

Traffic Accidents in Switzerland

Autor(en): **[s.n.]**

Objektyp: **Article**

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

Band (Jahr): - **(1955)**

Heft 1252

PDF erstellt am: **13.09.2024**

Persistenter Link: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-692203>

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TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS IN SWITZERLAND.

Traffic, and principally motoring accidents in Switzerland are on an alarming scale, as is shown by the monthly returns issued by the cant. authorities.

Whilst not all of the accidents are caused by Swiss motorists, the great majority however, are due to them. Amongst the causes are mostly careless and reckless driving, the imprudence of pedestrians, and in many cases driving under the influence of alcohol.

Unfortunately our authorities at home, in contrast to the authorities in this country have dealt far too leniently with the latter cases. Time after time motorists who have caused death or serious injuries have been let off with a ridiculously low fine or have been merely cautioned.

At long last one of the Courts (District Court, Uster) has inflicted a sentence of 18 months imprisonment, and a fine of 200.—frs. on a 30 years old motorist, who whilst driving under the influence of drink killed a seven years old girl, and drove on without taking the slightest notice of the victim.

Whilst we consider this sentence wholly inadequate, we are nevertheless glad to see that at last our Courts at home are taking a serious view of these offences.

WATERCOLOURS EXHIBITION.

Leger Gallery, 13, Old Bond Street, W.1.

We wish to direct the attention of our readers to an exhibition of Watercolours by our compatriot Mr. Richard Weisbrod.

The exhibition will remain open from 10 a.m. — 6 p.m. daily, and from 10 a.m. — 1 p.m. on Saturdays, until June 25th, 1955.

ANGELICA KAUFFMANN EXHIBITION.

Londoners and the Swiss Colony in London now have a wonderful opportunity to see an exhibition of paintings by the famous Swiss artist, Angelica Kauffmann.

The exhibition was opened on Friday, May 27th, by Professor A. E. Richardson, president of the British Royal Academy, at the Iveagh Bequest, Kenwood, in the fashionable suburb of Hampstead.

Consisting largely of paintings and engravings by Angelica Kauffmann, the exhibition will stay open until September. Admission is free.

The artist was born at Coire in the Grisons in 1741, the daughter of a minor painter. Her talent attracted the attention of the Bishop of Como, who allowed her to paint his portrait when she was only 12 years old.

Angelica Kauffmann also possessed marked talent as a musician, and had a pleasant voice.

A crisis developed in her youth over whether she should follow the career of an opera singer — in which she could have made a quick success — or the less certain path of a painter.

This crisis prompted her masterpiece. It is a painting entitled, "Angelica Hesitating Between The Arts of Music and Painting".

This painting occupies a key position at Nostell Priory in England and has been lent for the London exhibition.

After travelling extensively throughout Europe, the young Swiss girl came to London at the age of 25. Success was soon hers.

Two years later, she was named as one of the founder-members of the Royal Academy in London.

Some of the pictures she showed then at the Academy are included in this summer's exhibition.

During her stay in England, Angelica Kauffmann is estimated to have earned through commissions from patrons of the arts no less a sum than 14,000 pounds sterling — an astonishing amount for the time and especially so for a woman artist.

With this considerable fortune she returned to the continent, and spent the greater part of the rest of her life in Rome, where she died in 1807.

Throughout Britain today, many magnificent painted ceilings and decorative paintings bear witness to the genius of this famous daughter of Switzerland.

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