

Switzerland in Britain's cultural life

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DID YOU KNOW . . . ?

. . . that the Queen is planning a state visit to Switzerland next spring? This will be the first time a ruling British monarch has visited Switzerland officially.

. . . Edgar Jaques Wicht, born in Fribourg, 1920, died in June in Geneva? He was a distinguished RAF pilot during the World War II. In 1938 he became a naturalised Briton to fly with the RAF. He served until his retirement in 1960. In 1943 he was captain of a 224 Sqn Coastal Command Liberator which helped to break up a pack of U-boats lying in wait for an important convoy in mid-Atlantic. Two submarines were sunk and the convoy reached its destination unmolested. This was one of many attacks on submarines by Wicht. He won the DFC in 1943 and DSO the following year.

. . . that Switzerland's Clay Regazzoni (40) won this year's

Motor Racing Grand Prix at Silverstone in a Saudia-Williams?

. . . that this year's Wimbledon's youngest tennis hope Andrea Jaeger from Lincolnshire (Chicago) has Swiss parents (from Basle and Zurich respectively), who emigrated to America 22 years ago?

. . . that the art collection of a Swiss textile merchant, Hans Mettler, from St. Gallen, was sold at Christie's in July for £2,625,000? Hans Mettler began buying paintings in 1916 and accumulated a superb collection of Cezannes, Toulouse Lautrecs, Matisse, Redons, one van Gogh and one Ferdinand Hodler which alone fetched £295,000 at the auction. Most of the paintings had never been shown in public before. A Christie's auctioneer described securing and cataloguing this sale as the most rewarding job he had had in the 14 years he had been at Christie's.

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SWITZERLAND IN BRITAIN'S CULTURAL LIFE

Friday, September 7

Royal Albert Hall, 7.30 p.m. — *Tamas Vasary* conducts the Scottish Chamber Orchestra and is the soloist in Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 14.

Mid-September to mid-October

School of Photography, Harrow — *Photography in Switzerland from 1840 until Today*.

Wednesday, 26th September

Purcell Room, 8 p.m. — *Roland Perrenoud* (oboe) and *Fredy Felgenhauer* (piano) play works by Schumann, Poulenc, Fröhlich, Saint-Saëns, T. de Leeuw and Ponchielli.



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