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VORSCHAU AUF DIE FASTNACHT. Man kann sich die Tage, auf die der Hauptspektakel des Karnevals fällt, nicht früh genug im Kalender anzeichnen, besonders wenn man im Sinn hat, ein neues Fastnachtskostüm machen zu lassen oder eines zu mieten. So sei schon jetzt bekanntgegeben, daß in *Luzern*, wo am 11. Januar bereits das traditionelle «Abholen des Fritschivaters» stattfindet, die Hauptanlässe des Karnevals auf den 5. und 9. Februar fallen, und daß im Thermalkurort *Baden* der 5. und 8. Februar als wichtigste Fastnachtstage vorgesehen sind. – *Basel* dagegen erlebt fastnächtlichen Hochbetrieb am 16. und 18. Februar. Im Tessin, wo das allgemeine Risotto-Essen auf öffentlichem Platz das gesellige Hauptvergnügen des Karnevals bildet, wird dieses gastronomisch akzentuierte Fest in *Lugano* am 8., 9. und 10., in *Ascona* und *Locarno* am 10. Februar gefeiert. Im tief verschneiten Unterengadin gibt man dem Winter schon am 1. Februar durch das Verbrennen des «Homstrom» in *Scuol* zu verstehen, daß man ihn gerne bald verabschieden möchte. Und an zahllosen Orten, die keine besondere Fastnachtstradition besitzen, werden doch eifrig die bunten Kostüme aufgebügelt und die Tanzsäle der Gaststätten mit Rivierzauber oder anderen lockenden Illusionen dekoriert.

*Dear Sir, Not long ago I had a wonderful time in Switzerland. It was all too short, but I revelled in every minute of my stay there. Some go to a country for an even shorter stay and then go home and write an authoritative (!) book on the subject. This is not a formal learned document, it is just a rambling reminiscence of a beautiful country.*

*The weather is a commonplace subject! But, it was most interesting to me to cover all aspects in a short time and over a small area. I took the funicular up the Pleiades—it rained every minute so I could not see the view, which they say is lovely. My walk in the rain was most refreshing and the musical tinkling of the cow bells was one sure sign of being in Switzerland. I went up to Bellalui in a cable car—the last trip up before lunch time—they obligingly started up the machinery where one changes cars for the last lap to the top so I could lunch at Bellalui. The weather was beautiful and clear and the view magnificent of the snow capped mountains. I bought sun glasses! (and used them often in the days to come). Another day I was caught in a terrific hail storm in Zermatt and a snow storm on the Gornergrat. It was fun and interesting and unpredictable.*

*The Swiss people are charming. The obliging man who started up the machinery just for me at Croix d'Err; the friendly Swiss gentleman who pointed out all the sights and told me many interesting things on the beautiful train trip from Interlaken to Lucerne; the attractive shop lady who so willingly went part way with me in Berne to show me a good place to buy a watch; the kind taxi driver in Thun who made a call for me to my hotel and gave me directions how to get there when he knew I was going to walk and my bags were going to ride behind a bicycle; the thoughtful couple who helped me use the phone at Brig to put through a long-distance call; the attractive*

*girls in a little shop in Grindelwald who went through all the little hand-carved wooden bears to find just what I wanted; the gentleman from Berne who tried so hard to find a certain postcard I wanted and wrote me such a hospitable letter on behalf of himself and his family; and many others. All were so friendly and helpful.*

*There were many other things that impressed me:—Thun with its picturesque two levelled sidewalks and arcades; Berne with its arcades—such a restful way to shop without a thought to the weather or the traffic; the amazing mechanical dolls at Neuchâtel, where I was fortunate enough to have a private showing of these masterpieces of Swiss skill; Zermatt, etc., etc.*

*The train trip to Zermatt is along a beautiful rushing river. At Zermatt we were met by horse-drawn vehicles with tinkling bells. No cars! It is a wonderful atmosphere—just horses' hoofs on the cobbles and the bells. The view of the Matterhorn is spectacular. Why anyone would want to climb this magnificent mountain is a mystery to me. I wandered in an old graveyard and looked at many of the stones which read on the following order: died in a storm on the Matterhorn, killed by falling stones, died in a crevasse, etc.*

*I took many lovely walks and revelled in the Swiss countryside in all its beauty, the glorious mountains, the lovely cities, the beautiful lakes, the small villages, the picturesque chalets, etc. By the way, could anyone tell me why so many of the chalets have the toadstool-like construction at the four corners. I do want to know.*

*My rambling reminiscences of Switzerland could go on and on. But let me close by saying it is a wonderful country and I had a glorious time.*

*Sincerely yours,  
Anne Marvin, Charlottesville  
Virginia|USA*

Am 8. Februar, zur Fastnachtszeit, wird das «Sie-und-Er»-Paarabfahrtsrennen Rigi-Goldau veranstaltet, an dem wir auch maskierten Skifahrern begegnen. Photo Rob. Gnant

*Une course de descente par couple, intitulée « Elle et Lui », aura lieu à Rigi-Goldau, le 8 février, à l'époque du Carnaval; des skieurs masqués y prendront part.*

*L'8 febbraio, nel periodo di carnevale, avrà luogo sul tragitto Rigi-Goldau la gara di discesa per coppie « Lei e Lui », a cui parteciperanno anche sciatori in maschera.*

*“She and He” Rigi-Goldau downhill races will take place on February 8, in the midst of carnival time. On this special event we may even meet masked skiers.*

EN VUE DU CARNAVAL. Les feuilles du calendrier tomberont trop lentement au gré de ceux qui frétilent d'impatience en attendant le carnaval, et de celles qui, bien à l'avance, auront commandé quelque travesti sensationnel. C'est pourquoi nous jugeons bon de préciser d'ores et déjà quelques dates. A *Lucerne* aura lieu, le 11 janvier la traditionnelle «conduite du père Fritsch», coutume locale aux aspects burlesques qui cons-

titue une sorte d'avant-première du carnaval, dont les fastes essentiels se dérouleront les 5 et 9 février. La station thermale de *Baden* réserve les 5 et 8 février aux folies carnavalesques, tandis que *Bâle* attend les 16 et 18 février pour ces joyeuses festivités. Au Tessin, où le carnaval revêt un aspect plutôt gastronomique, on fera grandes ripailles de risotto sur les places publiques, les 8, 9 et 10 février à *Lugano*, le 10 à *As-*

*cona* et *Locarno*. La Basse-Engadine sera encore profondément enfouie sous la neige lorsqu'à *Scuol*, le 1<sup>er</sup> février déjà, on brûlera publiquement le «Homstrom», mannequin symbolisant le maussade hiver. Et en bien d'autres lieux qui ne possèdent pas de traditions de carnaval particulières, des bals costumés seront organisés dans les grandes salles d'hôtels aux décors illusoirement printaniers.