

# Creating toys

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## Book Reviews

### «Le Vin Vaudois»

Five genuine Vaudois united in order to sing the praises of the Vaudois wines. The book is divided into six chapters. 1) History and customs. 2) Vaudois vine-growers. 3) The Vaudois vineyard. 4) Vaudois wines and gastronomy. 5) Wine tasting. 6) Small vintager's dictionary. All texts are in French. 200 pages of which 102 pages of black and white illustrations and 16 pages of coloured pictures. Format 21 x 24.5 cm. Published by Editions Vie-Art-Cité, Presses Centrales SA, rue de Genève 7, CH-1103 Lausanne.

### «Canada and the Swiss, 1604-1974»

First reference book on Swiss representation in Canada over nearly four centuries. The author, E. H. Bovay, Swiss Consul, who lived in Toronto for many years, devoted several years to the preparation of this book in whose publication the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad is also involved.

The volume comprises 300 pages and is richly illustrated. The colour reproductions are of 17 water colours by the Swiss artist Peter Rindlisbacher. French text. Format 22x24 cm. It is obtainable through the good offices of the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad, Alpenstrasse 26, 3000 Berne 16, Switzerland. Price SFR. 55.—.

## Film Service

As you already know, Swiss societies can improve their Swiss evenings with our 16 mm films which we are pleased to put at their disposal. Officers of societies may ask at any time for a list of our available films. In addition, we should like to inform you that we have acquired three new films:

*Der Schweizer Schütze (Le tireur suisse)*, duration 26 minutes in colour, optical sound, German or French version, a film on shooting in Switzerland, a popular sport which has thousands and thousands of adherents in our country.

*Première lettre d'explication*, duration 25 minutes in colour and optical sound, French version, a poetic portrait on Fribourg, the «Basse Ville», its inhabitants and the Fribourgeois Chansonnier Gaby Marchand.

*Einige werden erwischt*, duration 32 minutes in colour, magnetic sound, German version, a film on discovered cases of espionage in Switzerland since the 'fifties; Swiss abroad are mentioned, too.

If you are interested in one or the other of these films, please ask the President of your society or the person responsible for your group, who can order the film from: Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad, Post Box, 3000 Berne 16, Switzerland. Orders are dealt with in the order in which they are received.

## Creating toys

Pierre Küenzi, citizen of Berne, was born in 1945. He went to school in Bienne and later moved to Neuchâtel where he attended courses at the Commercial School. It was during that time that he discovered his passion for manual work, particularly in the field of children's toys. The influence of his sister who was a kindergarten teacher obviously contributed to this development, and in addition he received the necessary support from his parents who showed great understanding of his wishes. Since 1965, he has been involved in this artistic occupation whose beginnings were rather tedious. In order to surmount these initial difficulties, he worked in various fields, and they confirmed his deep vocation: to design children's toys.

In 1969 he was rewarded for his perseverance by a federal scholarship for applied art. This was awarded to the winners of a com-

petition. He was given the same distinction in 1970 and 1971.

Pierre Küenzi not only creates toys, but he has also explored the behaviour of the child with regard to play. His aim was the social integration of the latter. He began to co-operate hand in hand with children, young handicapped people, parents and teachers. In order to widen his knowledge, he attended courses on therapeutic teaching. He made progress from year to year in all these fields. All the situations facing a child are of interest to him: on the road, in his room, in his relationship with his parents etc. With the acquired impressions he tried to realise an innate wish and a need of a child and of adults in play and toys.

At present, Pierre Küenzi divides his activities between research in the field of the backward child at a large institution in Western Switzerland and the work in his own toy studio.

