

Alexandre C. Baume †

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ALEXANDRE C. BAUME †

As briefly reported in our last issue, Mr. Alexandre C. Baume, of 50 Woodway Crescent, Harrow, Middlesex, died on Saturday, 7th January, after a short illness, in his 79th year.

By his departure the London Swiss Colony has again suffered a grievous loss. Alexandre, as he was affectionately known by his large circle of friends, belonged to the "old guard", which, alas, is dwindling alarmingly. The writer — who had known him for over 40 years — loses a dear friend, with whom he was associated on many committees over a great number of years. He well remembers occasions when the departed "made things fly", because Alexandre was what one might call a "stormy petrel", but temporary excitement usually soon abated, and a handshake invariably put things right again. There was no malice in him.

Although the major part of his long life was spent in this country, he has always kept in close touch with the land of his birth, which he visited frequently and which he deeply loved.

Alexandre C. Baume was born in 1882 at Le Bois (Jura Bernois), and as a young man came to London in 1904, joining his uncle's firm, Messrs. Baume & Co., sole representatives of the famous Longines watch manufacturing works. In 1912 he became a partner in the firm, retiring in 1946 after 42 years of service.

For over half a century Alexandre Baume took an active part in the doings of the Colony, to which he rendered invaluable services, which will always be remembered with gratitude. In 1907 he joined the City Swiss Club, of which he was president in 1910. On his reaching fifty years of membership the Club made him an Honorary Member in 1957. He also held the office of Vice-President of the Swiss Benevolent Society, of which he had been a member for 43 years. He joined the "Société de Secours Mutuels" in 1910, and had also belonged to the "Loge Entente Cordiale" since 1911. The Nouvelle Société Helvétique and the Swiss Mercantile Society counted him as a member.

Alexandre Baume was married to a compatriot of ours from La Chaux-de-Fonds, who presented him with a daughter and two sons,

to whom we convey our sincere sympathy in their sad bereavement.

This long, fruitful and successful life has now come to its journey's end, and we who are left behind will always keep him in affectionate remembrance as a man of strong convictions and of a lovable disposition.

Farewell, dear friend Alexandre, you will be greatly missed. *ST.*



JOHN VEGLIO †

Giovanni (John) Veglio — Giovannin to all his many friends and acquaintances on account of his slender, diminutive stature — passed away peacefully at his home at 6 Knights Park, Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey, on Wednesday, 28th December 1960, aged 81 years, after a long illness.

Born at Cumiasca, frazione di Corzoneso, Valle di Blenio (C. Ticino), 18th May 1879, the deceased was brought to London at a very early age by his parents, his father owning a well-appointed restaurant in Euston Road, one of the busiest thoroughfares of Victorian London, with three railway termini. So, with his brothers — Franceschin (who survives him, aged 85, at Bellinzona) and the late Silvio — he grew up in the London catering trade which was then largely in the hands of Ticinesi and had reached the peak of its prosperity. Indeed, in the West End of London at that time one met almost at every step a "café suisse" owned by a Ticinese. From the small village of Corzoneso alone had come — besides the Veglios — the Bozzinis, the Nodirolis and the Sorgesas. The now world-famous Gattis and Monicos themselves hailed from Dongie, lying on the bottom of the same valley, about a mile downstream. After the first World War John Veglio went over to the licensed victualler trade, and for over 17 years was the popular "mine host" of The Yorkshire Grey at Langham Place, London W.1, now in the shadow of Broadcasting House. Just before the outbreak of the second world conflagration, he transferred to The Albany, at Twickenham. After a while at Richmond, failing health decided him to retire to his native Cumiasca in