

# Josef Anton Donat †

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# NEWS FROM THE COLONY

## HENRY PFIRTER †

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Mr. Henry Pfirter at the age of 86.

Mr. Pfirter was born in Basle on 20th June 1877. He was educated there and also served his commercial apprenticeship. After spending several years in France, he came to London in 1903. He joined a firm of stockbrokers, Messrs. Henry Carlebach & Co., in which he rose to a position of trust and responsibility thanks to his efficiency and hard work. He retired in 1946, but continued to serve the firm in an advisory capacity for several years.

Mr. Pfirter knew tragedy in his life, too. He was married and had three daughters, but a cruel fate deprived the family of their youngest daughter, a lovely girl, who died bathing in the Lake of Geneva whilst attending a finishing school near Lausanne. A few years ago, his retirement was overshadowed by the loss of his wife, an English lady of gentle charm. Her untimely death was a great blow to him.

He was a contributing member of the Swiss Mercantile Society and an active member of the City Swiss Club. It was at the Annual Banquet and Ball in November 1932 that the Editor had the pleasure of meeting Mr. and Mrs. Pfirter and their family, as well as her future husband. Like many old friends she will remember Mr. Henry Pfirter's kindness and his unassuming nature. All who knew him send their deep sympathy to his two daughters and their families.

## JOSEF ANTON DONAT †

It is with deep regret that we announce the sudden death on 10th March of Mr. J. A. Donat of 61 Hayes Lane, Beckenham, Kent. Mr. Donat hailed from Wohlen (Aargau) where he went to the "Bezirksschule". He made his commercial apprenticeship with a firm of hatters, Messrs. M. Bruggisser & Co. After working in Florence, he came to London in 1907. In 1913, together with Mr. Leo Wildi also from Wohlen, he founded the firm of Donat and Wildi Ltd., whose aim it was to import semi-finished products for the hat trade. In the 'thirties the two friends and partners, founded the "W-Ribbons Ltd.". In the second war their factories were destroyed, and so was Mr. Donat's home. In 1940 his partner died. He carried the burden alone with the same courage and faith with which he had borne the loss of his wife in 1930. His son died eight years ago. He nearly lost his life in the big fire on Rigi-Kaltbad.

Mr. Donat was firmly attached to his native Wohlen which he knew extremely well. He joined the City Swiss Club in 1935. Now, at 76, he has gone on his last journey. His many friends here and in Switzerland grieve with his three daughters and their families, to whom they express their deep sympathy.

## AURELIO EUSEBIO †

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Mr. Aurelio Eusebio, one of our subscribers since the first issue of the "Swiss Observer". He passed away peacefully in his 89th year on retiring to bed in the evening of 2nd March.

Many of our readers will remember Mr. Eusebio as the genial proprietor of Diviani's Restaurant in Newgate Street in the City of London, where the "Coin Suisse" was the lunchtime meeting place of most Swiss who happened to be working in the famous square mile.

Mr. Eusebio first came to London in the year of Queen Victoria's Jubilee, and he worked in the restaurant owned by his cousin Guidotti in Bridge Street, Westminster, in the shadow of Big Ben. Later he became manager of Circus Restaurant where he met the proprietor's sister-in-law, Teresita Fedele, who became his life's companion.

During the first world war he was *maitre d'hôtel* at Frascati's in Oxford Street, after a spell at Pagani's. Soon after the end of hostilities in 1919, he bought Diviani's which he managed all through the period between the two wars. War damage and lack of staff moved him to part with Diviani's in 1945 and retire to his native village of Fontana near Airolo (Ticino).

He led a quiet life, occasionally lending a hand to relatives and friends during the busy season of the year. The relentless depopulating of his valley greatly saddened him.

We wish to express our deep sympathy to his wife and family, in particular to his son Mr. J. Eusebio of 66 Greenways, Hinchley Wood, Esher, Surrey, a member of the Advisory Council of the "Swiss Observer" and our faithful writer of the "Notiziario della Svizzera Italiana", Poncione di Vespero.

## PIANO RECITAL

### MISS RUTH HUGGENBERG

It was a great joy to attend Miss Ruth Huggenberg's concert at the Wigmore Hall on 14th March and, what is more, this joy must have been shared by many. I have never seen any of her concerts so well attended by well-known professionals and amateurs and the normal music lovers.

Miss Huggenberg's programme for the evening consisted of the Beethoven Sonata in E flat, Op. 27 No. 1, of Schumann's Fantasia in C major Op. 17, and of Brahms' Variations and Fugue on a Theme of Handel, Op. 24. These are all big works requiring, I feel sure, the same qualities of spirit and vigour needed by the Climber of High Mountains (which Miss Huggenberg also is).

What impressed me most were the Variations and Fugue by Brahms in their manifold aspects, and the joyful and elegant rendering of Debussy gave me equal pleasure.

Miss Huggenberg has been playing in Berne and Basle just recently where she was very much appreciated, and I hear that she is shortly off on a longer concert tour to Holland and the Scandinavian countries, for which we all wish her the same success.

X.Y.Z.