

Music at Montreux

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

Objektyp: **Article**

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

Band (Jahr): - **(1963)**

Heft 1433

PDF erstellt am: **09.08.2024**

Persistenter Link: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-692340>

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On Sunday, 26th May, the electorate had to vote on this Initiative. The proposal was decisively defeated by 450,488 against and 273,355 for.

"The Times" said on the morning after polling day that "Switzerland is thought to be the only country in which the people are given a chance to decide directly whether they believe their armed forces should have nuclear arms". The people decided in 1962 that they should, and they have now left the final decision to Parliament.

	RESULT		Participation
	Yes	No	
Zurich	58,103	99,707	—
Berne	44,304	60,901	41%
Lucerne	4,805	26,029	43.3%
Uri	1,241	5,129	74.4%
Schwyz	1,598	7,372	40%
Obwalden	168	2,454	40.11%
Nidwalden	455	2,630	50.7%
Glarus	1,529	3,920	52%
Zug	1,104	4,276	—
Fribourg	5,229	8,916	30.2%
Solothurn (Provisional)	7,622	18,098	47.2%
Baselstadt	11,717	10,829	33.5%
Baselland	7,789	9,831	42%
Schaffhausen	5,505	7,878	—
Appenzell Ar	1,894	6,262	—
Appenzell Ir	122	1,274	37.7%
St. Gall	13,319	37,304	52%
Grisons (2 small communes missing)	3,781	14,593	—
Aargau	23,024	46,392	74.6%
Thurgau	6,895	20,783	66%
Ticino	9,569	7,553	36%
Vaud (3 small communes missing)	22,531	15,532	31%
Valais	8,423	16,444	50%
Neuchâtel	13,346	5,859	46%
Geneva	19,282	10,522	—
Total	273,355	450,488	

Accepting Cantons: 4½
Rejecting Cantons: 17½
Participation: 47.75%

(Based on reports received by courtesy of the Agence Télégraphique Suisse.)

MUSIC AT MONTREUX

Montreux and Vevey on the lovely shores of Lake Geneva rank among the leading music festival towns in Europe. This year's programme for the "September Musical" (1st to 26th September) is all set and features twelve symphony concerts by the National Philharmonic Orchestra of Warsaw, the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande and the Orchestre National de Paris. Besides a Polish and a Swiss chorus, music lovers will be able to hear famous soloists such as Alexander Brailowsky, Zino Francescatti, Arthur Rubinstein, Isaac Stern, Nathan Milstein, Pierre Fournier, Robert Casadesus and Leonid Kogan. Leading the orchestras will be Witwold Rowicki, Paul Klecki, William Steinberg, Ernest Ansermet, Istvan Kertesz, Antal Dorati, Dean Dixon, Wolfgang Sawallisch and Stanislaw Skrowaczewski.

[S.N.T.O.]

IT HAPPENED IN CENTRAL SWITZERLAND

URI

The accounts for 1962 of the Canton of Uri showed an increase of income over expenditure of Fr.87,139.— (total income Fr.15,009,987.—). The Cantonal authorities have asked for a thorough examination of all water supplies of drinking water, all reservoirs and watermains, so that no mishap similar to the catastrophe of Zermatt would surprise Uri.

The Uri electorate had to vote on the programme of road building and it accepted a credit of 22 million francs by 4,534 to 943 votes. Three weeks later the citizens accepted the proposed fire-police bill and elected a new Cantonal Councillor in the person of Landrat Anton Arnold, Buerklen, who will replace the resigning Councillor Alois Mueller.

According to the Cantonal Constitution the Uri Parliament consists of one representative for every 500 Swiss inhabitants. Based on the census of 1950, the number amounted to 54 "Landräte". According to the last census of 1960 the population has increased and seven new representatives will have to be elected when the Cantonal Parliament is renewed in 1964.

From 5th to 21st May the Diocesan Bishop of Chur was on visit in Uri to give the sacrament of confirmation all over the Canton.

The last week-end in May the Swiss retail traders met at Altdorf and Fluelen for their annual meeting.

When digging near the mouth of the Seewern (Lauerzersee) a workman found a well-preserved sword which is believed to date back to the Battle of Morgarten in 1315. [A.T.S.]

Beautifully hand-carved neck and wrist rings in pure gold featuring intricate relief images of semi-animal heads are now on exhibit at the Swiss National Museum in Zurich. These masterpieces of Celtic goldsmiths dating back some 2,300 years had been founded at Erstfeld, on the St. Gotthard rail line in Uri, and are described as Europe's most precious archaeological discovery in the last three decades. It is believed that a merchant using the ancient North-South Alpine mule-trail either lost or buried the treasure here. Two Italian construction workers, who received a rich finder's reward, had unearthed it from a depth of thirty feet while operating a dredger on the site of a barrage which is being built at Erstfeld to protect the Reuss valley against the threat of the avalanches from the steep mountainside. The treasure — the most important of its kind found in Switzerland since 1906 — consists of four neck-rings and three bracelets, all unused, which may indicate that the Celtic merchant fell victim to one of the prehistoric earthslides or avalanches. [S.N.T.O.]

SCHWYZ

The Cantonal Council of Schwyz consists today of 105 members, but proportionately to the number of citizens it should be increased to 119. This is considered too high and the Council have proposed to limit the Cantonal Parliament to 100. The Council decided to agree to the proposed increase in the Canton's subsidy to the Technical College of Lucerne. This will mean Fr.30,000.— p.a. (Fr.8,000.— more than hitherto).