

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK
Band: - (1978)
Heft: 1745

Nachruf: Consul Ernst Hofstetter
Autor: [s.n.]

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. [Siehe Rechtliche Hinweise.](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. [Voir Informations légales.](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. [See Legal notice.](#)

Download PDF: 22.11.2024

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

OBITUARY

CONSUL ERNST HOFSTETTER

On 12th July, 1978 the sad news of the sudden death of Consul Ernst Hofstetter was announced from his home near Loch Lomond in Scotland. He was one of those rare, larger-than-life personalities who left an unforgettable impression on all who had the pleasure of meeting him and he will be missed by very many of his friends and compatriots who got to know, love and respect him.

Ernst Hofstetter was born on 8th August, 1896 in Oberuzwil SG, where he spent his school years. In 1913 he joined the Cantonal Technical College in Zürich where he obtained his diploma in chemistry before doing his military service. He then joined the dye-works of Heer & Co. as an assistant, where his father was dye-master.

He collected more experience working in the dye-works of Theodor Haase in Chemnitz. Later he got his most valuable experiences under the renowned Dr. Tagliani in the dye and printed textile laboratory of Sandoz in Basle. Though very tough and demanding, the three years with Sandoz were among the best in his life, both in professional experience and social and cultural activities. He was sent on study tours in Belgium, to Manchester and Bradford.

In order to satisfy his quest for knowledge and his urge to travel Ernst Hofstetter joined the dye-works of C.

Kuntz in Bruggen in 1922 and later the Weidmann Concern at their piece dye-works in Zürich as dye-master, enjoying ten of the most interesting and rewarding years of his life.

In July 1930 he married Anita Galli of Berne and they had a daughter and a son. Unfortunately she died in 1944 and could not participate for long in his life work and success.

As the Weidmann Concern was interested in opening a dye-works in Great Britain, which materialized in the participation with a Scottish firm, Mr Hofstetter joined this enterprise, taking along some twenty specialists, foremen and dyers from Switzerland to Balloch near Glasgow. Although he intended this to be a temporary arrangement he was soon absorbed in his new project and, charmed by Scotland, decided to bring his family over permanently.

After some initial difficulties with language, his new environment and adjusting and understanding the somewhat different Scottish working mentality, he soon brought his strong leadership influence to bear as director of the newly formed Swiss firm which handled silk and artificial silk for the most discerning quality market of the lingerie and clothing trade. During World War II the firm produced pure silk textile and parachutes and fine cotton weaves for balloon making.

Fortunately the Swiss workers and employees were allowed to remain on their jobs thus guaranteeing a smooth flow of production at the end of the hostilities when the works expanded by

NEWS FROM THE COLONY

the purchase of a textile-printing factory.

In 1934 Mr. Hofstetter was appointed Swiss Consular Agent in Scotland and was honoured, in 1952, with the personal title of Consul. He cared, often with considerable financial and personal engagement, for the welfare of his less fortunate compatriots and he supported and fostered the wellbeing, protection and co-operation between the members of the Swiss colony, as many of them suffered considerable hardship during the crisis and war years.

One still hears heartfelt words of praise, thankfulness and high respect from those Swiss remaining who benefited by Mr. Hofstetter's decisive and effective support.

Mr. Hofstetter will be missed by his niece, his many friends and by the Swiss Colony in Scotland who owe him so much.



GENEVA

by jet from only

£49

Our latest 'Swiss City Tours' brochure includes the most comprehensive guide to the cities of Switzerland with departures from Gatwick, Heathrow, Manchester and Southend airports.

Arrangements include Budget Break holidays, Budget Hotels and First Class Hotels, which are ideal for the business traveller.

For full details of our service to Switzerland please ask for a copy of our comprehensive brochure which gives details of flight times, prices and Hotels.

CRAWFORD PERRY TRAVEL LTD.

260A FULHAM ROAD, LONDON SW10 9EL

ATOL 369B

Telephone: 01-351 2191 (6 lines) Telex: 919078

ABTA