

Swiss art treasures

Autor(en): **J.T.**

Objektyp: **Article**

Zeitschrift: **The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK**

Band (Jahr): - **(1938)**

Heft 884

PDF erstellt am: **09.08.2024**

Persistenter Link: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-695419>

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Inhalten der Zeitschriften. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern.

Die auf der Plattform e-periodica veröffentlichten Dokumente stehen für nicht-kommerzielle Zwecke in Lehre und Forschung sowie für die private Nutzung frei zur Verfügung. Einzelne Dateien oder Ausdrucke aus diesem Angebot können zusammen mit diesen Nutzungsbedingungen und den korrekten Herkunftsbezeichnungen weitergegeben werden.

Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. Die systematische Speicherung von Teilen des elektronischen Angebots auf anderen Servern bedarf ebenfalls des schriftlichen Einverständnisses der Rechteinhaber.

Haftungsausschluss

Alle Angaben erfolgen ohne Gewähr für Vollständigkeit oder Richtigkeit. Es wird keine Haftung übernommen für Schäden durch die Verwendung von Informationen aus diesem Online-Angebot oder durch das Fehlen von Informationen. Dies gilt auch für Inhalte Dritter, die über dieses Angebot zugänglich sind.

SWISS ART TREASURES.

Switzerland is widely known as the land of great Alpine scenery, of glaciers, waterfalls and lakes, but comparatively few people know its towns and less still are aware of the existence of numerous art treasures, comparable to those of the most famous collections in Europe. A hundred years ago, Italy was the goal of every art-lover. Then Dutch art was rediscovered, whereupon the Gothic cathedrals of France and England and the treasures of the French Provence were duly appreciated. Austrian cities, Prague, Nuremberg and Rothenburg then had their turn, and at the present moment the ancient towns of the Dalmatian coast are attracting the interest of the cultivated traveller.

Since the publication of H. Jenny's 'Art Guide to Switzerland' ("Kunstführer der Schweiz"), Switzerland seems finally to come into its own. This guide should decide many a tourist, who visits this small Alpine country for recreation, to devote a few days, if not weeks, to the most important art collections and picturesque towns, though they are generally outside the beaten track of the ordinary traveller, the climber or the winter sportsman.

The most valuable paintings and drawings, such as the large Holbein collection, works of Conrad Witz and other early painters are found in the Art Gallery of Basle. Modern Swiss Art is very well represented in the galleries of Zurich, Basle, Berne and Geneva.

Stained-glass windows, ancient furniture, and works of decorative art are so splendidly assembled in the Swiss National Museum in Zurich that it can rival the greatest museums in Europe in this respect. And some of the sections in the Historical Museums of Berne, Basle, and Geneva show equal quality. Private collections, such as the Reinhart Collection of Modern Art in Winterthur, which is one of the leading ones of Europe, are also of great importance. There is a great number of small local museums in Switzerland, one of which has been opened in the most recent building of its kind, the Kunsthauus of Lucerne.

Switzerland is especially rich in picturesque old towns, some of which have retained their mediaeval character. Among these are the famous towns of Stein a. Rhein, Schaffhausen, Zug, Morat, Fribourg, Estavayer, Gruyères, and Ste. Ursanne. Less known are Brigue, Sion, Chur, Sargans, Bischofszell, Rapperswil, Romont, Bulle, Zofingen, and Lenzburg or Bernmünster. But the older parts of towns like Lucerne, Berne, Lausanne, Geneva, Neuchâtel, Basle are also worth inspecting, and nobody should miss a visit to the Baroque towns, Solothurn and Schwyz.

Imposing ruins of the ancient Roman period, which are of the greatest interest, from an archaeological point of view, have been excavated at Avenches ("Aventicum"), at Windisch ("Vindonissa") and at Basel-Augst ("Augusta Rauracorum"), the amphitheatres being especially appreciated by the modern traveller. Among the great number of Romanesque buildings we may mention the churches of Payerne and Schaffhausen, the Zurich Grossmünster, the Valeria of Sion, in the Rhone Valley, and San Vittore, at Locarno. The magnificent Cathedral of Lausanne — the finest of Switzerland — and the minsters of Basle and Geneva belong to the group of great Gothic cathedrals of France. Very remarkable are the late Gothic minsters of Fribourg and Berne. Lausanne and Königsfelden can boast of stained glass windows equal to the best that are seen in France. The late Gothic Town Hall of Basle is the richest found along the Rhine, while that of Zug is famous for its splendid hall.

Of the great number of smaller Gothic buildings of high quality, we specially note the convent church of Kappel, the St. Oswald Church of Zug, and the Kirchbühl Church, near Sempach, with its valuable fresco cycle. The best-known mediaeval castles are those of the Canton of Vaud — e.g., Chillon, Vufflens, Blonay, etc., while those of the Grisons are the most interesting ones. There are hundreds of picturesque castles and ruins in the country and a society, formed for their preservation, the "Burgenverein," takes its members for visits to these ancient structures.

One of the best examples of Early Renaissance architecture is the "façade" of Lugano Cathedral. The Renaissance is chiefly represented by decorative work, especially on a great variety of fountains. The most beautiful Baroque buildings are the numerous churches and convents, among which Einsiedeln and St. Gall equal the finest Baroque churches of Austria and Southern Germany, while the poetic charm of pilgrimage churches, such as Werthenstein, Hergiswald, St. Jost, St. Ottilien, etc., is most impressive. Of further interest are the octagonal church of Muri and the convent churches of St. Urban, Rheinau, Engelberg, Disentis, Seedorf, etc., as well as the festive late Baroque buildings

of Schwyz and Cham and the solemn classicism of the Solothurn Cathedral.

The profane architecture of Basle, Zurich and Berne, and of French Switzerland, show graceful modifications of foreign post-mediaeval forms, while the Baroque manors of the Cantons, Grisons and Schwyz and the Freuler Palace of Naefels possess magnificent panalling and other decorative qualities. The original forms of the Swiss peasant-house have only been appreciated recently, thanks to the movement of the "Heimatschutz-Verein." The arts and crafts were also highly developed in this country, and their work is not only found in museums.

The traveller, who strolls through Swiss towns and villages with his eyes open, will soon find an "embarras de richesse." He will discover the fact that Switzerland is ten times richer in good old art than he ever expected it to be.

J.T.

TO THE S.M.S. ON ITS GOLDEN JUBILEE.

Five decades back, a branch from yonder tree,
That sturdy parent oak in Switzerland,
Was planted by a faithful little band,
Disciples of our patron Mercury.

They aimed at patriotic unity,
By fostering friendship; gave a helping hand
To all who sought their knowledge to expand,
And found them posts — or so it used to be.

But times have changed and our greatest pride
Now is the College of the S.M.S.

To aid the students on their brief sojourn
The committees act as their friend and guide,
While teachers point the sure road to success:
Thus, Phenix-like, our mission is re-born.

GALLUS.

HERBST.

Langsam zieht der Herbst z'dür i
A chuele Schneeluft fangt a blose,
Schön violett g'färbt si d'Wieseni
Vo tusig früehle Herbstztylose.

Silber Nebel schlycht i d'Täler
Chrücht über d'Flüss und Bächeli,
Dürs rote Laub, dür gälbi Bletter
Lüchtet bleich der Sunneschly.

Es Gfuehl vo Wehmut, nid z'vermeide,
Dämpft die letzti Farbeprecht,
Langsam mues der Summer scheid
Sachtli wycht der Tag der Nacht.

H.F.

Peaceful SWITZERLAND

£ now buys over 21 Swiss francs yet—

- no bother at the frontier
- prices to suit every pocket
- short and inexpensive journey
- direct rail and air services
- customs facilities for cars
- petrol 1/3 gallon to visitors
- holiday centres for all seasons

Best value in Holiday Travel

INFORMATION from the Swiss Railways & State
Travel Bureau, 11-B Regent Street, London, S.W.1



Swiss Accordion Club
LONDON

74, Charlotte Street, W.1

Director: A. GANDON.

REHEARSALS: Every Friday from 9 till 10.30 p.m.
Private lessons given. Children Saturday Afternoon.
SUCCESS GUARANTEED.

*Drink delicious "Ovaltine"
at every meal—for Health!*

Telephone: MUSEUM 3762 & 5034.

O. BARTHOLDI

4-6, CHARLOTTE STREET, W.1.

"BLUT & LEBERWUERSTE"

EVERY TUESDAY commencing
October 25th until November 29th
1938, commencing again from the first
Tuesday in January, 1939.

In order to avoid disappointment, customers
are requested to place their orders early.

BANQUE FEDERALE

(Société Anonyme)

Zurich, Bâle, Berne, Genève, La Chaux-de-Fonds, Lausanne, St. Gall, Vevey

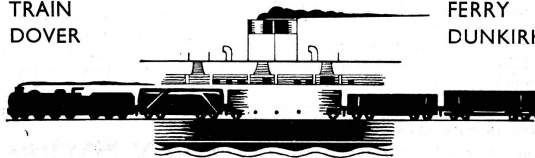
Toutes opérations de Banque à des conditions avantageuses

ACME - GOTH SERVICES

FOR SPEED AND RELIABILITY

TRAIN
DOVER

FERRY
DUNKIRK



OFFICIAL AGENTS

ACME TRANSPORT Co. Ltd.

Head Office: 20, WHITECROSS STREET, LONDON, E.C.1

Also at: BRADFORD - DOVER - PARIS.

GOTH & Co. BALE - ZURICH - ST. GALL - GENEVA.

FASTEST DAILY EXPRESS, G.V. & GROUPAGE SERVICES
TO & FROM SWITZERLAND.