

# Carlo Chapuis †

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# NEWS FROM THE COLONY

## THE N.H.S. IN JANUARY

The first of two successful film evenings organised by the London Group of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique was held on 13th January. By courtesy of the "Pro Helvetia" Foundation, a full-length film "Romeo und Julia auf dem Dorfe" was shown, based on the well-known story by the Swiss writer Gottfried Keller. It was a black and white film and not in the most excellent of conditions. Nevertheless, it was most enjoyable. The acting by well-established Swiss actors and actresses was typical and natural, and the *Schwyzerdütsch* was of the unadulterated and authentic kind. Sub-titles in French made it easier for those members and friends whose knowledge of dialect is not too good.

As usual, supper was served for members at the Hostel, and the film show afterwards filled the best part of the evening.

The second evening was devoted to the mountain, masterfully presented to us by Hr. Denis Bertholet, a mountain guide from Verbier. His first film made us journey with him on a fantastic 1,000 km trip from Innsbruck to Grenoble, the two Olympic cities. Mr. Bertholet and his three companions walked on their skis for a whole month and lived through some rather gruelling adventures. In a second film, we chipped our way up an absolutely vertical and vertiginous peak in the company of two specialists. The third film initiated us with mountain schools and their methods. Mr. Bertholet assured us that provided he was in good physical shape, a man could start to learn rock-climbing past the age of 65. A wonderful post-retirement suggestion!

## A NEW CULTURAL ATTACHE

We have the pleasure of welcoming a newcomer in the Colony in the person of Dr. Franz Birrer, who succeeds Dr. Paul Stauffer as Cultural Attaché to the Swiss Embassy. He is a citizen of Entlebuch (Lu) and was born there in 1932. He received his primary education at Entlebuch and attended college at Disentis, in the Grisons. He is a graduate in economic and social sciences, a doctor in law from the University of Fribourg and was called to the bar in Lucerne. He entered the Political Department in Berne in 1961, trained there and in Geneva for a year before being sent to Paris as a member of the permanent Swiss delegation to the OECD, where he stayed up to September 1966. He returned to Berne and was active in the Section for Political Studies of the Political Affairs Division. He was transferred to the Swiss Embassy in London last January. He is married and has three children. We

wish him a very happy stay in this great city of London.

(PMB)

## A SWISS NOVEL PUBLISHED IN ENGLAND

Dr. Birrer's first reception at the Embassy was given to mark the translation and publication in English of Hugo Loetscher's "Noah" (Peter Owen Ltd., London). The book is a brilliant satire on the folly and materialism of an affluent society, conceived in the satirical tradition of Rabelais, Swift and Orwell. In fact, "Noah" depicts the malaise of Western society as incisively as Orwell interpreted communist authoritarianism in "Animal Farm". The author, Hugo Loetscher, was present at the reception. He is a short, vivacious man of 41. "Noah" was his third novel. He has written plays, worked for TV and radio, travelled extensively in South America, and was the former literary editor of "Du". He has received the Charles Veillon and Conrad Ferdinand Meyer Prizes in 1966 and 1964 respectively. In the course of his short conversation, he told me that he believed there was a tremendous surge of artistic creativity in German-speaking Switzerland, that society and outlook to life was changing there as fast as anywhere else. He has been the guest of the past N.H.S. meeting.

(PMB)

## BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Due to a mishap, two birthdays and an anniversary were not published in our last issue. We apologise to our friends and give the dates hereby; our congratulations are none the less sincere:

Mr. and Mrs. J. Eusebio, 66 Greenways, Hinchley Wood, Esher, Surrey, celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary on 27th January.

On 20th February, Mrs. E. Jamieson, of 9 Mowbray Road, N.W.6, celebrated her 70th birthday. We wish her many happy returns of the day and the best of health for the future.

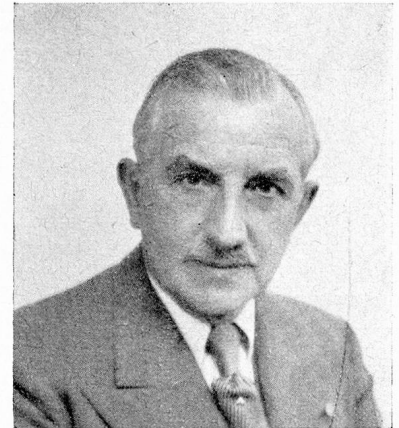
The former Swiss Ambassador in London, Dr. Armin Daeniker, was 72 on 24th February.

The following subscribers will be celebrating their birthdays during the coming fortnight: Mr. F. G. Sommer will be 78 on 1st and Mr. E. Hardmeier 82 on 3rd of March. There are two birthdays on 9th March, those of Mrs. L. Gradmann (72) and Mr. R. A. Marchand, Berne (78). On 15th March, Mr. F. Conrad will be 74, and on 17th, Mr. R. Chappuis will be 74 and Dr. H. W. Egli 71. Mr. F. Gerber won't be able to celebrate a real birthday this year—he

was born on 29th February 1892, but we congratulate him, too.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Boog will be celebrating their 53rd wedding anniversary on 1st March.

To all of them as well as any other readers who will be having birthdays and celebrations, many happy returns!



CARLO CHAPUIS ✠

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Mr. Charles Léon (Carlo) Chapuis, of "Ya Mieux", 3 Broomhills Road, West Mersea, Essex. He had been ailing for some time and he died suddenly, but peacefully, on 19th January in his 89th year.

Born in Lausanne on 24th September 1881, young Carlo, an orphan, came to England at the age of 10 with his brother Louis in December 1891. When he left school four years later, he started his business career in the firm of his uncle H. Comoy, pioneer of the Briar Pipe Industry in England. By hard work, he rose to the top and became a Director of that firm of which his late brother Louis was Chairman and Managing Director.

Carlo has always taken a great interest in the work of the Swiss community. He served on many committees where his wise counsel was much appreciated. In 1911 he joined the City Swiss Club of which he was President in 1930. Three years earlier he had joined the Swiss Mercantile Society where he rendered valuable services in various capacities, and he was elected an Honorary Member in 1918, a distinction well deserved.

He was also a member of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique and did valuable work as President of the Fête Suisse.

Mr. Chapuis was an ardent Freemason and Past Master of the Helvetica Lodge, and he was a founder member of the Finsbury Rotary Club.

He also gave his services freely to a number of British organisations, such as the National Savings Movement, Air Training Corps Committee and the

Advisory Committee and the Advisory Board of the Ministry of Labour. He was awarded the British Red Cross Medal after the first world war.

In 1917 he married a compatriot of his, a cheerful and attractive young Vaudoise. Nobody who had the privilege to know Germaine and Carlo could fail to appreciate their wonderful partnership. His shrewd sagacity matched her graceful charm. Their happy marriage was not blessed with children, but they made up for it by a kind and helpful spirit towards others. It was a tremendous blow to Carlo when his wife died in 1968, and it is not untrue to say that he has never quite been the same man since.

On the card announcing his death, the family, to whom we express deep sympathy, put: *"His love for his fellow-men and his good deeds will always be remembered"*. We who knew him can but second these words, but we remember above all Germaine's and Carlo's loyal friendship and ever warm-hearted understanding.

(MM)



MRS. A. V. BERTI 80

It is with great pleasure that we announce the 80th birthday of Mrs. A. V. Berti, of 49 St. John's Villas, London N.19, on 15th March. Mrs. Berti is known not only as widow of the late Mr. Carlo Berti, so well remembered for his many activities in the Unione Ticinese in particular and in the Swiss Colony in general, but also for her own work as a founder member and for many years President of the Sezione Femile of the Unione Ticinese. She still takes an interest in the affairs of the Swiss community, and we wish her a memorable birthday and many happy returns of it.

#### FURTHER LOSSES

Collapsing at a cricket match he was watching at Capetown, Republic of South Africa, *Raymond Bruni*, aged 52 years, passed away peacefully after his removal to the Groote Schuur Hospital, following a brain haemorrhage. He

leaves a wife, Madge, and three children, Coral, David and Susan, to whom we send our condolences. We also extend our deepest sympathy to his mother Lily Bruni née Metalli and to his brother Louis, the genial conductor of the Corale dell'Unione Ticinese of London. The deceased was born at Southampton in 1917, where his parents, both of ticinese origin were then living. During the last war he served in the RAF for the duration seeing service in Italy and North Africa. In 1947 he emigrated to Southern Rhodesia where he found employment in Government departments as auditing officer. Following recent developments he had transferred to Capetown in 1966.

(J.E.)

We have learnt, rather belatedly, of the death of Miss Hélène Bucholz, of 30 Chepstow Road, London W.2, at 81. We also regret having to announce the recent deaths of two prominent members of the Colony: Mr. Hans Ellenberger, of 36 Collin Garden, Colindale, N.W.9, who passed away on Thursday, 12th February, at the age of 81, and Mr. Paul Jacot, of 52 Vandle Road, S.W.17, who passed away in Geneva on Thursday evening, 19th February. The purpose of his trip to Geneva was to celebrate his mother's 101st birthday. Mr. Hans Ellenberger was a prominent member of the Schweizerbund in London. Mr. Paul Jacot was a regular attendant at the Parish Council of the Swiss Church of Endell St. He ran a wholesale company in Covent Garden together with Mr. Compain, another well-known member of the Colony.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We wish to thank the following subscribers for adding donations to their subscriptions and/or for taking out or renewing gift subscriptions for friends or old-age pensioners:

Mrs. A. Bachofen, Mrs. F. Davenport, Mrs. G. M. Flicker, Mrs. H. Hastings, Miss M. Duff Ingram, Miss A. E. Jacquenod (Geneva), Mrs. L. Kensett, Mrs. A. E. McPeake, Mrs. S. Mariutto, Mrs. I. Milli, Mrs. D. Payne, Mrs. D. M. Percy, Mrs. H. Rowley, Miss E. Ruettimann, Mrs. L. Schobinger (Vevey), Mrs. K. Seiz, Miss E. Spengler, Mrs. E. H. Stroud, Mrs. C. R. M. Tanner, Mrs. M. Tomlinson, Monsieur l'Ambassadeur A. Daeniker (Berne), Monsieur P. Stauffer (Ankara), Sir Felix Brunner Bt., and Messrs. L. F. Ackermann, C. A. Berti, J. Bonjour, A. Boog, G. Bouverat, W. Brauchli, C. O. Brullhard, J. B. Brutsch, G. Buchler, J. P. Christen (Arlesheim), C. L. Coulet, R. Duruz, W. Forster (St. Gall), R. Fragnière, B. Frei, A. T. Gafner, O. Gasser, F. Gut (Affoltern/Albis), C. F. Gygax, P. B. Haberstich, B. P. Halder, Th. Haller, H. Jeanmaire (Montana), V. Kraus, A. Kunz, F. Magnin, R. Pfenninger (Meilen), H. Racheter,

H. Rast, A. E. Respinger, C. P. Rosselli, F. Schillig, J. Sennhauser, J. Stingelin, G. E. Suter (Wettswil/Albis), R. C. Symes, E. L. Tschannen, R. Voegtli.

We are most grateful for their kind and welcome support.

#### EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME FOR YOUNG SWISS ABROAD

This may be the right time of the year to remind our readers of the existence of the "Association pour la formation des jeunes Suisses à l'étranger", whose seat is at the Secretariat of Pro Juventute, 8 Seefeldstrasse, 8008 Zurich.

The aims of this Association, which is subsidised by the Federal Authorities, are not only to provide funds for young Swiss to be educated in Switzerland, but also to advise as to the method best suited to the applicant's abilities and background. Once the best training has been chosen, the "Ausbildungswerk" will plan the whole course of studies or training, as well as arrange for suitable lodgings. Where financial support is needed scholarships can be provided. In addition, the scheme aims at introducing young Swiss from abroad to their homeland by choosing suitable training centres, by fostering relations between the young student and young people in Switzerland and by arranging special meetings and functions at which the young Swiss from abroad will be able to get to know and love Switzerland. By so doing the Association hopes to make a useful contribution towards the rejuvenation of our Swiss colonies abroad. Founded in 1961, it is the joint concern of Pro Juventute, the "Aide aux Suisses" Foundation and the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique. The services of the scheme are available to young Swiss between the age of 10 and 25, exceptionally also to older people.

Information and application forms may be obtained from the Swiss Embassy, 77/81 Gloucester Place, London, W.1.

#### WELFARE OFFICE

for

#### SWISS GIRLS IN GREAT BRITAIN

(For Information, Advice or Help)

11 Belsize Grove, London N.W.3.

(Nearest Underground Station :  
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Telephone: 01-722 4260

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