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AT THE SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY

The Monthly Meeting of the Society, held on Wednesday, 11th October, which was attended by about forty members and friends, opened on a very sad note. The Chairman, Mr. R. Chappuis, informed the hushed assembly that our Hon. Member and former President, Walter Meier, had passed away in the early hours of that morning.

Ever since joining the SMS in 1928, our departed friend had taken a keen interest in its affairs and for many years played a leading role in the activities of the Society and the College. In recognition of his services, the SKV elected him an Honorary Member of the Central Society in 1956.

The President expressed the Society's deepest sympathy to his bereaved wife and family in their great loss, and the members rose to pay a last silent tribute to a great friend, whose presence will be missed by all who had the privilege of working with him and of knowing him personally.

The Chairman expressed heartiest congratulations to our members Messrs. W. Renz and J. M. Rueff on their appointment as a Manager of Hambros Bank and of the Anglo-Israel Bank respectively, which was cordially endorsed by all present.

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An interim report of the sub-committee appointed by the Presidents' Assembly for the study of problems relating to the Swiss Colony in Great Britain was distributed for perusal. The report will be fully discussed at our next meeting and members were invited, if they so desired, to give their opinions and to make their comments in writing.

Following the official proceedings, Mr. E. T. Malone, Assistant Chief Information Officer of the Port of London Authority, gave a talk on the *Port of London*.

In a very interesting survey, the lecturer dealt with all aspects of the world's largest and most important maritime undertaking. He stated that the vastness of the PLA, which was constituted as a statutory body by an Act of Parliament in 1908, could best be gauged when it was remembered that it controlled the use of the Thames from Southend to Teddington.

He explained in detail the discharge and unloading of vessels with tonnages ranging from 10,000 to 45,000, some 150 to 180 ships being berthed in the immense labyrinth of docks at any one time.

The talk was admirably illustrated by a colour sound film. This gave a graphic account of all the processes involved from the time a ship enters the estuary until it takes to the high seas again.

We saw cargo from all corners of the globe being unloaded and stored with all modern devices of mechanisation in sheds and warehouses. Conversely, exports were pouring into the docks on an endless fleet of lorries, with all the manufactured products which find their way into overseas markets being stowed into the holds.

Finally, the lecturer answered questions put to him by the audience, which revealed the interest which the talk and the film had aroused. A cordial vote of thanks to Mr. Malone, moved by the Chairman, was warmly supported by all present.

W.B.

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR THE LATE MR. W. MEIER

A Memorial Service for the late Mr. Walter Meier will be held at the Eglise Suisse, 79 Endell Street, London, W.C.2, on Tuesday, 31st October 1961, at 11.30 a.m.

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