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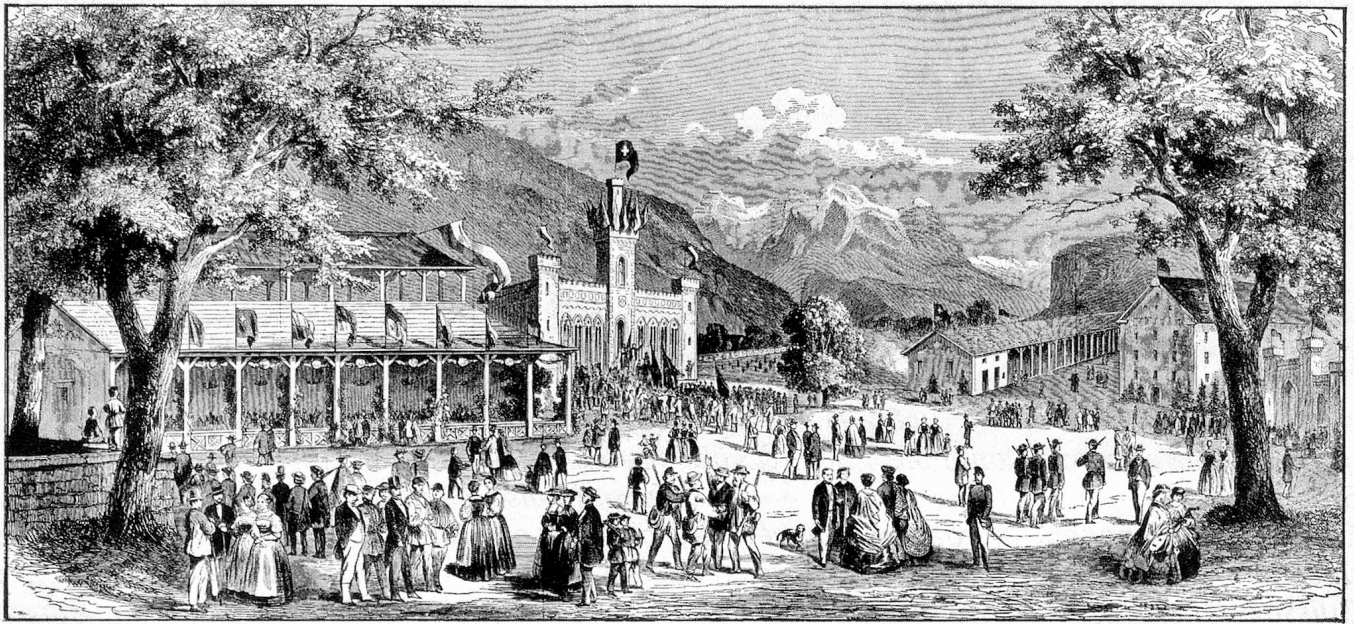
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*Stans 1861*

The federal shooting festivals played an important role in the unification of the country. The photo was taken at the one at Stans in 1861. (The picture is by courtesy of the *Schweizerisches Schützenmuseum* [the Swiss Museum of Carabineers] in Berne.)

## The Sport of Shooting in Switzerland

### A Tradition of a Thousand Years

For centuries, Wilhelm Tell poses at his residence at Altdorf, his crossbow over shoulder and chest. It is not just a stereotype image or traditional expression which the outsider may consider as the origin of our old-established sport; this symbol actually comes very near to reality, for it was there that, at the beginning of this millenium, a sense of national independence was born and developed and later extended to Communes in mountains and valleys of Central Switzerland.

#### *Popular Festivals*

Every organization connected with shooting has as its aim to secure the running preparations for war, or rather the defence of national independence. Thus quite early, associations or companies

for archery, crossbow shooting and the use of the lance were established. Their shooting contests very soon offered an opportunity of real popular festivals, of «Kilbis», and these always under a patron saint; the basis of every association in the Middle-Ages was indeed its organization in a religious sense. These fraternities, like those of St. Sebastian, were able to count on the support of the civic authorities, and from the 14th century onward, they also extended to *Romand* territory, and steadily expanded under the rule of the House of Savoy which encouraged them by according them privileges and committed them to donate annual prizes. Amongst the many types of shooting, *le tir au papegeai* (shooting on wooden birds) was very popular. These companies had an almost family character and followed an extremely strict code of honour;

they were still very much alive after the introduction of fire-arms which gradually supplanted the arquebusiers with sharp-shooters. They disappeared completely at the end of the 19th century with the French Revolution and the arrival of the Helvetic Republic.

#### *The Rallying of the Fraternity*

Once the first quarter of the 19th century had passed, the sport of shooting was to flourish again. The guiding principles of the future Confederate State had been established. The companies were re-instated and took on an unifying and patriotic role, and in 1824, the first federal shooting festival took place. Out of that grew the creation of the Swiss Rifle Shooting Society which later established itself as civil partner of the State, responsible for maintaining the exigencies of the militia army's capacity to shoot. With an

umbrella of cantonal associations, the Society has half a million members today from nearly 5000 sections.

### *Men and Women Champions*

One must not forget that patriotic and military shooting which obliges every soldier to join a shooting association ever since 1883, is also a sport in which Switzerland has won many world victories. Suffice it to mention just Konrad Staehli who, at the beginning of this century, was world champion 23 times, or Moritz Minder who won the gold medal in free pistol shooting at the last

world championships in Séoul and to whom Switzerland owes a return to the top of the international scene after a long eclipse. Shooting as a sport, by the way, is not followed only by the so-called strong sex, but it is also open to women who, like recently in Séoul, have achieved excellent results.

### *More than 70 Swiss Associations abroad*

Over the whole globe, Swiss abroad, united in 70 different groups, follow this age-old sport with enthusiasm outside the frontiers of

our country. One finds them above all in France, Belgium, the Federal Republic of Germany, Australia, South Africa, USA and Chile. The federal shooting festivals which take place every five years, afford them an opportunity of competing with their compatriots in Switzerland on the occasion of the traditional honorary contest of the Swiss shots from abroad. This year, they are expected in large numbers on 14th, 15th and 16th July during the 50th Federal Shooting Festival organized by the town of Lucerne to commemorate the 800th anniversary of its foundation.

## Book reviews

### «La nouvelle littérature romande» (The new French-Swiss literature)

The author of this work, Manfred Gsteiger, Professor of comparative literature at the University of Lausanne, tries to make better known the *Romand* authors from 1945 to the present.

This book contains two parts. 1. Works, themes and trends. 2. Helvetic perspectives. 247 pages. Text in French. Format 16x24 cm. Editions Bertil Galland, rue du Lac, 1800 Vevey, Switzerland, and Publications Ex Libris in Lausanne and Zurich.

### «Image des autres, image de soi?» (Portrait of the others, self-portrait?)

How do the Swiss see the Third World? The author Gilbert Rist answers this question. But apart from the analysis of the documents published by the Swiss Organization for Co-operation, other questions crop up which go beyond the Swiss context and the simple phenomenon of the perception of others. Format 16x24 cm. 416 pages. Text in French. Price SFr 34. — Orders to be sent to the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad, Alpenstrasse 26, 3000 Berne 16, Switzerland.

### «La Suisse à la rencontre de l'Europe» (Switzerland meets Europe)

This is a book describing the epic of the foreign service covering the period from the Council of Basle (1444) to the Peace of Westphalia (1648). It has a preface by the Duke of Castries of the Académie Française.



The author of this remarkable work is Jean-René Bory, well known in Swiss centres abroad and to many participants at the Assembly of the Swiss Abroad. Throughout the 312 pages richly and beautifully illustrated, Jean-René Bory lets us discover many historic aspects hardly imagined, by his catching style. A slice of history which one reads like an exciting story. It is published in French only by Editions Spes SA, route d'Oron 39, 1010 Lausanne. This book of 312 pages with 510 illustrations will delight everyone. Format: 220x285. Price: Sfr 130.—, luxury edition bound in plain leather: Sfr 240.— Available: in France: DNS, rue de Grenelle 32, 75007 Paris. In Belgium: Servedi, rue Otlet 44, 1070 Brussels. In Canada: Dif Liaisons, 525, 4<sup>e</sup> Verdun, Montreal, H.4.G. 2Y.2.

## Summons

### to all Former Students of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology ETH (Zürich)

On the occasion of next year's 125th Anniversary of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zürich (1855-1980) the Association of Former Students of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zürich (GEP) would like to present the ETH with a gift in the form of a statistical graphic (world map) entitled: «The emanation of the ETH Zürich in the World.» Number and faculty section of the former students of the ETH Zürich will be quoted and arranged countrywise. In order to shape the graphic as representational as possible, we kindly ask you to submit the following counterfoil until end of October 1979 to

GEP-Secretariat  
Association of Former Students  
of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology  
ETH-Zentrum  
**CH-8092 Zürich/Switzerland**

### Counterfoil

For: Graphic «The Emanation of the ETH Zürich in the World»

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Faculty Section at ETH: \_\_\_\_\_

Year of Diploma: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_