

# Charles Mayr †

Autor(en): [s.n.]

Objektyp: **Obituary**

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

Band (Jahr): - (1964)

Heft 1462

PDF erstellt am: **22.09.2024**

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# NEWS FROM THE COLONY

## SWISS NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION IN BOURNEMOUTH

The large colony of Swiss students at the Anglo-Continental School of English in Bournemouth celebrated Swiss National Day by chartering a paddle steamer and sailing out towards Swanage Bay, together with their friends, many of whom were British. A student committee had planned and arranged the decorations and had successfully created a Swiss atmosphere. As the guests came on board the sound of Swiss music reminded them of home.

Later in the evening the boat dropped anchor and, with the lights of Swanage twinkling in the background, the official ceremony began. After an opening march on the accordions the School Choir sang "Wir sind die jungen Schweizer" and Mr. Theodor Haller, the well-known television and radio broadcaster gave a patriotic address in German. He told the students that it was not enough that they should rest on their ancestors' laurels, but they should constantly strive towards higher achievements. They should always be a credit to their country and behave with dignity when they visited foreign lands.

This was followed by two more songs from the Choir, "Là-haut sur la montagne" and "La Banda di Soldà", a medley of folk music played by the accordionists and some modern Swiss yodelling by Mr. Reto Hutzli. Mr. Bernhard gave a short account of some dates in Swiss history, accompanied on the piano by Mr. Kupferschmied and the ceremony was concluded by Mr. G. Scheller, Manager of the Anglo-Continental School, who pointed out the unique nature of the celebration — a Swiss National Day on British waters before an international audience, and he recited William Wordsworth's famous poem "England — Switzerland". The audience then united in the singing of the Swiss National Anthem.

Afterwards there was dancing on all decks, sketches and musical items by the students, and the Hawaiian Bar, specially transformed for the occasion, was very popular. Cervelats were on sale and Swiss wine was also available, adding to the homely atmosphere.

All too soon it was midnight and the boat sailed back to Poole Harbour, passing the glittering coastal illuminations, and the happy crowd disembarked to return to their homes after a truly memorable evening.

## PERSONAL

We are pleased to announce an unusual achievement which has just come to our notice, unusual in as much as it concerns the sons of no fewer than *three* members of our diplomatic representatives at the Embassy. A short time ago, Messrs. Raymond Gallusser, Alain Heimo and William Alex Roch successfully passed the first part of the *Baccalauréat* at the Lycée Français in London. We tender our congratulations.



CHARLES MAYR †

In the person of Mr. Charles Mayr, of Grange Farm, Woodgrange Close, Kenton, Middlesex, another distinguished personality in the Swiss community in this country has left this world, and with him the "Swiss Observer" has lost one of its earliest subscribers.

Charles Mayr was born in Zurich on 19th December 1888. He went to school in his hometown and in Lausanne and served an apprenticeship at the Banque Populaire Suisse in Zurich. From there he moved to the Swiss Bank Corporation in 1908, and two years later he joined their London office.

At the outbreak of the first world war, he was called up and returned to Switzerland for military service. He came back to London and to his job in the Commercial Credit Department. He became a signature holder in 1920, took charge of the Credit Department in 1929 and was promoted Sub-Manager in 1934. Thirteen years later he became Deputy-Manager and retired at the end of 1954 on reaching the age limit.

Mr. Mayr was widely known, highly esteemed in banking circles in many parts of the world as an expert in the documentary credit business, and much-respected by a large circle of friends. He was a member of the City Swiss Club (1920) and of the Swiss Mercantile Society (1940). For many years, he was Chairman of the Swiss Bank Sports Club, and his performances as leader of the famous tug-of-war team at the Swiss Sports is well remembered.

For some time, Charles Mayr has been ill, and he died on 18th August. We express our deep sympathy to his family. May their sorrow be lessened by the knowledge that all who knew Charles Mayr will remember him as a wise and kind friend.