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A Note from the President of the Foundation for the History of the Swiss Abroad



25 years ago, the well-known historian Gonzague de Reynold and his disciple Jean-René Bory began the task of enlightening the Swiss about the activities of many compatriots abroad throughout the centuries. The first organ which they issued and which became their mouthpiece, was the «Swiss Society of the Friends of Versailles». At first, it dealt with the Swiss in the service of France, but later began to cover Swiss in the service of foreign countries in

general as well as the politics of alliances. Finally, they turned more and more to Swiss citizens abroad who exerted influence on the civilization of their time outside military careers.

For the past two years, the museum which illustrates the history of the Swiss abroad and which used to be at the Castle of Coppet for several years previously, has been housed at the Castle of Penthes near Geneva, surrounded by a hilly park with beautiful old trees.

The lively interest which this museum has stirred up in all parts of Switzerland, testifies to the growing appreciation of history in which our troubled world tries to find consolation in its worries, and faith and hope for the future. The Swiss citizens abroad will find inspiration in the works by their predecessors, and they will become more aware of their own dual identity as Swiss and emigrants. They are made very welcome at Penthes.

The Museum of the Swiss Abroad at 18, chemin de l'Impératrice, 1292 Pregny-Chambésy, telephone 022 34 90 21, is open daily except Mondays, from 10–12 a.m. and 2–6 p.m. Snacks and soft drinks are available at the cafeteria.



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