

Swiss Catholics in London

Objektyp: **Group**

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

Band (Jahr): - **(1963)**

Heft 1423

PDF erstellt am: **12.07.2024**

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PERSONAL

We announce with deep regret the death of Mr. George Othmar Huber, of 90 Bedford Hill, Balham, S.W.12. He was born at St. Imier in 1888 and came to this country in 1910. He was a master confectioner and retired from business three years ago. He leaves a widow, two daughters and a son, to whom we extend our sincere sympathy.

We also have to inform you with deep regret of the sudden death of Mr. Alfred Renou on New Year's Eve. An obituary will appear in our next issue.

NEWS FROM THE SWISS BANK

The Swiss Bank Corporation announce that at the end of 1962 Mr. H. Droz, a member of the General Management, retired after over forty years' service with the Bank. The Board of Directors has newly appointed Mr. H. Strasser (previously Manager of the Berne Office) to be a General Manager with effect from 1st January 1963.

Retiring from the London Office are Mr. D. E. Bonnet, Mr. R. W. Callan and Mr. W. S. Firth. Prior to joining the Bank on 1st January 1921, Mr. Bonnet had been associated with the traditional watch industry in Bienne. Popular in the Bank, he served for exactly 42 years in the General Correspondence Department. Aside from his professional activities, however, Mr. Bonnet is well known in the Swiss Colony, particularly through his connection with the Swiss Benevolent Society, for which he has acted as Hon. Assistant Treasurer continuously since 1947, and through his association with the Nouvelle Société Helvétique, for which, for many years, he has acted as auditor. Since the early post-war years he has sung as first bass in the Swiss Male Choir, and he is also a member of the Swiss Sports Committee. It is hoped that the Swiss Colony will not lose his services on the occasion of his retirement.

Mr. R. W. Callan, an Attorney of the Bank, had nearly completed 44 years' service, all of which was spent in the Commercial Credit Department. Few people, even in the City, can have attained such a wealth of experience in this sphere in which he had become an acknowledged expert. Prior to joining the Bank in 1919, Mr. Callan had served as a pilot in the Royal Flying Corps and, subsequently, in the newly born Royal Air Force.

Mr. W. S. Firth, who joined the Bank in November 1922, saw experience in bookkeeping and Foreign Exchange before being entrusted with the technicalities of the virtual evacuation of the Bank to its war-time country home at Byfleet, Surrey. Subsequently, he took charge of the Bank's archives at Gayhurst, Northamptonshire.

Newly promoted to the rank of Attorney are: Mr. E. J. Frey, Mr. H. Jauslin and Mr. L. W. D. Powles.

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We wish the members leaving the Bank a happy retirement and send congratulations to those promoted to higher offices.

CONGRATULATIONS

The marriage took place on 5th December last at St. Joseph's Church, Edgecliff, New South Wales, between Monsieur Jakob J. Huber, Swiss Consul-General in Sydney, and Miss Beatrice Noreen Fuller. We extend hearty congratulations to the couple. Consul Huber was well known in the Swiss Colony in Great Britain, in which he was very active.

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The "Swiss Observer" of 12th January 1962 carried birthday greetings to Miss Klara Winter, who celebrated her hundredth birthday on 31st December 1961. On 1st January this year the "Guardian" published the following notice:

Recipe for long life

Miss Klara Winter, 101-years-old, said that the secret of a long and healthy life was a good appetite and lots of sleep: Miss Winter, who is now looked after by the nuns of St. Elizabeth's Convent, Belper, Derbyshire, says she has never had a day's illness.

We extend our heartiest congratulations to our compatriot.

COMMITTEE OF SWISS CATHOLICS IN LONDON

The drawing of the prizes for our Christmas Draw 1962 took place on 14th December 1962. The list of all prize-winners has been distributed to the various selling centres, and all prize-winners have been individually informed of the result of the Draw.

Thanks to the generosity and support of all our friends, we are very pleased to state that the sale of tickets and donations produced an income of just over £300.

Our very active and flourishing Youth Club held on Monday, 24th December 1962, their Christmas Eve Celebration at 48 Great Peter Street, S.W.1, School Hall. The reading of the Holy Gospel of Christ's Birth, a beautifully decorated Christmas tree with burning candles, little gift bags, an excellent cold supper, and the singing, in our three National languages, of our beloved Christmas songs, created amongst the 120 young compatriots present a really wonderful Swiss "Weihnachtsstimmung".

Our Christmas and New Year Service (Holy Mass and Sermon in English, German, French and Italian) was held at St. Ann's Church, Abbey Orchard Street, S.W.1, on Sunday, 30th December 1962, at 4 p.m., by our Chaplain, Rev. Father Joseph Scherrer.

In spite of the bad travelling conditions caused by snow and ice, this service was well attended. It was followed by the traditional Christmas and New Year tea party for children at the Great Peter Street — School Hall. Little Susanne, Janette and Odette Gaufrond greatly surprised Father Christmas by greeting him with some lovely "Schwyzerdütsch" songs and recitations. Each child received from him a very nice present and a gift bag containing Swiss Christmas cakes and chocolates. Again the lovely Christmas tree with lighted candles and the singing of our traditional Christmas songs gave great pleasure to young and old, and was fully appreciated by all present.

This lovely children's party was followed by a Social Evening of our Youth Club.

O. GROB
(Chairman)