

# Obituaries

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the studio of David Rubio at Duns Tew near Oxford. She collected it prior to her recital at the Swiss Church, and the truly beautiful instrument was played on in public for the first time. The pale-blue background of the raised dais made an excellent setting for the harpsichord, and the golden letters *Quod Cantus Florere Facit* glittered in the gentle light.

The programme was a varied one, consisting of Scarlatti and Solèr sonatas, Couperin, Rameau and Bach, Handel and Bartok. Miss Vanoli played with great musicality and skill, although it was at times apparent that she was not yet quite familiar with the new instrument, especially as this model had no pedals at all and was adjusted entirely by hand. This was perhaps most noticeable in the Bach Italian Concerto.

On the other hand, Couperin's "La Convalescente" and "Le tic-toc Choc ou les Maillotins" were pure delight. The Bartok Three Romanian Dances which ended the programme, were most expertly rendered and obviously pleased the appreciative audience greatly.

One can but hope to hear Miss Vanoli again on her next visit to England.

M.G.

#### Departure

Our compatriot *Samuel Plattner*, who had been Correspondent of the "Tages Anzeiger" in London for four years, is leaving London to work on the Foreign Desk at his paper's head office in Zurich. Mr. Plattner was President of the Foreign Press Association. A reception to mark his departure was held at the

Association's premises at Carlton House Terrace, and a 19th century engraving of the building was offered to him as a parting gift by the new president of the Association. Before starting work again, Mr. Plattner and his wife will tour the Middle East for three months. He is succeeded in London by Mr. F. Brunner, a young journalist who has worked six years as Middle East Specialist on the "Tages Anzeiger's" Foreign Desk.

#### Reception

A reception was held at the Embassy on 21st June following a concert at the Queen Elizabeth Hall in which Andrej Lütschg was the leading violinist at the première of a *Violin Concerto* by Wladimir Vogel, a living Swiss composer. This performer and a great number of personalities from the world of arts and journalism attended the reception. From the accounts gathered, we understand that the ultra-modern *Violin Concerto* moved a minority of people, and that the evening was redeemed by Ravel's "Mother Goose Suite" and Schubert's "Unfinished Symphony".

#### Church News

Pastor Marcel Dietler, the former minister at the German-Swiss Church in London, met with his old parishioners at Endell Street on 9th July. His wife Fräni was with him for this friendly reunion. At their last Parish Council held in June, members of the German-Swiss Church were told that Pastor Jordi would be replacing Pastor Stefan during his July

holidays. Pastor Stefan had introduced a discussion on the future of the Swiss parish and its community in London. Similar questions were asked at the June parish council meeting of the French-speaking church, where the value of work among the Youth Club was reassessed. That meeting was the last one to be chaired by *Mr. Jacques de Reyland*, who is to take charge of a parish in Quebec Province, Canada. Your Editor was elected as new Chairman on the proposal of Mr. Jean Bader, President of the Consistoire. Another development in the Swiss church was the illness of Mrs. Nicole Languillat, Pastor Michel Languillat's sister, who had to be sent to hospital in France. Her illness caused the advanced departure of Mr. Languillat on holiday. He will be away until the beginning of August. Problems and queries can in his absence be addressed to Pastor Marcel Christinat, 01-445-1501.

#### SWISS NATIONAL DAY COLLECTION 1974

For decades, the first of August has been celebrated as National Day in order to remember the founding of the Swiss Confederation. The National Day should remind us, too, of the precious heritage we have and of the responsibilities such a possession implies. Every year, the Fund of the National Day organises a collection by selling special stamps and patriotic badges, the proceeds of which is allocated to a worthy cause. This year, it will be shared between needy mothers and homes for the old and those in need of care.

One is apt to say that there is no need to make special collections in these times of affluence and the welfare state. Yet, the need is indeed great for overworked mothers who cannot cope with their families due to bad health and other reasons. And nobody will deny that old age has its very real problems which should be the responsibility of every one of us.

So please, give generously and wear the attractive badge proudly in the knowledge that solidarity between the Swiss at home and abroad is no empty word.

M.M.



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## Obituaries

### ADRIENNE CHAPUIS

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Mrs. Adrienne Chapuis on 29th June. She was 82 on 1st June and died peacefully after a short illness. She was born in Paris and came to this country at the age of 17. She met her husband, Louis, on holiday on the South Coast, and they married in 1918.

Louis and Adrienne Chapuis were a very happy couple, and she helped him in his career in an admirable way. She loved entertaining, and their home was a very

hospitable one. Louis, a Vaudois, came to this country with his brother Carlo in 1891. They were orphans and joined their uncle who had come from the Jura and opened a pipe factory in Britain. Louis started an apprenticeship, and by sheer hard work and great energy he worked his way up to become Managing Director and Chairman of the Board of H. Comoy & Co. Ltd., a firm which enjoys a world-wide reputation. He travelled the world over, yet always had time for the Swiss community in London. In 1898, he joined the Swiss Mercantile Society, was a member of the City Swiss Club of which he was President from 1938-1943. He was a member of other Swiss societies and a keen Freemason. During the war, he was Chairman of the Swiss Relief Centre. Like his wife, he died soon after his 82nd birthday, on 12th November, 1959.

Adrienne was a devoted wife and shared her husband's many friends. On his death, she carried on admirably and until recently was a keen and regular member of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique. She leaves a daughter, a son, and two grand-daughters and it is to them that we extend our sincere sympathy in their loss. She has gone to join her beloved Louis, and we shall remember them both with fondness.

M.M.

#### H. H. BAUMANN

With deep regret we announce the death of Hermann Hugo Baumann on 8th July. He was well known in the Swiss community, especially in the Swiss Mercantile Society, and as a keen athlete. He was Vice-Chairman of the Education Committee of the S.M.S. and supported the Society and its College in many athletic events and football matches. He achieved some notable successes in sprinting and was often admired at the Swiss Sports.

He came to this country at the age of 23 and met his wife Claudine in 1911. They married the following year, but in 1914 he returned to Switzerland for military service. After the war, he settled in London and became Shipping Manager of Bunzl and Biach. He retired in 1958. The loss of his wife five years later left him very lonely, but he was a great reader and continued to attend meetings and the Annual Dinner and Dance of the S.M.S.

He died of heart failure in his 87th year. We express our deepest sympathy to his son and daughter and their families. We who knew him well shall remember him not only as the fine athlete he was, but as a good friend and companion.

M.M.

#### Dr. Theol. H.C. WILLIAM PREISWERK, CBE

It is with deep regret that we announce the death on 30th June of William (Bill) Preiswerk, of 45 St. Albanvorstadt, Basle.

Dr. Preiswerk was born in 1893 and began his career in the "Basler

Lagerhausgesellschaft", having gone through the "Humanistische Gymnasium" in Basle. In the first world war, he worked as Assistant Military Attaché under Minister Paravicini. In the early twenties, he was Economic Attaché at the Swiss Legation in London. When his father died in 1938, he became Chairman of the "Basler Handelsgesellschaft".

In 1939, he returned to London and became Head of the Special Division of the Swiss Legation, looking after the interests of belligerent nations. For six years he held this office with great distinction, and in spite of his great affection for this country, he was scrupulously impartial in looking after the interests of the German POWs. His excellent knowledge of English and his great charm enabled him to achieve great things in the interest of prisoners, many of whom have reason to be grateful to him. He was awarded a CBE in 1952 in recognition of all he had done.

At the Basle *dies academicus* in November 1967, William Preiswerk received an honorary Doctorate of Theology in recognition of his great help and the support to the Faculty of Theology in particular and Basle University in general, as well as of his devotion and active help to the work of the Basle Mission.

He is survived by his wife in Basle and his daughter and four grandchildren who live in England. It is to them that we extend our deepest sympathy, and also to his sister, Miss Rosie Preiswerk, so well remembered in the London Swiss community from the days she was Warden of the Swiss Hostel for Girls in Hampstead. William Preiswerk has been a staunch supporter of the *Swiss Observer*, and he will be missed by many friends and admirers all over the world.

M.M.

#### ERMANN0 BERNER



It is with profound regret that we have to announce the death of Ermanno Berner, President of the Yorkshire Swiss Club, of "Berner House", Waddington, Clitheroe, Lancs. He died on 6th July

after a serious but courageously borne illness. The memorial service took place on 10th July at the Waddington Methodist Church, followed by interment at Clitheroe Cemetery, attended by a multitude of friends. The two tributes read, one by a Rotarian, the other by the head of Giron Frères in France, testified to the great esteem and affection Ermanno Berner was accorded. A beautiful Swiss flag, property of the Swiss Club, Manchester, had been draped across the coffin at the deceased's wish. That was the testimony to his great love for his country and all things Swiss.

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Ermanno Berner was born at Cene near Bergamo in Italy in 1903. He went to a private Swiss school financed by Swiss residents at Bergamo, where his father was Consul. Later he attended the "Bezirksschule" in Aarau, followed by the Cantonal School and the Ecole Supérieure de Commerce in Neuchâtel. A German industrialist recognised in Ermanno, at the early age of 18, already certain talents and abilities, coupled with fluent German and Italian, which would make him a suitable manager of the "Società Italiana Industrie Velluti" in Bergamo. He went for training at the "Preussische Höhere Fachschule für Textil Industrie" in Krefeld. Afterwards he spent several years training in various factories in Italy, Germany and Czechoslovakia, as well as in factories belonging to his German friends. At the age of 22, he took up the management of the Bergamo subsidiary. He became Managing Director and member of the board until the crisis of 1936 put an end to the company's work.

That was the time when Ermanno Berner became associated with the old-established French firm of Giron Frères, and they entrusted him with the setting up of a subsidiary at Accrington. He arrived not knowing a word of English. But he made a great success, and in the 34 years he devoted all his energies and skill to the company. After the war, he had to start practically from scratch. He retired in the spring of 1971, and the Editor of the S.O. wrote a glowing account of the most marvellous send-off the 130 workers gave their boss, whom they liked to call "Father Berner". His son Willy is now at the head of the firm, carrying on the great tradition of his father.

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Ermanno's connection with Swiss community life began in Bergamo where he was an active member of the Swiss Club. In this country, he immediately joined the Manchester Swiss Club, and he became its President in 1950, a post he held for a good many years. For over ten years, he was President of the Swiss Relief Society and for many years Press Reporter to the *Swiss Observer*. And as if all that had not been enough, he succeeded Prof. Inebnit as President of the Yorkshire Swiss Club. He did a great