

Notes and news

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NOTES AND NEWS

Neuchâtel Calicoes

Madame Dorette Berthoud, the well-known Neuchâtel writer, has just published* a fascinating work under the above title with a wealth of illustration, and which gives a complete overall picture of the Neuchâtel calico industry. We have already spoken here (*Textiles Suisses* N° 2, 1950) of the manufacture of calicoes which flourished in the canton of Neuchâtel for roughly a century and a half, from the beginning of the 18th century until about 1860. Without neglecting the technical side of the question, Mme Berthoud has studied in detail the history of the different Neuchâtel manufactories, which were family

* « Les Indiennes neuchâteloises », Editions de la Baconnière, Boudry, Neuchâtel (Switzerland).

concerns run on « family » lines, and she gives us at the same time a very detailed and lifelike picture of the period and society. We are shown the difficulties of the manufacturers, as well as the working conditions of the workers.

All those interested in the history of the textile industry, not only local but of the world, will read this work with profit — and not without pleasure — and will be surprised perhaps to learn of the influence the Neuchâtel calico industry exercised on the industry of the « toiles de Jouy » and of Alsace.

Among other reasons, Mme Berthoud's excellent book is also to be recommended to the reader for its impeccable presentation and wealth of illustration in black and white and in colour.

Trade Journals

Among the textile publications regularly received by us, we should like to call attention to some Swiss periodicals which seem to us to be particularly interesting. The periodical *Textil Revue* is published weekly in Zurich, in German, but for some time now it has contained some useful summaries in French of the main articles. Let us draw particular attention to the feature « Hints to Retailers ». Number 33 of this periodical (16th August, 1951) is devoted to *Zurich Silks* in honour of the 600th anniversary of Zurich's entry into the Swiss Confederation and of the « 600 Years of Zurich Silks » exhibition, to both of which events we devoted a large part of the last number of *Textiles Suisses*.

The *Textil Rundschau* (monthly, in German) is more particularly intended for textile and paper manufacturers anxious to receive information on very technical details of production (dyes, finishes, etc.). In the last few numbers we noticed among other things, articles on American « Aerosol » wetting agents (June 1951), the origin of calico printing in Switzerland (July 1951) and water in the textile industry to-day (August 1951). One very informative feature included resumé of interesting technical articles that have appeared in the foreign press, as well as book reviews.

Cahiers Ciba and *Ciba Rundschau*, which are published alternately in French and German each month, are always useful and well illustrated sources of information, presented in the most attractive form, easily understood by the layman and without any trace of pedantry. The articles are always written by experts in the fields covered. In the last few numbers published, let us mention « Ikats » (in French, No. 36, July 1951) and « Schottisch » (in German, No. 98, August 1951). We hasten to add that « ikats » are fabrics made by the inhabitants of the Sunda Isles, in which the traditional designs are produced by dyeing, before weaving, the warp or the weft on which « resists » are effected by knotting. The notebook in German on Scotch fabrics contains a series of articles on the Highlands, the history of Highland costumes, etc. by an author from Edinburgh. Among the previous publications, let us call attention to « French woollen manufactures in the time of Colbert (in French, May 1951), « Rubber » (in German, April 1951) and « Printing of Calicoes in Switzerland in the 18th and 19th Centuries » (in German, June 1951); coming features include « Crinolines and Bustles » (in French, September 1951) and « The Treatment of Surfaces and the Dyeing of Aluminium » (in German, October 1951). Each notebook also contains interesting technical articles under the general heading « News in Colour ».

50th Anniversary of the Emmenda Swiss Carpet Factory

To celebrate its first jubilee, this firm has published* a small booklet giving some interesting information about the attractive and picturesque district of Switzerland where it is situated. The canton of Glaris is one of the most curious in Switzerland; although completely hemmed in by high mountains, it has for many centuries now had commercial and social relations with the whole world, to which it has given leaders of industry, great soldiers and pastrycooks; to which it supplies cottons, the famous « Schabzieger » or herb cheese and many other products. Each village has at least one or two factories, while within earshot the peasants throw down the mountain sides the bales of hay they cannot transport to their barns because the slopes are too steep. The town of Glaris, a rather large village rebuilt

as a town after the fire which completely destroyed it in 1861, offers, at the end of modern vistas, a view of peaks and glaciers so near that it almost seems as if one might be able to touch them with one's hands. In this wild country where man demands of industry the subsistence that nature denies him, a mechanical carpet-making factory has sprung up. The commemorative booklet — in which the traditional family portraits have been intentionally omitted — gives us, after an interesting description of the district of Glaris, a succinct account of the stages in the development of the carpet factory. Some fine photographs, conceived in an attractive and original manner, complete the text. Our best wishes and congratulations to this firm for having succeeded so well in producing something new in the way of commemorative booklets.

* Publishers. Bibliothek Schw. Industrie-Betriebe, Zurich.

Index des annonceurs et des maisons mentionnées dans la partie rédactionnelle

Index of Advertisers and Firms contributing to the Editorial Features of this Number

Indice de los anunciantes y de las casas mencionadas en las páginas de texto

Verzeichnis der Inserenten und der im redaktionellen Teil erwähnten Firmen

BOUTONS — BUTTONS — BOTONES — KNÖPFE

Kaspar Humbel, Utetikon a. See	130
Rix S. A., Zurich	144

BRODERIES ET DENTELLES — EMBROIDERIES AND LACES — BORDADOS Y ENCAJES — STICKEREIEN UND SPITZEN

Bischoff-Textiles S. A., St-Gall	34
Eisenhut & Co., Gais	137
Eugster & Huber, St-Gall	137
Filtex S. A., St-Gall	14
Christian Fischbacher Co., St-Gall	17
Forster Willi & Cie, St-Gall	46, 47, 49, 53, 65
H. Frel & Cie, Diepoldsau	32
Aug. Giger & Cie, St-Gall	51
R. & W. Graf, Rebstein	137
Robert Halter S. A., St-Gall	136
E. Mettler-Muller S. A., Rorschach	142
A. Naef & Cie, Flawil	48, 50, 141
Reichenbach & Cie, St-Gall	110, 137
Jacob Rohner S. A., Rebstein	39
Sailer & Schoensleben, St-Gall	139
Jakob Schläpfer, St-Gall	136
Walter Schrank & Cie, St-Gall	46, 143
Walter Stark, St-Gall	51
Ed. Sturzenegger S. A., St-Gall	32
Sturzenegger & Tanner & Co. S. A., St-Gall	32, 128
Union S. A., St-Gall	45, 49, 50, 54, 136

CARTES DE COULEURS — COLOR CARDS — CLAVES PARA LOS COLORES — FARBENKARTEN

Silor, Studio Color, Zurich	36, 108
-----------------------------------	---------

CHAPEAUX — HATS — SOMBREROS — HÜTE

E. Baehler Bern A.-G., Bern	123
-----------------------------------	-----

CHAUSSURES — SHOES — CALZADOS — SCHUHE

Chaussures Bally S. A., Schoenenwerd	35, 96, 97
--	------------

COLORANTS — DYESTUFFS — COLORANTES — FARBSTOFFE

Ciba Société Anonyme, Bâle	IV
----------------------------------	----

CONFECTION ET LINGERIE EN TISSU — WOVEN READY- MADE WEAR AND UNDERGARMENTS — ROPAS HECHAS Y ROPA INTERIOR DE TEJIDO — KONFEKTION UND WÄSCHE AUS STOFF

Emil Anderegg S. A., Weinfelden	13, 37
R. Anderes S. A., St-Gall	11, 69, 73, 74
Hugo Brandeis S. A., Zurich	2, 69, 79, 80, 81
Egger, Eisenhut & Co., Aarwangen	37
Ed. Engeli & Co., Coire	32
Maison Gack, Zurich	4, 5, 80, 82, 93, 94, 95, 96
Franz Heusser, Zurich	32
Jaro S. A., Zurich	2, 70, 71, 78
E. Kneubühler, Zofingue	87, 89, 90, 91, 92, 138
D. Lewenstein, Zurich	10, 70, 72, 79
Moden S. A., Montreux	124
Otta S. A., Zurich	7, 75, 76
Respolco S. A., Zurich	6, 37, 90, 91, 92
Salzmann & Cie, St-Gall	8
Sanco S. A., Zurich	138
Schellenberg, Sax & Cie S. A., Trübbach	88, 144
Société Anonyme Jacob Scherrer, Romanshorn	11, 85, 90
Arthur Schibli S. A., Genève	3, 68, 76, 77
Syndicat d'Exportation des industries suisses de l'Habille- ment, Zurich	II, 1
Weko, Zurich — Jakob Weil & Co., Diessenhofen	6, 71, 79
Yvel S. A., Zurich	86, 132

CRAVATES — NECKTIES — CORBATAS — KRAWATTEN

S. Kirschner, Zurich	118
----------------------------	-----

ÉCHARPES ET CARRÉS — SQUARES AND SCARVES — CUADRADOS Y ECHARPES — SCHÄRPEN UND VIERECK- TÜCHER

Emil Anderegg S. A., Weinfelden	13
F. Blumer & Cie, Schwanden	16, 37, 89, 90, 92, 114
C. L. Burgauer & Cie, Zurich	93
Hans Fierz, Zurich	130
Filtex S. A., St-Gall	14
Christian Fischbacher Co., St-Gall	17
RBC Soierles S. A., Zurich	115
Siber & Wehrli S. A., Zurich	24
Stoffel & Cie, St-Gall	25
Arthur Vetter & Cie, Zollikon	130

FILES ET RETORS — YARN AND TWISTS — HILADOS Y TORCIDOS — GARNE UND ZWIRNE

Bäumlin, Ernst & Co., St-Gall	130
Spinnerei an der Lorze, Baar	32
Trub & Co. S. A., Uster	37
Emil Wild & Co., St-Gall	32, 128
R. Zinggeler S. A., Zurich	33
Zwicky & Cie, Wallisellen	135

FILS, RUBANS ET TISSUS ÉLASTIQUES — ELASTIC YARNS RIBBONS AND FABRICS — HILOS, CINTAS Y TEJIDOS ELASTICOS — ELASTISCHE FÄDEN, BÄNDER UND GEWEBE

Oscar Haag, Kusunacht-Zurich	143
------------------------------------	-----

FILS A COUDRE — SEWING THREADS — HILOS DE COSER — NÄHFADEN

E. Mettler-Müller S. A., Rorschach	141
Zwicky & Cie, Wallisellen	135

LAINE — WOOL — LANA — WOLLE

Tissage Bleiche S. A., Zofingue	20
F. Hefti & Co. A.-G., Hätzingen	20
Pedolli's Erben A.-G., Chur	129
Tissage de laine Rütli S. A., Rütli-Glaris	18, 20
Filatures réunies de laine peignée de Schaffhouse et de Derendingen, dép. Tissage, Derendingen	20
Schild S. A., Berne et Liestal	19, 20
Tuchfabrik A.-G. Lotzwil, Lotzwil	135

MONTRES — WATCHES — RELOJES — UHREN

Manufacture des Montres Doxa S. A., Le Locle	31, 96, 122
--	-------------

MOUCHOIRS — HANDKERCHIEFS — PAÑUELOS — TASCHENTÜCHER

Christian Fischbacher Co., St-Gall	17, 117
Milly Huber-Lehner, Appenzell	112, 138
J. Kreiler-Baenziger's Erben, St-Gall	116
Société Anonyme A. & R. Moos, Weisslingen	15
Jakob Rohner S. A., Rebstein	39
Sailer & Schoensleben, St-Gall	139
Stoffel & Cie, St-Gall	25
Tatex S. A., Brugg	142
Union S. A., St-Gall	136

OUATE ET QUATINE — WADDING AND COTTON-WOOL LINING — HUATA Y HUATINA — WATTE UND WATTIELINE

Grossmann & Cie, Thalwil	134
--------------------------------	-----

RUBANS — RIBBONS — CINTAS — BÄNDER

Sarasin & Cie S. A., Bâle	139
Senn & Cie S. A., Bâle	23

TAPIS — CARPETS — TAPICES — TEPPICHE

Fabrique suisse de tapis, Ennenda.....	98
Fabrique de tapis de Melchnau S. A., Melchnau	120, 131

TEINTURIERS, IMPRIMEURS, FINISSEURS — DYERS, PRINTERS, FINISHERS — TINTOREROS, ESTAMPADORES, APRESTADORES — FÄRBER, DRUCKER, APPRETEURE

A.-G. Cilander, Herisau	32, 37
Société Anonyme A. & R. Moos, Weisslingen	15
Weberei Sirnach, Sirnach	32
Stoffel & Cie, St-Gall	25
Zwicky & Cie, Wallisellen	135

TRICOT ET JERSEY (VÊTEMENTS ET LINGERIE) — KNITTED AND JERSEY GOODS (APPAREL AND UNDERWEAR) — ARTÍCULOS DE PUNTO (VESTIDOS Y ROPA INTERIOR) — TRIKOT UND JERSEY (KONFEKTION UND WÄSCHE)

Hochuli & Cie, Safenwil	83, 84, 85, 126, 144
Jakob Laib & Cie, Amriswil	10, 37, 74, 126
Johann Muller S. A., Stregelbach	126, 133
A. Naegeli Trikotfabriken Berlingen und Winterthur, Winterthur	143
Boris Oumansky & Co., Genève	12, 66, 87, 89, 96
Otto Rohrer S. A., Romanshorn	132
J. F. Rohrer-Bolliger, Romanshorn	144
Al. Ruckstuhl, Bas Royal, Wil	96
Ruegger & Cie, Zofingue	84, 132
Ruepp & Cie S. A., Sarmenstorf	32, 67
Ryff & Cie S. A., Berne	127, 140
Jos. Sallmann & Cie, Amriswil	8, 72
Straeli & Cie S. A., Zofingen	141
Victor Tanner S. A., St-Gall	9, 88, 90, 96
Wirkerei A.-G. Uster, Zurich	139
Vollmoeller, Fabrique de bonneterie Uster, Uster	125, 133
Pius Wieler Söhne, Kreuzlingen	85

TULLE — NET — TUL — TÜLL

Société suisse de l'industrie tullière S. A., Munchwilen	38
--	----

TISSUS DE COTTON, SOIE, LIN, RAYONNE ET FIBRANNE — COTTON, SILK, LINEN, RAYON AND STAPLE-FIBRE FABRICS — TEJIDOS DE ALGODÓN, SEDA, LINO, RAYON Y FIBRANA — STOFFE AUS BAUMWOLLE, LEINEN, SEIDE, KUNSTSEIDE, ZELLWOLLE

L. Abraham & Cie, Soieries S. A., Zurich	56, 57, 59
Emil Anderegg S. A., Weinfelden	13, 37
Appenzeller-Herzog & Cie, Staefa-Zurich	38
Jakob Baenziger S. A., St-Gall	141
Les Fils d'Adolphe Bloch, Zurich	129
S.-J. Bloch Fils & Cie S. A., Zurich	140
Rudolf Brauchbar & Cie, Zurich	21, 58, 59
Burgauer & Co. S. A., St-Gall	37, 119
Elsaesser & Cie S. A., Kirchberg/Be	37
Emar S. A., Zurich	109
Eugster & Huber, St-Gall	37
Hans Fierz, Zurich	130
Filtex S. A., St-Gall	14, 121
Filature et Tissage Glattfelden, Glattfelden	135
Christian Fischbacher Co., St-Gall	117
A. Gardiol, Genève	37
Berthold Guggenheim Sohn & Co., Zurich	40, 111
H. Gut & Cie S. A., Zurich	29
Haas & Cie, Zurich	112
Heer & Cie S. A., Thalwil	26
Joseph Heim & Co., Zurich	32
Honegger & Co. S. A., St-Gall	37, III
Max Kirchheimer, Zurich	136
Leemann & Schellenberg S. A., Zurich	140
Mettler & Cie S. A., St-Gall	37, 105
Société Anonyme A. & R. Moos, Weisslingen	15, 113
J. G. Nef & Cie, Herisau	28, 106
Palma & Cie S. A., Zurich	129
Reichenbach & Cie, St-Gall	137
S. A. pour l'industrie textile à Bâle, Bâle	32
Karl Schoch & Co., Zurich	32
Ernst Schurpf & Cie, S. A., St-Gall	37
Siber & Wehrli S. A., Zurich	24
Weberei Sirnach, Sirnach	32
Stoffel & Cie, St-Gall	25, 107
Sturzenegger & Tanner & Co. S. A., St-Gall	32, 128
S. A. Stünzi Fils, Horgen	22, 55, 58
Taco S. A., Zurich	27
Etabl. A. Uehlinger, Bâle	32
Hugo Wachs & Co., St-Gall	30
Tissage Wallenstadt, Wallenstadt	129
Weisbrod-Zurrer Söhne, Hausen a. A.	32

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