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WALTER BURREN IS 70

It is with great pleasure that we announce the 70th birthday on 4th October of Mr. Walter Burren, of 11 Brycedale Crescent, London N14.

He was born at Schoenenwerd (Solethurn), a citizen of Koeniz (Berne). He had his commercial training with Nabholz Knitting Works Ltd. from 1923 to 1927, being granted the SKV diploma in 1925.

He came to London in June 1927 and started as a full-time student at the Swiss Mercantile College. In 1928, he got the Certificate of English Language of the National Union of teachers. For 11 years he was Assistant Secretary of the SMS and their College's shorthand teacher for almost as long. The College closed at the beginning of the war, and Walter Burren joined the firm of Volkart Brothers in Leadenhall Street. He was with them from 1st February 1940 to the end of January 1958, being given joint power of Attorney in August 1946.

He then returned to the SMS, became their Company Secretary, Secretary of the College and their one and only shorthand teacher. He still holds all three positions.

He has been a member of the SMS since 1925 (London 1927), was their Hon. Secretary for four years to 1949, Vice-President of the Society and Chairman of the Education Committee from 1950 to 1957. He was the first Captain of the SMS Football Team and is still its Secretary. He was no mean player himself, as well as an athlete and tennis player. He was also active as competitor and on the committee of the Swiss Sports. Memberships include those of the NSH and the City Swiss Club.

He was one of the founders of the Swiss Philatelic Society, its President for 11 years and now an Hon. Member, as indeed he is of the Swiss Mercantile Society.

The latter has been his life, and one can't imagine the SMS without this loyal and utterly reliable servant, a man who has given every ounce of his interest and strength to the Society and its College, and indeed still does. During the trying time of the College's rebuilding, it was in no small measure due to Walter Burren

that in spite of the school moving quarters several times, not one teaching lesson was lost. In this, as in all his other activities, he has been supported by his wife Catherine whom he married in August 1930. They have a son and a daughter and two grandchildren.

Dear Walter, We wish you a very happy birthday and the best of health for many years to come, coupled with much enjoyment of life for you and Catherine and the family.

Switzerland in Britain's Cultural Life

1st to 15th October – City of Birmingham Polytechnic; 24th October to 12th November – Napier College, Edinburgh; 21st November to 15th December – Lanchester Polytechnic – *Award-Winning Books and Posters from Switzerland*.

Until 3rd October – Gilbert Parr Gallery, 285 Kings Road, Chelsea – Gouache and ink paintings by Annette Barcelo.

Wednesday, 5th October – Wigmore Hall, 7.30 p.m. – Piano Recital by *Albert Ferber* (all-Russian programme).

Monday, 24th October – Purcell Room, 8 p.m. – The baritone Graham Titus, accompanied on the piano by Eric Levy, sings *Six Monologues from Everyman* by *Frank Martin* (among other works).

Monday, 31st October – University of Aberdeen (provisional); Tuesday, 1st November – University of Glasgow, evening; Wednesday, 2nd November – University of Leeds; Thursday, 3rd November – University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, evening; Monday, 7th November – University of Warwick, Coventry (provisional); Tuesday, 8th November – University College, Cardiff

NEWS FROM THE COLONY

(provisional); Wednesday, 9th November – Taylor Institution, Oxford, 5 p.m.; Thursday, 10th November – Swiss Embassy, 16 Montagu Place, London W1, 6 p.m. (provisional) (free tickets available from the Cultural Counsellor); Friday, 11th November (evening) – The Queen's University, Belfast, – *Dr Andri Peer* gives talks, illustrated with slides, on the origin and present situation of the *Raeto-Romance languages*, and reads extracts from his works, both in Romansh and in English translation.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

The following couples will be celebrating their wedding anniversaries in the near future:

Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Bader will have been married for 62 years on 9th October. On the same day, Mr. and Mrs. W. Reutlinger (Basle) will have their 32nd wedding anniversary.

Mr. O. Rohn will be 71 on 1st October, and Mr. H. Humbel 72 on 5th of the month. Mrs. M. Kaeufeler will have her birthday on 18th October, and Dr. E. M. Bircher (Bissone TI) will be 82 on 22nd of the month. Mr. H. J. Thomson will be 63 on 25th October.

Congratulations and best wishes to all these readers and any others of whose "big days" we are not aware.



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