



2023

President's Report for 2022

Albert Winkler

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

Winkler, Albert (2023) "President's Report for 2022," *Swiss American Historical Society Review*. Vol. 59: No. 1, Article 9.

Available at: https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/sahs_review/vol59/iss1/9

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 ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu.

President's Report for 2022

by Albert Winkler

New President: As of October 2022, I no longer function as the president of the SAHS. The new president is Fred Gillespie. He is a long-term member of the Society and has served as president in the past, and I am sure he will do very well. The position as president was overwhelming for me, and I found it very difficult to serve as both the Editor-in-Chief of the *SAHS Review* and as president. I can now concentrate my time and effort to publish the *SAHS Review*.

Annual Meeting: It was very difficult to find a meeting place for the October 2022 annual meeting of the Society because the Swiss Embassy was still unavailable due to construction. Thomas Marabello came through for us big time, and he was able to get us a reservation at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Library in Washington, D.C.

Appreciation for Help: The work as president was challenging for me, I deeply appreciated all the help I received from the various office holders of the Society and other members. I would not have been able to function as president without their help and encouragement. These included Robert Sherwood, Richard Hacken, Thomas Marabello, Barbara Müller, Brian Wages, Fred Steiner, and many others.

My Last Year as President: I faced many challenges in my last year as president of the Society. The most difficult dealt with the questions relating to the treasurer of the SAHS. The treasurer resigned the position on short notice. He informed me by email on June 27 that he was resigning effective July 2. Since he would no longer function as treasurer, the Society was no longer able to meet its financial obligations, and I had to find a new treasurer. I approached more than a half a dozen members of the Society to be turned down by each. In desperation, I offered to pay a banker if she would accept the assignment, but she turned me down as well. I visited several banks with national and international connections to see if we could work through them, but nothing worked out.

I was so stressed that I was losing much sleep. When I drove past the cemetery, I would shout, "You all have it better than I do." I

would have jumped off a bridge, but there is a severe drought in Utah, and there would be no water in the stream, so the best I could hope for was to be badly maimed. Finally, Ernie Thurston volunteered to serve as the treasurer of the Society for at least a few years, and he would oversee the transfer of funds. It was like Manna from heaven. At that point, the birds sang, flowers bloomed, and everything was right with the world.

I now have every confidence in the strength of the SAHS, and look forward to its continued function as a voice for Swiss Americans, Swiss-U.S. relations, and the history of Switzerland.

* * * *