

Henri Charnaux †

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THREE DEATHS IN THE COLONY

HENRI CHARNAUX †

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Henri Louis Charnaux on 4th August at his home in Wokingham near Reading. He was born in Geneva in May 1889, was educated at the College and apprenticed bank clerk at Lausanne. He came to this country before the first World War in 1911, the year of the Coronation of George V. He worked a few years at the Crédit Lyonnais and later held an important position at the Société Générale until his retirement.

His many friends will remember that Henri Charnaux, with his brother-in-law Vallon and his friend de Cintra, all three from Geneva, held the first Dîner d'Escalade in London which has been an annual feature of great success ever since.

In 1948 he married Miss Lillian Poole, of London, who survives him with two married daughters, Renée and Andrée, and five grand-children, to whom we wish to express our deepest sympathy.

The London Geneveses have lost a true and warm-hearted friend.

P.S.

WALTER BACHMANN †

As was reported in the last issue, Walter Bachmann died on 7th December. He was born in 1900 and received his schooling in Basle. In 1922, he came to England as Export Manager of a Basle firm. He was naturalised in 1927 and lived in Putney after his marriage in 1928 until his death. He was proprietor of the West End Fancy Bakery ("Kencakes") from 1932 to 1948, when he retired. Since then he was the author of many well-known cookery books. He was a member of the Worshipful Company of Bakers, a Fellow of the Hotel and Catering Institute, a Liveryman and Freeman of the City of London and a past Master of the Helvetia Lodge.

For many years Walter Bachmann was connected with the Chaîne des Rôtisseurs. He became the first Treasurer of this organisation in Great Britain. Later he became Chancellor and was recently made Honorary Chancellor. Walter Bachmann was honoured in many parts of the world and was awarded many gold medals and other distinctions. He was interested in R.A.F. Catering, and he spent much effort and money in supporting various ventures. Amongst many of the Royal Air Force Commands he will be remembered with gratitude and thanks for his unfailing support and help. He was also an Honorary Adviser to the Air Ministry.

In New York (May 1961) he was presented with a gold engraving by the "Les Amis d'Escoffier" Foundation for his unselfish contribution to International Culinary Development. This is one of only two such presentations made outside the United States.

Walter Bachmann was not very active in the Swiss Colony, but all who knew him will remember his joviality and his grand sense of humour. Many are the friends who mourn his passing and grieve with his family, especially with his widow, Mrs. Kathleen Bachmann, to whom sincere sentiments of sympathy go out in this hour of sorrow.

FEDERICO BASSI †

His many friends will learn with regret of the passing suddenly at his home in Kennington, S.E.17, on the 26th November last, of FEDERICO BASSI, in his 79th year.

A native of Dangio d'Aquila (Blenio), Canton Ticino, the deceased was attracted to London at an early age to join his relatives, and several of his "compaesani", who were already active in the Metropolis catering trade. He was on the staff of a number of well-known West End catering establishments, where he was appreciated for his quiet efficiency. A familiar figure at many social meetings and patriotic functions in the Colony, his friendly manner and easy humour made him good company. The "Unione Ticinese" claimed him as a member for over half a century. To his bereaved relatives, and in particular to his widow Rose, and brother Peter, we send our sincere condolences.

J.E.

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