

Jules Zimmermann

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NEWS FROM THE COLONY

JUBILEE SERVICE OF THE SWISS-GERMAN PARISH IN LONDON

An absolutely packed church at Endell Street proved that there was more to the Swiss-German Parish of London than meets the eye on a normal Sunday service. The Swiss of London had come in force on Sunday, September 15th, to celebrate an ecumenical and bilingual service marking the National Day of Thanksgiving, Repentance and Prayer. But this also coincided with the 50th Anniversary celebration of the German-Swiss Parish, founded in 1924.

The service was conducted in English, French and German. Following a welcome by the President of the Consistoire, Mr. John Bader, and a hymn in French, a brief history of the German-Swiss Parish was read by Mrs. Mariann Meier, Member of the Consistoire. She noted that of the eighty people who were present at the inaugural service at St. Anne's and St. Agnes, few are still alive today. The only one of the eight founder-members still alive is Mr. Fred Sommer, whereas the only members of the original Consistoire are Mr. Bernard Sigerist, Mr. W. Fischer (both in Switzerland) and Mr. Jacques Oertli. She noted the remarkable evolution which had seen the two parishes get closer together and eventually worship in the same church.

The Lesson was the Parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32). The hymns "O Heiliger Geist" was sung as a break between Bible reading and a Sermon delivered by Pastor Uli Stefan on the theme "judge not others" and based on Romans 2:1-12.

A prayer of Intercession followed the Sermon, and then a Communion Service where the Protestants remained in the Church while the Catholics moved to the Hall where a table had been made ready. Both groups met again for a final hymn "Lobe den Herren" and the Blessing. The collection was in aid of the Swiss Benevolent Society.

A great many parishioners remained for the generous lunch that had been prepared for them and the chairs were moved in the Church so as to allow everyone to sit down in groups. It must have been the first time that lunches such as this were amply supplied with cider! The importance of the attendance was

most encouraging and, to those who still remembered, there were as many people at the Swiss Church on that Sunday, September 15th, 1974, as there were in Kingsway Hall on Sunday, July 17th, 1949, for the Silver Jubilee of the German-Swiss Parish of London.

JULES ZIMMERMANN

It is with regret that we announce the death on August 30th, at the age of 84 of Mr. Jules Zimmermann, who was in his time one of the most active members of the Colony.

Jules Zimmermann was born in Vevey in 1890, a citizen of Schwaendi (Glarus). He attended primary and secondary schools at Vevey, and the Ecole Superieure de Commerce in Lausanne. He served an apprenticeship of three years with the Winterthur Bank, which has since become the Union Bank of Switzerland, finishing with an SKV Diploma. After his military service, he left for Milan in 1910, where he worked as foreign correspondent with the Banca Commerciale Italiana. His employers transferred him to London in 1913 and he embarked on a banking career, eleven years as Secretary and sixteen years as Chief of the Correspondence Department. In 1919, at the age of 29, Mr. Zimmermann was appointed signature-holder with additional power - a few years later to sign as Manager of the West End and Soho Agencies.

He served during the beginning of the First World War in the Swiss Army as Infantry corporal until he was able to return to London early in 1915 to resume his work with the Banca Commerciale Italiana.

With the outbreak of the Second World War, the bank went into liquidation after having been taken over by the Custodian of Enemy Property, and the promising career of Jules Zimmermann came to an abrupt halt.

In 1941 he joined the London Delegation of the International Red Cross, serving as Assistant Delegate until 1945. For the following three years, until the London Office closed, he was sole delegate.

Once again, he had to look for new employment. He was appointed Assistant Manager of the Employment Department of the Swiss Mercantile Society and succeeded Mr. J. Pfaendler as Manager when the latter died in 1951.

Mr. Zimmermann took an interest in the life of his compatriots in London from the very beginning of his arrival in the capital in 1913. In 1914 he was already Honorary Assistant Secretary of the City Swiss Club and held this position until 1920. From 1915 to 1918 he was member, and then Hon. Secretary of the "Comite d'Etudes pour la creation d'une Chambre de Commerce Suisse a Londres" sponsored jointly by the City Swiss Club and the Swiss Mercantile Society. From 1918 to 1943 he was Hon. Secretary of

the "Swiss Commission in London for the study of Economic Questions" (which eventually became the Swiss Economic Council). The other positions held in the Colony by Mr. Zimmermann include Hon. Secretary of the City Swiss Club; Hon. Treasurer of the "Comite de la Fete Suisse"; Hon. Treasurer of the "Home for Aged Swiss"; Hon. Treasurer and Secretary of the "1st August Committee."

The later and important responsibilities assumed by the deceased were with the Swiss Benevolent Society. Mr. Zimmermann was Hon. Assistant Secretary of that body from 1949 to 1952, when he became its full-time Secretary, a position which he held with distinction for 13 years. Mr. Zimmermann retired as Secretary of the SBS at the end of 1968 and had since regularly attended its committee meetings. He retired from the Committee at the 1974 AGM. Mr. Zimmermann was also a member of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique and, formerly of the Swiss Male Choir. He will certainly be remembered as one of the most committed members of the Colony.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

CITY SWISS CLUB: Dinner with speaker on Tuesday, 15th October 6.30 for 7 p.m. at the Dorchester Hotel. 109th ANNUAL DINNER AND BALL to take place on Friday, 15th November.

SWISS CHURCH BAZAAR, Saturday, 2nd November. Opens at Central Hall, Westminster, at noon.

SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION. Next shoots on 6th October and 20th October (Gruempelschiessen).

SWISS CLUB EDINBURGH. Saturday, 5th October, Fondue Evening in honour of Consul-General and Mrs. H. Jaques. 8 p.m. at the Hartmanns: 46 Queen Street, Edinburgh 2.

NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE organises, in conjunction with the Swiss Church and the International Liszt Centre, a CONCERT by the Waldmann Youth Choir from Zurich. 17th October 7.30 p.m.

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY: next monthly meeting on Wednesday, 9th October at Swiss House, Fitzroy Sq., at 7 p.m. REOPENING CEREMONY on 1st November.

UNIONE TICINESE: Centenary Celebration: Sunday, 20th October, 6.30 for 7 p.m. at the Cardinal Manning School, St. Charles' Square, W.10.

SWISS PHILATELIC SOCIETY: Wednesday, 2nd October: House-warming and social evening at Swiss House (Ladies welcomed). Wednesday, 30th October: Monthly meeting and auction. Wednesday, 27th November: Monthly meeting and display.