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OBITUARY

A FAREWELL TO FRANK

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Mr. Frank De Maria of 24 Egerton Gardens, Ealing, W13. Having suffered from ill health for sometime, he died on the 11th August at the age of 50, following a heart attack.

Frank De Maria was the son of the late Pietro De Maria and Mrs. Irene De Maria. His father was well known among the Ticinese colony in London having been Secretary of the Unione Ticinese from 1931 to 1948 and its President from 1951 to 1953. Mr. De Maria followed in his father's footsteps, joining the Unione's Committee the same year, 1953, being elected Secretary in 1956, an office which he held until 1968 when he was elected President, which office he held until 1973 when ill health forced him to resign. He was also a member of the Swiss Catholics Committee and became its President in 1976 following the death of the then President, Mr. Oscar Grob.

Frank De Maria trained as a schoolmaster. In 1952 he obtained a Bachelor of Science Degree in Economics at the London School of Economics and subsequently obtained a Master of Arts Degree in Education at the London University Institute of Education.

After qualifying in 1953, he was appointed to a secondary school in Chelsea. In 1957 he was appointed Deputy Headmaster of St. Charles R.C. Primary School in Kensington and became its Headmaster in 1963. At the time of his death he was Headmaster of the Cardinal Manning School in Kensington, a comprehensive school of 700 boys.

As recently as the 21st July, at the Royal Lancaster Hotel, a Dinner was given in his honour in gratitude of his many years of devoted service to the Unione Ticinese. One has only to mention, as an example, the success of the Centenary Celebrations in 1974 of the Unione and the booklet describing the 100 years of activity since its foundation which he compiled for the occasion with such devotion and thorough research. During the Dinner, attended by the Swiss Minister Dr. Karl Fritsch and Mrs. Fritsch, Consul Rode' and Mrs.

Rode, members and friends, Mrs. Rose Diviani, on behalf of the Unione Ticinese, presented to Mr. De Maria, an inscribed watch. Little did those present on this happy occasion imagine that only a few weeks later they would again be meeting, but this time to attend his funeral.

This took place on the 17th August at Ealing Abbey filled to capacity with friends and work colleagues. The Swiss Ambassador, Dr. Ernesto Thalman, was present both at the Abbey and at the cemetery, thus demonstrating the esteem in which Frank De Maria was held in the Swiss colony. The Funeral Mass was concelebrated by the Abbot of Ealing Abbey and seven other Celebrants, amongst these the Chaplain of the Cardinal Manning School who officiated at the interment at Gunnersbury Cemetery.

To his wife, Mary, to his family and to his relatives we extend our sincerest sympathy.

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