

John Veglio †

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**ALEXANDRE C. BAUME †**

As briefly reported in our last issue, Mr. Alexandre C. Baume, of 50 Woodway Crescent, Harrow, Middlesex, died on Saturday, 7th January, after a short illness, in his 79th year.

By his departure the London Swiss Colony has again suffered a grievous loss. Alexandre, as he was affectionately known by his large circle of friends, belonged to the "old guard", which, alas, is dwindling alarmingly. The writer — who had known him for over 40 years — loses a dear friend, with whom he was associated on many committees over a great number of years. He well remembers occasions when the departed "made things fly", because Alexandre was what one might call a "stormy petrel", but temporary excitement usually soon abated, and a handshake invariably put things right again. There was no malice in him.

Although the major part of his long life was spent in this country, he has always kept in close touch with the land of his birth, which he visited frequently and which he deeply loved.

Alexandre C. Baume was born in 1882 at Le Bois (Jura Bernois), and as a young man came to London in 1904, joining his uncle's firm, Messrs. Baume & Co., sole representatives of the famous Longines watch manufacturing works. In 1912 he became a partner in the firm, retiring in 1946 after 42 years of service.

For over half a century Alexandre Baume took an active part in the doings of the Colony, to which he rendered invaluable services, which will always be remembered with gratitude. In 1907 he joined the City Swiss Club, of which he was president in 1910. On his reaching fifty years of membership the Club made him an Honorary Member in 1957. He also held the office of Vice-President of the Swiss Benevolent Society, of which he had been a member for 43 years. He joined the "Société de Secours Mutuels" in 1910, and had also belonged to the "Loge Entente Cordiale" since 1911. The Nouvelle Société Helvétique and the Swiss Mercantile Society counted him as a member.

Alexandre Baume was married to a compatriot of ours from La Chaux-de-Fonds, who presented him with a daughter and two sons,

to whom we convey our sincere sympathy in their sad bereavement.

This long, fruitful and successful life has now come to its journey's end, and we who are left behind will always keep him in affectionate remembrance as a man of strong convictions and of a lovable disposition.

Farewell, dear friend Alexandre, you will be greatly missed. *ST.*

**JOHN VEGLIO †**

Giovanni (John) Veglio — Giovannin to all his many friends and acquaintances on account of his slender, diminutive stature — passed away peacefully at his home at 6 Knights Park, Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey, on Wednesday, 28th December 1960, aged 81 years, after a long illness.

Born at Cumiasca, frazione di Corzoneso, Valle di Blenio (C. Ticino), 18th May 1879, the deceased was brought to London at a very early age by his parents, his father owning a well-appointed restaurant in Euston Road, one of the busiest thoroughfares of Victorian London, with three railway termini. So, with his brothers — Franceschin (who survives him, aged 85, at Bellinzona) and the late Silvio — he grew up in the London catering trade which was then largely in the hands of Ticinesi and had reached the peak of its prosperity. Indeed, in the West End of London at that time one met almost at every step a "café suisse" owned by a Ticinese. From the small village of Corzoneso alone had come — besides the Veglios — the Bozzinis, the Nodirolis and the Sorgesas. The now world-famous Gattis and Monicos themselves hailed from Dongie, lying on the bottom of the same valley, about a mile downstream. After the first World War John Veglio went over to the licensed victualler trade, and for over 17 years was the popular "mine host" of The Yorkshire Grey at Langham Place, London W.1, now in the shadow of Broadcasting House. Just before the outbreak of the second world conflagration, he transferred to The Albany, at Twickenham. After a while at Richmond, failing health decided him to retire to his native Cumiasca in

1948. But boredom and the extreme rigours of the 1951 winter made him return to London to be near his children, now all happily settled. Once again bad health forced him to give up the Restaurant at Earls Court within the year and seek rest at Kingston-upon-Thames.

John Veglio had been for many years a member of the "Unione Ticinese" and at one time served on the Committee. Thus, one more link with the prosperous days of "Ticinese" emigration to London is broken. To his widow, his sons Martin (conjurer Howard de Courcy), Gino and John, and daughters Armida and Giuditta we send our heartfelt condolences.

J. E.

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

There was again a very good attendance at the Monthly Meeting of the Society, held at Swiss House on Wednesday, 11th January.

The President, Mr. O. Grob, had the sad duty of announcing the death of Mr. A. C. Baume, a contributing member for over 40 years, and of Mr. F. Wespi, who had joined the Society in 1928, having previously been a member of the Aarau section. The members rose to pay a last silent tribute to the departed friend.

Following the official business, Mr. E. Burgaezzi, of Swissair and a member of the Society, gave a very interesting talk on air transport in general and the specific rôle and organisation of Swissair.

In a short history of civil aviation which, in Switzerland, had its beginning in January 1919, the lecturer gave an account of the efforts of enterprising and courageous pioneers which led to the formation of private air transport companies. It was not until 1931 that these were merged into one undertaking for the whole of Switzerland, and the Swiss Air Transport Ltd., Swissair, was founded. At the end of that year, Swissair's staff totalled 64.

The growth of this undertaking to its present importance can best be gauged when it is realised that at the end of 1959 the company employed 6,187 people and provided a network length of 127,000 km., the total revenue being over 277 million Swiss francs in that year.

Mr. Burgaezzi gave interesting details of the development of aircraft, from the primitive machines used in the early stages to the present jet airliners which carry an ever increasing number of passengers and quantity of cargo all over the globe.

Following his address, he answered numerous questions put to him by the audience. These evinced the keen interest with which all present had followed the story of one of the world's renowned and leading airlines.

A cordial vote of thanks was accorded to the lecturer at the end of his talk.

In conclusion, we were privileged to view Swissair's latest film, "You'll never be the same". This colour sound film, which was shown on the Society's new Paillard-Bolex projector, portrayed a

voyage of two travellers by different means of transport across the American continent, after having previously crossed the Atlantic by one of Swissair's luxury airliners. It was a lighthearted story, and showed scenes of American life and customs, as well as glimpses of industrial and agricultural activities, all of which were on a grand scale and with ultra-modern devices. Traversing vast tracts of land we saw the diverse scenery encountered from the Atlantic to the Pacific coast, endless plains and even desert, and much that was beautiful to behold, particularly in the mountainous regions. Altogether a very interesting and entertaining film.

W.B.

WELFARE OFFICE FOR SWISS GIRLS IN GREAT BRITAIN

A Charity Concert in aid of the Welfare Office under the patronage of Madame M. Daeniker, wife of the Swiss Ambassador and Honorary President of the Welfare Office, will take place at the Swiss Hostel for Girls, 9, Belsize Grove, London, N.W.3, on Tuesday, 14th February 1961, at 8.15 p.m. sharp. Tickets 10/- each including light buffet supper (7.15 p.m.).

The concert is offered by Carola Grindea (piano), and Joan Spencer (violin).

SWISS BANK CORPORATION

The following members of the staff of the Swiss Bank Corporation retired at the end of last year.

Mr. R. S. Griffiths, a keen golfer and a first World War Cavalry Captain, retired after 36 years' service, mostly spent in various forms of bookkeeping.

Mr. R. (Bob) Tobin, Attorney, retired after having completed over 50 years' service. In his young — and even not-so-young — days Mr. Tobin was well known as a keen amateur sportsman, not only in such games as cricket and football but particularly in boxing. In fact, during a distinguished Great War career, when he rose from Private to Captain, was wounded four times and decorated, he found time to become the champion at his weight of the British Expeditionary Force.

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Promoted to attorney are Messrs. Dennis A. Boylett, John F. Carlen and Frank J. Deed, whom we wish to congratulate.

CITY SWISS CLUB

MEETING

followed by card playing

Tuesday, 7th February 1961 at 6.30 for 7 p.m.

at the

DORCHESTER HOTEL
PARK LANE, W.1

THE COMMITTEE