

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK
Band: - (1984)
Heft: 1811

Rubrik: Woman's Observer

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St Gallen still favourite

ELABORATE Swiss fabrics have been a firm favourite with international couture houses for many years.

Most of these embroideries come from the city of St. Gallen which has centuries of great textile craftsmanship behind its outstanding reputation.

The delightful garments, some of which are illustrated here, are in the collection of top couturiers throughout the world and without their supply most fashion houses would find it extremely difficult to create these collections.

A garment made of Swiss embroidered material can cost from £600 right up to £3,000 but any intelligent dressmaker using these embroideries could cut the ruling couture costs by at least 50 per cent.

One does not have to be a Dior, Yves St. Laurent or Giorgio Armani to successfully model them.

The fabrics themselves are so rich that they fit any classical simple styles and even the small dressmakers should not feel that they are 'too good' for them to



A: Chanel inspiration



B: Balmain choice



C: Ungaro simplicity

handle.

Allans of Duke Street, London have been dealing in high fashion fabrics since 1946 and have always sustained very close working ties with the Swiss textile companies.

Their clients include the members of six royal families, the Royal Shakespeare Company and the

Royal Covent Garden Opera House.

Allans can be sure of brisk business before a high society wedding or the Ascot races.

Our picture above show:

A. The classic lines of a jacket, clearly inspired by Coco Chanel show off this pure wool suiting fabric in "embroidered" astrakan.

B. Pierre Balmain chose Swiss brocaded velour to create this beautiful jacket. The blouse, with its fanciful collar detail, may be a little adventurous for some.

C. Satin, taffeta and velour combine in an elaborate appliqué fabric to make the most of the simple yet dramatic lines of this evening gown by Ungaro.

A LIGHT CHANGE

WINTER foods can be a little heavy at times. So, anyone looking for an interesting alternative to Christmas pudding should try this light, nourishing Swiss savoury – part of the traditional Swiss cuisine.

Gruyère Soufflé can also be eaten as a snack with hot coffee or tea.

Ingredients:

$\frac{3}{4}$ pint milk (375ml)
 $\frac{1}{8}$ pint water (90ml)
2 $\frac{1}{4}$ oz semolina (60g)
Salt and white pepper to taste
Pinch of grated nutmeg
1 generous oz butter, flaked (25g)

6oz grated Swiss Gruyère (150g)
4 eggs, separated
Extra butter for greasing

Method:

Warm the milk and water in a large saucepan. Stir in the semolina, and season to taste.

Continue stirring, pressing out any lumps, until the mixture comes to the boil and thickens. Add the butter and stir until it melts.

Remove the pan from the heat, and tip in the cheese. Stir until melted, then leave the mixture to cool while preparing the soufflé dish and eggs.

Heat the oven to 375 degs F (190 degs C, Gas 5). Grease a 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ pint (1 $\frac{1}{2}$ litre) soufflé dish liberally with butter. Beat the egg yolks until liquid. With clean beaters, beat the egg white with a pinch of salt until stiff but not dry.

Beat the egg yolks into the semolina-cheese mixture until well blended. Stir in one spoonful of the egg whites, then fold in the rest lightly.

Bake for 40-50 minutes, or until the soufflé is risen and well browned on top.

Remove the dish from the oven, and serve immediately on heated plates.

Sailors to jeans!

THE toy and village museum at Riehen, near Basle, has mounted an exhibition that sets out to illustrate the origins and development of children's fashions.

The garments and pictures on display span two centuries of children's clothes – from the sailor's costumes for boys, which were popular in the 'Biedermeier' period, down to today's jeans and T-shirts.

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Swiss Life



Champagne at Rayne opening

A CHAMPAGNE reception has marked the opening in Zurich of a Swiss branch of an exclusive British footwear store, patronised for many years by the Royal Family.

The company is Rayne Shoes, whose expertly-crafted footwear has long been popular with women prepared to pay for beautiful styling and fit in the finest of supple leathers.

In 1955, the company was granted a royal warrant by Queen Elizabeth "in recognition of its service to the young monarch".

Edward Rayne, chairman of the family firm, is discreet about the royal connection, but admits both the Queen and the Queen Mother are regular customers.

Rayne Shoes has also contracted Clive Shilton, designer of Princess Diana's wedding slippers, to produce a regular

high-fashion collection.

The royal warrant has been of "enormous help to the firm. It is the ultimate hallmark of quality", says Mr Rayne. He believes Rayne Shoes, which are manufactured in London, will appeal to the cosmopolitan fashion sense of Swiss women although prices will be dictated by the exchange rates.

Rayne Shoes was founded forty years ago and now has 63 outlets in North America. After the success of its Paris store, it was decided to expand in Europe.

Rayne has entered into an agreement with Jaeger, who make classic British fashion clothes for both men and women, to share commercial space throughout the continent.

The Swiss branch of Rayne Shoes is at Pelikanstrasse 6, 8001 Zurich.



Rayne's 'Alto' style in yellow/black, black/white, white/tan, or orange/grey.

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