

News from the Federal Mint

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WORLD WILD LIFE FUND

It has been found more and more in the course of the past decades that far-reaching measures were necessary to protect nature. For this reason, the World Wild Life Fund was created in 1961. This international organisation has its seat in Switzerland. From 15th to 30th April, an appeal was sent to all households in the German- and French-speaking parts of Switzerland. In a message the Committee of Patrons which includes eminent personalities like the former Federal Councillors Etter, Petitpierre, Streuli and Lepori, the Presidents of the Swiss Federation for the Protection of Nature, of the Commission for the "Heimatschutz", of the National Park authorities, Prince Heinrich of Liechtenstein, etc., stated that unspoilt nature was not only an irreplaceable source of inspiration, relaxation and scientific knowledge, but its upkeep was essential also for oecological and economic reasons — one only had to think of clean air and pure water; quite apart from ethical obligations towards all things alive. [A.T.S.]

THE OLDEST PENSION SCHEME IN SWITZERLAND

Four hundred years ago the Parochial Chapter of the Siggau (to which the middle and upper part of the Basellbiet, as well as several communes of the Fricktal belonged) decided at its meeting at Sissach on 1st May 1564 to care for widows and orphans of ministers and to start a fund called "Kammergut". The plague had brought terrible distress, but it needed the initiative and drive of one man, Leonhard Struebin, founder of the nearly three-hundred-year-old dynasty of ministers at Bubendorf and Ziefen. He was the son of the famous Schultheiss Heini Struebin of Liestal who had brought back the drinking vessel of Charles the Bold after the Burgundian Wars. Leonhard Struebin was the only Archdeacon in Baselland and worked for fifty-seven years in his double parish.

The "Kammergutskorporation" dates back to an even older institution, the brotherhood of the Siggau Chapter which was mentioned for the first time in 1375. Leonhard Struebin himself donated twenty florins to start the fund. This was later enriched so much that many widows and orphans could be helped. Even today, annuities are paid to retired ministers, widows and orphans, though owing to devaluation, pensions are of necessity only very small.

Thus this oldest pension fund in Switzerland still does good work after several hundred years. [A.T.S.]

TEN YEARS OF SWISS MISSION IN KOREA

The Neutral Commission in Korea can look back on ten years of active work. Switzerland has belonged to it since the signing of the cease fire treaty in Panmunjom, together with Sweden, Poland and Czecho-Slovakia. During the past ten years, a total of 542 Swiss have been on duty in Korea. The Federal Council considers in its report that the area is still a danger zone, but thanks to the peaceful activities the Neutral Commission is able to exercise a stabilising influence.

[A.T.S.]

NEWS FROM THE FEDERAL MINT

In 1963, the Federal Mint produced 115 million coins for the Federal Treasury. In addition, a further 220,000 Red Cross special coins were produced. The total value of all the coins minted for the Federal Treasury amounted to 48.2 million francs.

For Israel the Federal Mint produced six million aluminium coins, 45,000 one-pound and half-pound coins, and 3,200 gold coins each at 50 and 100 Israeli pounds. For the Republic of Liberia, 10,200 twenty-dollar gold coins were minted in Berne.

Out of a total of 736 coins tested, 444 proved to be forged.

[A.T.S.]

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