

# From the Meadow to the amphitheatre

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 1251

PDF erstellt am: **26.06.2024**

Persistenter Link: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-691942>

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**FROM THE MEADOW TO THE AMPHITHEATRE.**

The "Gazette de Lausanne", recently recalled the origin of the Winegrowers' Festival (which will be taking place this year from August 1st to 14th after an interval of 28 years): "A short walk, followed by light refreshment, after the annual rounds of the vines, made three centuries ago by the Monks of the Winegrowers Abbey at Vevey". After drawing attention to the way these festivals, which have been compared to the Panathenaea of Ancient Greece, have changed through the years, it is pointed out that the real value of the festival lies in "the united efforts of a small town or community striving after greatness". Finally, comparing the amphitheatre that will be erected in the Market Square at Vevey with those that the Romans built at Nimes, Arles and Verona, it is added: "This temporary coliseum will be bigger than these three elliptical monuments which measure approximately 430 by 330 ft. That of Vevey will be 460 by 360 ft. The arena too will be bigger. Those of the three amphitheatres mentioned above are approximately 230 by 130 ft., whereas that at Vevey will measure 260 by 165 ft., thus providing ample room for the performance of the dances and set-pieces of the Vevey festival. The Romans covered their amphitheatres with sails. That of Vevey will be topped, at a height of 55 feet above the ground, with a walk all round, over which will be hung the banners of the 146 winegrowing communes of Switzerland and round which the farandoles of the Bacchanalia will pass. This triumphal way will be dominated

by three towers through which the processions of Ceres, Pales and Bacchus will enter onto the stage. For the evening performances, they will house the projectors for illuminating the arena. This year, for the first time, performances will be held at night. Three centuries have gone by since the procession of the winegrowing brotherhood, followed by light refreshment under the trees of the Pre Falconnet, which is now the promenade along the lakeshore".

**"THE LESSON."**

Many are the letters sent to Swissair praising our national airline for its technical efficiency, the comfort of its planes, and the courtesy of its crews.

But none has been as unusual as this that turned up in the company's mail recently:

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Swissair accepted this strange tribute with pleasure. And to keep the record straight passed on a copy — to BEA.

It is printed — without comment — in this month's "BEA Magazine".

D.M.



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