

H.M. Ochsner †

Autor(en): **R.J.K.**

Objektyp: **Obituary**

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

Band (Jahr): - **(1969)**

Heft 1581

PDF erstellt am: **19.09.2024**

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HANS BOSSARD ✠

In spring 1967, and again about a year later, the S.O. published two stories in Zug dialect, both concerning our old friend Joe Christen, formerly of London and now retired in his home Canton. The two tales were reprinted from a small book by Hans Bossard. Our old reader and the author were both very pleased to have the stories appear in the London Colony paper, and a lively and friendly correspondence ensued. Little did I know then that the author was none other than the father of the Rev. Father Paul Bossard, Chaplain of the London Swiss R.C. Community.

Today it is with deep regret that we have to announce his sudden death. Mr. Hans Bossard of Aegeristrasse 70, Zug, Switzerland, was born on 16th April 1889, son of the well-known "Schanzenfürst" of Zug. He was a gifted teacher and spent his teaching years at the *Stadtschule* (Neustadt) from 1910 to 1955. When he was 30, he married a colleague, Miss Marie Stadler, and their happy marriage was to last half a century. Six sons and one daughter were theirs, though they lost Markus in a tragic flying accident in 1957.

Hans Bossard was not only a teacher, but a well-known linguist, a great believer in local dialect. He was co-founder of the Zugerland group for promotion of dialects in 1938. It was not until 1962 that he had his most important work published by the "Schweizerspiegel Verlag" in Zurich: "Zuger Mundartbuch", a grammar and dictionary, a guide to the best use of local dialect. Three years later, he published "Bleter vom Zugerbärg", a selection of poems and tales. His "Zugerseewälle" followed in 1967, poetry and stories from old Zug.

In the issue of 27th July last, the "Swiss Observer" gave its usual messages for the National Day. On

page 3 appeared a poem on the Swiss flag, and the author signed "Zilander". That is the pen name, Hans Bossard often used, and he sent me the poem by way of a tribute to the Swiss abroad in general and the "Swiss Observer" in particular. We remember the gesture with even deeper appreciation now that he is no more on this earth. He and his wife were able to celebrate their 80th birthdays earlier this year, and their Golden Wedding on 1st September. Less than a month later he met his sudden death on the train from Interlaken to Meiringen, having spent a particularly happy holiday with his wife at Lauterbrunnen.

We express our sincere sympathy to Mrs. Bossard and their family, in particular to Father Paul Bossard in London.

MM

H. M. OCHSNER ✠

With deep regret, I have to announce the sudden death of Max in London on the 17th October, 1969. The funeral service was held in private on Monday, 27th October.

Max Ochsner was one of the small band of Swiss, who came to the City of London in the Twenties as a young man and contributed so much to building up the international financing business of London and to its reputation for expert knowledge, integrity and progressiveness.

Max was born in Rüti on the 13th July, 1891 and was educated in Switzerland. After his commercial apprenticeship and to gain experience abroad and knowledge of languages, he was from 1911 to 1916 with merchanting firms in France and Spain. In December, 1916 he went to London to join a well-known firm of merchant bankers and produce brokers. This broad experience laid the foundations for his wide knowledge of international trading and finance. In 1918, he joined the Overseas Branch of

the London Joint City and Midland Bank, later to become the Midland Bank, which had just been established as a focal point for all the foreign business of the bank. For some years he was in charge of the Merchandise and Information Department and though still a young man, dealt on behalf of the bank and its customers in the London gold, silver and commodity markets. The late Mr. Thackstone as Chief Foreign Manager and Mr. Wood, who both became Chief General Managers and good friends of the deceased recognised the great value of Max's exceptional knowledge, experience and languages and invited him to join the Central Management. He was appointed as Deputy Assistant Manager in October, 1945 and in recognition of his great contribution to the Bank was appointed as Deputy Manager in July, 1950; he was a leading member of the team which developed the business into one of the largest international banking units in the City. Max retired from the Bank in June, 1953 and no fewer than 400 of his colleagues contributed to a presentation to him. The illuminated address accompanying the presentation was inscribed as follows:

"On the occasion of his retirement as a mark of the affection and esteem in which he is held by all who know him".

Max's achievements, however, were not only in the business field. He was a highly intelligent and cultured man with a great appreciation of the arts — "he was a gentleman in every sense of the word". He befriended many and the wide circle of his friends have warm and affectionate memories of Max. He was esteemed as a Swiss in the City and one who brought immeasurable benefits to the country where he chose to spend more than half a century of his full life. He joined the City Swiss Club in 1947 and was an old member of the Swiss Mercantile Society, staunch supporter of the Swiss Church in London and the Swiss Benevolent Society. (R.J.K.)

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