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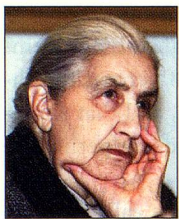
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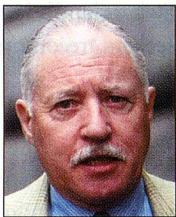
PEOPLE



Philosopher and long-standing professor **Jeanne Hersch** has died in Geneva at the age of 90. She was a devotee of Jaspers and Heidegger and strongly opposed the actions of the Nazis. Freedom and self-development, truth and responsibility were among her favourite topics.

The Lucerne Cultural and Convention Centre built by Frenchman Jean Nouvel for CHF 210 million will be managed in future by hotelier **Rolf E. Brönnimann**, formerly manager of the Bürgenstock Hotel and latterly a consultant.

Berne's commercial court sentenced real estate magnate **Peter Krüger** to three and a half years prison for fraudulent bankruptcy – to the tune of more than 20 million dollars – and fraudulent business practices. Krüger moved to the USA in 1993 and settled in the Cayman Islands.



Financier **Ernst Müller-Möhl** was killed when his small plane crashed in the Gotthard Pass. The 42-year-old father of one child was flying the plane himself. Through his founding of several companies (including two banks) and active share trading, the shrewd investor left his mark on many Swiss companies.


One year prison without probation: this was the sentence handed down to Vaud's right-wing extremist **Gaston-Armand Amaudruz**, who publicly denied the genocide of Jews and disputed the existence of the gas chambers. The district court of Lausanne sentenced him for violation of the anti-racism penal code.

After seven years at the head of the German stock exchange, Swiss **Werner Seifert** is taking over at the helm of

Europe's largest stock exchange, iX (International Exchange), created from the fusion of the Frankfurt and London stock exchanges.

67-year-old **Cornelio Sommaruga** is the new Chairman of the Board of the Swiss subsidiary of US investment bank J.P. Morgan. From 1987 to 1999 he was President of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

August R. Lindt – former ambassador, war reporter, Red Cross member and High Commissioner for Refugees – died at the age of 95. He was the son of chocolate manufacturer Lindt.

Following another defeat, Grasshoppers coach **Roy Hodgson** has resigned. Frustrated, the former national trainer described his return to Switzerland as a wrong move. 

SNIPPETS

ARCHITECTURAL ART: With a budget of CHF 345 million, Basle architects Herzog & de Meuron built the Tate Gallery of Modern Art in London. The building houses 20th century art and is set to bring in up to £90 million for the British capital.

GHETTO-ISED: In conjunction with the "Der Kreis" Association the National Museum of Zurich has documented the history of Zurich's gay movement. For decades "Der Kreis" has been fighting discrimination against homosexuality. Its cultural events attracted gays from all over Europe and the USA.

PILLS TO POTATOES: Retailing giant Coop has founded a joint venture with Bernese pharmaceuticals wholesaler Galenica. In future 50 Coop outlets will also offer beauty and health products under one roof, in competition with chemist/drug stores.



Star trip

At the end of April six ships belonging to the shipping companies of the three states bordering Lake Constance formed a star off Meersburg. The traditional fleet "star trip" from six harbours signalled the start of the new season. This year 36 passenger ships will ply Lake Constance: 18 from Germany, 12 from Switzerland, and 6 from Austria.

TICKING AWAY NICELY: The Bienne-based clock and micro-electronics Swatch Group increased revenues in 1999 by 23.5%. Profits increased from CHF 359 to 441 million, matching the 1993 record level.

FAST-MOVING MOBILE MARKET: Tele2 is to co-operate with Swisscom, and Sunrise has entered a partnership with Orange. This will enable both fixed network providers to operate as mobile communication resellers.

LUXURY HOTELS SOLD: The UBS bank has sold the three hotels established over 100 years ago on the Bürgenstock above Lake Lucerne, together with rack railway, golf course, indoor pool and other infrastructures, to the foreign investor group Richemond. This group, said to be controlled by the Parisian industrialist family of Jean-Louis Decours, has also acquired the hotels Le Richemond in Geneva, Drei Könige in Basle, Schweizerhof in Berne, Royal Savoy in Lausanne, and the Atlantis Sheraton in Zurich.

AGRO GIANT: The Basle pharmaceutical Novartis group and Swedish-British AstraZeneca group are merging their agrochemical businesses to become the world's Number One in this market. The decision will lead to the loss of 3000 jobs.

AIRLINE RESCUE: Six investors from the Swiss Mittelland are injecting over CHF 10 million to restock the share capital of Bernese regional airline Air Engiadina. This will create a holding company which should allow profits to "take off" again from 2001.

WORKING IN THE TRAIN: At the end of 1999 the 150-meter long Trans-Europ-Express TEE, launched in 1957, was decommissioned. Now this monument to industry is back on the rails: in Bienne three architectural agencies have set up shop in one of these noble trains.

INDUSTRIOUS JOURNALISTS: According to the findings of recent studies, women make up one third of the numbers working in the Swiss media. In the 1980s this was only one fifth. Women also account for one third of journalists working in the media.

Artistic nature




"Quelle poésie!": For the first time a team directed by Solothurn artist Ulrich Studer illuminated the shores of Lake Biene. At Easter 25,000 candles lit up the Jura slopes and vineyards between Bienne and La Neuveville. Viniterra is described as the largest landscape art project in Switzerland.

LUCRATIVE TAX DETECTIVES: The Federal Tax Administration has calculated that their 160 VAT inspectors bring in CHF 2 million per person per year, i.e. nine times the cost of their salary and infrastructure. By 2001, 66 new tax bloodhounds will be needed.

GENEROUS DONATIONS: The "Glückskette" received a record level of donations in 1999, amounting to CHF 80.3 million. Last year it financed 214 projects run by 44 Swiss aid agencies in 43 countries. A global increase in disasters was responsible for the record sum.

TOP COUNTRY: Alongside Sweden, Finland and France, Switzerland belongs to the group of countries with the most intensive R&D activities.

ANTI-MAFIA: Federal Councillor Ruth Metzler is radically restructuring the Federal Office for Police. The Federal Criminal Police and a new information service will in future collaborate to protect Switzerland against organised crime. The Federal Police is being deprived of its powers and 420 civil servants are being reorganised. 

Point of View

"I regard Swiss society as ur-European; here American and European elements are miraculously combined. The spread of the Internet is greater in Switzerland than anywhere else. So the necessity of thinking globally, because as a nation-state Switzerland is too small, has created an extremely modern society."

Matthias Horx, German trend analyst

Zurich-West sports stadium

League A football and world-class athletics are now to be separated: Zurich's Hardturm is to gain a multi-sport stadium with 30,000 covered seats. This will take the place of the Letzigrund Stadium and is destined to be the showcase stadium for Switzerland. The opening is scheduled for Summer 2004 (see Swiss Review 3/00, pages 16-17).

Texts: Alice Baumann
Photos: Keystone, Patrick Weyeneth