

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

Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

Band: - (1970)

Heft: 1586

Rubrik: Obituary

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CHARLES VOEGELI

It is with deep regret that we announce the sudden death on 23rd December of Mr. Charles Voegeli, of 21 Seidenstrasse, 8400 Winterthur, Switzerland.

For well over two decades, Mr. Voegeli lived in India where he became Manager of Volkart Brothers in Karachi (Pakistan today). It was the end of August 1946 when he came to England as Manager of the Company's London branch. For 16 years he took an active interest in the Swiss community, more especially in the Swiss Mercantile Society of which he was a Trustee from 1953 to 1962. He had already been a member of the SMS in Switzerland and a few years ago he joined the ranks of the veterans when he completed 50 years of membership of the SKV. For his services to the London SMS he was made an Honorary Member. He was also a member of other societies, and Mr. and Mrs. Voegeli were popular figures during their stay in Great Britain.

He retired from business at the end of April 1958, but on account of the Voegeli's two young sons they remained here for another four years until the boys had reached a stage in their education which allowed a transfer to Switzerland. The Voegeli family left in 1962 and have been in Winterthur ever since.

Mr. Voegeli was a man of great integrity and strict but friendly disposition, and his friends mourn his passing at the age of 72. We extend our deep sympathy to Mrs. Voegeli and the two sons in their sad bereavement.

(MM)

OBITUARY

With deep regret we announce the death of Mr. Charles Fruh, of Flat 28, Ulster Court, Albany Park Road, Kingston, Surrey. He died very suddenly on 22nd December, and we express our sympathy to his widow and family in their sad loss.

* * *

We profoundly regret to announce the death of Mr. Charles Chapuis, of "Ya Mieux", 3 Broomhills Road, West Mersea, Essex. An obituary will follow in the next issue.

OSCAR GROB 70

At a time when so many of our old friends seem to leave us for ever, it is a double pleasure to be able to congratulate one of them on becoming a septuagenarian. We are happy to announce that Mr. Oscar Grob, K.S.G., of 60 Seafield Road, London, N.11, will celebrate his 70th birthday on 26th February.

Mr. Grob was born at Frauenfeld at the beginning of the century. He completed his schooling at the Cantonal School in his home town and did his apprenticeship with the *Leih-und Sparkasse* Eschenz (Thurgau). He then



joined the Swiss Credit Bank at Romanshorn and later the *Bank in Schevhausen*. When that organisation was taken over by the Swiss Bank Corporation, Mr. Grob was transferred to their London office. Eight years later, in 1932, he became a signature holder.

He was sent to New York in August 1939 with the task of organising the new offices of the Swiss Bank Corporation, returning to London in May 1940. At the end of 1944, Mr. Grob was promoted to Sub-Manager, an office he held successfully until his retirement at the end of February 1965.

Oscar Grob has been keenly interested in the life of the Swiss community ever since his arrival in this country. He is a member of the *Nouvelle Société Helvétique* and has been of the City Swiss Club since 1945. He is a

founder member of the London Swiss Philatelic Society and was its first Hon. Treasurer. But the two organisations in which he has had his heart the most are the Swiss Mercantile Society and the Swiss Catholic Community.

He joined the SMS at Romanshorn in 1918 and thus qualified for the veterans' recognition two years ago. He joined the London Section in 1925, and he has held offices as Honorary Assistant Treasurer, as Honorary Treasurer (1928/38), as member of the Council since its formation in 1931, member of the House Committee from 1939 and its Chairman for a year, and finally, President of the Society and Chairman of the Council from 1958 to 1960. He was made an Honorary Member of the Swiss Mercantile Society in 1961 for services rendered to the Society, and he also holds the Gold Badge of Merit of the mother society in Switzerland. Since August last year, Mr. Grob has been a Trustee of the SMS.

Mr. Grob has been an active member in the Swiss R.C. community, and he has been Chairman of the Committee of Swiss Catholics since 1960. For his services to the Swiss Catholic Mission, the Catenian Association and the Swiss Mercantile Society, especially because of the work benefiting youth, H. H. the Pope awarded Mr. Grob a knighthood in 1966. On 12th July of that year, he was presented with the K.S.G. at a memorable dinner at the Dorchester Hotel. It was an honour well deserved.

So now Oscar has completed seven decades of his rich life. His friends are delighted and wish him many happy returns of the day. Although not to him alone, for when one thinks of Oscar one invariably includes his wife Kathleen, a loyal and constant partner not only in a happy marriage, but also in colony activities. We wish them both many more years of happy togetherness and much joy with their two sons, daughters-in-law, and four grandchildren.

May you, dear Oscar, be blessed with good health and be able to enjoy your favourite pastime of bowling for a long time to come.

(MM)

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