

William Notari †

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A RETIREMENT.



Mr. F. STREIT.

The many friends of Mr. F. Streit, of "Berna", 9 Orford Gardens, Twickenham, Middlesex, will be interested to hear that in June of this year he retired from his post as Principal of the Central European Department of Barclays Bank Limited.

The following notice appeared in the August issue of the Staff Magazine of Barclays Bank:

On June 3, a large gathering of past and present staff and other friends met at *Chief Foreign* to mark the retirement of Mr. F. Streit. The setting was the rather unusual one of the public section of the main banking hall, and in his presentation speech, Mr. Dyson, Joint Manager, observed that this was probably symbolical in that Mr. Streit had in fact retired from the Bank's service on the previous Saturday. Mr. Dyson outlined Mr. Streit's career from his joining *Chief Foreign Branch* in 1921 to his appointment as Principal of the Central European Department in 1947. He referred to his great popularity; to his pride in his Swiss nationality (which he has retained in spite of his prolonged and happy stay in England); to his wide knowledge of international finance and particularly of Swiss-German banking methods; and to his interest in philately. Mr. Dyson handed Mr. Streit a cheque and a personal gift from the Central European Department, with an album of signatures. To Mrs. Streit, who was present with their daughter, he gave a bouquet. Mr. Streit replied with an amusing speech in which, after expressing his gratitude to all his friends, he recounted several anecdotes from his life at the Foreign Branch.

We may mention here that Mr. Streit has rendered, and is still rendering, many services to the Swiss Colony in London. He is a co-founder of the London Swiss Philatelic Society and is its President, he is also President of the 1st of August Committee, and a member of the Council of the Swiss Mercantile Society. In 1953 he held the office of Chairman of the Assembly of Presidents of the Swiss Societies in Great Britain.

We wish him a happy and carefree retirement, hoping that in his leisure time he will still be "at the disposal" of the various Swiss Societies of which he is a member.

WILLIAM NOTARI †

A victim of heart failure, William Notari passed away suddenly at his home on the morning of Monday, 29th September 1958, aged 62 years. And the Swiss colony mourns the loss of a faithful friend. The deceased will be best remembered as the genial President of the "Unione Ticinese" for a period of sixteen years, from 1920 to 1934. Under his leadership the society of the London "ticinesi" went from strength to strength. The sumptuous annual Banquets, first at Monico's and then a Pagani's, are still fresh in one's memory. During this period there were many concerts and dances organised for the benefit of charities and of victims of disasters in the Ticino and other parts of Switzerland. His conditional offer of £1,000 on behalf of the Unione Ticinese to the Georges Dimier Fund for the Home for Aged Swiss created a great stir in the colony in the thirties and the Home eventually materialized. It was no wonder then that at the Festa Familiare held on the evening of 8th October 1935 the then President, Oscar Gambazzi, handed Willie Notari a finely decorated vellum recording his nomination to "Socio Benemeriti" of the Unione Ticinese. Although born in this country Willie Notari held on to his Swiss nationality all through his life. As he was partly educated in the Ticino he could speak the ticinese dialect like a native. Since his return to London he had been employed as bookkeeper-secretary at Pagani's Restaurant, of which his late father, Faustino, was a chef. Following the destruction of this prosperous "ticinese" business during the last War, Willie Notari was for a time bookkeeper of the Restaurant Coq d'Or. He soon, however, purchased, in association with his compatriot Peter Bassi, the Restaurant "La Coquille" in St. Martin's Lane, W.C.1. He numbered many Swiss among his select clientele. For many years a member of the Helvetica Lodge, the deceased was a Past Master.

The funeral took place on the morning of Monday, 6th October 1958, with interment in the grave of the Unione Ticinese at the St. Pancras Cemetery, Finchley.

To his bereaved mother, brother Freddie, and all relatives, both here and at home, we express our deepest sympathy and say with the poet Francesco Chiesa:

"... rasciutti gli occhi, avvinghiati a te le mani, assorto
le braccia, per amor di te che grande
forte come la vita, eri la morte!" J.E.

OUR NEXT ISSUE.

Our next issue will be published on Friday, 31st October 1958. We take this opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their kind and helpful donations over and above their subscription: C. B. Adam, J. Keller, O. Lauber, J. Brunner, M. A. Mauch-Modica, Tony Bussman, H. Monney, Swiss Club, Manchester, Paul Schnetz, B. Frick.