

1966 the yeat of "Fifth Switzerland" [concluded]

Autor(en): **Fischer, Béat de**

Objekttyp: **Article**

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

Band (Jahr): - **(1966)**

Heft 1497

PDF erstellt am: **19.07.2024**

Persistenter Link: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-692726>

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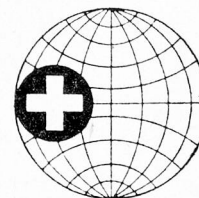
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1966 THE YEAR OF "FIFTH SWITZERLAND"

THE STATE OF THE SWISS COLONY AND THE SWISS "PRESENCE" IN THE UNITED KINGDOM IN 1965



Survey by Monsieur BÉAT DE FISCHER, Swiss Ambassador

The Survey of 1964 gave a comprehensive picture of the state of the Swiss Colony and the Swiss "presence" in the United Kingdom in that year. There have been only a few important changes since then; the present review can thus be confined to showing where the figures have altered or new developments have occurred.

PART 3

C.

(1) Among the musicians heard in London were the pianists Albert Ferber, Geza Anda, Nikita Magaloff, Karl Engel, Paul Baumgartner, Sven Weber, Fernande Kaeser, Ruth Huggenberg, Evelyne Dubourg, Florence Wild and Helen Wohlgenuth; the organists Lionel Rogg and Guy Bovet; the cellist Klaus Heitz; and the singers Lisa della Casa, Hazel Schmid and Heinz Rehfuss. Hugues Cuénod and Edith Mathis again sang at Glyndebourne. The oboist Heinz Hollinger played at the Edinburgh Festival. The Swiss Club in Manchester arranged a sonata recital by the pianist Annette Weisbrod and the cellist Walter Grimmer. The conductor Erich Schmid and the Zurich Speaking Chorus made musical history by sharing in the first performance in London of Schönberg's oratorio "Jacob's Ladder".

(2) As the creator of eurythmics, Jaques-Dalcroze has quite a large following in this country, and there was an impressive series of events to celebrate the 100th anniversary of his birth. The Anglo-Swiss Society held a Dalcroze Centenary Dinner, at which Dame Marie Rambert gave an enthralling account of her days as a pupil of his.

(3) One of the outstanding events in the art world was the Giacometti retrospective exhibition at the Tate Gallery, probably the last great one held in his lifetime. Lithographs and prints by Le Corbusier, another famous artist who was soon to leave us, were shown in Kensington. The painter André Verlon was invited to participate in the Harlow Arts Festival, and later had a one-man show in London. The Goldsmiths' Company mounted a superb exhibition of jewels by the Genevan Gilbert Albert; he and four other Swiss designers were among the 28 winners of the De Beers' Diamonds International Awards of 1965.

Swiss award-winning posters were exhibited in Manchester, Edinburgh, Belfast, Northampton, and finally at the Royal College of Art in London. The publication of the book "The Glory of the Rose" was marked by an exhibition of the original water-colours by Lotte Günthart. Lord Snowdon's much publicized "Private View" came out of a graphic workshop at Lucerne. The London College of Printing showed typefaces by Diethelm and other work from his Zurich atelier.

(4) Being the "Year of the Alps", 1965 produced a new crop of books by mountain lovers, among them Sir Arnold Lunn's "Matterhorn Centenary" and Ronald Clark's "When the Rope Broke". Several old friends of our country were honoured at an extremely interesting

exhibition arranged by the Swiss National Tourist Office to mark this milestone in the history of mountaineering.

Quite a number of Swiss authors were again discussed in "The Times Literary Supplement"; some of their works were reviewed in the daily press. Michael Bullock translated Frisch's latest novel "Mein Name sei Gantenbein". The Hampstead Theatre Club staged Dürrenmatt's "The Marriage of Mr. Mississippi".

(5) The universities continued to express interest in Swiss literature and culture. Contacts with the Oxford University German Society, the Institute of Germanic Studies of London University, and with the Universities of Sussex and Birmingham were highly stimulating and promise to be very fruitful.

In the schools, too, there appears to be a lively curiosity about Switzerland. Professor E. Mason, of Edinburgh was awarded an honorary degree of doctor of philosophy by the University of Berne for his Rilke studies.

The Swiss-run language schools in London and Bournemouth continued to be very useful to the young student. One of these institutions was extended.

D.

(1) Official relations between Switzerland and Britain continued to be friendly. Some delicate questions like the 15% customs surcharge, the candidature of Geneva or London as headquarters for the UNCTAD, the defence of the pound and the application of sanctions against Rhodesia occupied both governments and kept the Embassy busy.

(2) In addition to the existing agreements, a "Treaty for Conciliation, Judicial Settlement and Arbitration" between Switzerland and the United Kingdom was signed in London on 7th July 1965. This new treaty is subject to ratification and is not yet in force.

(3) Several of the conferences held at "Wilton Park" in the course of the year were attended by delegates from Switzerland, chosen from among journalists and other personalities from Swiss public life.

(4) At the end of the year the Anglo-Swiss Society reorganized its committee with a view to stepping up its future activity.

(Concluded)

CORBUSIER MUSEUM IN ZURICH

The World famous architect Le Corbusier, born in La Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland, will receive his own museum, where his entire artistic legacy in original graphics, oil paintings, sculptures, tapestry, lithography, brass etchings, etc., will be on permanent show. Corbusier himself made the plans for the museum now being built in the public park near Zürichhorn and he worked on the construction until shortly before his death. It is hoped that the opening can take place on 6th October 1966, the date when Corbusier would have reached the age of 79.

[S.N.T.O.]