

Art, sport and elegance at St. Gall

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Objektyp: **Article**

Zeitschrift: **Swiss textiles [English edition]**

Band (Jahr): - **(1954)**

Heft 3

PDF erstellt am: **08.08.2024**

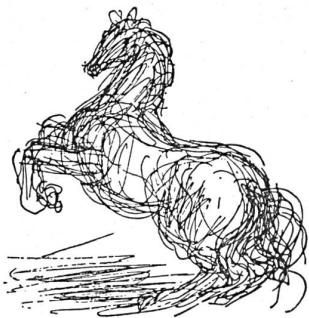
Persistenter Link: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-798862>

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Art, Sport and Elegance at St. Gall

It is a long story that we could not even begin to tell in detail — the story of an enthusiastic idea that became reality thanks to the magnificent collaboration of a whole town. A keen horseman, Mr. Hausmann, president of the St. Gall Horse-riding Club, succeeded in convincing and firing with enthusiasm all those who were to help to make the International Horse Show and Race Meeting at St. Gall the brilliant sporting, artistic and fashionable event we attended on September 4th and 5th of this year.

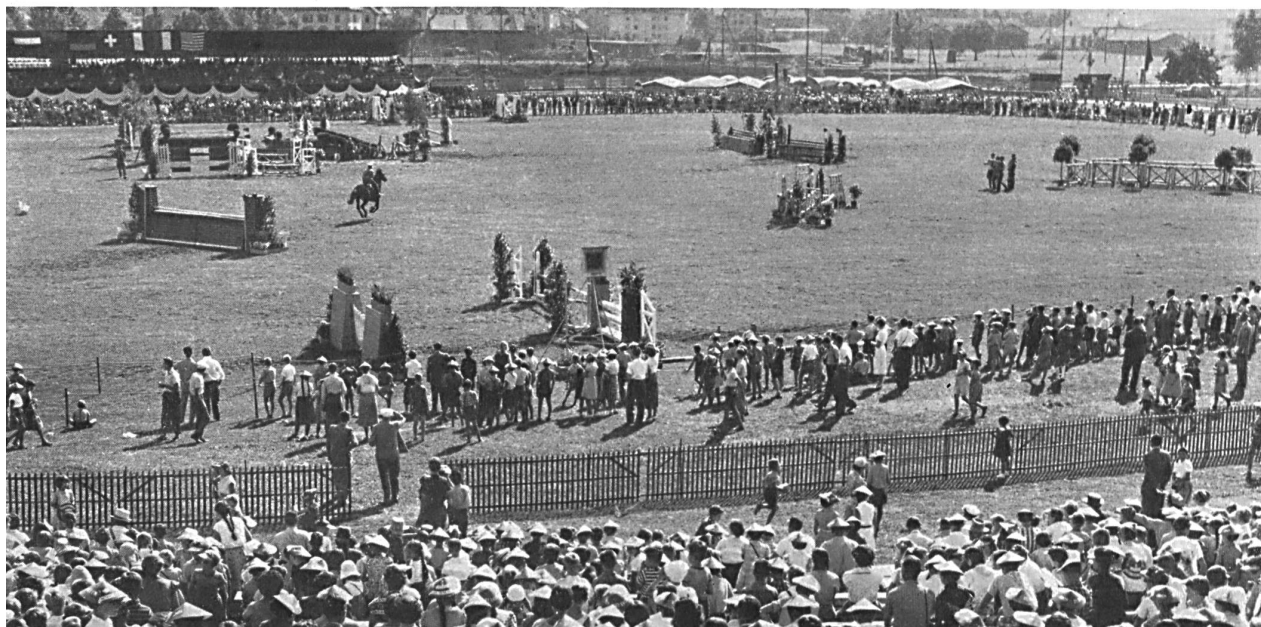
More so than with any other sport, horse-racing and elegance go together and it is no mere chance that fashion designers throughout the world display the fruit of their imagination at the race-track. Now St. Gall is a town entirely devoted to fashion. Its makers of embroideries and fine cotton fabrics, its clothing manufacturers, its School of Fashion all had a share in the general effort, but that was not all: the Fine Arts Society itself was asked to take part by organising an exhibition. The combination of such essentially different elements was regarded as a challenge... which was taken up and won.

The meeting was therefore a great success from every point of view, the sun even condescending to shine (a rare occurrence this damp summer!). The town of St. Gall had spruced itself up for the occasion and was a mass of flowers, flags and banners; all the shops of any size had decorated their windows with equestrian motifs and numerous tradesmen, industrialists and institutions had donated prizes.

At the International Horse Show, in addition to a big Swiss team, there were riders from Germany, America, Austria,



Lieut. A. Stoffel of St. Gall, the most successful rider of the Show and Swiss riding champion in 1952, 1953 and 1954.



The Breitfeld race track (St-Gall).

Before the high jumping event for the Principality of Liechtenstein prize : Capt. de Beaufort (France) on « Lutteur », winner of the event in 1953.



France and Italy. There were displays of higher horsemanship, a demonstration of acrobatics by a group of young amateurs, a parade of horse-drawn vehicles and even the release of carrier-pigeons. On Saturday afternoon, all the schoolchildren of the neighbourhood were admitted free to the racecourse, and many thousands took advantage of this wonderful opportunity. On Sunday afternoon, numerous mannequins wearing dresses, suits and coats in fabrics and embroideries of St. Gall and made by the St. Gall clothing industry, the local fashion houses and the St. Gall Fashion School, mingled with the elegant crowd. On Saturday morning a private showing was held at the Museum of Fine Arts of a very fine exhibition, « The horse in the art of the 19th and 20th centuries » containing more than two hundred works — paintings, drawings, engravings and sculpture — on loan from Swiss museums and private collections, with, among many others, works by Delacroix, Géricault, Toulouse-Lautrec, Degas, Rouault, Picasso, Le Corbusier, Paul Klee, Max Liebermann, Hans von Marees, etc. On Sunday morning, the St. Gall Council of State gave a reception for its official visitors and guests of honour, of whom, among the numerous representatives of the civil and military authorities and the diplomatic and consular corps, we shall mention only His Serene Highness François Joseph II, Prince of Liechtenstein and Mr. K. Kobelt, Federal Councillor and head of the Swiss Military Department, under whose patronage the St. Gall horse show was held.

To bring these brief notes to a close, we can but congratulate all those who contributed to the success of this meeting and wish them another great success next year.

R. C.

Some of the mannequins of the St-Gall textile and clothing industries at the race course.





The acrobatic number by the young villagers of Elgg.



Mr. Henri François-Poncet (France) on « Constance ».



One of the riders of the Quadrille of the Federal army riding school at Berne, wearing the uniform of the de Courten Regiment (18th century) in the service of the French King.

