

# Swiss church

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### About Willy Weber's exhibition

The technique is altogether new: metal plates are seeded with explosive charges, the explosions produce plastic deformations of the initially flat surfaces. Charges applied to the front of the plate result in concavities, those applied to the back produce convexities. The process itself is not without interest: a previously formed object, in this case the plane surface of industrially manufactured aluminium or steel plates, is destroyed by the concentrated bursts of energy generated by trinitrotoluol. This act of destruction might be construed as a critical reconstruction of the action of missiles, and in the last definition of the atom bomb. But Weber's highly dramatic and dangerous

working method has another aspect: above and beyond the perhaps puerile pleasure of playing with explosives, he is also giving the individual's proud answer to the inarticulateness of the accurately dimensioned but anonymous industrial product. Semi-finished goods are here diverted from their ordained application by a deliberate and arbitrary act.

The violent destruction of the two-dimensional surface produces something new: a three-dimensional body exposed to and pervaded by space. Space is also created when the metal plate is not merely plastically deformed but actually perforated by the explosion. Holes of this kind, which have disappeared from Weber's more recent

work, remind us that there is space both in front of and behind the surface, that surfaces are in fact only membranes stretched in space.

With these perforations Weber consciously established contact with the "spazialismo" of Lucio Fontana.

### THE SWISS CHURCHES

Pfarrer Marcel Dietler wishes to clear a misunderstanding stemming from my report on the General Assembly of the Swiss Churches in London appearing in the last issues. In it, I wrote that Sunday attendance at the German-speaking Church was dwindling. This is not the case. Although the German-speaking youth club has suffered a momentary loss in

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attendance, the Sunday morning services have enjoyed encouragingly increased congregations recently.

Another point which needs clarification is that the unsatisfactory financial position of the Swiss Church has nothing to do with the restoration of the hall. The money for this purpose came through the Federation of Protestant Churches in Switzerland and the works therefore did not affect the Swiss Church's budget at all.

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## THE SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

Mr. Maurice Rothlisberger, the Swiss Benevolent Society's long time Treasurer, has resigned from his responsible office, and Mr. L. S. R. Asch, who already gives so much of himself to the life of the Colony, has succeeded him. Mr. Rothlisberger became Assistant Treasurer of the Swiss Benevolent Society on 26th October 1931, and Treasurer on 9th August 1937. He has therefore kept a watchful eye on the Society's finances for almost 40 years! The Swiss Benevolent Society is certainly sorry to lose him. We wish every success to Mr. Asch and know that the Society's "Treasure" will be safe under his care.

## PERSONAL

We have the pleasure in congratulating those of our readers who are celebrating their birthdays or some other important day in June. Among our readers, Mr. Fred Notari was 76 on June 14th. Pfarrer Hans Spoerri, Rueschlikon, was 49 on June 22nd. Mr. R. L. Thomas, now in Baden, was 46 on June 24th. Mr. L. S. R. Asch was 62 on that same day, and Mr. Ernst Kuebler was 83. Mr. Max Schneider, Basle, was 65 on June 26th. Mr. Jakob Vogel was 89 on July 2nd. Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Brunner and Mr. and Mrs. P. B. Haberstich respectively celebrated their 53rd and 48th wedding anniversary on July 7th. Consul Rico Tosio, now in Karachi, was 57 on July 10th. To all we extend our heartiest congratulations and good wishes.

We also have the pleasure of congratulating Dr. Ian and Dr. Beryl Margrath-Shepherd, who were blessed with a new-born daughter on June 1st. Her name is Helen Patricia and she comes as a gift little sister to their son Allan.

We are glad to inform our readers that Mr. and Mrs. Charles Abbeglen will *not* be leaving us in the near future owing to new decisions in Berne.

We wish to congratulate Dr. Hugo Rast, of Stone House, 9 Weymouth Street, W.1. and Miss Ruth Aeberhard on their recent marriage which took place quietly on 26th May. We wish the couple every happiness in the future.

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Mrs. J. Jurgen of "Red Lodge", Englefield Green, Surrey. She was one of our most devoted readers and assured the former Editor of her appreciation of the Swiss Observer on many occasions. She died very suddenly at the age of 92. We send our sympathy to her family, in particular to Dr. and Mrs. X. M. Speckert, her daughter and son-in-law.

## SWISS CHURCH

**SERVICES EN FRANÇAIS:** à l'Eglise Suisse, 79 Endell Street, W.C.2, tous les dimanches à 11h15 et 19h00.

**SAINTE-CENE:** le premier et troisième dimanche du mois, matin et soir.

**PERMANENCE:** chaque jeudi de 15h00 à 18h00.

**REUNION DE QUARTIER:** huit veillées en automne et au printemps: voir "Le Messager"

**CLUB DES JEUNES:** tous les dimanches de 12h00 à 22h30, tous les jeudis de 15h00 à 22h30.

**REUNION DE COUTURE:** le 2<sup>e</sup> mardi du mois.

**LUNCH:** tous les dimanches à 13h00.

**VISITES:** sur demande.

**PASTEUR:** A. Nicod, 7 Park View Road, London N.3. Téléphone 01-346 5281.

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**SERVICES IN GERMAN:** at Eglise Suisse, 79 Endell Street, W.C.2, at 10 a.m. At St. Ann's Church, Abbey Orchard Street, S.W.1. at 7.30 p.m.

**HOLY COMMUNION:** every first Sunday of the month at evening service only. On major feasts at morning and evening services.

**CONSULTATIONS:** every Wednesday 4-6 p.m. at Eglise Suisse.

**DISTRICT GROUPS (W.4 and S.E.21) and SERVICES OUTSIDE LONDON:** see "Gemeindebote".

**SERVICES IN ENGLISH:** every fourth Sunday at 7.30 p.m.

**"KONTAKT" (Youth Group):** every Wednesday 4-10 p.m. at Eglise Suisse. Supper at 6.30 p.m. Programme at 8 p.m.

**SWISS Y.M.C.A.:** see Forthcoming Events.

**WOMEN'S CIRCLE:** every first Tuesday of the Month.

**MOTHERS' REUNION:** 1st Wednesday in the Month, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**VISITS:** by request.

**MINISTER:** Pfr. M. Dietler, 1. Womersley Road, N.8. Telephone 01-340 6018.

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**SWISS CATHOLIC MISSION:** at St. Ann's Church, Abbey Orchard Street (off No. 25 Victoria Street), S.W.1.

**SATURDAYS:** Ecumenical Service at 6.30 p.m.

**SUNDAYS:** Holy Mass at 9 and 11 a.m. (in English).

At 6.30 p.m. (mostly in German)

**CONSULTATIONS AND CONFESSIONS:** preferably on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays in the afternoon or by appointment.

**SERVICES EN FRANCAIS:** Notre Dame de France, 5 Leicester Place, W.C.2. on Suns. at 9, 10, 11 a.m. 12.15, 6, 7 p.m.

**SWISS CATHOLIC YOUTH CLUB** — Meeting every Sunday after Evening Mass (8-11 p.m.) at Westminster Ball Room, 30 Strutton Ground, S.W.1.

**CHAPLAIN:** Paul Bossard, St. Ann's Church, Abbey Orchard Street, S.W.1. Tel.: 01-222 2895.