Recent deaths in Switzerland

Objekttyp: **Group**

Zeitschrift: **The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK**

Band (Jahr): **- (1968)**

Heft 1550

PDF erstellt am: **28.04.2024**

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"FIFTH SWITZERLAND"

The **49th Annual Report** of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad has been published by the Secretariat in Berne. It gives an excellent picture of the great amount of work which was done in 1967. It covers the special legislation regarding the Swiss abroad, social insurance, especially with regard to the voluntary old-age insurance. It reports on last year's Assembly in Lugano with special reference to the subject of Information. It tells of the activities of the staff at the Berne Office and the visits the senior members and some officers and inland members of the Commission of the Swiss Abroad made in various parts of the world, the films which were sent out. The Youth Service with its holiday camps are described, and there is a paragraph on the 20 Swiss schools abroad, the oldest founded in 1839 in Naples and the two youngest in Accra and Singapore, both added to the list last year and officially acknowledged by the Confederation. The report includes the personal service for the Swiss Army recruits from abroad, the newspapers and periodical service and, of course, the Solidarity Fund which paid out 282,500 francs last year, to members in Egypt, Algeria, the Congo, Morocco, Rhodesia and Tanzania. Great efforts have been made, not least in Great Britain, to increase membership, and there have been some quite sizable results. It is hoped that more and more people will join. Details may be had from the Swiss Embassy in London (77 Gloucester Place, W.1) or the Swiss Consulate in Manchester (Sunley Buildings, Piccadilly Place, Manchester 1). The ASO Annual Report included a tribute to the departing President of the Commission, Dr. G. Schuerch who was replaced by Dr. L. Guisan. It finished with information regarding membership and finance and information regarding the 10 franc-a-year membership within the Society of Friends of the *Auslandschweizersekretariat.*

This Annual Report was discussed at the meeting of the **"Parliament" of the Swiss Abroad,** the Commission, on 9th March in Berne. Great Britain's Swiss community was represented by Dr. H. R. Bolliger (Manchester) for the North and Mrs. M. Meier (London) for the South. At the meeting, the new Director of the Secretariat, *Fürsprech* Marcel Ney, was appointed. This was later confirmed by the Central Committee of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique, and Mr. Ney has since taken up his duties. We wish him success in his work and hope that with his appointment, a frustrating period of temporary solutions has come to an end. It is due to the devotion of the staff that good work was possible in difficult times. Mr. Ney is well fitted for the job: He was born in 1923 and educated in Berne and at the Universities of Geneva and Berne. He worked first in law court and administration and then as Secretary to the Board of USEGO. He was Secretary, too, of the international organisation of all *Lebensmittel-Detaillisten.* He has spent periods of studies and travels in foreign countries, but his forefathers were already *Auslandschweizer,* in Paris, the Far East and Algeria. Good luck!

Another **Meeting on Information** took place in Berne on 17th June when the experts met to discuss further steps regarding better information of the Swiss abroad, but also improved information of the Swiss at home with reference to life and work of the Swiss communities abroad. The meeting of this special study commission was attended from abroad by Mr. Vaucher from Paris, Mr. Steffen from Milan and Mrs. M. Meier from London. As the evaluation of the questionnaires which have been sent out in order to find out what means of information already exist in the various communities, will take some time, the next meeting will not take place until November. But the small working group will go on working in the meantime.

Finally, we should like to draw readers' attention to the programme of the **Assembly of the Swiss Abroad** in Schaffhausen from 23rd to 25th August. It will be, as usual, full of interesting meetings and excursions, and the main theme will be the Relationship of the Young Swiss Abroad to Switzerland". (*See "Swiss Observer" issue 26th April for details*). There will be panel discussions and various meetings (Commission of the Swiss Abroad, Solidarity Fund, group meetings on various aspects of the work of the Secretariat and the Organisation). Visits will be arranged to an *Infantrie-Rekrutenschule* in Zurich, the Georg Fischer Industrial Works and the Rhinefall, the Museum of Allerheiligen. Receptions will be offered by Canton and Municipality, and there will be a Dinner and Dance with entertainment. The excursion to Stein am Rhein on Sunday will include an ecumenical service at St. Katharinental. Details and application forms, also for hotel reservations, should be asked for immediately from the Secretariat at 26, Alpenstrasse, 300 Berne, where copies of the Annual Report and specimen copies of the "Echo", the excellent monthly publication for the Swiss Abroad (French and German, with some Italian), may be had free of charge.

RECENT DEATHS IN SWITZERLAND

The following deaths have been reported from Switzerland:

Dr. Wolfgang Merz (67), Zug, Cantonal Medical Officer of Health.

Ernst Aebi (75), Brugg, agronomist engineer, former Deputy Manager of the Swiss Farmers' Secretariat.

Dr. Alexandre Leroi (62), Arlesheim, eminent scientist in the field of cancer research; follower of Rudolf Steiner.

Miss Helen Dahm (90), Oetwil am See (Zch.), well-known artist, awarded the Art Prize of Zurich in 1954; the village organised a festival in her honour for her 90th birthday, and she died three days after it.

Prof. Albert Julen (73), Brig, R.C. Priest and sociologist; teacher of Greek and history at the "Spiritus Sanctus" College in Brig and sociology at the *Priesterseminar* of Sion; President of the *Geschichtsforschende Gesellschaft* of the Upper Valais.

Brigadier Dr. phil. Walter Kaeser (51), Berne, Commander of a *Réduit* Brigade; as expert geographer he visited many parts of the world with expeditions; Headmaster of the *Realschule* of the Municipal *Gymnasium* in Berne; died on returning from a military engagement.

Dipl. Eng. ETH Otto Engler (68), Monthey, Deputy Manager of the "Ateliers de Construction Métalliques et Mécaniques Giovanola Frères".

Joseph Pfammatter (78), Sion, the last postillion of the Ehringer Valley; with mules and horses, he took visitors from Sion to Evolène, and later to Les Haudères; when the postal motor coach was intro-

duced all the way, the romantic mule and horse transport came to an end in 1924.

Paul Aebi (85), Sennwald (St. Gall), senior partner of the cloth manufacturing firm of the same name; he renovated a number of historic buildings, bought the Hohensax Castle and rebuilt the ruin of Forstegg; active in local affairs; writer and artist; honorary citizen of Sennwald.

Ing. Hans Tschudi (65), Rapperswil, well-known industrialist of Eastern Switzerland; Manager of the "Presspan-und Kunststoffwerk H. Weidmann AG", and President of the "Maternfabrik Tschudi & Cie AG" at Ennetbuehls/Glarus, and Deputy Chairman of "Kabel-und Gummiwerke R. & E. Huber AG" Pfaeffikon and of the Swiss Electro-Technical Society; Commune Councillor of Jona and active in many welfare and cultural organisations.

Miss Angeline Pellaz (100), Granges-Sion.

Dr. Alexandre Cachin (47), Sion, Manager of the Publicity Office for Valais Agricultural Produce (PEWAL).

Ernest Spillmann (56), Zurich, Secretary of Zurich University.

Pierre Blank (64), Bienne, Manager of the "Fédération Horlogère Suisse", where he began his career as Secretary in 1931; co-founder of the "Aktion zugunsten der Schweizer Uhr".

Ernst Schmid (59), Zurich, Central Secretary of the "Schweiz. Verband Evangelischer Arbeiter und Angestellter"; member of the Cantonal Parliament from 1956 to 1963; member of the National Council since 1959 (Democratic/Evangelical).

Fritz Koepplin (88), Basle, Chairman of the Board of Koepplin AG; expert on cheese, butter and egg marketing; President of the BUTYRA; Honorary President of the Swiss Butter Union.

Jacques Aliesch, Vevey; at Yverdon since 1912; all his life with Leclanche S.A. whose General Manager he was up to 1965; for 15 years, member of the Board of the Vaudois Industry Federation.

Charles Nussbaum (87), La Chaux-de-Fonds, former Manager of the Postal District 2 in Lausanne.

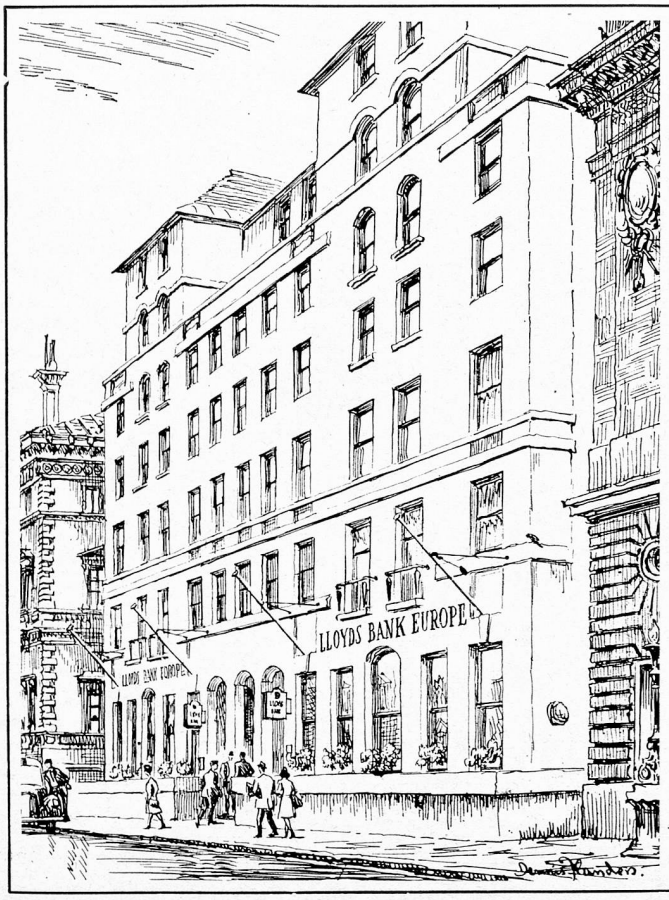
Miss Aline J. Capt (103), Pully (Vaud), private teacher.

Max Schlach (56), Fruthwilen/Ermatingen, hotelier, first at the "Hirschen" at Ermatingen and later as Manager of the Hotel Helvetia at Kreuzlingen.

Dr. Otto Binswanger (86), Kreuzlingen, founder of the Dr. Biswanger Sanatorium Bellevue; President for many years of the Federation of Swiss *Krankenanstalten;* Editor of the VESKA periodical; for 57 years member of the Board of Robert Neher A.G.; only surviving founder member of the book manufacturing firm Bodan A.G. and its President until recently.

Rudolf Birmann (67), Philadelphia (U.S.A.), well-known engineer; expert on turbines and aircraft construction; for 40 years in U.S.A. where he designed and developed the first high pressure turbine; as expert in the American Marine Air Arm he built and tested one of the first jet aircraft (1941-44); out of gratitude to his *Alma Mater,* he bequeathed all royalties from his 75 odd inventions and private estate and aircraft collection to the ETH in Zurich, where he studied.

(*A.T.S. and "Echo".*)



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