemarie Gilman who was a member of that Class chose not to be re-elected. In her place, Donald Tritt who many of you know, has agree to be nominated. All others agreed to be re-elected.

Therefore, the following are being nominated for the Class of 2007-2010:

Margot Ammann Durrer
 Marianne Burkhard
 Donald P. Hilty
 Urspeter Schelbert
 Donald G. Tritt

I spoke with Margot Durrer and Annemarie Gilman recently. Both are not able to be here today but are sending greetings to everybody. Marianne Burkhard who many of you know, she was President until three years ago, is also happy to continue on the Board. So is Urspeter Schelbert who lives in Switzerland. Donald Hilty is not here because he had to help his brother with the grape harvest.

Are there any other nominations from the floor? If not, the nominations are closed. I move that those nominated for the Class of 2007-2010 of the Board of Advisors be elected. (Was seconded), Therefore, all those nominated have been duly elected.

For your information, the following are the members of the two other Classes of the Board of Advisors:

Class of 2005-2008:

Lewis B. Rohrbach
 Franz J. Portmann
 Karl Niederer
 Paula Sherman
 Elsbeth Reimann

Class of 2006-2009:

Franz von Arx
 Susan Keller
 H. Dwight Page
 Simone Schoch
 David Sutton

D. Membership Report

To: Members of the Swiss American Historical Society
 From: Ernie Thurston, Membership secretary
 Subject: Annual Membership Report, 09/30/2007

IN BRIEF: We have 244 current members, a 4% decrease over the 254 reported last year at this time. Most of this decline did really not happen in the current year. Fred Jenny in Switzerland has worked to identify several members in Switzerland whose decrease or resignation one or more years ago was never learned of by the membership secretary. Mr. Jenny has also recruited several new Swiss members.

We welcome three new Life members this year, Frau Verena Bill (Switzerland), Felix-Rene Meier, and Peter Herdeg, and want to thank Mr. Gerard Paroz for his extra and most generous contribution of \$1000.

CURRENT MEMBERS BY TYPE AND COUNTRY:

Membership Type	US/Canada	Switzerland/Other	Total
Regular (\$50/yr.)	115	30	145
Student (\$25/yr.)	0	0	0
Institution (\$75/yr.)	13	3	16
Life Members	41	6	47
Complimentary	<u>28</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>36</u>
	197	47	244

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES, 10/01/2006 TO 09/30/2007:

Members as of 10/01/2006	254
Plus: New Members Enrolled	10
Plus: Former Members (not "Current" last year) who have Rejoined	0
Less: Dropped by Request or Decease	-14
Less: Dropped for Non-Payment of Dues	<u>- 6</u>
Current Members, 09/30/2007	244

BREAKDOWN OF CURRENT MEMBERSHIP BY COUNTRY AND STATE:

AK	1	KY	1	NJ	4	VA	7
CA	12	LA	3	NV	2	VT	2
CO	1	MA	3	NY	25	WA	2
CT	1	MD	8	OH	10	WI	18
DC	6	ME	1	OR	2	WV	1
DE	3	MI	1	PA	8	BC, Canada .	1
FL	4	MN	7	RI	1	ON, Canada .	2
GA	1	MO	1	SC	4	QB, Canada .	1
HI	1	MS	1	SD	2	Germany	1
IA	2	MT	1	TN	4	Switzerland	46
IL	22	NC	8	TX	3		
IN	4	NH	3	UT	2		

Comments by Heinz Bachmann:

Let me add a few words to what Ernie just reported so as to put his statistics in perspective and report on action undertaken during the year.

Considering what Ernie mentioned about the mess in the Society's Swiss Chapter the overall decline of 10 in total membership is not dramatic. Nearly half of the 20 drop-outs mentioned in his table occurred in Switzerland; much of it was artificial. What is dramatic, however, is the pitifully low level of new enrolments in the US. Of the 10 new members who joined during 2006-2007 six were recruited by Fred in Switzerland; new enrolments within the US reached only a measly four. This might well be the lowest number of new domestic enrolments ever experienced by our Society. Given that on average SAHS loses 25 to 30 members a year such a low level of new enrolments is unsustainable.

The writing is on the wall. We urgently need to recruit more new members. Several actions were undertaken during the year in this regard. In February a lengthy article about the Society by Leo and me was published in the *Swiss Review*, a periodical that is read by nearly two thirds of SAHS members. When we contacted the *Swiss Review* last year about possible advertising, we were offered instead this possibility, at no cost and probably more effective. Following the experience gained at the Society's stand at the 2006 1st of August celebrations of the New York Swiss Club, work on a web-site was started; it led to a first preliminary website that is being further improved. Documents about SAHS and its activities were displayed at a cultural event at the Swiss Embassy (limited interest). As mentioned before, one new-book-launch was organized in Columbus (OH) in September and two more are under prepared for the second half of October in California.

During the current year such activities will continue. However, this will not suffice. As you may remember, the survey the Society conducted in early

2006 among recently joined members indicated clearly that by far the most effective means of recruiting new members are personal contacts. Nearly 60% of respondents indicated that they were introduced to SAHS this way. Hence, the urgent appeal to all of our members to **constantly be an active recruiter for our Society** in their contacts with family, friends, colleagues, acquaintances, and so on.

I am very pleased to be back in the United States after a year and a half in Switzerland. I am representing 20 percent of the Swiss American Historical Society at the Embassy of Switzerland in Washington, D.C. for this Annual Meeting. With the Swiss Chapter at present at present 1011 - Chicago

I presented some strange situations with my report and I can report that things have moved. All present in the Chapter - without exception - paid their dues for the year 2006-2007. As the title of my report says, "It isn't that easy!" It isn't that easy, but because they refused to pay to do so, they were already in 2007, but others had resigned. The Swiss Chapter has a total of 47 members: 1 Life, 3 Institutions, 22 Complimentary, 8 and 1011 - Chicago

No more should be the two persons who were active in the year ago and are now in Germany. I had a lot of success in getting new members, but succeeded only in a few cases. However, the six new members I recruited in the past year are now members of the Swiss Chapter. In this matter, my experience shows how important it is to have people in Europe who are - or maybe no longer - interested in historical research. A great deal of work is done in the younger generation, but it seems to be a good idea to have a few people in Europe who are interested in the regulation of the situation of the Swiss Chapter is now clear and sound. I have determined by the new contract the maintenance of the Swiss Chapter with the exclusive use of PostFinance's electronic system. This has allowed me to renew the Swiss Chapter's financial support to the SAHS U.S.A. budget. Instead of the previous \$2,000.00, I will now be making \$3,000.00 per year. For the new fiscal year, I pledge once more \$3,000.00. In addition, I will transfer the counter value of \$1,000.00 - approximately \$700.00 - representing the fee of a new life member which I had the pleasure to recruit. This - by the

E. Treasurer's Report

By GionMatthias Schelbert, Treasurer

Balance Sheet (as of Oct.1, 2007)

Assets

Checking/Savings

101 – First Bank & Trust of Evanston

101.1 - Checking \$ 937.75

101.2 - CD 01 10,226.48

101.3 - CD 02 10,321.58

101.4 - CD 03 10,240.57

Total

\$ 31,726.38

102 – Vanguard STAR Fund

46,086.74

Total Checking/Savings

\$ 77,813.12

105 – Pre-Paid Expenses

167.80

TOTAL ASSETS

\$ 77,980.92

Profit and Loss (10/1/2006 through 9/30/2007)

Income 301 - Annual Dues 9,611.19

302 - Donations 2,685.00

304 - Book Sales 3,257.50

306 - Vanguard Capital Appreciation 6,700.84

307 - Life Memberships Paid 1,000.00

309 - Interest Income 788.63

Total Income

\$ 24,043.16

Expenses 401 - Annual Meeting 627.98

403 - Postage, Stationary & Admin 3,917.60

404 - Publications 21,964.32

408 - Honoraria 1,000.00

Total Expenses

27,509.90

NET INCOME

\$ - 3,466.74

1/ incl. transfer of \$2,986.19 from Swiss Chapter

F. Swiss Chapter, Annual Report

By Fred Jenny, Vice President (Switzerland)

I am very pleased to be back in the United States, and particularly with the Swiss American Historical Society at the Embassy of Switzerland in Washington, D.C. for this Annual Meeting. With the Swiss Chapter having 47 members, I am representing 20 percent of the total SAHS membership of 244 at present.

I promised to remedy some strange situations with the Swiss Chapter, and I can report today that things have moved. All present members of the Swiss Chapter – without any exception – paid their dues retroactively to 2004. Since the end of July, not a single member has outstanding dues, including of the just ended financial year 2006-2007. As the title of Ted Turner's book about his marriage with Jane Fonda says, "it ain't that easy !" We lost a few members in this process, but not because they refused to pay their dues: One had passed away already in 2003; three others had resigned years ago. The files I took over from two predecessors do not mention these facts. The Swiss Chapter now has a total of 47 members: 7 Life, 3 Institutions, 29 Individuals and 8 Complimentary. No more students, the two persons concerned having finished their studies years ago and are now individual members. Of the 47 members, 46 reside in Switzerland and one in Germany.

I had a lot of correspondence, trying to 'recruit' new members, but have succeeded only in a few cases. However, the six new members in Switzerland compare rather well with the four new members in the U.S.A. In addition, I recently recruited a member residing in the U.S.; she does of course not become a member of the Swiss Chapter. – I realize that systematic efforts must be made in this matter. My experience shows however that young people in Europe are not – or maybe no longer – really interested in historical matters on the other side of the North Atlantic Ocean. Being actively involved in several other societies in Switzerland, Austria and South Africa, I must add that this seems to be a general trend in the younger generation. – I realize that additional efforts are therefore necessary.

Also thanks to the regularization of the dues payments, the financial situation of the Swiss Chapter is now clear and sound. I have also eliminated rather high charges to maintain the PostFinance account by eliminating them totally with the exclusive use of PostFinance's electronic system. This has allowed me to renew the Swiss Chapter's financial support to the SAHS U.S.A. budget: Instead of the pledged \$2,000, I transferred \$3,000 in the past fiscal year. For the new fiscal year, I pledge once more \$3,000. In addition, I shall transfer the counter value of SFr.800 – approximately \$700 – representing the fee of a new life member which I had the pleasure to 'recruit'. This – by the

way – made me realize that life and other membership fees in Switzerland are considerably higher than in the U.S. where life membership, for instance, is only \$500. Hence, I propose to adapt the Swiss fees at the beginning of each year according to the actual and expected USD-SFr. exchange rate.

With the help of questionnaires sent to all members, I have been able to establish a more detailed membership list than you have in the U.S. This allows me for instance to reach over 50 percent of the members by e-mail. Since postage in Switzerland is quit high, this is an important cost saving.

Based on my recent experience, I would like to propose that the Society change either the financial year – now October to September – or the date of the Annual Meeting. As I have found out, it is not realistic to have the Annual Meeting within a very few days after the end of the fiscal year which ends on September 30. Considering that account statements are not available on the last day of the month – which was a Sunday in September anyway – but at the earliest the next working day, we had only three days to close the accounts this year. Even though one week is a modest addition, it would permit to close the financial accounts both in the U.S. and in Switzerland without artificially doing this already prior to the end of the fiscal year, and to merge the two accounts into one combined statement. At last year's Annual Meeting, a proposal to change from the 'sacred' first Saturday of October to the second did not prevail. I would like to urge you to agree to this proposal when it comes up for decision in just a moment. Thank you!

I have so far addressed three circular letters to the members of the Swiss Chapter. A fourth will follow after this Annual Meeting and prior to Christmas and New Year. Many members do respond in one way or another: I am receiving letters, notes, e-mails and phone calls.

Two member events were on the annual program:

- The Swiss American Club Bern – presided by Fred Moser one of my SAHS predecessors and still member of the Swiss Chapter – invited all members to attend a luncheon with a diplomat of the American Embassy in Bern as guest speaker. Besides me, only one lady member attended this interesting gathering.
- On July 1, I organized a Swiss Chapter members' luncheon at the Hotel Waldhaus Dolder in Zurich, announcing the presence of SAHS President Heinz Bachmann and his wife Ilse. After lunch, the Exhibition 'Small Number – Big Impact' at the Swiss National Museum in Zurich could have been visited. In addition to the Bachmanns and me with my wife, only two long time members and two newly recruited members attended. Even though it made a pleasant Sunday, this minimal participation was obviously not a success – at least not for me. In spite of the fact that an exhibition visit was offered, I was told that such gatherings should include a presentation about the U.S.

This is the moment to mention that Professor Leo Schelbert delivered a most interesting speech a few days after the opening of the Exhibition 'Small Number – Big Impact' at the Swiss National Museum in Zurich.

Finally, I would like to mention the mostly efficient and pleasant cooperation with SAHS Board members, particularly President Bachmann, Rosa Schupbach, Ernie Thurston and Leo Schelbert. Ernie had to respond to my uncountable questions. Cooperation with him has been particularly intense, efficient and pleasant. Thank you, Ernie. In the meantime, matters have cleared and calmed down.

I do realize that nothing works 'automatically' in this world. Constant efforts are necessary in so many situations. The SAHS is in no different situation. We therefore must continue with as much enthusiasm as possible.

PROPOSED 2008 ANNUAL FEES FOR MEMBERS OF THE SWISS CHAPTER

MEMBERSHIP TYPE	US\$ FEES 2007-2008	CHF 1.20 FOR 1 \$	CHF 1.30 FOR 1 \$	CHF FEES 2007-2008
LIFE	500	600	650	650
INSTITUTIONAL	75	90	99	100
INDIVIDUAL	50	60	65	65
STUDENT	25	30	33	35
COMPLIMENTARY	0	0	0	0

The USD-CHF medium exchange rate is at present 1.17/18. Considering the outlook for the period until May 2008 – when the fees have to be paid at the latest –, calculating with 1.30 includes a large enough 'risk' range.

G. Proposed Budget for 2007-2008

By Heinz B. Bachmann, President

Income

301	Annual Dues: US	7,000	
301	Switzerland	3,000	
302	Donations	500	
303	Annual Meeting Fees	-	
304	Book Sales	7,000	
340	Vanguard STAR Fund Dividends	800	
306	Vanguard Capital Appreciation	4,000	
307	Life Membership Paid	<u>500</u>	
	Total Income		22,800

Expenses

401	Annual Meeting	-	
402	Donations / Grants	2,500	
403	Postage, Stationary & Admin.	500	
404	Publication, <i>Review</i>	5,500	
404	Publication, books	12,800	
405	Legal & Professional Services	<u>1,200</u>	
	Total Expenses		<u>22,500</u>

Net Result 300

Additional Notes:

Donations / Grants (402)

Lesquereux Archive (rollover)	1,000
Gonzenbach Award to Donald Tritt	1,000
Paroz Award to Claudette Holliday	500

Publication, books (404)

<i>Postmaster in Klau</i> Otto Wyss	
printing and distribution	8,000
new-book launches	800
<i>Amish of Berne, Indiana</i> Brigitte Bachmann Geiser	
printing and distribution	4,000

Legal & Professional Services (405)

incl. membership drive; advertisements

H. New Business, Next Annual Meeting, Adjournment

1. Suggestion by John Geiser to hold a regional meeting in New Orleans. The idea was briefly discussed and will be considered again next year.
2. Proposal by Fred Jenny to move the date of future Annual Meetings from the first to the second Saturday in October so as to provide more time to close financial accounts in the US as well as in Switzerland; possibly even submit a combined financial statement to the Annual Meeting. After some discussion the proposal was unanimously approved.
3. In accordance with the above decision, **Saturday, October 11, 2008** was selected as the date for the next Annual Meeting in Philadelphia.