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The Swiss Observer

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE SWISS COLONY IN THE U.K.
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Obituaries

OSCAR GROB, K.S.G.

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Oscar Grob, of 60 Seafield Road, London N11. He died after a short illness on 3rd November. With his death, the Swiss community in London has lost one of its most prominent members, and many were his friends who attended the Requiem Mass at "Our Lady of Lourdes" in North London on 11th November.

Oscar Grob was born at Frauenfeld on 26th February, 1900. He completed his schooling at the Cantonal School in his home town and did his apprenticeship with the *Leih- und Sparkasse* Eschenz (Thurgau). He then joined the Swiss Credit Bank at Romanshorn and later the same bank in Schaffhausen. When the organisation was taken over by the Swiss Bank Corporation, Oscar Grob was transferred to their London office. Eight years later, in 1932, he became a signature holder.

In August 1939, he was sent to New York in order to organise the new office of the Swiss Bank Corporation, returning to London in May 1940. At the end of 1944, he was promoted Sub-Manager, an office he held with competence until his retirement at the end of February 1965.

As Chairman of the Board of INA Needle Bearing Ltd. in Llanelli (South Wales) Oscar Grob did valuable work in

NEWS FROM THE COLONY

that subsidiary company of Hydrel AG at Romanshorn.

Ever since his arrival in Great Britain he took a lively interest in the life of the Swiss Community. He was an active member of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique and a member of the City Swiss Club since 1945. He was a member of the London Swiss Philatelic Society and its first Hon. Treasurer. But the two organisations which were nearest to his heart were the Swiss Mercantile Society and the Swiss Catholic Community.

He joined the SMS at Romanshorn in 1918 and thus qualified for the veterans' recognition in 1968. He joined the London Section in 1925, held the offices of Hon. Assistant Treasurer and Hon. Treasurer (1928/38). He became a member of the Council at its formation in 1931, was a member of the House Committee from 1939 and its Chairman

for a year, and finally was President of the Society from 1958 to 1961. He was made an Honorary Member of the SMS in 1961 for services rendered to the Society, and he was also awarded the Gold Badge of Merit of the mother society in Switzerland. In August 1969 he was elected Trustee of the SMS.

Oscar Grob was one of the founder-members of the Committee of Swiss Catholics in London and became its Chairman in 1960. H. H. Pope Paul VI honoured him with a Knighthood of the Order of St. Gregory the Great in 1966, a well-deserved award in recognition of Oscar Grob's sterling services to the Swiss Catholic community, the Catenian Association and the Swiss Mercantile Society's College.

He kept up his activities in the Swiss community throughout his retirement, and enthusiastically, he devoted time and effort to his favourite pastime, bowling.

Whenever one thought of Oscar, one invariably thought of his wife Kathleen, loving and devoted partner throughout the 45 years of their happy marriage. It is to her, their two sons and their families that our heartfelt sympathy goes out in these hours of grief. May they find some consolation in the fact that a large number of friends will remember Oscar with affection and respect as a steadfast and loyal person, full of sympathetic understanding and good humour; open and open-minded yet conscientiously adhering to firm principles, a real family man, too; an admirer of his chosen country of residence, yet a true Swiss, and above all a good Christian.

MM

ADOLPHE HELMUTH BLEIKER

Adolphe Helmuth Bleiker died on 4th September, 1975 at his home in the New Forest, aged 78 years.

Peter Bleiker, as he was affectionately known to his many friends of all nationalities, was born in Geneva and remained a devoted Swiss throughout his life. At the age of eighteen he came to London to make a career in Banking but moved to the Commodity and Product Market with various firms in and around Seething Lane.

He gradually extended his influence through French, Belgian and Spanish connections, to most parts of the world.

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His command of languages was of the utmost help to him in this respect.

The peak of his career came during the late war when, as a director of an important city confirming house, he developed a large business with the French and Belgian Colonies in Equatorial Africa and Madagascar, acting as buying agent for local importers cut off from their usual suppliers by the German occupation of Europe. He travelled extensively in these territories.

He was a keen Freemason, being a member of the L'Entente Cordiale, Lodge No. 2796. He loved life in general and friends will remember his indomitable spirit. His open-heartedness and generosity helped many in times of need. Outside interests included philately and an interest in nature.

On retiring from the City in about 1965, he lived either in the New Forest, or in his villa at Fuengirola in Spain.

He leaves a widow, a daughter and a son.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

The following readers are celebrating birthdays and anniversaries during the next few weeks. To them and any others whose names we do not know, we extend best wishes.

On 2nd January, Mr. W. Renz will be 77, and Mr. C. Nater (St. Moritz) will have his 67th birthday. Mr E. P. Locher will be 82 on 4th of the month, and Mrs. L. Moehr will have her birthday on 12th January. Mrs. R. Chappuis will celebrate hers on 24th January. On 27th of the

month, Mr. & Mrs. J. Eusebio will have been married for 36 years.

We have just heard that Mr. H. Suter celebrated his 87th birthday on 12th December. Belated congratulations.

Swiss Churches

SERVICES EN FRANCAIS: à l'Eglise Suisse, 79 Endell Street, W.C.2, tous les dimanches a 11h15 et 19h00.

PASTEUR: Michel Languillat, 8 Park View Road, London, N.3. Tele: 01-346 5281.

SWISS CATHOLIC MISSION: John Southworth Centre, 48 Great Peter Street, London, SW1P 2HA.

Sundays: Holy Mass at 6.30 p.m. with sermon in German, in the Club hall, ground floor.

(2nd floor at the same time, Protestant service in German).

RESIDENCE OF CHAPLAIN: Bossard, Swiss Catholic Mission, 48 Great Peter Street, (2nd floor), London SW1P 2HA. Telephone: 01-222 2895.

SERVICES IN GERMAN: at Eglise Suisse, 79 Endell Street, W.C.2, every Sunday at 10.00 a.m. Sunday school takes place on the first and the third Sunday in the month for children of all age groups. Children assemble in the church with their parents who attend the normal Service. Liturgical Service takes place every second Sunday in the month. Services also at John Southworth Centre, 48 Gt. Peter Street, S.W.1 every Sunday at 6.30 p.m.

MINISTER: Pfr. U. Stefan, 1, Womersley Road, N.8. Tel: 01-340 9740.

Christmas Programme

PROTESTANT CHURCH: Eglise Suisse, 79 Endell St. WC2

SERVICES IN FRENCH: Every Sunday at 11.15 am and 7 pm

SERVICES IN GERMAN: 30th November: 1. Advent, Family service 10 am. Guest Preacher: Rev. E. Schwyn, Biel

7th December: Liturgical Communion service with music (10 am)

14th December: Family Christmas, with Christmas Tree (4 pm) (no morning Service)

21st December: 4th Advent: Preacher Rev. P. Bossard

28th December: no Service at Eglise Suisse)

SWISS CATHOLIC MISSION: John Southworth Centre, 48 Great Peter St. SW1

Mass every Sunday at 11.30 am in English and at 6.30 pm in German

24th December: Midnight Mass (possibility of overnight accommodation for young Swiss)

JOINT ACTIONS

3rd December: "Music in Advent", Eglise Suisse, 7.30 pm. Works by Couperin, Bach, Teleman, Liszt (S. Wilson, Cello; M. Nelson, Bass; L. Rabes, Organ; U. Stefan, Flute)

Joint programme for Protestants and Catholics at the John Southworth Centre (Swiss German)

24th December: Christmas Eve. After the Service at 6.30 pm a meal will be served with candlelight, music and good conversation

31st December: Silvester. Service at 6.30 pm followed by a light meal and festivities to mark the end of 1975.



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