

Selma Vaz Dias (Mrs. Hans Egli)

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NEWS FROM THE COLONY

OBITUARY

SELMA VAZ DIAS (Mrs. Hans Egli)

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Selma Vaz Dias, known to her friends in the Swiss community as Mrs. Egli, of 17 Corringham Road, London NW11. She died after a long and painful illness in the early hours of 30th August.

Selma Vaz Dias was born in Amsterdam on 23rd November 1911. She came to England at the age of 11 and was educated at Southwood Hall, Highgate, and at Versailles. She studied for the stage at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art and made her first appearance at the Little Theatre on 28th February 1929 as Nina Verganskaia in "Red Dust". She was a successful actress and played some great character parts, both in English and in French. Her appearances fill sixty-odd lines in WHO'S WHO IN THE THEATRE. She also appeared frequently for the Stage Society, Lyceum Club, Left Theatre, Under Thirty Players, Masses Stage Guild, etc. She translated "The Wise Cat" produced at the Ambassadors' in 1937 and adapted the novel "Good Morning, Midnight" for the BBC Third Programme; she broadcast it as a monologue in May 1957. She also played in numerous films, radio and television plays and recorded the part of Queen Elizabeth I in the first English presentation of "Son et Lumière" at Greenwich Palace in August 1957. She was a founder of the "First Stage" play reading society.

Some years ago, this very gifted actress turned to painting and had several exhibitions of her portraits and other paintings. She also wrote a great deal and delighted in arranging parties at the Egli Home in Golders Green. Her circle of friends was very large and included a great many celebrities as well as many Swiss compatriots of her husband Hans,

for many years now the cultural doyen of the Swiss community. It is to him and his children and grandchildren that we all extend our heartfelt sympathy in the sad loss. We shall remember Selma as a very strong personality of many talents, and those who were privileged to attend her last performance on 18th January this year "Don't cry over Onions — use Glasses" will remember her astonishing versatility. It was to be her swan song.

To me, it was her recitation of Kipling's "Queen Bess" at her birthday party last year that sent shivers down my spine — she was so magnificent and completely above her illness. She was a great friend of mine, and I am proud that one of her own favourite paintings "The old Circus Horse" hangs in my dining room.

M.M.

A BIRTHDAY

Since we published the last November list of birthdays and anniversaries, a number of our readers have died, and so we are in the strange position of publishing only one birthday for the coming month: Mr. A. Kunzler will be 81 on 15th November. But perhaps others are looking forward to celebrating anniversaries and birthdays of which we are not aware, and so we wish Mr. Kunzler and anyone else enjoyable festive days and many happy returns of them.

STOP PRESS . . .

We have just heard of two wedding anniversaries earlier this summer:

Mr. and Mrs. J. Inebnit, of 15 The Drive, Adel, Leeds, celebrated their diamond wedding on 28th July, and Mr. and Mrs. H. Weber, of 8 Oakfield Road, London N14.

Congratulations and best wishes, though belated, nonetheless sincere.

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SWISS WELFARE OFFICE for young people

31 Conway Street London W1P 5HL
telephone 01-387 3608

Underground Stations:
Great Portland Street
Warren Street

SWISS CHURCHES

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

PASTEUR: Frank Orna-Ornstein, 7 Park View
Road, London N.3. Tel: 01-346 5281.

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
Great Peter Street, SW1P 2HA, every
Sunday at 6.30 p.m.

MINISTER: Pastor Paul Jungi, 1 Womersley
Road, N.8. Tel: 01-340 9740.

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

Sundays: Services at 6.30 p.m. for
Catholics and Protestants. See notice-
board in house for details and
location.

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

SPECIAL WEEKEND

at 25 Calabria Road, London N5 1HZ
(close to Highbury/Islington
Underground)

Brother Daniel Graf from Switzerland
will be joining us for the weekend, with
a group of visitors.

The meetings are:

in German: Sun., 30th October, at 10.30
a.m. and 2.30 p.m.

in English: Sat., 29th October, at 8.00
p.m.

Sun., 30th October, at 6.00
p.m.

(Our regular meetings at the above
address are: Every Sunday at 2.30 p.m.
in German and at 6.00 p.m. in English.)

Everybody welcome!

Swiss Evangelical Brotherhood.



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