

Swiss Precursors of the European Idea

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MAX EUGEN HAUWYLER †

It is with deep regret that we announce the sudden death of Mr. M. E. Hauwyler of 36 Cavendish Drive, Edgware, Middlesex. He died on 4th April after a serious operation at the age of 73.

He was born and brought up in St. Gall, and after passing his "Matura" with great distinction at the Kantonsschule in St. Gall, he went into business and came to London in 1913 for Tobler & Co., of Teufen, embroidery manufacturers, for whom he worked until he was called up for military service in 1914. He served as First Lieutenant right through the war.

In 1919 he returned to London as representative of the well-known embroidery firm of Honegger & Co., St. Gall. In 1932 he started business on his own account as Handkerchief and Scarf manufacturer at 50 Gt. Portland Street, W.1.

In 1933 he married Miss Nelly Lawrence whom unfortunately he lost after nearly twenty-five years of happily married life on the 1st March 1958.

At the outbreak of the second world war in 1939 he again returned to Switzerland to do his duty as a soldier but, after some months service in Berne, he returned to London and travelled as courier with the diplomatic mail.

He remained a faithful Swiss and visited Switzerland regularly for summer and winter holidays for many years.

Although he did not actively take part in many Swiss functions in London, he was a member of the City Swiss Club and also of the Swiss Mercantile Society who elected him as delegate to the first post-war Delegates' Meeting of the S.K.V. in Davos in 1946.

He leaves a brother in Berne and a married niece, Mrs. Carter of Cheam, Surrey, to whom we offer sincere condolences.

His many friends in London and Switzerland will miss his always jovial company and will always remember him as such.

H.A.

SWISS PRECURSORS OF THE EUROPEAN IDEA

Among the visionaries who foresaw the European Federation which is slowly but surely taking shape were a number of Swiss thinkers. In several of his writings Jean-Jacques Rousseau advocated a federated Europe. He was followed by the historian Jean de Müller, who proclaimed in his "Vue générale de l'Histoire du Genre Humain" (1797) that the nations of Europe were hastening to their ruin for want of a unifying principle, and that if they persisted in their disagreements, the future would belong "either to Russia or to America". By her book "De l'Allemagne" Germaine de Staël helped to promote the exchange of ideas between nations. During the Hundred Days Benjamin Constant prepared a draft for a European Federation which Napoleon signed, unfortunately too late. It was in Switzerland that Mazzini published in 1836 the manifesto and journals of "Young Europe" and Garibaldi presided over a congress for peace through European unity, to which Hugo sent a stirring message. J. K. Bluntschli, the famous professor of law at Heidelberg, published in 1879 his "Das moderne Volksrecht der zivilisierten Staaten", directly inspired by his federalist experience in Switzerland. Jakob Burckhardt, his great-nephew Carl J. Burckhardt, Robert de Traz, author of "l'Esprit de Genève", Gonzague de Reynold, author of "Formation

de l'Europe", and Fritz Ernst, author of "Helvetia Mediatrix" all merit a place in an anthology of the European idea. [S.N.T.O.]

Any reader interested in the problem should read Denis de Rougemont's study of the European idea in Switzerland published in the year-book for 1964 of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique.

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