

News from the colony

Objekttyp: **Group**

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

Band (Jahr): - **(1961)**

Heft 1397

PDF erstellt am: **29.04.2024**

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NEWS FROM THE COLONY

TO WALTER MEIER (†11th October 1961)

How sad, how hard it is to bid farewell
To one we love and whom God has called hence,
But we must trust in His wise providence,
Which orders what no mortal can foretell.

Let us with gratitude recall how well
You played your part and with what diligence
Sought for accomplishment in ev'ry sense,
Trying in all things humbly to excel.

First came your work, your home, your family
And next your duty to the Colony,
For which you laboured in so many ways.

Faithful for ever to your land of birth,
Your ashes now rest in her homely earth
Whilst in a nearby tree birds sing your praise.
London, 31st October 1961. "GALLUS."

MEMORIAL SERVICE TO WALTER MEIER At the Eglise Suisse, 79 Endell Street, London, W.C.2 on 31st October 1961

This day in late autumn, with a mild breeze and a pale sun trying to break through, found a large congregation wending its way towards the Eglise Suisse. They came from near and far, to pay tribute and their last respects to a son from our mother-country, who had made his home in London since 1928 and became one of the leading figures in the Colony: Walter Meier, who passed on to Higher Service on 11th October at the untimely age of 53 years.

The widow, son and the three daughters braved the ordeal of shaking hands in the Foyer with their countless friends as they arrived. The Church was full to capacity with men and women from every walk of life, young and old, representing every section of the Colony. Among the chief mourners, besides the family, was Dr. E. M. Bircher, Counsellor of Embassy, representing H.E. the Swiss Ambassador (who, with Madame Daeniker, was unable to be present owing to the Opening of Parliament), and members of the City firm's Board, on which our departed friend had himself been a Director.

The Communion table was beautifully decorated with bronze chrysanthemums, which gave a seasonable splash of colour. It was 11.30 when the strains of the organ opened the solemn service, during which Pastor P. K. Wipf of the Schweizerkirche ascended the pulpit and after some uplifting opening words led the congregation in prayer. He was followed by Dr. Bircher, who fully reviewed our departed friend's busy life and unceasing activity in so many fields, on the lines of Mr. Stauffer's beautiful obituary, which appeared in the last issue of this paper. It stressed the great merits of our late friend as husband and father, his versatility and integrity in business and his outstanding services to the Colony.

After another organ passage the Rev. H. Spoerri (late Pastor of the Schweizerkirche), who had specially come from Switzerland, ascended the pulpit to deliver a most impressive sermon on the text: — 'Be faithful unto death and I will give you the crown of life' (The Revelation of John Chapter II, Verse 10.) The preacher emphasised

how this text, in its deepest meaning, applied to our dear departed friend, and no one who was present will forget the beautiful manner in which he honoured him who went before us, and the words of consolation he offered to the bereaved family. The message was that earthly death is not the end, but a glorious beginning of eternal life in Christ.

There followed a most wonderful rendering of Haendel's 'I know that my Redeemer liveth', with organ accompaniment, which must have deeply touched every heart.

The Lord's Prayer and the Blessing, spoken by the Rev. H. Spoerri, brought this moving and solemn service to a close, and we who attended it will for ever remember the lovable personality and the great, unselfish services of Walter Meier, whose ideals and deeds will live on.

W. D.

MR. J. J. BOOS HONOURED

A signal honour has been bestowed upon our compatriot, Mr. J. J. Boos, of 16 Eaton Gardens, Hove, by the award of the Papal Order of "Knight of the Order of St. Gregory the Great" (K.S.G.) in recognition of his services to the Catholic Church — for the work he has done for Swiss Catholics and other organisations in this country.

Mr. Boos was the prime mover in the establishment in 1941 of the Swiss Catholic Committee in London, being Hon. Secretary for many years, and, for six years until his semi-retirement in 1960, Chairman, which office he held with great distinction.

Mr. Boos is also a member of the Board of the Catholic Association, which he joined in 1931, and has always taken a keen interest in the work of this Association.

In 1947, in view of his outstanding services to the College maintained by the London Section of the Swiss Mercantile Society, and also for his service to this Society, he achieved the very rare honour of being elected an Honorary Member of the Central Society of the Swiss Mercantile Society in Zurich.

His only son, Pater Thomas Boos, O.S.B., is Assistant Procurator and Master of Ceremonies at Quarr Abbey, Ryde, Isle of Wight — the Benedictine Monastery.

THE ANGLO-SWISS SOCIETY

The Swiss Ambassador and Mme Daeniker gave a cocktail party for the Anglo-Swiss Society on 19th October at 21 Bryanston Square. The guests included Sir Clifford Norton, President of the Society, and Lady Norton, Viscount and Viscountess Bledisloe, Lord and Lady Brabazon of Tara, the Rt. Hon. and Mrs. Ernest Marples, and other members of the Anglo-Swiss Parliamentary Association.

OUR NEXT ISSUE

Our next issue will be published on Friday, 24th November 1961. We take this opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their kind and helpful donations over and above their subscriptions: E. J. Frehner, A. Bleiker, Mrs. H. A. Clarke, H. Monney, Swiss Club Manchester, W. W. Landauer, George Huber, A. Steiner, and A. Strittmatter.