

Ernest Gassmann †

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HENRI BINGGUELY-LEJEUNE †

*Il avait la bonté, la gaieté,
et l'Eternel lui a donné
la Lumière et la Délivrance.*

Relentless and pitiless death has recently taken a heavy toll amongst many well-known members of the Swiss Colony, who have, at one time or another through their efforts and work played a conspicuous role in the Swiss community. By their often untimely departure old and intimate ties of friendship have been cruelly broken, and happy memories dimmed.

With consternation, we heard the news that our old friend Henri Bingguely-Lejeune, after two serious operations at the clinic "La Providence" in Vevey, had passed away. We could hardly believe, that we should never again behold his smiling, happy face. He who was always so full of *joie de vivre*, active, possessor of a brilliant and constructive mind, and blessed with a *rayonnante* personality.

For the last few years, Henri, as we used to call him affectionately, lived together with his wife in semi-retirement, at the Villa Muceno at Corseaux, Vevey. It had always been his wish to return one day to his native country, and as he told the writer not so long ago, there, amongst the beauty of nature, his life companion, and a circle of good friends he felt happy and content. Alas this happiness was cut short all too soon, and if there is one consolation in the cruel fate that has befallen him, it is the one, that a kind Providence has ordained that he should close his eyes in that country which he loved with all his might.

Henri Bingguely-Lejeune was born on the 24th of May, 1895, at La Chaux-de-Fonds. He received his education in his home town and at the Institute Schmid at St. Gall, where he studied commerce, languages and engineering. After a two year's stay in Germany he arrived in England shortly before 1914. For many years he was the representative of Bulle Clocks in this country. In 1923, he married in London a young French lady, Mlle. Georgette Ginette Lejeune, who was already well known as a clever sculptress, this union proved to be an exceedingly happy one, and both soon made a large circle of friends.

The deceased soon after his arrival in this country took a keen interest in the doings of the Colony, he was for several years Hon. Secretary of the City Swiss Club, where both he and his wife enjoyed great popularity, he was also for many years a member of the Swiss Mercantile Society and the Helvetica Lodge.

To his dear wife and family go our deepest sympathy, and in these dark hours of stress and sorrow may they find consolation from the one redeeming hope, that some day, in a far better world they will meet again.

Beyond the last resting place, dear friend Henri, we send you our farewell, we shall not forget you, and in our memory you will live for ever in our hearts.

ST.

ERNEST GASSMANN †

We deeply regret to announce the passing away in a London hospital, on Monday, May 14th, of Mr. Ernest Gassmann, of 37, Granville Place, High Road, Finchley, N.12.

By his untimely death the Colony loses yet another member, who can rightly be counted as having belonged to the "old guard", and the writer mourns the loss of a friend of over 50 years standing.

We met in our home town Berne when we were both schoolboys, and from this time onwards developed a friendship which has lasted well over 50 years. Together we spent four years in Paris, and afterwards more than 40 years in London. Many a holiday either in France or Belgium was spent in his, and his late wife's company, because Ernest Gassmann was a cheerful and amusing, if even a little eccentric companion, and in this sad parting hour these care-free times are recalled with sadness.

With a heavy heart the writer parted from him when he saw him for the last time, three days before his death, aware that those friendly eyes would be closed ere long, and that the hands that gripped so firmly would loose their touch.

* * *

Ernest Gassmann was born in Berne on January 1st, 1888, the son of Colonel Gassmann, in this town he received his education, and after a stay at the Commercial School, Neuchâtel, entered in 1903 into the service of the "General Direktion" of the Swiss Federal Railways in Berne. Three years later (1906) he was sent to the Paris Agency where he remained for four years. On the 1st of January, 1910, he was transferred to the London Office of the Swiss Federal Railways, and in 1919 was promoted to the post of chief clerk. In 1947, he was pensioned off after having been in the service of the Swiss Federal Railways for nearly 47 years.

He lost his English born wife in November, 1946, and for the last eight years he occupied a part time position with the Oerlikon, Ltd., London.

In his younger days the deceased was an active member of the Swiss Mercantile Society, where he held the post of Hon. Treasurer. He was also a member of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique, and until his death a member of the City Swiss Club, which he entered in 1917.

The cremation took place on Friday, May 18th, at the Mortlake Cemetery in the presence of many friends.

All those who have known Ernest Gassmann, will keep him in affectionate remembrance.

REST IN PEACE, DEAR FRIEND.

ST.