

News from Switzerland

Objekttyp: **Group**

Zeitschrift: **Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand**

Band (Jahr): **35 (1972)**

Heft [4]

PDF erstellt am: **12.07.2024**

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SWISSAIR NEWS

Swissair \$710.10 Excursion Fare SHOPOVER Itineraries

The new low air fare now available between New Zealand and Europe permit at a surcharge of \$32.20 only one stopover in excess of 24 hours. However, by using Swissair flights between the Far East and Europe you are able to enjoy up to 23 hours in interesting places such as Hongkong, Bangkok or Singapore for no extra fare. This is only possible by using our specially-planned itineraries, details of which are obtainable from our office in Auckland or from any travel agent.

Example No. 1: Leave Auckland Wednesday morning, arrive Hongkong the same day, stay 22 hours, leave Hongkong Thursday evening, arrive Zurich or Geneva Friday morning. A similar itinerary is available ex Auckland on Saturday.

Example No. 2: Leave Zurich or Geneva on Sunday, arrive Bangkok on Monday morning, sightseeing for 12 hours, leave Bangkok Monday evening, arrive Singapore, stay 20 hours, leave Singapore on Tuesday evening, arrive Auckland Wednesday p.m.

The new round-trip fare of \$710.10 enables you to travel economy class on all Swissair flights and is applicable all year round except if you leave N.Z. in May, June or July when an extra \$50 is charged. Everyone, regardless whether or not they are members of the Swiss Society of N.Z., is eligible for the fare and you do not need to travel with a group nor use charter flights. Children under the age of 2 years pay 10% of the adult fare and those 2 years and under 12 are charged 50%. Swissair has two words for those who are not interested in travelling between New Zealand and Switzerland non-stop: Welcome aboard.

SWISSAIR

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NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND

BERNESE TWO-DAYS' MARCH

Recently the Swiss Two-Days' March took place for the twelfth time from Berne via Moosseedorf to Jegenstorf and from Ostermundigen via Worb to Münsingen respectively. Its purpose is to foster health, physical fitness, mutual understanding, helpfulness and comradeship. Military and civilian persons may participate in this major sporting event in groups of at least five, without age limits. Exceptions: category "Family" at least three participants; category "She and He" two participants. One may not start on one's own.

THE CARILLON IN LIBINGEN

The carillon in Libingen was put up at the end of 1965 in honour of Dr Albert Schweitzer, the jungle doctor of Lambarene. It is Europe's largest carillon and consists of 60 bells. The "Gloriosa" weighs 3628 kilos (about 8000 lb). It rings on Saturdays at 3 p.m. and on holidays at 8 a.m. The smallest of the bells weighs 10 kilos (about 22 lb). The carillon is equipped for manual as well as automatic playing. The bells are tuned electronically for greater precision. The original playing of the carillon is done by hand on a keyboard. The deep-ringing bells are hit by pedals as the human hand cannot evoke the full sound because of the clapper's heavy weight. The manually-operated keyboard has to be hit with fists, and in order to avoid injuries the little fingers have to be covered with leather. It requires a lot of strength to play the carillon. The keyboard is built into a wooden cabin to guard the player against wind and weather and also against the intensive sound of the bells. A keyboard table without bells is used for practice.

For artistic playing there are special rules which differ from those of the piano or the organ. One has to completely master

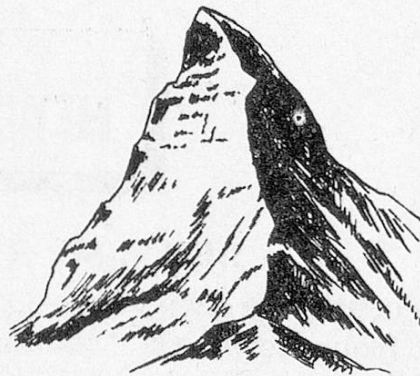
☆ Remember to send your contributions in for the "Helvetia" before the 8th of each month to avoid missing publication in the current issue.

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the technique of playing before one is able to reach the summit of artistic achievement. The listener has to get used to bell music to appreciate its beauty. It is best to select a quiet spot and to place oneself in a windward direction. A distance of 150 to 300 metres (about 500 to 1000 feet) from the tower generally is the best place. The tower is open from the middle of March until the middle of November, daily from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Carillon concerts by Walter Meierhans take place every Saturday and Sunday afternoon at 2, 3, 4 and 5 p.m. as well as on Sunday mornings between 11 and 12.

SCHOENEGG, THE NEW SPA IN MUMPF

In Mumpf, approximately 16 miles east of Bale, a modern saline swimming pool was recently built. It has the most up-to-date equipment and is the largest of its kind in Switzerland. Dimensions: about 33 x 82 feet. Temperature of the water is 95°F (35°C). The saline swimming pool has a capacity of 12,000 cu. ft. and the water is replaced once every three hours. The entire plant is controlled automatically, including even the reverse rinsing of the filters. Next to the swimming pool one may rest on couches in a separate hall with a magnificent view over the Rhine and Black Forest. Mechanical, thermic and chemical stimulants affect the body beneficially during the therapeutic water treatments.

ARTISTIC TAPESTRIES

The artistic craftsmanship of making tapestries has again found a home with far-reaching radiating power — in Lausanne. In the metropolis of the canton of Vaud, bi-annual exhibitions are held displaying works of art in this textile medium revived in our area. At present Geneva also tries to foster this decorative art. At the Rath Museum, near the Grand Theatre, the generously conceived exhibition "La tapisserie en Suisse romande" offers a survey of this field in the Western Swiss cantons. There are numerous people at work here trying to develop the art of making tapestries and other wall coverings in their own personal way.

THE SWISS HIKING BOOK

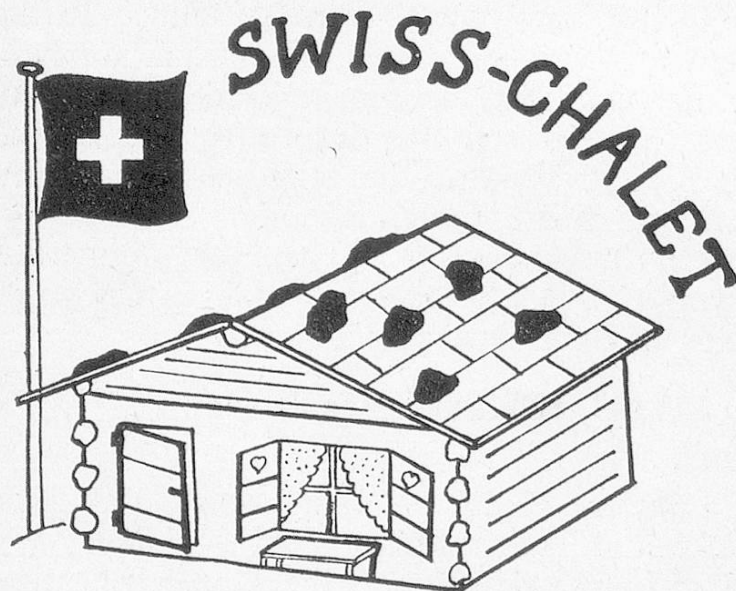
of the Upper Engadine . . .

No. 3 of the "Green Series" of Swiss Hiking Books published by Kümmerli & Frey of Berne, specialised in geography and maps, contains as much as 148 pages devoted to the Upper Engadine Valley. Last but not least, this region has become well-known thanks to the painter Segantini. Giovanni Segantini is also the author of the introduction of this diversified series of road descriptions of 41 hiking routes, 75 walking tours and five longer hikes that would take several days each. One can read in it that: "The rocky ridges and the eternal glaciers blend with the delicate fragrance of the pastures and the deep green colour of the stone

pine forests, and the blue sky is reflected in the lakes which are a hundred times bluer than the sky", which is quite an impressive description of this wonderful, unique scenery through which we are guided by Robert Pfister who has died in the meantime. This eighth edition of the Swiss Hiking Book on the Upper Engadine Valley was edited by P. Stoffel. It was published with the support of "Pro Helvetia" and "Bündner Wanderwege".

. . . and on the Val d'Anniviers and Val d'Herens

The Val d'Anniviers and the Val d'Herens are, according to Dr Ignace Marietan, among the most beautiful and pleasant ones in the canton of Valais. No 12 in the "Green Series" edition of Swiss Hiking Books has appeared in a German as well as a French new edition. This book, published with the co-operation of the Hiking Roads Association of the canton of Valais in Sion, contains the descriptions of routes of 42 hiking roads with profiles and sketches of maps. It is the second edition to appear in German and the fourth one in French. Helen Beyeler saw to the translation into the German language. There are not only descriptions of the Val d'Anniviers and the Val d'Herens, but also of the Turtmann Valley and the Val de Nendaz. Cosy, old houses typical for the canton of Valais near the village church of Evolene are illustrated on the cover of both the French and the German editions.



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