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OBITUARIES

ENRICO TOSIO

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Consul-General Enrico Tosio, of Piazzola 158, 7742 Poschiavo. He died on 19th September after a long and courageously borne illness.

Enrico Tosio was born in this country in 1913, citizen of Poschiavo. He studied in St. Gall and joined the Federal Postal Administration in 1932. Seven years later, he changed over to the Political Department, and that gave him an opportunity of returning to England where he was stationed throughout the war. At the end of hostilities, he was appointed Chancellor and transferred to the Swiss Legation in Stockholm. From 1949 to 1957, he was Vice-Consul in Sydney, and a year later, he was attached for a short time to the Foreign Interests Section of the Swiss Embassy in Cairo. Back in Berne, he was appointed *Chef de Service* in the Federal Political Department, and in 1962, he succeeded Mr. E. Ribi as Consul in London.

In March 1968, Mr. & Mrs. Tosio left for Karachi. The Swiss Embassy had been moved to the new capital of Islamabad, and Enrico Tosio became the first Consul-General in Karachi. Unfortunately, the state of his health did not allow him to finish his career, and he retired to Poschiavo where he and his wife spent the last couple of years.

Rico Tosio had other ties with Great Britain than only those of birth and profession. In 1942, he married Miss Marjorie Cuningham at the Swiss Church in London. Their only daughter Renata is married in England. Marjorie and Rico Tosio took a great interest in the activities of the Swiss community. The Swiss Benevolent Society, the Nouvelle Société Helvétique, the Swiss Church in all its aspects, the Unione Ticinese – all had the ready support of the Tosios. They were sadly missed when they left for Asia.

Rico Tosio's integrity and his fighting spirit for what he considered right and just was beyond question. He never offended, and he always used tact

and a conciliatory attitude to great advantage. He was gifted for languages in an exceptional way; he spoke several languages with great ease and without any foreign accent at all.

Rico Tosio will be greatly missed by numerous friends in many places. We in Great Britain who had the privilege of knowing him and his wife, express our deep sympathy to her and her family in their sad bereavement.

MM

ADOLPHE BLEIKER

We deeply regret to announce the death of Mr. Adolphe Bleiker, of 4 The Paddock, Frogham Cross, Hants. (summer) and Fuengirola, Spain (winter).

Adolphe Bleiker was born in Geneva on 11th February 1897. His parents had come from the Obertoggenburg. After studying in Geneva, he finished his training at the *Lehranstalt* Schiers, where he met the late Alfred Renou and Pastor Hahn formerly of the Swiss Church in London.

He served an apprenticeship at a Geneva Bank, getting Fr.20.– a month during the last year! He arrived in this country on 20th November 1915 and began his interesting career in commerce. He worked with a number of merchant firms, joining Roura and Forgas in 1931. Their export business was taken over by a City group, trading as Rourafic, of which Mr. Bleiker was Managing Director. He travelled extensively in Africa, India and the Middle East.

Amongst his interests in the Swiss community, the Cercle Genevois was dearest to him, and he was a very active chairman of the "Escalade" until 1965. He was also a member of the Swiss Mercantile Society, the Nouvelle Société Helvétique and the City Swiss Club.

Soon after his retirement in 1964, he and his wife left for Spain where they spent every winter. It is to her and their family that his many friends express deep sympathy in the sad loss they have suffered.

MM

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

CERCLE GENEVOIS: Escalade 1975.
Host: M. Paul Ramseyer, 42 Montagu Square, W.1., on Friday 12th December, 7.30 for 8.00. Numbers are limited. Please contact in writing Michael Metford-Sewell, 386 High Road, Chiswick, London, W4 5TH as soon as possible.

WEDNESDAY, 3rd December, 7.30 p.m.
– Swiss Church, 79 Endell Street, WC2 – **CONCERT IN ADVENT** – Works by Liszt, Bach, Telemann, Couperin and Widor – Shuna Wilson (cello), Ueli Stefan (flute and recorder), Martin Nelson (bass) and Lennart Rabes (organ): in aid of the Swiss Churches.

LIVERPOOL SWISS CLUB: Christmas Dinner Party, Friday 5th December, Devon Doorway Hotel, Heswall.

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY: Annual Dinner and Dance, Dorchester Hotel, London, W1, Saturday 31st January 1976.

CITY SWISS CLUB

Members of the City Swiss Club received an appeal to put in a more regular attendance by their President, Mr. Roger Suess. This call was sent with the invitations to the October monthly meetings. Mr. Suess said that only 7 members had turned up at the September card meeting and described this situation as appalling. He added that the Committee was reviewing the details of future monthly meetings so as to renew interest in the Club's activities. He said that the card evenings will have to be reassessed and expressed the hope that members would make a "real effort" during the coming months to participate in the affairs of the City Swiss Club.

First Woman Speaker at the City Swiss Club

As a modest contribution to the "Year of the Woman" the City Swiss Club had the good idea of inviting the well known Swiss journalist Madame Colette Muret of the "Gazette de Lausanne" to give a talk at its last meeting on October 21st on the role of women in journalism, which is of course still a predominantly male profession – in Switzerland probably even more so than



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