

A look at western Switzerland's artistic life

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MUSIC IN THE MOUNTAINS

The Engadine Concert Weeks are unique in that several holiday resorts of the Upper Engadine Valley participate in them. For the twenty-ninth time now, between 17th July and 23rd August, a large number of artists will present orchestra concerts, chamber music and soloists' evenings at St. Moritz, Pontresina, Samedan and other places in churches as well as village community halls. — In the Canton of Grisons, the villages of Klosters and Bergün have also announced concerts. — The Bernese Oberland has a recognised summer music centre at Meiringen in whose church six concerts will be given from 4th to 13th July. — Engelberg in Central Switzerland will have a concert week for the fourth time, from 19th to 22nd August. Two other music cycles during the coming summer are definitely devoted to studies. At Braunwald, high up in the Canton of Glarus, Music Weeks will be held for the 34th time (7th to 16th July) and will feature lectures on the subject "Intellect and History of Music-Making in Groups" and concerts illustrating the subject in sound. At Adelboden in the Bernese Oberland, at the Rostal Concert Weeks from 29th July to 15th August, which are also devoted to the study and performing of music, there will be public concerts on 29th and 31st July as well as on 5th, 8th and 15th August.

(S.N.T.O.)

A LOOK AT WESTERN

SWITZERLAND'S ARTISTIC LIFE

By visiting a representative exhibition in Geneva, one may get acquainted with the graphic work of one of German-speaking Switzerland's most successful artists who is at the peak of his creative development. The painter and graphic artist Hans Erni of Lucerne dominates the spacious Musée Rath with his drawings and applied graphic work. — In Lausanne, the fourth "Biennale de la tapisserie" (bi-annual exhibition of tapestries) which is being held at the Art Museum until 28th September, is supplemented at the "Musée des arts décoratifs" (Museum of Decorative Arts) with an exhibition of artistic tapestries dating from the 16th to the 18th centuries. It is also open until 28th September. — A third exhibition of tapestries (*La Tapisserie Romande d'aujourd'hui* — Today's tapestry of French-speaking Switzerland), takes place from 22nd June to 5th October at the Château de la Sarraz in the Venoge Valley at the foot of the Jura Mountains between Lausanne and Vallorbe. — In Vevey an exhibition of African art is to be held at the Musée Jenisch from 12th July to 22nd September. At Sierre in the Canton of Valais, forty-seven painters of the Rhone region are exhibiting their work until 28th August,

and at Zinal, also in the Canton of Valais, Czechoslovak arts and crafts are being shown from 21st June until 21st September. — At the city hall of Yverdon, the bi-annual exhibition "Dybs 69" which presents creative work of contemporary designers will be open until 3rd August. — We should like to end this brief tour of Western Switzerland for the time being by paying a visit to the charming "Petit Palais" in Geneva where neo-impressionists dominate the summer exhibition.

(S.N.T.O.)

ITALIAN GRANDEZZA AND FRENCH CHARM — IN SWITZERLAND

It is one of the special features of Switzerland that within her narrow territorial confines different cultural influences manifest themselves and occasionally meet: as for instance, Italian grandezza and French charm. The Latin attitude, which sometimes lends greatness to the smallest of Ticinese villages, did not stop short at the mountain barrier of the Alps. The passes became bridges between north and south, and the riches that sometimes flowed over them were accompanied by a taste for splendour which was capable of creating — as in Brigue on the Simplon — a striking contrast to the frugality of local ways of life. It was in Brigue that Jodok, known as "the great Stockalper" and the "Swiss Fugger", converted his seventeenth-century warehouse into a palace.

In Solothurn (or Soleure, to give it its French name) at the foot of the Jura, it was the Church that, by erecting the Cathedral of St. Ursus in 1762 to 1773, gave the main street a dominant note of Mediterranean grandeur. "I thought I was dreaming when I first visited this town and opened the shutters early one morning in the inn opposite St. Ursus", recounted W. J. Sandberg, the much-travelled Dutch artist and museum curator, "the wide flight of steps, the monumental fountains, the façade with its pillars and pilasters — I thought I must be in Italy."

Exposed by its geographical situation to French influences, the town was the seat of France's Ambassador to the Swiss Confederation from 1538 till 1792. This connection explains other features of Solothurn and its history, such as the embassy building that was later converted into a cantonal school and the distinguished campaigns undertaken by patricians who agreed to give military support to their neighbour in the West.

The whole western portion of Switzerland's sub-Alpine plain is scattered with stately residences whose style of living was originally modelled on Versailles — on the Rivers Aare and Saane, from the gateway of the Bernese Oberland to the shores of Lake Lemman. The remnants of mediaeval

strongholds, such as that of Jegenstorf, were at that time furnished with new and more graceful exteriors, and Argovian castles such as Wildegg were embellished with gardens inspired by foreign vistas.

Nor should we forget, between the Jura and the Alps, the numerous inns that have the spacious ease of country seats. You may still enter many a Swiss hostelry above whose doors the Rococo period has left its curvilinear signature. And of course, French and Italian airs are also wafted towards you out of hospitable Swiss kitchens. In short: roam the world, but rest in Switzerland.

"Switzerland"

(S.N.T.O.)

DRAMA

From Schiller's "William Tell" . . .

This year, the indefatigable theatre company of Interlaken is presenting to an audience from the four corners of the globe vivid, exciting performances of Schiller's play "William Tell". Six of them will take place in July, ten in August and two in September. Even in case of inclement weather, the spectators will be protected under the roof of a large grandstand while the many actors and big processions will move amid the open-air forest scenery.

. . . to "Anatevka", the summertime open-air musical

In the park of the former Wesendonck villa in Zurich, where once Richard Wagner found inspiration for his opera "Tristan and Isolde", there is now being built the Ukrainian village of Anatevka. Here, after a triumphal procession through twenty-two countries, the world's most famous milkman, played by the Israeli character actor Shmuel Rodensky, will make his summer headquarters. The musical "Anatevka" was first performed in New York in the autumn of 1964 as "The Fiddler on the Roof", a title inspired by Marc Chagall. In its German version it has taken on the name of the village in which the afflicted milkman lived and worked. Presented for the first time as an open-air performance it should, from 15th July until 24th August be a "first" in Switzerland's festival and theatrical summer season of 1969.

(S.N.T.O.)

SWISS OUTPUT INCREASED

Industrial production rose by some 9% in Switzerland over the first quarter, compared with the corresponding 1968 period. Chemical and pharmaceutical industries rose by 24%, while the leather, rubber and plastics sector registered a 13% rise. The metal industry was up by 11%.

Only the wood industry and the paper industry were lower than in the first quarter of 1968 (3 and 2%, respectively). The production index increased as a result of the overall expansion to a level of 177 (1958 output equal to 100).