

Charles L. Chapuis

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CHARLES L. CHAPUIS.
75 Years old.

For many years now — alas — the Editor had the sad task of writing fare-well messages for many a dear friend who has left us never to return.

It is, therefore, a great pleasure this time to mention a personal friend, and well-known member of the London colony, who is happily still amongst us, and has, on the 24th of this month celebrated his 75th birthday.

Five years ago it was my privilege to send — through this paper — “many happy returns of the day” to “Carlo” as he is known to all his many friends, on the occasion of his 70th birthday, expressing the hope that he might be with us for many more years to come. This hope and wish has fortunately been answered, and to-day he is still amongst us “hale and hearty”, looking not a day older, than when he put the 70th candle on his birthday cake.

When one grows older — as alas — we all do, and looking back on the past, many memories of happy hours spent in the company of good friends are awakened, and amongst these memories, which will always be treasured by the writer, are 44 years of unbroken friendship with the “birthday child”.

We might have, at one time or another, disagreed on various matters, but these temporary differences of opinion at no time affected our close relations.

* * *

Charles L. Chapuis was born at Lausanne on September 24th, 1881, and on becoming an orphan at

the early age of ten, he arrived in London, together with his elder brother, Louis, in December 1891, he can thus look back on sixty-five years of residence in this country.

He continued his schooling in London until the age of fourteen when he commenced his business career as a shop boy in his uncle's firm, Henry Comoy, the pioneer of the Briar Pipe industry in England, which in the course of years became the world famed concern of H. Comoy & Co. Ltd. By sheer hard work and tenacity he became a Director, many years ago, of the firm of which his brother Louis is the Chairman and Managing-Director.

In spite of heavy business responsibilities, Mr. Chapuis found time to take a very active part in the Swiss Colony's affairs. He served on numerous committees where his sagacity, fair play and sound views were much appreciated and frequently acted upon.

For over thirty years he has been one of the prime movers of the “Comité de la Fête Suisse” holding the offices first as Assistant Treasurer, then Hon. Treasurer and until 1950, President.

In 1911, our friend joined the City Swiss Club of which Society he became President in 1930.

Perhaps the major part of his manifold activities was devoted to the Swiss Mercantile Society, the London section of the “Schweizerischen Kaufmännischen Vereins” of which he became a member in 1908, and in which Society he held the office of President of the Entertainment Committee for eleven years. For fifteen years he was also a member of the Council, and until last year he sat on the Advisory Board of the Employment Department of the Society, since given up. For the great services he had rendered, he was, in 1918, made an Honorary Member, a distinction which he richly deserved.

Mr. Chapuis is an ardent Freemason, Past Master of the Helvetica Lodge, and at present occupies the office as Almoner of the Lodge, he is also a founder member of the Rotary Club of Finsbury.

But not only has he given his service freely to the Swiss community, but also to the country which has given him its long hospitality. He became a Publicity Officer of the “National Savings Movement”, a member of the Air Training Corps Committee”,

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and the "Advisory Board" Ministry of Labour, etc. etc.

It is also worth recording that Mr. Chapuis was awarded the British Red Cross war medal after the 1st world war 1914-1918.

He is a well-known personality in the Borough of Finsbury, where his firm's works and offices are situated, and although an "Alien" he has taken great interest in local social affairs, particularly during the last war.

Although Mr. Chapuis spent practically all his life away from his native country, he has remained faithful to the soil from whence he came, he has remained to this day an ardent lover of Switzerland and his canton of Vaud.

In 1917, our friend married, and the writer had the privilege of attending his wedding as President of the Swiss Mercantile Society. It is an open secret, that the union with Germaine, a compatriot of ours has proved a most happy one. Her charm and cheerfulness have endeared her to everyone, and she has been a great help to him in all his undertakings.

* * *

On his 75th birthday our Carlo can look back on a successful and fruitful life. May a kind Providence grant him many more years by the side of his life's partner and in the midst of his many friends, who have enjoyed his company for so long.

ST.

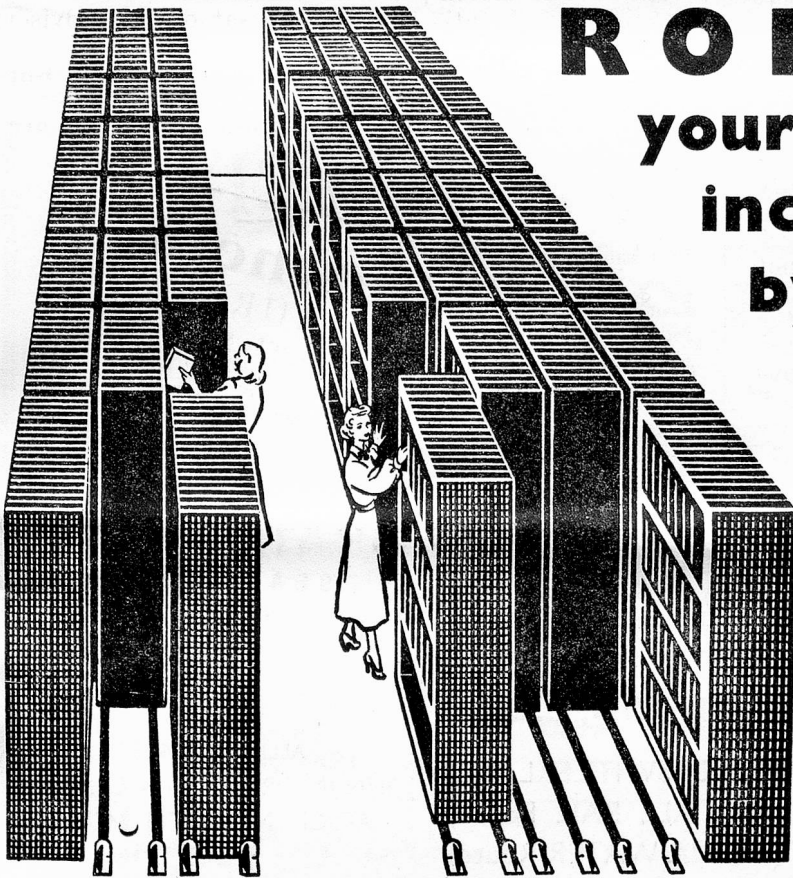
CONCERT NEWS.

We wish to direct the attention of our readers to a Piano Recital of our compatriot Rudolf am Bach (Zurich) which will take place on Tuesday, October 23rd, at 7.30 p.m. at Wigmore Hall, Wigmore Street, W.1.

This well-known artist is no stranger to the Swiss Colony, having given recitals before at Wigmore Hall which were favourably commented upon in the Daily Press.

It is hoped that many members of the Colony will make a note of this date. Particulars as to the contents of the programme will appear in our next issue.

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