

Ernest A. Grau †

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E. SIEGRIST
70 Years Old.

Mr. E. Siegrist, Managing Director of Messrs. Siegrist-Orel Ltd., and Silent Gliss Ltd., of 29/30 Windmill Street, W.1, celebrated his 70th birthday on 6th May, and we wish him — belatedly — many happy returns of the day.

The “Jubilar” was born in Basle in 1889, and after an apprenticeship with Messrs. Burckhardt & Co., Silk Ribbon Manufacturers, in that town, started business on his own principally with Germany. Although successful in the first instance, he was obliged to wind up his business in 1923, owing to the collapse of the German currency.

In 1924 Mr. Siegrist came to London, where he established himself as an Export and Import Merchant. Ten years later (1934) he took over the manufacturing rights of a patent registered by a German concern of cable markers. This article is principally used by aircraft factories, and consists of a highly skilled job. In this branch, Mr. Siegrist employs 28 workhands.

Some four years ago, he acquired the manufacturing rights for the British Commonwealth, U.S.A. and other countries, from a Swiss firm making “silent” curtain rails. Mr. Siegrist founded a separate company under the name “Silent Gliss Limited”, in which concern he employs a staff of 14 people. These rails are used in most of the air liners, such as Swissair, K.L.M., B.O.A.C., B.E.A., and also in hospitals and private dwellings.

Recently, Mr. Siegrist has travelled extensively in America, Canada, and Finland. Unfortunately, these travels somewhat overtaxed his strength, causing a heart attack. He was in a London hospital for several weeks, and afterwards went to Switzerland to undergo treatment at the “Bürgerspital” in Basle. After a short stay at Locarno for recuperation, Mr. Siegrist had a relapse, which necessitated further treatment at the Basle hospital, where he is at present.

Some years ago our friend took an active part in the affairs of the “Schweizerbund” (Swiss Club), of which he was President for one and a half years. He was principally responsible for the renovation of the Club's premises at 74 Charlotte Street, W.1; he is also a member of the City Swiss Club, Swiss Mercantile Society and Nouvelle Société Helvétique.

We wish Mr. Siegrist a speedy and complete recovery, and an early return. *ST.*

ERNEST A. GRAU †

With the passing away of Mr. Ernest A. Grau — briefly reported in our last issue — the Colony has, once again, suffered a grievous loss. His untimely departure has cast a deep gloom over all those who have known him, for he was a likeable and modest man, and a faithful friend.

Ernest A. Grau was born in 1888 at Nyon, *originaire* of Ried-au-Lac (canton Fribourg). He received his primary and secondary schooling at Nyon, and at the “Real Gymnasium” Basle, after which he commenced, in 1905, a two-year apprenticeship with the firm Sandoz-Gallet, manufacturers of provision goods, at Nyon.

The deceased found employment with the firm of Th. Kapff Nachfolger, manufacturers of metal articles, at Ludwigsburg near Stuttgart, from 1907 to 1908. On his return to Switzerland, he entered the Lausanne office of the Oerlikon Machine Works, where he remained for two years. At the end of 1910 Mr. Grau came to London, where he obtained the post of correspondent, and later chief of office, with the Nestlé & Anglo-Swiss Condensed Milk Company. Whilst occupying these posts, owing to hard work and strict integrity, he gained the confidence of the management, and consequently he was transferred to the firm's Agency at Constantinople as chief of office, and before long he was appointed to the post of manager of the Agencies of “Smyrne et de l'Archipel”, and subsequently manager of the firm's Agencies in Egypt and the Sudan.

It was in 1918 that he left the Nestlé concern in order to take up a position with the firm André & Cie. at Nyon, of which he became Agent in Barcelona. Two years later (1920) Mr. Grau was appointed Manager of the Société André & Cie. S.A. Belge, at Antwerp; this post he held until May 1932, when he was entrusted with the management of the European Grain Agency Ltd. in London (a subsidiary of the André company). Whilst connected with this firm he undertook many journeys to North and South America. This post he held with much distinction until the end of 1953. On his retirement, Mr. Grau remained Chairman of the European Grain & Shipping Agency Ltd.

The deceased — a faithful Vaudois — thus has spent the major part of his successful life away from his native country, to which he was so deeply attached.

In spite of his responsible position, he found time to take an active part in the life of the London Swiss Colony. He was an “Ancient” of the “l'Eglise Suisse”, and a member of the City Swiss Club, Swiss Mercantile Society, Swiss Economic Council and “Nouvelle Société Helvétique”.

Mr. Grau leaves two married daughters, to whom we extend our deep sympathy in their bereavement.

We, who have known this likeable man, will always remember him with affection. *ST.*