

Books on and from Switzerland

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BOOKS ON AND FROM SWITZERLAND

The following books and publications have recently been read by or been recommended to the Editor, and she would like to bring them to the notice of her readers. Perhaps the most interesting in the English language is "Switzerland Present and Future" (A small country re-examines itself). This is the International Edition of the 1963 yearbook of the New Helvetic Society in Switzerland and contains contributions by such eminent personalities as the former Federal Councillor Max Petitpierre on "Is Swiss Neutrality Still Justified?", Denis de Rougemont on "Swiss Federalism", Ambassador A. R. Lindt on "Switzerland and the New States", Federal Councillor Schaffner on "Swiss Economic Policy in the Course of History", etc. (One of the articles was reproduced as the leader in the last issue.)

"Switzerland, Harmony and Contrasts" is published by OSEC (Swiss Office for the Development of Trade in Zurich and Lausanne) at Fr.5.—. It is richly illustrated by plain and coloured photographs and reproductions and contains historic and geographic information and articles on "Economic and Social Conditions", "The State, Neutrality and the Citizen", "Science: The Universities" and "Switzerland, Europe and the World".

"The Swiss and Their mountains" is "A Study of the Influence of Mountains on Man" by Sir Arnold Lunn, published by George Allen and Unwin Ltd., at 25/-. It was written as a tribute to the Swiss Alpine Club.

"The Making of Switzerland from Ice Age to Common Market" is a recently published small book by B. Bradfield (Schweizer Spiegel Verlag). It is an interesting survey of significant historic events, illustrated by drawings and maps.

By the same author is "A Pocket History of Switzerland", a skilful condensation conveying admirably a real understanding of Swiss history; also published by Schweizer Spiegel Verlag at Fr.4.20.

The London Adam Books published a condensed English translation by Guido Calgari (6/-) "The Four Literatures of Switzerland", the first successful effort by a single critic to present the creative complexities of the "country with four literatures".

On 5th July, the "Observer" contained a review of two recent issues of English translations of Gottfried Keller's "Der Grüne Heinrich" and "Martin Salander", published by John Calder.

Three publications on economic subjects:

"British Exports and Exchange Restrictions Abroad", published by the Swiss Bank Corporation in London.

"The Growth of the Swiss Economy, facts, causes and consequences", published by the Swiss Bank Corporation in Switzerland.

"The Swiss Economy in 1963", published by the Swiss Credit Bank.

A Dictionary for Gourmets in midget edition has been published by the well-known Swiss gastronomist Harry Schraemli. By means of a very practical system, this "Dictionnaire gastronomique" puts an end to the quandaries of tourists, enabling them to decipher menus and special culinary expressions, be they in English, French, German, Italian or Spanish.

An attractive Study of Life in the Bernese Oberland during the first half of the nineteenth century is contained in a little book entitled "Elisabetha, the beautiful Batelière from the Lake of Brienz" (Gute Schriften Edition, Berne). This biography written by F. A. Valmar, describes a Swiss

woman (1793-1858) who was praised and portrayed in her youth by international poets and painters during the romantic period.

Three books in French were recommended in the "Echo", the periodical for the Swiss abroad:

"Souvenirs d'Afrique, 1920-1958" by Rose Briod (Ed. A la Baconnière, Neuchâtel), interesting memoirs written by the sister of Mademoiselle Alice Briod who gave devoted service to the Swiss abroad at the Secretariat des Suisses à l'Etranger in Berne for more than thirty years.

"La Suisse en 365 anniversaries" by Georges Duplain (Ed. du Panorama, Paul Thierrin, Berne).

"Quand Lausanne nous est conté", by Jean Nicollier (Ed. Spes, Lausanne). The reviewer in the "Echo" says "Harmonie, tel est le secret de Lausanne, que Jean Nicollier va nous rendre plus précieux encore."

Articles in French, German and Italian on Switzerland are contained in the Yearbook 1964 of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique in Switzerland. It paints a picture of aspects of helvetic growth in the fifty years from 1914 to 1964 and was published on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the N.S.H. Apart from interesting articles by a number of eminent personalities, the book contains a fascinating history of the N.S.H. by Peter Wegelin, a young Bernese schoolmaster.

This brings us to books in German.

"Die Verfassung einer Europäischen Gemeinschaft" by Max Imboden is a special publication by Helbing and Lichtenhahn on the occasion of the Swiss Lawyers' Meeting in Basle in 1963. Peter Dürrenmatt, writing in the "Basler Nachrichten", calls it "a Swiss contribution to the continuing discussion on Europe".

"Die Schweizerische Neutralität als Beitrag zu einem freien Europa" is an impressive and convincing survey on Swiss neutrality, its roots, growth and mission, by Kurt Brotbeck, published by the Benteli-Verlag, Berne.

"Schweizerische Landwirtschaft und Schweizer Bauerntum" is the title of the book edited by Prof. Howald and containing 576 pages and 525 pictures. Contributions were made by many well-known agronomists and experts on Swiss agricultural life (Fr.39.—).

Alpine literature published to mark the centenary of the Swiss Alpine Club include:

"Schweizer Alpen-Club: Hundert Jahre SAC", Sonderheft der "Alpen", 39. Jahrgang, 2. Quartal, Berne.

Ulrich Christoffel: "Der Berg in der Malerei", (SAC, Zollikon, Berne).

Sektion Uto SAC: Zürich, "Vorhof der Alpen". (Art. Institut Orell Füssli, Zürich.)

Cesare Maestri: "Klettern ist mein Beruf". (Huber, Frauenfeld.)

Gérard Herzog: "Louis Lachenal, ein Leben für die Berge". (Hallwag, Berne.)

Oswald Frey: "Im Schatten der grossen Wand". (Gute Schriften, Basle.)

"Gedichte am Rand" is a collection of new poems by the Bernese vicar Kurt Marti (Arthur Niggli, Teufen/Kiepenheuer und Witsch, Cologne).

Finally, the Editor feels compelled by sheer enthusiasm to recommend the three volumes of "Basler Fährgeschichten" by Hans Ruedi Bitterli, humorous and full of Basle wit, published by the Schweizer Spiegel Verlag at Fr.9.80 each.