

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: - (1979)

Heft: 1749

Rubrik: Swiss churches

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BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

WILLI RENZ 80

It is with great pleasure that we announce the 80th birthday on 2nd January of **Mr. Willi Renz**, of 7 The Highway, Sutton, Surrey. He was born in St. Gall where he had his schooling, followed by a period with a bank. He then studied economics in St. Gall where he graduated at the Institute of Economic and Social Sciences. Willi Renz arrived in Britain in 1922. After studying at the London School of Economics, he worked at some banks and finally joined Hambros Bank Ltd., where he became Manager, as well as Director of Mocatta & Goldsmid, Bullion Brokers.

He has been a member of the Swiss Mercantile Society since 1923 and of the City Swiss Club since 1945. He joined the Nouvelle Société Helvétique in the early 'thirties and

was instrumental in re-vitalising it after the war. He became its President in May, 1957, and he held that office with great distinction for four years. He is an Honorary Member of the Society and still attends Council meetings.

He and his wife Claire are well known in the Swiss Community. They have a daughter and three grandchildren.

In the Swiss Army, he was a First Lieutenant.

Ten years ago hope was expressed in these columns that he should "keep his good health and youthful appearance and enjoy his many cultural interests for many years to come". We are glad to say that he has done so and we wish him an enjoyable birthday and many happy returns of the day.

M.M.

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In this, the last Christmas message to our Colony I will be writing from the Editor's chair, I would like to thank my compatriots, readers of and subscribers and contributors to the "Swiss Observer", for all their help in making my four years as Editor such good years, interesting years and exciting years.

Yes, they really have been all these things — and more. I have been privileged to meet so many of our friends in the Colony, in many cases forging links which will endure. I have also been privileged to be part of many exciting developments in the "Swiss Observer" — its change from fortnightly to monthly publication, the adoption of a new and modern typeface, the use of full colour covers (thanks to the Swiss National Tourist Office) and many others.

Some of you have been kind enough to write and tell us that you like the efforts being made on your behalf, and we are deeply grateful for your interest. Indeed, we are also grateful to those readers who have told us — sometimes in no uncertain terms — that they are less happy with their paper. Constructive criticism is not only welcome but useful, so more power to your pens.

But Christmas and New Year are not only times for looking back. They are, perhaps, much more times for looking forward, times for making resolutions, times to observe, listen and think. What we think about rather depends on our circumstances. If we are separated from our loved ones our thoughts will naturally turn in that direction. But even if we are not separated from them perhaps it is of them that we should be thinking anyway — have we not taken them for granted or harboured petty grievances about them? And not only with our nearest and dearest but also with our neighbour — someone Paul Bossard defines so very ably in his message.

Still looking ahead, our new editor will, hopefully, be picking up the threads sometime in the New Year. His or her task will not be easy but, as I well know from personal experience, he or she will have the strength of your support to smooth the path. And this, in my opinion, is what being a member of a community is all about.

With very best fraternal regards to you all.

George Sommer

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APOLOGY

In our November edition we published a photograph of the Swiss tenor Noël Bach. The caption, however, incorrectly described Mr. Bach as Etienne Barillier. We apologise to all concerned for this error.



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