

News from the Colony

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NEWS FROM THE COLONY.



J. J. BOOS.

Late President of the Swiss Mercantile Society.

On the occasion of the Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Mercantile Society, which took place on the 13th of this month, Mr. J. J. Boos has relinquished his post as President of the Society.

Mr. Boos was born at Basle in 1887, where he received his schooling. After a two year's apprenticeship he joined the Electrical Works Alioth, Münchenstein, (later Brown Boveri & Co.), with which firm he remained for 7½ years.

In March 1910 he came to London, where he obtained a post as Manager's Secretary with the Schorch Electrical Co., in London. This position he occupied until 1914, when, at the outbreak of the first world war, he returned to Switzerland to serve his country in the army with the rank of Quarter-Master Sergeant.

On receiving his discharge he came back to this country in December 1914, to enter the Millns Electrical Company as a Partner and Secretary.

In 1920, he joined the Swiss Mercantile Society, and within a short time became one of its most active members. Mr. Boos held in succession, the following posts in the committee of the Society: Hon. Secretary of the Society, and Secretary of the House Committee, Vice-Chairman of the Council and Chairman of the House Committee. In 1939 he was elected President of the Society, in succession to Mr. A. Steinmann. In recognition for his services rendered, Mr. Boos was made a Honorary Member as far back as 1930. He was, at one time, together with Mr. A. C. Staehelin, the prime mover to effect the registration of the S.M.S. as a Limited Liability Company to comply with English Law regulations.

Apart from his many offices which he held in the Society, he has taken, for a great number of years, a keen interest in the work of the Swiss Colony in London.

Member of the City Swiss Club, since 1924, Member of Committee of the Council for the Study of Swiss Problems, Member Sub-Committee Swiss Relief Centre, Fête Suisse, 1st of August Committee, etc., etc.

Together with Colonel Bon, he was chiefly responsible to organise the Swiss Catholics in London, and to obtain for them their own Chaplain in the person of Father Lanfranchi.

Tragedy was not unknown to Mr. Boos, he had the misfortune to lose, after a first happy marriage, his wife who bore him two children, a son, who is a monk at the Benedictine Abbey of Quarr, I.o.W., and a daughter who unfortunately died two years ago. His present wife, we are glad to say, is an ideal partner and a great help to him in his many undertakings for the benefit of the Swiss Colony at large.

Although Mr. Boos has now retired from the leadership of the Swiss Mercantile Society, we understand that he has consented to remain a member of the Council, this will enable the Society to benefit further from his vast experiences.

We, on our part, wish to extend to him our grateful thanks for the services which he has rendered to the S.M.S. in particular and to the Swiss Colony in general. His task, especially during the war years, has been a heavy and difficult one, he has faithfully and conscientiously served not only the Swiss community, but also our country.

ACADEMY CINEMA

presents

Julien Duvivier's Masterly Child-Study**"POIL DE CAROTTE" (A., Ldn)**

with

Harry Baur and Robert Lynen.

"POIL DE CAROTTE" was adapted by Julien Duvivier from the book of the same name by Jules Renard, now universally considered one of the masterpieces of modern French literature. It is not too much to claim the same honour in cinema for this masterly film of Duvivier's. Made in 1932, it belongs to that rare category of films which are timeless — its appeal is as fresh and strong as on the day it was completed.

The problem of "POIL DE CAROTTE" is indeed one that has been brought before the public very vividly during the last year — an unhappy child, ill-treated by one of its parents while the other looks on without interfering. Under Duvivier's careful handling, Robert Lynen personifies on the screen the entire inner life of a lonely child — the anguish, hopes and fears and above all the sensitiveness to the knowledge of being unwanted. The father, whose careless indifference to the incidents in his own home is broken down just in time to prevent the final tragedy, is finely played by Harry Baur.

Robert Lynen is one of the few actors to take an active part in the Resistance Movement. Arrested by the Gestapo in February, 1943, in "Unoccupied France," he was sent to Germany and shot at Karlsruhe. Harry Baur too met his death at the hands of the Nazis. Denounced as a Jew — rumour has it by a fellow-actor — he is said to have been slowly and deliberately starved to death in a concentration camp cell.

"POIL DE CAROTTE," with, perhaps, "Un Carnet du Bal," ranks among the greatest of Duvivier's films. It will commence its run at the Academy Cinema on Saturday, February 15th.