

nection that the City of Philadelphia honored the new Swiss Consulate General and Consul General Rohrbach with a reception and splendid exhibition, featuring also several cultural Swiss programs for the duration. At the Annual Dinner, November 1, much enjoyed at the Silver Lake Inn by 77 guests, the 50-year membership of Mr. J. J. Kaufmann was commemorated. But 1958 also had its adverses, the Society having to deplore the loss of five, among them one of our dearest and oldest members, Robert J. Freitag, whose 54-year membership was recognized in 1955. He served as director 1905/07, and 1912/21. Also Dr. Ernest Vuilleumier, who joined in 1915, and was a director 1920/21. Though having moved away many years ago, he remained faithful to the sbs.

The Board of Directors was confirmed for 1959, with one exception. The resignation of Mr. Frank Birchler was offset with Mr. Paul Blattler, and this composition is now active in our Centennial Year, again with one exception, due to the resignation of John Hans Fitz, as previously recorded. Newly elected was Mr. Fritz Langenegger, Vice Consul. Upon his departure, the Directors voted for Mr. Otto Gritti, Consular Secretary, to take his place.

The impressive record of unusually long tenures as directors and officers is given elsewhere in our Centennial Booklet, but we must specifically mention a case of special merit: Our esteemed Consul General, the Honorable Maurice J. Rohrbach,

who has guided the destiny of our Colony since his arrival here in 1933 with great distinction. It is not within our province here to review the multitude of his activities and achievements in Philadelphia, which were commemorated at the Testimonial Dinner for him. Only the heavy duties of his office could prompt him to relinquish the presidency of the sbs in 1955, after only two terms. Otherwise, his dedicated services to the cause of the Society certainly remain unparalleled even with due recognition of all his illustrious predecessors. From the start, he performed the most important functions as an investigator, and since Carl Gaehler passed away in 1940, he also attended to dispensing the monthly allocations. Even if this be the logical arrangement under prevailing circumstances here, aside of doing these tasks, it is the indefatigable dedication of the Consul General to the welfare of the Swiss Colony which renders his services so outstanding. It was *faute de mieux* that the Society elected Mr. Rohrbach as Honorary President in 1955.

As this last chapter is being written, our Centennial Year still is in progress. What it will bring is as yet in the realm of undisclosed destiny, and the Society's history for 1960 remains conjecture. But, whatever its fortunes and misfortunes, the President has his dedicated committees working to bring about a memorable celebration of the Centennial, now set for Saturday, September 17.

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