

Leo Werner Krucker †

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FRANK DE MARIA
New Ticinese President

We have a novelty in the Swiss Colony — a Headmaster President. The Unione Ticinese elected Mr. Frank de Maria as their new leader at their A.G.M. a few weeks ago, in succession to Mr. V. Berti whose services have been much appreciated.

Frank de Maria was born in 1928, son of the late Peter de Maria and his wife Irene, *née* Darani. He had his early schooling at St. Ignatius College, Stamford Hill and later at St. Edmund's College, in Ware, Herts. He was trained as a schoolmaster at St. Mary's College, Strawberry Hill, qualifying in 1953, when he was appointed to secondary school in Chelsea. In 1957, he was appointed Deputy Head of St. Charles R.C. Primary School, Kensington, and became Headmaster in 1963 (440 boys and girls from 5 to 11). He continued training by part-time study at London School of Economics from 1957 to 1962 and was awarded a Bachelor of Science Degree in Economics. From 1962 to 1964, he studied at London University Institute of Education and was awarded the Academic Diploma in Education in 1964. After a rest of a few years, he returned to the Institute and is now reading for a Master of Arts Degree in Education.

Frank de Maria joined the Unione Ticinese Committee in 1953. He became Secretary in 1956. He is also a member of the Swiss Catholics Committee. His main hobby apart from "work" is golf — playing to a handicap of 13 at Worthing Golf Club.

We wish him a successful term of office.



LEO WERNER KRUCKER †

In our last issue we announced that Mr. L. W. Krucker would be 73 on 11th April. It was not to be. On a trip to Eire where he had some farming property, he suffered a severe heart attack in the early hours of 30th March and died.

Leo Krucker was born in the Toggenburg village of Bütschwil where his father Arnold ran a successful saddler's and upholsterer's business. No doubt, this is where young Leo developed his first interest in leather and materials. Small wonder that he went in for an apprenticeship in this field. Coupled with his intelligence — he achieved three "very goods" in his diploma in St. Gall, a thing which happens only every fifty years or so — his skill enabled him to make a successful start in his trade. He went to France and returned to Switzerland at the outbreak of the first world war. Not for long, though, and the beginning of the new year already saw him in Germany, Freiburg first, then the School of Art in Berlin-Stralsund where he went in for window dressing. In 1916, he returned to Switzerland for military service. In between spells of army duties, he worked in Lugano for which he had a soft spot all his life. (He owned considerable property in the Ticino and the adjoining parts of Italy).

It was in 1919 that Leo Krucker came to England. He visited the "Ecole Internationale" in Herne Bay and moved to London the following year. He started his own business in 1924, and his firm, manufacturers of high class evening handbags became one of the most important in the trade. A Krucker bag, be it of delicate *petit point*, bright brocade, fine beads, of gold or silver kid or tapestry was a treat to behold and a pleasure to own. His beautiful Chinese embroidery bags were especially distinctive, perhaps all the more so since Mr. Krucker's ample knowledge of Chinese art showed itself in the expert use of design and material. Royalties in this country and abroad still use his bags; he was engaged in considerable export trade and supplied all big ocean-going liners on the seven seas. He himself was a great traveller, especially since his retirement a short time ago.

Leo Krucker was well-known in the Swiss Community, member of City Swiss Club, Nouvelle Société Helvétique, Schweizerbund, Rifle Association, Catholic Committee, and above all most actively engaged in the running of the Swiss Mercantile Society where he held many offices and rendered much valuable service for which not only the S.M.S. in London, but the Mother Society in Switzerland awarded him Honorary Membership.

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Mr. Krucker got married in Bellinzona in 1921, and his wife lived in this country for many years. Now she is resident in Switzerland on account of illness. It is to her and his brother, the only relatives, that we express our sincere sympathy. His friends will remember Leo as the genial and generous man he was to so many.

MM

OBITUARY

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of **Mr. Celeste Donati**, of 31 Newport Dwellings, Shaftesbury Avenue, W.1. He died on 29th March at the age of 79. He will long be remembered not only as a loyal member of the Unione Ticinese, but also as an outstanding athlete at the Swiss Sports, an excellent gymnast, walker and wrestler.

We extend our sincere sympathy to his family.

* * *

We have the sad duty to announce the death of **Mrs. Ida Cameron**, née Morosi, of 81 Roseberry Road, N.10, at the age of 58. She is a sister of the Unione Ticinese's Vice-President, Miss Silvia Morosi, and a member of the Society and the Corale.

Our deep sympathy goes to her family.

* * *

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of **Madame P. Clottu**, of Avenue de la Gare 22, Colombier, Neuchâtel. Her husband, the late Monsieur le Ministre Paul Clottu, was the first Labour Councillor at the Swiss Embassy in London, and the Clottus left many friends behind, who mourn their passing.

* * *

Another death we have to bring to the notice of our readers is that of **Mr. F. E. Hugo Rittmeyer**, of 27 Coniston Court, Holland Road, Hove, Sussex, who died at the age of 79 on 14th March. He came from a large family in St. Gall, connected with the embroidery industry, and was with the Anglo-Portuguese Bank in London. He was also a Past Master of the "Entente Cordiale".

We extend our sincere sympathy to his wife, Mrs. Helena Rittmeyer.

"SWISS OBSERVER" PUBLICATION DATES

The "Swiss Observer" is published every second and Fourth Friday of the month. Our next issue will appear on 25th April. We shall be glad to receive all articles and reports not later than Tuesday, 15th April. Short news items only can be accepted after that date.

Our next issue but one will be published on Friday, 9th May. All contributions should be to hand by Tuesday, 29th April.

U.S.S.R. HONOURS SWISS MATHEMATICIAN

The Praesidium of the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R. recently awarded the 1968 Lobachevski Prize to the Swiss mathematician Heinz Hopf for his work in the field of differential geometry and topology. This prize has been awarded every 3 years since 1947 for the best mathematical research work submitted by Soviet and foreign scientists. From 1959 to 1963 Professor Hopf, whose research has had a decisive influence on some of the essential principles of geometry, was President of the International Union of Mathematicians, which has its headquarters in Zurich.

[O.S.E.C.]

SWISS CHURCH

SERVICES EN FRANÇAIS : à l'Eglise Suisse, 79 Endell Street, W.C.2, tous les dimanches à 11h00 et 19h00.

SAINTE-CENE : le premier et troisième dimanche du mois, matin et soir.

PERMANENCE : chaque jeudi de 15h00 à 18h00.

REUNION DE QUARTIER : huit veillées en automne et au printemps; voir "Le Messenger".

CLUB DES JEUNES : tous les dimanches de 12h00 à 22h30, tous les jeudis de 15h00 à 22h30.

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SUNDAYS : Holy Mass at 9 and 11 a.m. in English. At 7 p.m. for the Swiss community with regard to the different language groups.

HOLIDAYS of obligation : Holy Mass at 7.30 and 9 a.m., 1 p.m. and 5.45 p.m.

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