

A dinner in honour of Mr. J. J. Boos

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AT THE DORCHESTER HOTEL

A DINNER IN HONOUR OF MR. J. J. BOOS

About fifty members of the Swiss Catholics in London, and personal friends of Mr. J. J. Boos, assembled at the Dorchester Hotel to witness the handing over, on behalf of His Holiness the Pope, of the Brief of Appointment, and the presentation of the Insignia as a Knight of the Order of St. Gregory the Great, by the Rt. Reverend George L. Craven, M.C., V.G., Bishop of Sebastapolis.

On this solemn occasion the recipient of this high honour was also warmly thanked for his untiring and distinguished work on behalf of the Swiss Colony in London.

The Chairman of the Committee of Swiss Catholics in London, Mr. O. Grob, in his opening address, extended a hearty welcome to the Lord Bishop, voicing his regret that the Swiss Ambassador and Madame Daeniker were unable to attend owing to a previous engagement. He mentioned that His Excellency and Madame Daeniker were represented by Monsieur Marcel Heimo, Economic Counsellor at the Embassy, and Madame Heimo. Mr. Grob particularly welcomed the son of Mr. Boos, the Rev. Pater Thomas Boos of the Order of Saint Benedict, Assistant Procurator and Master of Ceremonies at Quarr Abbey, I.O.W., and the Rev. Father J. Scherrer, chaplain of the Swiss Catholics in this country, also introducing the Rev. Father J. Stocker, the new part-time Assistant Priest, and the Rev. Father A. Gasche, of Hove.

The Chairman introduced Mr. A. Stauffer, former editor of the "Swiss Observer" and a former President of the Swiss Mercantile Society, and Mrs. Stauffer, who attended the dinner as personal friends of Mr. Boos, thanking the former for the Services he had rendered by publishing the reports of the Swiss Catholics over a number of years, and wishing him a happy retirement. He greeted Mr. Boos's Brother Knights of the Order of St. Gregory the Great, Messrs. George Conrad, Dennis Houdret, Paul Kelly and Robert Richards.

"I am delighted", he said, "to welcome Mr. Robert Schweizer, and I congratulate him most sincerely on his recent appointment, by His Holiness the Pope, as a Knight Commander of the Order of San Sylvester."

Mr. Grob also voiced his pleasure at seeing amongst the company members and representatives of many Catholic and Swiss organisations and institutions, and his wife, Mrs. Grob, of the Catholic Women's League, first President of the Province of Westminster, Mr. H. Knoll, Manager of the Swiss Bank Corporation, Hon. Member and Trustee of the Swiss Mercantile Society, and a former President of the City Swiss Club, Mr. F. G. Sommer, President of the Swiss Benevolent Society, Hon. Member and Trustee of the Swiss Mercantile Society, and Vice-President

of the Swiss Protestant Churches, Mr. R. Chappuis, President of the Swiss Mercantile Society, Mr. A. Jaccard, Vice-President of the Swiss Mercantile Society, Mr. L. W. Krucker, Vice-President, Hon. Member and Trustee of the Swiss Mercantile Society, the personal friends and business associates of Mr. Boos, Messrs. C. M. Millnes, A. P. Kirkdale, J. L. Newman and Mrs. Nina Pfaendler. In conclusion the Chairman extended thanks to his colleagues on the committee, and to Mr. E. Bonvin, Vice-President, accompanied by Mrs. Bonvin, Vice-President of the Ladies committee.

The Chairman then called upon the Lord Bishop to present Mr. Boos with the Brief of Appointment and Insignia. The Lord Bishop thanked Mr. Boos, for his manifold services to the Catholic Church, and, on behalf of His Holiness the Pope, pinned the Insignia on the recipient's lapel, amidst the applause of all those present.

Mr. G. Conrad, a Knight of the Holy Sepulchre, then gave a historical and very interesting survey of the Order of St. Gregory the Great. Monsieur Heimo brought the greetings and congratulations of the Swiss Ambassador and Madame Daeniker. The next speaker was Mr. F. G. Sommer, who referred in complimentary terms to the many services of Mr. Boos, not only to the Swiss Catholics, but also as a staunch supporter of many Swiss institutions in London, wishing him God-speed and many more years of happiness and success. He was followed by Mr. A. Stauffer, who recalled his long and happy association with Jacques Boos, in the work of the Colony, especially as President of the Swiss Mercantile Society, and his rendering of innumerable services to many good causes. Mrs. C. Grob, the wife of the Chairman, spoke very charmingly about the days of her first meeting with Mr. Boos, and his distinguished work for the Swiss Catholics.

Then came the turn of Mr. Boos, who on rising received a great ovation. Visibly touched, he first of all thanked the Lord Bishop for his kindly words, and the presentation, which he said he valued greatly. He thanked the various speakers for the testimonies of appreciation and friendship. He then gave a *compte rendu* of his early life, his long business career, and his work for the Swiss Catholics and the Swiss Societies and Institutions since his arrival in this country in 1910. He paid a very warm and well deserved tribute to the present chaplain, Rev. Father J. Scherrer, who, he said, carried on his duties with exemplary devotion, often in the most trying circumstances. Mr. Boos also recalled the many good services rendered by the former chaplain, Rev. Father A. Lanfranchi, and the great help he had always received from the then Swiss Minister, Monsieur Henry de Torrenté, and the late Colonel Anton Bon.

The speaker was much applauded on resuming his seat. It was a great day for our friend, an occasion which he will undoubtedly treasure for many days to come. He fully deserves the great honour bestowed on him, and the many generous tributes paid to him, and we wish him with all our hearts a happy and care-free eventide.

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