

Maurice Golay †

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MAURICE GOLAY †.

Photo taken in 1931.

Mr. Maurice Golay, Managing Director of the Swiss Bank Corporation in Basle, whose death has already been announced in the Press, had a very close association with London and will be mourned on this side of the Channel by a wide circle of friends not only in the Swiss Colony, of which he was for years a prominent member, but in the City of London.

Maurice Golay was born in Switzerland in 1891 and spent the early years of his banking service in the London Office of the Corporation, where he acquired a personal knowledge of English life which undoubtedly influenced his subsequent career, and where he has retained the esteem he gained during the years that he figured in the City. In subsequent years, he often remarked, when returning to London, on the invigorating effect of again "treading the pavements of the City."

After a period of successful service with the bank's Geneva Office in which he reached the rank of Manager in 1920 at the very early age of 29, he came to London in the same capacity in 1927. During the five years which followed — a period which included the strenuous days in the City when the question of departure from the gold standard was in the balance — Mr. Golay, as a representative of one of the leading international banking concerns, often came into a position of prominence in the

financial world and acquired the friendship and respect of wide circles both in and out of the City.

During this period of his residence in London, Golay played an active part in the social life of the Swiss Colony, including a term as President of the City Swiss Club and of the Swiss Benevolent Society, and an interest in other Swiss Societies which remained with him after he returned to his native country.

In 1932, he was recalled to Switzerland as a General Manager of the bank in Basle and there he formed a second home, although his personal instincts always led him in his free moments to his delightful villa in Nyon on the Lake of Geneva. During the period of his office in Basle, Mr. Golay gained a position of outstanding influence in Swiss business circles and further played an important part in Swiss relations with the Anglo-Saxon countries and with France. In 1942 he became a member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation and was at the same time appointed President of the Board of General Managers, while in February, 1944, he was appointed Managing Director. His activities in the service of the Swiss Bank Corporation moreover brought him to the fore as one of the leading personalities of Swiss business life and he was called upon to accept a position of high responsibility in many industrial and other enterprises. Thus, he was Chairman of the Lonza Electricity Works, and of the Société Générale pour l'Industrie in Geneva, while he also served actively on the Board of the S.A. d'Energie Electrique de l'Ouest Suisse in Lausanne and ranked among the important figures in the Hydro-electric industry. He was a member of the Board of the Swiss Bankers' Association and active as their representative on many official delegations. He was also a member of the governing body of the Swiss Government Old Age Assurance Scheme. In France, he served on the Board of the Société Commerciale de l'Ouest Africain and of the Union Européenne Industrielle et Financière in Paris.

He will be remembered as a most enlightened personality who enjoyed the devotion and respect of his staff and associates and as a friend who, even in times of the greatest business strain, was never forgetful of the personal well-being of all those who worked with him in whatever capacity.

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