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# NEWS FROM THE COLONY

**W. BECKMANN †**

It is with deep regret that we announce the death on 2nd October of Mr. W. Beckmann of 46 Chemin de Pierre-fleur, Lausanne.

Mr. Beckmann was born in Zurich in 1891, where he received his schooling. He finished his education in Basle at the Obere Realschule. After his military service (Rekrutenschule and Unteroffiziersschule), he made an apprenticeship with Schlotterbeck's. In 1912, he came to London. For some three years he worked with an engineering firm and then joined the World Transport Company. On 1st June 1931, he founded his own business of Cosmos Freightways Agency Ltd. which he developed with much success. At the end of May 1962, he sold his business to his compatriot and partner, Mr. A. Strittmatter. He remained on the Board of Messrs. Bruce, Dawson & Co. (London) Ltd. (manufacturers of Trucks and Dowels) until July 1963, when he and his wife retired to Switzerland.

Mr. Beckmann was a founder member of the Institute of Shipping and Forwarding Agents and for many years Auditor of the London Branch.

Mr. Beckmann took a keen interest in the affairs of the Swiss community in this country. He was a member of the one-time Swiss Institute, the City Swiss Club, the Swiss Mercantile Society, the Nouvelle Société Helvétique.

In all his activities he was supported loyally by his wife to whom our deep sympathy goes in her grief. His death is mourned also by his daughter Mrs. Eric Housego, her husband and her two children (in Nottinghamshire), as well as by the many friends of the Beckmann family, who will remember a staunch and loyal man of many endearing qualities.

MM

## OBITUARY

We announce with deep regret the death of Mr. A. E. Banderet, formerly of 60 Gayton Road, Harrow, Middx. He died at a nursing home in Northampton on 26th September. Mr. Banderet lived in this country for many years and was a former Manager of the National Provincial Bank in London. He lost his wife suddenly at Easter. We express our sympathy to his family, particularly his son Charles.

\* \* \*

It is with great regret that we announce the death of Mrs. Caroline Ernst, *née* Bond, wife of Mr. H. O. Ernst, 32 The Grove, West Wickham, Kent. She died peacefully after a short illness, on 11th October. Mrs. Ernst was well known in the Swiss community where she often accompanied her husband at Swiss functions which he attended in his capacity as Manager of the Swiss National Tourist Office for many years. We express our deep sympathy to Mr. Ernst and his daughters Myriam and Betty and her family in their sad bereavement.

## PERSONAL

On Saturday, 23rd October, Dr. Ernst M. Bircher will celebrate his seventieth birthday. He is a very youthful seventy and still engaged in work for the Swiss Embassy. He is also the Hon. Secretary of the Anglo-Swiss Society, a member of the S.O. Advisory Council and of several Swiss societies in London. We wish him a very happy birthday with his children and grandchildren and many more years of good health and wellbeing.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We wish to thank the following subscribers for sending donations in addition to their subscriptions and/or for taking out or renewing gift subscriptions for friends or old-age pensioners: Mrs. H. C. Cownie, Mrs. M. Gfeller, Mrs. P. Moehr, Mrs. R. Pitcairn, and Messrs. F. Burri, A. L. Cuani, A. Dressler, E. Geier, G. Godet, F. Good, G. Gysi, R. J. Jaeger, J. Jenny, A. Kiener, E. H. Muller, E. C. Schmid, G. A. Schmid, C. Schorno, R. Schweizer, F. G. Sommer, R. M. Suess, W. E. Weisflog, E. Weiss. We are most grateful for their kind and welcome support.

## EGLISE SUISSE

The Rev. Alexandre Nicod was inducted as pastor of the Swiss Church in London — the French-speaking community — on Sunday, 3rd October. The ceremony was conducted by the President of the Consistoire and was attended by a large congregation. H.E. the Swiss Ambassador and Mme. de Fischer honoured the occasion by their presence.

Mr. Nicod, preaching on the text, "Watch therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming", stressed the responsibility of the Church in the world. "We are the doormen at the gate of the Kingdom of God; we are the watchmen to whom is given the responsibility of seeing and assessing what is happening in the world, so as to enable the Church to fulfil, in a relevant way, her mission to proclaim God's salvation to all men."

Mr. and Mrs. Nicod arrived in London last month with their three daughters: Rachel (13), Danièle (11) and Dominique (5). The Swiss Colony joins with the Church in wishing Mr. and Mrs. Nicod a happy period of residence in London and a fruitful ministry. O.B.

## CITY SWISS CLUB

The 100th Banquet and Ball of the City Swiss Club will be a splendid occasion to meet old Swiss friends and to take English friends along to a special function. Apart from Federal Councillor and Madame Bonvin, a former Lord Mayor of London, Sir James and Lady Harman, will grace the evening. Sir James is a great friend of Switzerland, having lived there for many years.

## CHRISTMAS APPEAL

As usual at this time of the year, the SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY and both Communities of the SWISS CHURCH IN LONDON, as well as the SWISS CATHOLIC MISSION IN LONDON appeal to all their Swiss friends for gifts in kind or in cash in order to provide a little extra cheer at Christmas for our compatriots in need.

New articles of clothing, also used ones cleaned and in good repair, as well as household goods will be greatly appreciated.

Gifts in kind should be sent, preferably not later than the first week in November, to the Swiss Benevolent Society, whilst donations in cash or cheques may be forwarded to any one of the under-mentioned addresses:—

Swiss Benevolent Society, 31 Conway Street, London W.1;

Rev. A. Nicod, 7 Park View Road, London N.3;

Rev. M. Dietler, 1 Womersley Road, London N.8;

Rev. Joseph Scherer, St. Ann's Church, Abbey Orchard Street, London S.W.1.