

**Zeitschrift:** Die Schweiz = Suisse = Svizzera = Switzerland : offizielle Reisezeitschrift der Schweiz. Verkehrszentrale, der Schweizerischen Bundesbahnen, Privatbahnen ... [et al.]

**Herausgeber:** Schweizerische Verkehrszentrale

**Band:** 28 (1955)

**Heft:** 10

**Artikel:** Das Parktheater in Grenchen = Le nouveau théâtre à granges

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**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-776236>

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## ENGINEERING AND NATURE IN THE ALPS

The great achievements of modern engineering have profoundly influenced the standard of living all over the world, and everyone recognizes the important place occupied by industrialization today. Nevertheless nature jealously defends her rights. Even the most remarkable human works submit to the laws of nature. The very nakedness of concrete walls in the midst of a wild gorge makes the greatness of the surrounding landscape even more apparent by contrast. The construction of avalanche barriers and hydro-electric dams not only requires extensive technical knowledge, but also a profound and intimate understanding of the ways of nature.

Because on the one hand human lives as well as economic and financial interests are involved, while on the other hand the scenic beauty of the Alps is one of Switzerland's priceless assets, the Swiss have acquired considerable skill in harmonizing the requirements of technical progress with the esthetic demands of her mountain population and their guests from all over the world.

### THE SWISS FEDERAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AND ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE SCIENCE OF CARTOGRAPHY

The need for more exact information led, during the past century, to the creation of maps that were geometrically accurate and entirely abstract, instead of pictorial representations. The French introduced contour lines, and it is to the Germans that we owe the hatchings used to indicate slopes.

It would have been regrettable to sacrifice all aesthetic aspects to precision alone. For this reason the "Swiss school" made an attempt—which turned out to be successful—to combine geometrical exactitude with artistic presentation. With the help of oblique lighting, General Dufour created a very remarkable map with the appearance of a relief. His map of the Swiss Alps was considered by his contemporaries as a first class production. A number of professors at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, such as Albert Heim, Fridolin Becker, and Eduard Imhof were strong in their recommendations that consideration be given to artistic appearances in map making. Their influence was felt when Switzerland's official maps were created. The reproduction of part of the first sheet of the nation's official map (scale 1:100 000) shows particularly well the progress made in Switzerland in the field of cartography.

### RAIN MADE TO ORDER

With the atomic era rapidly coming of age and interplanetary travel looming on the horizon, nobody need be astonished to learn about the research being made in the field of artificial weather control. To be able to change atmospheric conditions at will would open up unexpected possibilities for farmers and tourists. First experiments in artificial "rain making"

have been successful, but the art is still in its infancy.

What are the physical principles involved? At high altitude, storm clouds consist of a multitude of tiny droplets which, in certain cases, may reach temperatures well below 32° F without freezing. When certain finely divided substances are present in the atmosphere, the drops grow bigger and solidify. Carried down by their weight, they fall rapidly, warm up at lower altitudes and reach the ground as rain. Such supercooled clouds are plentiful enough, but active nuclei for cristallization—the "seeds" that start raindrops growing—are often lacking. To make up for this, the clouds are "seeded", i.e. appropriate substances are injected into them so that freezing is facilitated and the desired rain can fall.

The practical application of this method is rather limited as it is difficult to satisfy all requirements. Real control of atmospheric conditions will not actually be achieved in the foreseeable future, but as in so many other cases, the first step counts a lot.

### BESICHTIGUNG DER ETH UND IHRER INSTITUTE

In der Woche nach den Jubiläumsfestlichkeiten, vom Montag, dem 24. Oktober, bis Samstag, den 29. Oktober 1955, werden die hauptsächlichlichen Gebäude und Institute der ETH der Öffentlichkeit zur Besichtigung freigegeben. Es finden auch Führungen statt. Alles Nähere wird einem weiteren Publikum im Oktober durch Ankündigung in den Tageszeitungen bekanntgegeben.

### VISITE DE L'E.P.F. ET DE SES INSTITUTS

Durant la semaine qui suivra les fêtes de centenaire, soit du lundi 24 octobre au samedi 29 octobre 1955, le public sera admis à visiter les principaux bâtiments et instituts de l'E.P.F. Des visites auront également lieu sous la conduite de guides. De plus amples renseignements seront communiqués au public au mois d'octobre par la voie des journaux.

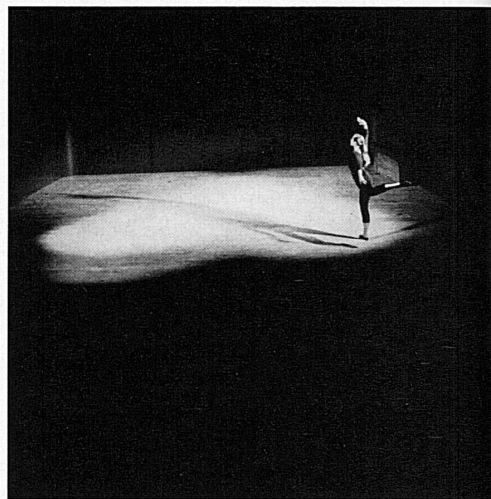
### VISITA DEL POLITECNICO FEDERALE E DEI SUOI ISTITUTI

Nella settimana che segue le celebrazioni centenarie, e cioè da lunedì 24 ottobre fino a sabato 29 ottobre, gli edifici principali e gli istituti della S.P.F. verranno aperti al pubblico che potrà liberamente visitarli. Sono previste anche visite collettive con guida. I particolari saranno resi noti mediante comunicati sui quotidiani di Zurigo.

### VISITS TO E.T.H. MAIN BUILDING AND TO SPECIAL INSTITUTES

During the week following upon the Celebrations, i.e. from Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> October, to Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> October, the main building, as well as the special institutes will be open to the public. There will be conducted tours, which, together with further details, will be announced in the local press in October.

Grenchen im Kanton Solothurn entwickelte sich zur Industriestadt. Ihr gesellschaftliches Leben rief das jüngste Theater der Schweiz, das als Mehrzweckbau auch Konzerten, politischen und unpolitischen Versammlungen dient. Hotel- und Restaurationsbetriebe sind ihm angegliedert, deren Räume mit Bildern schweizerischer Künstler ausgestattet wurden. Der architektonisch interessante Backsteinbau fügt sich in das ernste, von Tannen durchwirkte Vorland des Juras vorzüglich ein und ist ein Werk des jungen Architekten Ernst Gisel. Photos F. Engesser



### DAS PARKTHEATER IN GRENCHE LE NOUVEAU THÉÂTRE A GRANGES

Granges, dans le canton de Soleure, est actuellement une ville industrielle. D'un niveau culturel élevé, elle vient de construire un théâtre, utilisé également pour des concerts et des assemblées. L'hôtel et le restaurant annexés à cette salle de spectacles sont décorés de tableaux d'artistes suisses. Construit tout en briques et d'une architecture intéressante, ce théâtre, œuvre du jeune architecte Ernest Gisel, se détache sur le fond sombre des premiers contreforts du Jura.

Grenchen, nel Cantone di Soletta, è diventata una città industriale. La sua intensa vita di società è stata arricchita da un teatro, l'ultimo costruito in Svizzera, nel di cui edificio dai più scopi possono aver luogo anche concerti e riunioni politiche e apolitiche. Gli sono annessi un albergo e un ristorante, i di cui locali sono adornati da quadri di artisti svizzeri. La costruzione, che è in mattoni e molto interessante architettonicamente, armonizza lodevolmente col serio paesaggio ricco d'abeti che precede il Giura ed è opera del giovane architetto Gisel.

The picturesque town of Granges, in the canton of Soleure, has developed into an industrial centre. The social life of the populace created a demand for a theatre, and the town now has the newest one in Switzerland. As a multiple-purpose auditorium, it can be used for concerts and political and social gatherings as well. Annexed to the theatre are a hotel and restaurant with walls decorated with pictures by Swiss artists. The new brick building, designed by the young architect Ernest Gisel, fits in quite harmoniously with the lower Jura landscape.

