

William Moretti †

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WILLIAM MORETTI †

We deeply regret to announce the tragic death of Monsieur William Moretti, Counsellor of Legation, his wife, née de Blonay, and elder son, Claude, aged 19, which occurred in Switzerland on the 19th of this month in consequence of a motor accident between Geneva and Lausanne. A younger son, Jean, suffered serious injuries, and is at present confined to hospital.

The news of this terrible tragedy has cast a deep shadow over the Easter holidays to all those who have known this charming diplomat and his family.

William Moretti, who was in the middle sixties, started his diplomatic career as a young Attaché in Rome, he was later transferred to Belgrade, where he acted at one time as Chargé d'Affaires.

By profession a lawyer, Monsieur Moretti left the diplomatic service, when still a young man, and took up a legal practice. He soon became a much sought after advocate, and finished his judicial career with a judgeship in Geneva. He also sat at one time as legal adviser at the Saar Commission.

At the beginning of the second world war, the Federal Council appointed him First Secretary of Legation, and transferred him to London, where he became the right hand man of Monsieur W. Preiswerk, Head of the Special Division of the Swiss Legation.

Two years later, Monsieur Moretti was promoted to Counsellor of Legation, and after the departure of Monsieur Preiswerk in August of last year, he acted as Head of the Special Division.

It was my privilege to work for six years under him, and never before have I known a more considerate and more kindly chief, an opinion which is fully shared by all my former colleagues.

William Moretti was a hard and conscientious worker, and did not spare himself; our country owes him a deep debt of gratitude. He was held in the highest esteem by both colleagues and superiors as well as by the officials of the Foreign Office. His never failing courtesy under often trying circumstances became proverbial, and met at all times with a ready response from his collaborators. He was a devoted husband and an ardent family man; he took a great interest in the education of his two sons, who on several occasions stayed in this country together with Madame Moretti.

In spite of his exacting duties, the deceased found time to take an active part in the life of the London Swiss Colony; he attended many of the official gatherings, and was often seen at the City Swiss Club of which he was a *membre de passage*.

With an astonishing calmness he braved the often unpleasant periods of air attacks, and only escaped by a miracle, when his home in Regents Park was partly destroyed through bombing.

It is indeed a strange fate which has overtaken him; for six years he shared with us the dangers of air attacks without being hurt and now, on the occasion of a short holiday in our homeland, he and his dear ones have lost their lives under such tragic circumstances.

We shall keep William Moretti in good remembrance; he was a lovable man, a great patriot and sincere humanitarian, and we are glad that his native land which he loved so dearly will harbour his remains.

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MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS

HOUSEKEEPER wanted (aged about 35/45) by business bachelor out all day in very modern flat, St. Johns Wood. Own bathroom. Good plain cook essential. Comfortable position for capable applicant. All duties. No children. Box 54, SWISS OBSERVER, 23, Leonard Street, E.C.2.

COOK-HOUSEKEEPER. A capable willing Cook-housekeeper wanted in town in Kent. Two in family. Chauffeur gives valuable assistance in house. Comfortable quarters. Good wages. One young child would be accepted. References exchanged. Write S.L., Box 89, SWISS OBSERVER, 23, Leonard Street, E.C.2.

GORDON PRIVATE HOTEL, 27, Craven Street, W.C.2 (near Charing Cross Station). Quiet place, suitable for visitors on business.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, April 28th, 1946, at 4 p.m. — Swiss Catholics — Easter Service at St. Peter's, Palace Street, S.W.1, followed by Annual General Meeting, tea and concert at Westminster Cathedral Hall.

Monday, April 29th, 1946, at 1.45 p.m. — Lecture by Dr. Arnold Latt, Vice-President Pro Helvetia, on "Anglo-Swiss Cultural Relations." Sir Francis Meynell, R.D.I., in the chair. The whole Colony heartily invited. At the Royal Society of Arts, 6/8, John Adam Street, Adelphi, W.C.2.

Thursday, May 1st - 25th, 1946 — Swiss Book Exhibition — at Suffolk Galleries, Suffolk Street, Pall Mall, S.W.1.

Thursday, May 2nd, 1946 — International Ice Hockey Match — England v. Switzerland — at Wembley Stadium.

Friday, May 3rd, 10th, 17th, 14th and 31st, 1946 — Swiss Male Choir — Rehearsals at Swiss Club, 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

Wednesday, May 8th, 1946, at 6.30 — Swiss Mercantile Society — Monthly Meeting — followed by a lecture on Education by Miss Mary Butt, at Swiss House, 35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.

Saturday, May 11th, 1946, at 3 o'clock — International Football Match — England v. Switzerland — at the Chelsea Football Ground, Stamford Bridge.

Saturday, May 11th, 1946, from 8 — 11 p.m. — Rütli Ladies' Club — Dance — to celebrate the Swiss Football Team's visit to London, at 74, Charlotte Street, London, W.1.

Sunday, May 12th, 1946, at 6.30 for 7 p.m. — City Swiss Club — Dinner with Swiss Football Team and representatives of Swiss Book Exhibition, at Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1.

Sunday, May 19th, 1946, from 4 — 10 p.m. — Unione Ticinese — Thé Dansant — at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1.

Tuesday, May 21st, 1946, at 7 p.m. — Nouvelle Société Helvétique, London Group — Monthly Meeting at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, W.C.2. Lecture to be arranged.

Thursday, May 23rd, 1946, at 7 p.m. — Pianoforte Recital — Olga Carmine (Swiss) at Wigmore Hall, Wigmore Street, W. (see advertisement)