

Swiss news of the Second Vatican Council

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

Objektyp: **Article**

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

Band (Jahr): - **(1962)**

Heft 1419

PDF erstellt am: **12.07.2024**

Persistenter Link: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-694112>

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Swiss National Tourist Office in the border regions, that is to say Italy, Austria, Germany and France, and of course in the Swiss Colonies all over the world. The 1964 Exhibition will be the rendezvous of the Swiss people and we strongly hope that all the Swiss established in foreign countries will be at that rendezvous.

LET US SEE HOW MATTERS STAND AT PRESENT

The preparation of the site, that is to say the filling in along the shores of the lake as well as the complete covering of the river Flon, is now finished. The work on the foundations (the laying out of water and gas pipes together with electricity cables, the construction of approach roads as well as roads within the Exhibition grounds, etc.) is almost finished. A few months ago we began the construction of buildings and superstructures in general; this stage will last until June 1963; the period from June 1963 until the opening of the Exhibition will be devoted to interior decoration and fitting. So far, all work is well up to schedule and even in certain cases ahead of it.

SWISS NEWS OF THE SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL

The news sheets the editor receives from the Swiss Telegraphic Agency in Switzerland (ATS) are of mandarin yellow colour. For special occasions or subjects green, pink or white sheets are used. Early in October a new colour was introduced — canary yellow — to bring all the news about the Second Vatican Council. Nearly 180 sheets have arrived so far, giving details about the preparation of this outstanding event, historical data, lists of participants, news of what has taken place and non-Roman-Catholic views and opinions.

One of the items of general interest which was reported was the proposed reform of the calendar (already put forward to the League of Nations and later the United Nations) according to which the year would consist of four quarters of 13 weeks each. The first month of each quarter would have 31 days, all the others 30. Leap Year's Day would be dateless. Thus dates would always fall on the same week-day. Easter Sunday should be on 8th April every year.

Another news flash sent was that seventy bishops from the Far East arrived by air — the first time ever that so many bishops travelled in one aeroplane!

We were told that the oldest bishop attending the Council was the Italian, Alfonso Carinci, who will be 100 in November. The youngest is the 34-year-old Bishop Alcides Mendoza Castro from Peru.

Some weighty information was given about the twenty Councils of the Church History; beginning with A.D. 325 at Nicaea; in Constantinople in 553, 680 and 869; going on to the Councils of Lyons (1245 and 1275), then Vienna in 1311, then Basle-Ferrara-Florence from 1431 to 1439, mentioning each time the major decisions taken, such as the Church Reform at the Fifth Lateran Council. The list ended with the First Vatican Council (December 1869), which was adjourned "sine die" in September 1870 after the outbreak of the Franco-German War.

The English press has reported on the ceremonies and meetings, and a colour film (over 33,000 feet were taken of the magnificent Opening Ceremony alone) will be shown later. But there are some special items which may interest the readers of the "Swiss Observer".

THE BUDGET

The National Exhibition's working budget anticipates a total expenditure of about 102 million Swiss francs; 60 million has been set aside for civil engineering and building, 15 million for running expenses (reception, accommodation organization, police, water, gas, electricity, events, camping, parking, etc.), 18 million for administration, publicly and information, and 8 million for transport.

Receipts are also expected to total approximately 102 million francs, being divided up as follows: 16.5 million from rentals (restaurants, kiosks, etc.), 47.5 million from sales including mainly the sale of admission tickets, and 20 million from subsidies (Confederation 10 million, Canton of Vaud and Town of Lausanne 2.5 million each, other cantons, towns and groups 5 million).

It should be pointed out that no other country in the world has ever organized an Exhibition on such a scale with subsidies representing only a quarter of the budget.

The Swiss National Exhibition — Lausanne 1964 is at present in the throes of creation. From now on, it will evolve very rapidly into a magnificent illustration of Switzerland's vitality.

The total membership of the Council is 3,043. Out of those about 2,800 dignitaries are attending the Second General Church Assembly of the Vatican. They include several ecclesiastics from Switzerland: the Titular Archbishop Pacini (Papal Nuncio in Berne), the Titular Bishop Jelmini (Apostolic Administrator of the Ticino and Dean of the Swiss Bishops' Conference), the Bishop of Basle and Lugano, the Titular Bishop Haller (Abbot of St. Maurice), the Bishop of Lausanne, Geneva and Fribourg, the Bishops of Sion, St. Gall and Chur, the Abbots of Einsiedeln and Mariastein, and the Provost of Great St. Bernard.

Among the dignitaries from other countries was a score or so of Swiss nationals. So, for example, the Papal Nuncio in Uruguay and the Apostolic Delegate in Scandinavia are of Swiss nationality.

At the Opening Ceremony the Swiss Federal Council was represented by the former Federal Councillor, Dr. Giuseppe Lepori, in the capacity of an Ambassador Plenipotentiary on special mission. The second official representative was the Swiss Ambassador in Rome, Monsieur Philippe Zutter.

Amongst the six invited personal "Guests" was Professor Dr. Cullmann, lecturer on the New Testament and Old Church History at the Faculty of Theology at Basle University.

The Secretariat for the Unity of Christians had extended invitations to a number of non-Roman-Catholic organisations. Amongst those who accepted was the World Council of Churches in Geneva, whose delegates were Pastor Dr. Lukas Vischer (Swiss Reformed Church) and Professor Dr. George Caird (Oxford).

An army of 750 journalists from all parts of the globe attended the Council, 22 from Switzerland. In addition, over 300 lecturers, interpreters, translators, Latin shorthand writers, etc., are employed who were sworn to secrecy.

The Opening Ceremony was transmitted by Eurovision, and all three networks in Switzerland took over the transmission.

At the last Council the church dignitaries were almost exclusively European. Now, barely 100 years later, those taking part come from 133 nations and of all peoples and

colours. This is the biggest-ever Church Assembly and is reputed to be prepared to perfection. Twelve Swiss had taken part in the preparatory work, Bishops, Abbots, Priests and University Professors. Interest has been shown not only by non-Roman-Catholics, but even by non-Christians.

On the eve of "Vaticanum II" the bells of all Roman Catholic churches in Switzerland pealed for ten minutes. Solemn Masses were held and other church services during which prayers were said for the Council and for the renewal of Christian Life.

The Federation of Swiss Protestant Churches (Schweizerischer Evangelischer Kirchenbund) issued a special prayer for the success of the Council and for the renaissance of the Church, whose unity was at the moment still obscured.
(Based on A.T.S. news.)

FOUR COMPETITIONS

The **International Charles Veillon Prize for Literature** has been offered for competition. There will be three prizes, one each for a novel in German, French and Italian. Information is obtainable from Prix Charles Veillon, Avenue d'Ouchy 29c, Lausanne.

In order to promote the Raeto-Roman language the Schweizer Feuilleton-Dienst, Postfach 109, Zurich 27, has arranged a competition for **Short Stories** in Romansh.

A competition for **Posters** for the Swiss National Exhibition in Lausanne in 1964 is being held. Minimum age required 18. End of competition 31st October 1962.

Finally, a "**Schlager nach Mass 1963**" competition is being arranged by the "Communauté radiophonique des programmes de langue française". In order to combat the flood of cheap "pop" tunes Switzerland has suggested organising a competition for a high class tune with French text. Information can be obtained from Radio Geneva and Lausanne.
[A.T.S.]

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We wish to thank the following subscribers for sending donations in addition to their subscriptions: Mrs. H. C. Cownie, Mrs. E. Haesler, Messrs. Ch. L. Chapuis, G. Godet, L. Jaeggi, F. C. Lichtensteiger (Palma de Mallorca), R. B. Meier, H. Ott. As always we are most grateful for their kind and welcome support.

SUCCESSFUL APPEAL

The Editor would like to thank those readers who have kindly answered her appeal for some back numbers of the "Swiss Observer". She is very grateful for their prompt action.

OUR NEXT ISSUE

Our next issue will be published on Friday, 9th November. We should appreciate it if readers could let us have any manuscripts or news items for publication by Wednesday, 31st October.

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