

J. Eusebio

Autor(en): **[s.n.]**

Objektyp: **Article**

Zeitschrift: **The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK**

Band (Jahr): **- (1950)**

Heft 1138

PDF erstellt am: **13.09.2024**

Persistenter Link: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-691872>

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J. EUSEBIO.

In recent issues of the "Swiss Observer" I have had the pleasure of introducing two of my collaborators to our readers (J. Schad and W. Deutsch).

To-day, it is my privilege to thank yet another of my faithful colleagues, who has for many years given me his much appreciated help.

From time to time, articles, both in English and Italian have appeared in our paper, mostly news from our beloved canton of Ticino or concerning functions held by the Unione Ticinese in London, signed with the initials J.E.

J.E., is of course, J. Eusebio, who, although born in London, is a true and faithful Ticinesi, and many of our Italian speaking compatriots, as well as others, must have experienced feelings of nostalgia, when reading some of his excellently written essays and reports concerning his native canton, for J.E. yields an easy and colourful pen.

In Switzerland, the problem of minorities have, for some considerable time, seldom if ever caused any difficulties; in fact our Italian, French and Romansch speaking countrymen, who may be placed under the heading of "minorities", have become the "enfants gâtés". The canton of Ticino, this heaven blessed southern corner of our homeland, has always especially evoked a deep feeling of affection in our hearts.

Amongst the many great men, who have secured an honoured place in the history of our country, both in art, literature and politics, are an appreciable number of Ticinesi. Who, *f.i.* will ever forget the name of that great patriot and statesman Giuseppe Motta?

In the Swiss Colony of Great Britain our brethren from beyond the Gothard enjoy a great reputation, they are known for their sincere patriotism and their generosity, and if the relations between the other members of the Colony are cordial and closely knitted, it is in no small measure due to their spokesman and our collaborator J.E.

J. Eusebio, was born in London, the son of Mr. A. Eusebio, well-known in the London Colony as the one time proprietor of the popular Diviani Restaurant opposite the Old Bailey. He is at present the only member of his family still living abroad, his parents having returned to Switzerland some time ago.

Like many of his fellow Anglo-Swiss, he was taken to his parent's homeland already as a child for short holiday periods and eventually, owing to the onset of the first world war, our friend was left there in the care of relatives.

He confessed to the writer, that this period, which lasted nine years (six years in the canton of Ticino and three years in the historic canton of Schwyz) where he received his schooling, was one of the happiest of his life. Fortified with the best that Swiss education can offer, he returned to the family fold in London, having, by that time, exchanged English for a workable knowledge of our three national languages.

A nervous youth, in a by now almost strange country, he entered a foreign banking house in the City of London, to be put to work under the paternal care of a compatriot. It was incidentally the latter who stimulated his interest in the "Swiss Observer", of whom he was at that time a prolific contributor writing under the initials "J.Z."

From that time onwards, J.E. was greatly attracted to the goings-on in the London Colony. In 1933 he joined the Unione Ticinese, and five years later (1938) he was elected President of this Society. He vacated his office, which he held with much distinction, four years later, upon being called up. He served the country of his birth chiefly in the North of England and Germany, attaining commissioned rank. When demobilised, he was taken on the staff of a well-known colonial banking concern in the City of London.

Still in the realm of banking he was awarded, last year, the Gwyther Diploma Prize for Monetary Theory and Practice by the Institute of Bankers.

With the aim of keeping alive the interest of our people at home in the London Colony, he has been contributing, for the last two decades, reports to the Ticinese daily "Il Dovero" of Bellinzona, and occasionally to other Ticinese publications.

In all his journalistic work, he was ably assisted by his life companion a B.A. Cantab, who also, at times, ventured forth in our columns (R.E.) when she could be spared from the exacting attentions to three bouncing daughters and a husband.

* * *

So much devotion and unselfish services rendered to the Colony's official paper in particular and to the Colony in general, should not be passed by without, at least some acknowledgment and an expression of gratitude, and it is with great pleasure, that I extend to my colleague and friend, J. Eusebio, not only my personal thanks, but also those of our readers, for his always welcome collaboration. May I express the hope, that his efficient pen may remain, for many years to come in his capable hand.

ST.

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