

News from the colony

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NEWS FROM THE COLONY

AN APPRECIATION AND FAREWELL TO THE SWISS AMBASSADOR AND MADAME DAENIKER

Hail and Farewell!



To bid farewell to a friend, or to take leave of someone who has endeared himself to a community, is always a sad affair, and yet it has also its brighter features. Does not the fact that a parting leaves behind sincere regrets denote that one has been genuinely fond of a person, and consequently make the separation more bearable for the one who is leaving?

Dr. Armin Daeniker has a brilliant and varied career behind him. Born in 1898 in Zurich, he studied *juris prudentia* at the Universities of Zurich, Geneva, Berne, Berlin and London, obtaining his degree of Doctor of Laws from the University of his native town.

In 1925 he entered the service of the Federal Political Department (Swiss Foreign Office), and successively occupied posts in Riga, Berlin, Shanghai, Teheran, Tokio, Berne and Stockholm. Promoted in 1933 to the rank of Second Secretary of Legation, he was sent to Tokio, where a year later he advanced to the grade of First Secretary, and in this capacity he was in charge of the Legation.

Two years later (1936) Monsieur Daeniker was appointed *Chargé d'Affaires* in Teheran, and whilst there he was promoted to the rank of Counsellor of Legation in 1939. Returning to Berne in 1945, he was in charge of the section for Administrative Affairs at the Federal Political Department from 1945 to 1948.

In February 1948 the Federal Council appointed him to be the first Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary to India, being at the same time accredited to Thailand.

At the beginning of 1952 Monsieur Daeniker was transferred to Sweden in the same capacity. From 31st August 1953 to 30th March 1954, although still accredited to Sweden, he was Head of the Swiss Delegation of the

Neutral International Commission for the exchange of prisoners of war in Korea.

Early in 1955 the Federal Council appointed him Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary to the Court of St. James's, and he presented his credentials to H.M. the Queen on February 9th, 1955.

When the Confederation changed the status of some of the Legations to that of Embassy, Monsieur Daeniker, in May 1957, presented his Letters of Credence as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from the Swiss Confederation to the Court of St. James's to H.M. the Queen. At the end of 1960 the Ambassador paid an extended visit to Swiss Legations and Consulates in Africa.

The Swiss Colony officially took leave of its titular head on the occasion of the Banquet and Ball of the City Swiss Club and the Swiss Economic Council on the 15th of this month at the Dorchester Hotel.

If anything can make it easier for us to bear this separation, it is the thought that our Ambassador's retirement is not due to ill health, but to the statutory age limit imposed on the personnel employed by the Confederation. He is still hale and hearty and, except for a few grey hairs, does not look a day older than he did when, nine years ago, he assumed the responsible post of representing the Swiss Confederation at the Court of St. James's.

Today, on the eve of Monsieur Daeniker's retirement, we wish to pay him a sincere tribute of appreciation and expression of gratitude for all he has done for Switzerland, and for his countrymen in this hospitable land during the last nine years. We must leave it for a more competent pen to write about his work as a diplomat; what we are concerned with is the relationship between an Ambassador and his staff *vis-à-vis* the Colony. There have been times in bygone years when the (then) Legation were somewhat reticent and distant. In recent years, however, a closer relationship has been established thanks to the laudable endeavours of the various heads of the diplomatic mission in London.

During the last decade the world has been in a constant turmoil, and the strain upon diplomatists must have been considerable and often nerve racking.

With infinite patience and great dignity our Ambassador has made, on many occasions, our country's neutrality understood and respected, and has raised the prestige of our homeland. Yet, with all these responsibilities he has always found time to take the keenest interest in all the manifold activities of our Colony.

He has lived with us, dined with us, inspired and participated in all our patriotic endeavours. He has been a benevolent patron to many Swiss artistes. His and Madame Daeniker's hospitality at Bryanston Square in entertaining innumerable important personalities in all walks of life has become famous, and the many parties given to members of the Colony and visitors from Switzerland were much appreciated.

We thank him for having met us in a spirit of homeliness and simplicity. We thank him for having come to our meetings, attending our functions and enjoying with us our festivals and social gatherings, and for the help he has given us in solving many of our problems, and in encouraging our religious and philanthropic institutions. In every way our Ambassador has performed his high mission faithfully, zealously and well.

To be an Ambassador's wife is no sinecure; to her falls the duty of supervising and organising the social life of the Embassy. Madame Daeniker has performed this duty in an exemplary manner. She has done more than that; she has from the time she arrived in this country taken a lively interest in the work of the Colony. She has been, for instance, President of the Company of the Swiss Hostel for Girls, and Chairman of its Management Council, Hon. President of the Welfare Office, a member of the Presidents' Assembly and of the "Frauerverein".

In all these offices her legal training was, no doubt, most helpful. Madame Daeniker, who was born in Berne, studied Law at the University of that town, from which she obtained her degree of Doctor of Laws; she was, in fact, the first woman in Switzerland to qualify as both an advocate and a notary.

The year 1959 must have been for her undoubtedly one of the busiest ones. Apart from her usual routine work, she had to entertain a large number of visitors from Switzerland, overseas and from this country during the "Swiss Fortnight", no easy task indeed. In addition, she organised the major part of the work in connection with the collection undertaken for the British Pestalozzi Children's Village at Battle (Sussex), which was such a splendid success, several thousands of pounds having been subscribed.

Madame Daeniker has been an indefatigable worker, and the Colony owes her a deep debt of gratitude. She, too, will be greatly missed.

In a very few days our Ambassador and Madame Daeniker will leave these shores where they have made so many friends, and where they leave behind a still larger circle of friends. They leave a land where, to judge from their own admission, they have spent many happy years, and if the parting be sad for them, the sadness will be shared by all their compatriots in this realm.

You, Monsieur l'Ambassadeur and Madame Daeniker, have been loyal to us; we on our part have reciprocated in the same spirit. Without loyalty there can be no lasting friendship, and it is for this reason that we part the best of friends.

We wish you both every happiness in your retirement, and should you have, at one time or another, an irresistible desire to come and visit us, you will find a warm welcome from the Colony you have served so well and loved so much.

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DINER D'ESCALADE

Tous ceux de Genève et amis et amies établis ou de passage sont les bienvenus au Dîner d'Escalade qui aura lieu au Glendower Hotel, Glendower Place, S.W.7, jeudi, le 12 décembre. Réception à 6h.30 et Dîner à 7h.15. Inscriptions (sh. 25/- boissons non comprises) auprès de M. A. Bleiker, 6 Hanworth Road, Feltham, Middlesex, ou Mr. Schmid, Glendower Hotel, S.W.7.

PERSONAL

It is with great regret that we announce the death of Mrs. Lucie Buhler. She was 73 and died on 8th November at the Royal Hospital for Incurables at Westhill, Putney. Mrs. Buhler came to this country before the first war. For many years she ran a Café in Charlotte Street and afterwards in Old Compton Street. She sold foreign newspapers, too, and was well known to many Swiss. She was a member of the "Schweizerbund". We express our sympathy to her family.

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It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Mr. G. E. S. Brenni of 3 Mount Pleasant, Kings Heath, Birmingham 14. He died on 9th September at the age of 52, while on holiday with his wife in his native Ticino. He was a specialised consultant to the Terrazzo and Cement Tile Trade, also a skilled engineer. In addition, for nearly eight years, he has been supplying the Midlands with "Fresh Ravioli". His father was a pioneer of Pressed Cement Tiles in Great Britain, having patented them in 1908.

We extend our sincere sympathy to Mrs. Olga Brenni and her son Dante who are going to carry on the business.

THE CRISIS IN CONTEMPORARY MUSIC

The British Institute of Recorded Sound is organising a series of lectures at the Royal Institution of Great Britain, 21 Albemarle Street, W.1.

The two Mayer Lectures 1963 on "The Crisis in Contemporary Music" will be given by our distinguished compatriot Monsieur Ernest Ansermet. He will talk on "Problems of Music" on 9th December (Chairman: Sir Arthur Bliss, Master of the Queen's Musick) and on "The Stravinsky Case" on 11th December (Chairman: Sir William Montagu-Pollock, K.C.M.G.).

Tickets at 10/- and 5/- per lecture *must* be obtained in advance from the British Institute of Recorded Sound, 38 Russell Square, W.C.1.

A REMINDER

May we remind readers of the three exhibitions mentioned in previous issues:

Tryon Gallery Ltd., 41-42 Dover Street, W.1 — PICTURES BY BIRD ARTISTS OF THE WORLD, amongst them the Swiss artist Robert Hainard (to 20th November);

Alpine Club Gallery, 74 South Audley Street — MOUNTAINEERING to mark the Centenary of the Swiss Alpine Club, arranged by the Association of British Members (from 25th November, when it will be opened by the Swiss Ambassador, to 30th November);

British Museum, North Entrance — ALPINE PRINTS from the Lloyd Collection (to 30th November).

CITY SWISS CLUB

The Press Reporter of the City Swiss Club would like to draw the attention of members and friends to the Club's Christmas Dinner at the Dorchester Hotel (Orchid Room) on Wednesday, 11th December.