

# Teresa Lunghi-Rezzonico †

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**TERESA LUNGI-REZZONICO †.**

*"And all that mighty heart is lying still."*

In the early hours of Friday, April 2nd last, Signora TERESA LUNGI-REZZONICO passed peacefully away in her sleep, aged 76 years, at "Tessin," Greenways, Hinchley Wood, Esher, Surrey. Although her health of late had not been good, the suddenness of the end came as a shock to her intimates, and to her large circle of friends.

Signora Lunghi — "Mamma" to her numerous family — by her charm of manner and "joie de vivre" immediately captivated all who came into contact with her.

She had come to London from Bellinzona towards the close of the last century as the young bride of Giovanni Lunghi of Castione, who at that time owned a restaurant in Holborn Circus, on the site at present occupied by Gamages.

It was quite an adventure for the young "Zin", one of the five charming daughters of Signor Rezzonico, the head of the Bellinzona Telegraph Office, to leave the self-important "Capitale del Cantone" and to be plunged into the prosperous atmosphere of the London of the "Nineties" without moreover any knowledge of the language. But the youthful bride quickly settled down to the turmoil of the City of those days and became a valiant support to her husband during a long, adventurous married life which both for length and size of family might well be said to have been modelled on Queen Victoria's.

Family life indeed had been so full especially during the adolescence of her nine children that she would often, later confess that she had never had time to take any interest outside her home. Like a Roman matron, her proudest and quite justified boast in recent years was that, thanks to unremitting efforts and foresighted decisions on her part, all her four sons and five daughters attained distinction in their studies and afterwards good positions in life.

Yet Signora Lunghi-Rezzonico has for close on half a century been a prominent figure in the life of the London colony. To her last days she took a keen interest in the Sezione Femminile of the Unione Ticinese, of which she had been President since its

foundation in 1939. Previously she had been associated with the Swiss Mercantile Society as welfare officer to the lady students. Her attachment to social activities in the Colony may well have originated in the fact that her late husband had been for several years secretary to the now extinct Società Liberale Guglielmo Tell. For a number of years Signora Teresa had been a valued contributor to the columns of the "Swiss Observer" and of the Ticinese daily "Il Dovere." Anywhere in London or environs there was anything doing that was of interest to Switzerland or to her native Ticino, Signora Lunghi would be there directing either by word or deed, spurring on timid spirits to fuller action. Intense patriotism characterized her speeches at these functions and her presence was always an inspiration to those present. During both world wars she had co-ordinated the activities of the Ticinese ladies for the making of comforts for the troops of both countries.

Thus her departure leaves an immense void in the social life of the Swiss, particularly the Ticinese community.

Her late years had brought her great sorrows, as well as great joys. At 'Xmas 1942 she lost her youngest son, Arthur, victim of a motoring accident; in the summer of 1944 her home, "St. Martins," Hinchley Wood was severely damaged by blast, and soon after this she suffered the greatest bereavement by the death of her beloved husband Giovanni, and was left a lonely figure. In 1943 she celebrated, surrounded by most of her large family, her Golden Wedding, whilst in 1946 she became a great grandmother. Last year, during three unforgettable months, she visited her home Canton and was able to embrace once more her three sisters, who survive her at the venerable ages of 85, 82, and 75, and also her octogenarian brother.

From these friendly columns the Swiss colony, and her beloved Ticinese, send to all her bereaved children, and relatives, sincere condolences and deepest sympathy in their grievous loss, as well as their heartfelt gratitude for all that "Mamma" Lunghi had been to them for such a long time. "Dear friend, you have now departed, but long will your memory live!"

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