



2-2021

ANNUAL REPORTS of the SWISS AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY October 2020: Annual Report of the Swiss Chapter, Switzerland

Barbara Müller

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/sahs_review



Part of the [European History Commons](#), and the [European Languages and Societies Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Müller, Barbara (2021) "ANNUAL REPORTS of the SWISS AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY October 2020: Annual Report of the Swiss Chapter, Switzerland," *Swiss American Historical Society Review*. Vol. 57 : No. 1 , Article 7.

Available at: https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/sahs_review/vol57/iss1/7

This Report is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in *Swiss American Historical Society Review* by an authorized editor of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact scholarsarchive@byu.edu, ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu.

Annual Report of the Swiss Chapter, Switzerland

By Barbara Müller

Dear Members:

The Friends of the Swiss American Historical Society are able to look back on a successful year here in Switzerland. At present, we have 45 members, which shows a small increase in total membership but does not reflect that actual growth is larger, since we have lost members due to age and health issues over the years.

This past year, Alex Winiger joined. A Swiss national, Alex published in this year's first issue of the *SAHS Review*. We have had a young student join the Society, which is a good sign. Mary Brunisholz, one of our members here in Switzerland, was interviewed on the local radio about her "hobby" work in genealogy.

Monica Seidler-Hux from the Central Library in Zurich, which is an institutional member, is publishing a new book, *Gottfried Kellers feuriger Freund. Johann Ulrich Müller: Romanfigur, Baumesiter und Kartograf der USA*. She has based part of her research on Leo Schelbert's works. Her book will be published in German in November 2020. The members present in Switzerland have been sent the link inviting them to the new book's *vernissage*. Therefore, the Society appears to be gaining some recognition.

Here in Switzerland, we were able to have our annual outing with the AGM in September 2020, although due to COVID-19, we were a smaller group than usual, with 10 members and two guests attending. We visited the NONAM Museum (Native American Indian Museum in Tiefenbrunnen, Zurich) and had Manuel Menrath, author of the book *Sitting Bull*, published by the SAHS in the USA in 2017, as our guest speaker. Mr. Menrath has recently published a new book here in Europe, *Unter dem Nordlicht: Indianer aus Kanada erzählen von ihrem Land*. This book has received a large amount of media coverage on radio, as well as from one of the leading Swiss newspapers, the *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*. Following his talk, the SAHS chapter in Switzerland presented Manuel Menrath with a small donation for his research and efforts to have the book published in English. Lunch was held at the museum, and afterwards we had an excellent tour of the cur-

rent NONAM exhibition on the famous Native American photography of Edward Curtis, led by the Museum's curator Heidrun Loeb.

Our organization in Switzerland was favorably impressed by the most recent SAHS book publication by Dr. Frederick Hale and have reached out to Dr. Hale to let him know of our profound contentment with his book. In addition, we have learned that Dr. Hale, who has been spending the year on sabbatical at Berkeley in California, has decided to lengthen his stay in the United States and is currently residing at Cornelius, North Carolina, with Chinese friends. He is also collaborating with Duke University and with nearby Davidson College on various academic projects. Dr. Hale hopes to find employment at Davidson College as a professor of History, which would deepen our relationship with Davidson College and would be a major blessing for the Society. (Our own Editor-in-chief, Dr. Dwight Page, is a 1975 alumnus of Davidson College, in French and German.)

We are pleased to report that our finances are in sound shape with approximately CHF 12,000.00 in the account; allowing us to renew the Swiss Chapter's financial support to the SAHS in the United States. We have also been able to transfer USD 2,000.00 to the account in the United States. We will pledge another USD 2,000.00 to the stateside SAHS for next year. Additionally, we made a donation to the research of Manuel Menrath, as mentioned above.

As Fred Jenny (past President in Switzerland) once said in his 2007 Annual Report, "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." On this note, I must report that Dr. William Gasser has resigned his position as treasurer here in Switzerland, due to age. We are very fortunate to have Kurt Morf, a long time life member, who is "enthusiastic" to continue the good work of Dr. William Gasser, as our new treasurer. He will be accepted by vote from the members in Switzerland at the AGM in 2021. At this time, I would like to express my gratitude to Dr. William Gasser for his dedicated help here in Switzerland. I would also like to thank Kurt Morf for stepping in on behalf of Dr. William Gasser as our new treasurer.

I warmly thank the SAHS members for their continued support of the Society and the support of the board members in the United States.

~ Barbara Müller, Vice President SAHS Switzerland

**Treasurer's Report, 2020 Annual Meeting
Friends of the Swiss American Historical Society**

By William Gasser, Treasurer

Main points:

1. Overview Activity, income, and expenses down somewhat from last year but our accounts overall are roughly in balance.
2. We began to transfer funds to our U.S. parent organization in Washington, D.C. in accord with our association's goal.

Our fiscal year, August 31, 2019, to August 31, 2020, Report

1. Income was slightly below last year at this time:
 - a. We added paying members, but dues paid were off because one member last year shifted from annual to life membership. This alone boosted year-before dues by more than the dues decline this year.
 - b. We also had one large donation from a member last year that we were happy not to have repeated. Donations are always welcome, but a member's failing eyesight is not something we would like to repeat.
 - c. Event income was down. COVID forced cancellation of a special Spring meeting, and Annual Meeting attendance is down a bit. However, late cash payments for this meeting will likely bring event cost closer into balance with costs before this month is out.
2. Expenses were also down a bit in 2019-2020
 - a. Canceled a Spring event and a less ambitious Annual Meeting cut event expenses. Moreover, this September-September accounting includes last year's higher Annual Meeting expense. Our "official" fiscal year accounts at the end of September might even show modest operating and overall surpluses.
 - b. Bank and office expenses were up from fees for wiring funds to the U.S. and costs of mailing older SAHS books from our office to new members.
3. Delayed funds transfers to U.S. parent Swiss American Historical Society

- a. Problems that the U.S. SAHS has had in accessing its own bank account led us to delay sending funds to our parent once we had reached our target working balance of CHF 10,000 last year. These problems have now been resolved, and the SAHS in America has successfully transitioned to a new skillful treasurer, Mr. Frederic Behrens, of New York City. Therefore, we should be able to soon return to fiscal normalcy.
- b. While I had assumed that with our present membership and expense experience we could run an operating budget of around CHF 3000 per year and return that sum annually to our U.S. parent to cover our share of their research, publication and mailing expenses, that unfortunately did not prove to be the case in this COVID year. A figure of CHF 2000 per year now looks more sustainable.
- c. Owing to their banking problems, I chose to transmit that amount after I had ascertained that their bank account and bank routing numbers were still valid. Even though they themselves cannot access this account.
- d. They, in turn, have decided that they may have some Swiss franc expenses that we could efficiently meet out of our support surplus. And I propose to again send only \$2,000 equivalent for the current year.
- e. At the same time, our President Dr. Albert Winkler has found an interesting historical research project here in Switzerland that should meet the objectives of our association, and with your concurrence and that of our parent officers, we will be expending some of this research and publication directly from our financial account.

~ Respectfully submitted, William Gasser, Treasurer, September 1, 2020

Friends of the Swiss American Historical Society
Summary of Financial Accounts
September 30, 2018, to September 30, 2019
(in Swiss Francs)

Income

Member Dues*	\$ 2,910
Donations**	660
Meeting and Event Income	<u>+ 1,920</u>
	\$ 5,490

Expenses

Annual Meeting Expenses	\$ 1,643
Other Event Expenses	379
Bank Fees	76
Office Expenses	<u>+ 104</u>
	\$ 2,202

Fiscal Year Operating Surplus \$ 3,288

Overall Balance \$ 3,288

Balance, September 30, 2018 \$ 9,973

Balance, September 30, 2019 \$13,166

Extraordinary Obligation

Swiss 2018 Contribution due U.S. SAHS = \$2,000

Funds earmarked to support SAHS Swiss franc publication expenses

*Includes one life membership (CHF 650.00)

**Includes one special donation by a resigning member (CHF 450)

May 12 Bosshard-Kahlen presentation in Schwyz

W. Gasser, Treasurer
September 30, 2019
Zurich, Switzerland

**Friends of the Swiss American Historical Society
Summary of Financial Accounts
September 30, 2019, to September 30, 2020
(in Swiss Francs)**

Income

Member Dues	\$ 2,420
Donations	85
Meeting and Event Income	<u>+ 1,440</u>
	\$ 3,945

Expenses

Event Expenses*	\$ 1,776
Bank Fees	77
Office Expenses	<u>+ 167</u>
	\$ 2,015

Fiscal Year Operating Surplus \$ 1,930

Transfers to U.S. Parent (\$2,000) \$ 1,924

Research & Publication Grants \$ 1,000

Overall Balance - \$ 994

Balance, September 30, 2019 \$13,166

Balance, September 30, 2020 \$12,172

Extraordinary Obligation

Swiss 2019 Contribution due U.S. SAHS = \$2,000

*Events include the Annual Swiss Meeting
and special events over the year.

*W. Gasser, Treasurer
October 2, 2020
Zurich, Switzerland*