

Homecoming

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HENRY SENN †.

"The Day Thou gavest, Lord, is ended."

It is with deep regret, that we announce the death of Mr. Henry Senn, which occurred on the 14th of this month, at the Victoria Clinic in Berne, whilst on holiday.

This sad news has come as a great shock to his large circle of friends, who have known him for a great number of years, and many of whom have, at one time or another, worked with him in the various Societies and Institutions of the Swiss Colony in London.

Henry Senn was born sixty-one years ago at Rothenfluh (Ct. Basle-County), and was educated in Basle. He came to this country in 1907, and after occupying various posts, entered the old established firm of C. Hoffmann & Co., Ship-brokers, of 11, Hart Street, Mark Lane, E.C., in the early days of the first world war. On the death of the head of this concern (1926), who was our distinguished countryman, Mr. W. Rappard, Mr. Senn, together with two of his colleagues, was made a partner of the firm.

The deceased played for many years an important rôle in the life of the Swiss Colony in London. He was for several years a member of the Committee of the Swiss Mercantile Society, through which Society he made his *début* in the Colony.

In 1933, he was elected President of the City Swiss Club, a post which he occupied for two years. Amongst other important offices which he held in the Colony at one time or another, were: President of the Swiss Rifle Team, President of the Entertainment Committee of the Swiss Mercantile Society, and Hon. Treasurer of the Swiss Sports Committee. Mr. Senn was also a member of the Union Helvetia and the Nouvelle Société Helvétique.

Whatever post or office he held, he put heart and soul into it, he was courteous and generous, and never refused to support a deserving cause.

At the beginning of the last war (1939), he left London to take over the post of Chief of the Sea Transport Section of the then newly created War Transport Office in Berne, which position he held until the summer of 1941.

Soon after the Armistice, Mr. Senn, returned to London to resume his activities with his former firm, with which he remained until his untimely departure.

Mr. Senn, who was not married, leaves a brother in Basle, and, as remaining partner in the firm, Mr. P. G. Endicott, to both of whom we extend our sincere sympathy in their loss.

We shall miss you dear companion. We've been long together, through pleasant and cloudy weather, it is hard to part when friends are dear.

It is an old belief that on some distant shore, beyond the sphere of grief, dear friends shall meet once more, until then, dear friend, sleep in perfect peace.

ST.

ONE MAN SHOW OF PAINTINGS IN MANCHESTER.

On Saturday, January 29th, a very interesting exhibition of paintings was opened in Manchester at the Mid-day Studios, 96, Mosley Street, by Mr. J. J. Huber, our Vice-Consul, who with a very appropriate and brilliant address introduced the artist, Mr. R. Weisbrod, of Blackburn, and his works, and conveyed to us all the virile qualities of Swiss Art.

Taking into account that Richard Weisbrod started only a few years ago to take painting more seriously, our impression is that the results already have achieved a standard commented on by the *Manchester Guardian*: "... they have qualities ... which are not to be found on every studio wall — grace, ease, and a gift of making effects with a gesture rather than a blow".

At this particular exhibition the artist shows us a fine collection of paintings and particularly his landscapes, inspired by his journeys to Switzerland, France and England are most impressing, and convey to anyone with an open mind to the untouched beauties of nature a sense of freshness and brightness. They are attractive in pattern and colour and the style is very individual and modern without falling to the sometimes tempting exaggerations of modern time.

Specially here in the North where nature has not been very generous and where climate and industry have added to the monotony and dullness of every-day life, we think that it could be a real pleasure and joy to sit by our home-fire which very often is our only sunshine and rest our eyes longingly on some of Richard Weisbrod's bright and sunny landscapes.

We all join wholeheartedly our Vice-Consul in wishing our dear friend and compatriot the best of success on his artistic future.

Ermanno B.

HOMECOMING.

Long years have passed since we did part,
To-day there's joy within my heart,
Forgotten is the gnawing pain,
For I've come home, yes home, again.

I marvel at the deep blue skies,
The mountains that delight my eyes,
They stir my heart right to the core
And soul and body thrive once more.

Each little flower smiles at me,
The babbling brook calls out with glee:
"How pleased we are, how marvellous,
That you've at last returned to us."

I greet the little church and hear
Its friendly chimes ring in my ear,
And all the splendour of this land,
How fair the earth by God was planned!

To Him we owe this bit of ground
Where peace and quiet still are found.

From H.E.'s dialect poem

"Es Wiederseh" (S.O. 14 Jan., 1949).

Translated by J.J.F.S.