

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

Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

Band: - (1975)

Heft: 1712

Rubrik: City Swiss Club

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OBITUARIES

ENRICO TOSIO

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Consul-General Enrico Tosio, of Piazzola 158, 7742 Poschiavo. He died on 19th September after a long and courageously borne illness.

Enrico Tosio was born in this country in 1913, citizen of Poschiavo. He studies in St. Gall and joined the Federal Postal Administration in 1932. Seven years later, he changed over to the Political Department, and that gave him an opportunity of returning to England where he was stationed throughout the war. At the end of hostilities, he was appointed Chancellor and transferred to the Swiss Legation in Stockholm. From 1949 to 1957, he was Vice-Consul in Sydney, and a year later, he was attached for a short time to the Foreign Interests Section of the Swiss Embassy in Cairo. Back in Berne, he was appointed *Chef de Service* in the Federal Political Department, and in 1962, he succeeded Mr. E. Ribi as Consul in London.

In March 1968, Mr. & Mrs. Tosio left for Karachi. The Swiss Embassy had been moved to the new capital of Islamabad, and Enrico Tosio became the first Consul-General in Karachi. Unfortunately, the state of his health did not allow him to finish his career, and he retired to Poschiavo where he and his wife spent the last couple of years.

Rico Tosio had other ties with Great Britain than only those of birth and profession. In 1942, he married Miss Marjorie Cunningham at the Swiss Church in London. Their only daughter Renata is married in England. Marjorie and Rico Tosio took a great interest in the activities of the Swiss community. The Swiss Benevolent Society, the Nouvelle Société Helvétique, the Swiss Church in all its aspects, the Unione Ticinese — all had the ready support of the Tosios. They were sadly missed when they left for Asia.

Rico Tosio's integrity and his fighting spirit for what he considered right and just was beyond question. He never offended, and he always used tact

and a conciliatory attitude to great advantage. He was gifted for languages in an exceptional way; he spoke several languages with great ease and without any foreign accent at all.

Rico Tosio will be greatly missed by numerous friends in many places. We in Great Britain who had the privilege of knowing him and his wife, express our deep sympathy to her and her family in their sad bereavement.

MM

ADOLPHE BLEIKER

We deeply regret to announce the death of Mr. Adolphe Bleiker, of 4 The Paddock, Frogman Cross, Hants. (summer) and Fuengirola, Spain (winter).

Adolphe Bleiker was born in Geneva on 11th February 1897. His parents had come from the Obertoggenburg. After studying in Geneva, he finished his training at the Lehranstalt Schiers, where he met the late Alfred Renou and Pastor Hahn formerly of the Swiss Church in London.

He served an apprenticeship at a Geneva Bank, getting Fr.20. — a month during the last year! He arrived in this country on 20th November 1915 and began his interesting career in commerce. He worked with a number of merchant firms, joining Roura and Forgas in 1931. Their export business was taken over by a City group, trading as Rourafric, of which Mr. Bleiker was Managing Director. He travelled extensively in Africa, India and the Middle East.

Amongst his interests in the Swiss community, the Cercle Genevois was dearest to him, and he was a very active chairman of the "Escalade" until 1965. He was also a member of the Swiss Mercantile Society, the Nouvelle Société Helvétique and the City Swiss Club.

Soon after his retirement in 1964, he and his wife left for Spain where they spent every winter. It is to her and their family that his many friends express deep sympathy in the sad loss they have suffered.

MM

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

CERCLE GENEVOIS: Escalade 1975. Host: M. Paul Ramseyer, 42 Montagu Square, W.1, on Friday 12th December, 7.30 for 8.00. Numbers are limited. Please contact in writing Michael Metford-Sewell, 386 High Road, Chiswick, London, W4 5TH as soon as possible.

WEDNESDAY, 3rd December, 7.30 p.m. — Swiss Church, 79 Endell Street, WC2 — CONCERT IN ADVENT — Works by Liszt, Bach, Telemann, Couperin and Widor — Shuna Wilson (cello), Ueli Stefan (flute and recorder), Martin Nelson (bass) and Lennart Rabes (organ): in aid of the Swiss Churches.

LIVERPOOL SWISS CLUB: Christmas Dinner Party, Friday 5th December, Devon Doorway Hotel, Heswall.

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY: Annual Dinner and Dance, Dorchester Hotel, London, W1, Saturday 31st January 1976.

CITY SWISS CLUB

Members of the City Swiss Club received an appeal to put in a more regular attendance by their President, Mr. Roger Suess. This call was sent with the invitations to the October monthly meetings. Mr. Suess said that only 7 members had turned up at the September card meeting and described this situation as appalling. He added that the Committee was reviewing the details of future monthly meetings so as to renew interest in the Club's activities. He said that the card evenings will have to be reassessed and expressed the hope that members would make a "real effort" during the coming months to participate in the affairs of the City Swiss Club.

First Woman Speaker at the City Swiss Club

As a modest contribution to the "Year of the Woman" the City Swiss Club had the good idea of inviting the well known Swiss journalist Madame Colette Muret of the "Gazette de Lausanne" to give a talk at its last meeting on October 21st on the role of women in journalism, which is of course still a predominantly male profession — in Switzerland probably even more so than



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CONCERT AT THE SWISS CHURCH

On Tuesday, 21st October, the *Orchesterschule der Kammermusiker Zurich* and the *Iverson Consort, London* combined in a concert under the patronage of the *Nouvelle Société Helvétique*, held at the Swiss Church in Endell Street. The *Orchesterschule* is a successful youth orchestra consisting of gifted and earnest young artists, and they gave a number of concerts in London and elsewhere, together with a group of young, mostly Australian singers known as the *Iverson Consort* under the leadership of Erich Vietheer. They had already given similar concerts together in Switzerland, under the conductor of the *Kammermusiker Zurich*, Brenton Langbein.

elsewhere. It was the first woman speaker the Club has ever had and she proved a great success although it seemed a little incongruous that the members were not invited to bring their ladies along as well on this very special occasion. However, Mme Muret survived the ordeal as sole representative of the fair sex amongst her purely male audience undaunted and unperturbed. She was used to it, she said, and, far from complaining about it, she recognised the advantage of arousing chivalrous instincts as a woman alone amongst men.

Assuring her audience that she was no suffragette and had little taste for "woman's lib" Mme Muret described her most varied experiences first as sports reporter covering practically all the Olympiads of the last decades and ending with the tragic events at Munich. Gradually progressing through assignment after assignment, including even criminal trials and a military manoeuvre — only one, as she bashfully admitted — Mme Muret had the privilege of covering practically all fields of her profession excepting only politics and economics. Lucky woman! as a fellow-journalist among the audience remarked who cannot get away from these most exacting topics. But Mme Muret found none-the-less more than enough human stories, good causes and campaigns to devote herself to and to entertain her readers — largely in the sociological, ecologic and environmental fields — without falling into the error of most of her women-colleagues of specialising in the traditional topics of the woman's page. With scrupulous honesty in all her work, fearless presentation of her views and never shunning the indispensably hard devotion to her calling, Mme Muret found wholehearted acceptance not only amongst her readers but also, she was pleased to say, on the part of her male colleagues as an equal, which happy experience she thinks is nowadays also shared by most of her sister journalists in Switzerland as elsewhere.

The concert opened with Chausson's *Chanson Perpetuelle*. This work for strings and mezzo-soprano (sung by Patricia Conti) was like most of the French composer's, sensitive and delicate; he lived from 1855–1899 and was a pupil of Massenet and César Franck. The performance was first class, with good ensemble playing and beautiful tone colour.

Klaus Huber is a modern Swiss composer, and his *Alveare Vernal* for flute and 12 strings was most interesting and very well performed. The flute solo by Anna Katherina Graf deserves special mention as a superb performance; she was the most impressive soloist of the evening.

Next came Hindemith's *Junge Magd* for mezzo-soprano and ensemble. The young artists again accompanied the singer Susan Kessler in a most musical and well-balanced way.

The first part of the programme ended with the *Exsultate, jubilate* and *Alleluja* from Mozart's Motet K.165. The orchestra under its conductor Brenton

Langbein was at times a little heavy and sometimes on the loud side, and there was not the variation in tone and colour one would have liked from the soprano, Yvonne Kenny.

After the interval, the audience had the pleasure of hearing the earliest extant example of genuine opera in English, John Blow's *Venus and Adonis*. Blow (1649–1708) was the teacher of Purcell, and the opera is a very beautiful work, unfortunately performed all too rarely. Again, the orchestra was well controlled and displayed an excellent sense of ensemble. The musicality was undisputed, and the strings had a fine singing tone. It was a pity that at times the singers, with perhaps the exception of Cupid (Robin Liptrott, soprano) were a little weak in intonation and enunciation. (Venus: Carolyn Vaughan, soprano; Adonis: Christopher Lackner, baritone; supported by three other vocalists.)

The programme was a little on the long side, but the audience was very generous with their applause, and it was most certainly an interesting and enjoyable evening.

It is hoped that one will frequently have the pleasure of attending concerts at the Swiss Church which now has many of the facilities required and good acoustics to boot.

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CHURCH NEWS

Pastor Uli Stefan, minister of the German-speaking Swiss parish in London, has announced that he will be leaving London for Switzerland in September 1976. After a great many years in his London parish, Uli feels the need to enlarge his professional formation by following a course of psychology at the Jung Institute in Zurich. We admire him for his courage and wish him great success in this new venture.

Pastor Michel Languillat, Uli's French-speaking colleague, has also tendered his resignation. We understand that his departure is planned for next Autumn and that it has been made necessary by family reasons. Michel has only been in London for about two years but has already made a great many friends in his parish. We hope that the reasons behind his resignation will perhaps disappear and that Michel will stay in London for some years more.

During a service attended by both parishes at the end of September to mark the National Day of Prayer and Remembrance, Pastor Stefan, who conducted the service, recalled that the annual meeting of former members of the German-speaking parish, which took

place this summer near Lucerne, had been a great success.

About a hundred and twenty people attended. They organised a jumble sale and raised over a thousand Swiss francs for the Parish. This certainly showed the importance of the Swiss church for a great many Swiss who come to stay in London for some time.

The equivalent meeting of former members of the French-speaking parish took place at about the same time at Crêt Berard (Vaud). It was attended by some sixty former parishioners and by several ex-London ministers such as the Rev. Claude Reverdin, the Rev. Jean-Daniel Hostettler and the Rev. Denis Muller. Our present parish was represented by the Rev. Raymond Renou, Assistant Minister. The gathering was told that Pastor Alexandre Nicod, who had been minister in London for many years until 1973, had suffered a heart attack. We wish him a speedy recovery.

The Rev. Francois Dubois, who was minister of the French Reformed Church in Soho Square since the end of the war, gave his farewell sermon on Sunday 5th October. Pastor Dubois had conducted his last service at the Eglise Suisse some weeks before. He was known to many members of the French-speaking parish and had co-operated with the many Swiss ministers that had come and gone during his time. The two parishes organise Sunday school in common. Mr. and Mrs. Dubois are retiring to Canterbury, where there is an ancient, if small, French-speaking parish.