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Die 1.-August-Feier findet dieses Jahr in Olst statt, und zwar am 30. Juli um 16.30 Uhr bei Fam. Drs. H. v.d. Meer-Fischer, Kleistraat 7.

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Einladung zur Bundesfeier 1978

Die Bundesfeier findet statt am
Dienstag, 1.8.1978

**im internationalen Vogelpark
AVIFAUNA in Alphen a/d Rijn.**

Liebe Landsleute,
Sie alle, ob in Holland wohnhaft
oder nur auf der Durchreise, laden
wir herzlich ein zur

Bundesfeier der Schweizer- Kolonie in den Niederlanden!

Programm:

18.45 Eintreffen im Restaurant der
Avifauna.

Es wird ein Imbiss serviert
zum Preise von zirka Fr. 13.-
inkl. Bedienung.

19.00 Begrüssung

20.30 Besammlung auf dem Fest-
platz.

20.45 Eröffnung des Festaktes.
Botschaft des Bundespräsi-
denten.

Festansprache.

Jungbürger-Aufnahme.

Schweizer-Hymne.

Rückkehr vor den Festsaal

und Formierung des Lam-
pionumzuges der Kinder.

Anschliessend gemütliches
Beisammensein mit Tanz
bis zirka 23 Uhr (Orchester)

Allgemeine Hinweise:

Eintritt in Vogelpark Avifauna frei
ab 18 Uhr gegen Vorweisung des
Programmes oder des Schweizer-
passes.

Bei schlechter Witterung findet die
Feier im Festsaal statt.

1. Augustabzeichen sind am Fest-
abend erhältlich. Ebenso wird eine
beschränkte Anzahl Lampions
verkauft.

Diejenigen, die nicht an der Feier
teilnehmen, haben die Möglich-
keit an den folgenden Adressen
1. August-Abzeichen zu kaufen.

Schweizerisches Generalkonsulat
J. Vermeestr. 16, Amsterdam
Schweizerische Botschaft, Lange
Voorhout 42, Den Haag
Schweizerisches Generalkonsulat
«Groothandelsgebouw»,
Weena 723, Rotterdam.

**Redaktionsschluss für die Lokalseiten der Oktober-Nummer
1978: 16.8.1978**

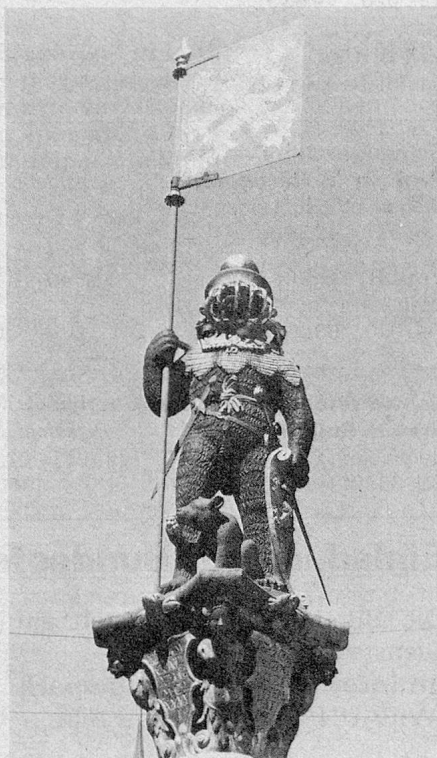
**Délai de remise des pages locales au coordonateur du numéro
d'octobre 1978: 16.8.1978**

The Fountains of Berne

It is difficult to imagine as one wanders along the quiet streets of Berne that this is a modern European capital. The stalls of gaily coloured flowers and vegetables are protected by the arcades as also are the citizens going to and from their houses and offices – no need for an umbrella here. The principal streets are free of traffic and the beautiful fountains which are one of the main features of Berne can be seen with ease. There is a feeling of the Middle Ages about the town even now in the twentieth century. The fountains alone are a splendid relic of Renaissance sculpture and are amongst the most famous in Switzerland dating back to the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries in some cases. During the years they have been moved from one site to another but today there are eleven standing which were sculptured in the sixteenth century and more than twenty without sculpture dating from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Throughout the years these fountains have been kept in good repair and reputed artists have been commissioned to paint them, thus the colours have been retained. Their real function in life has been lost since the town water was piped at the end of the nineteenth century but they are regarded as a treasure of the past. In summer time they are decorated with flowers in keeping with the window boxes of the houses which are bright with geraniums and petunias.

What is interesting about them is that they vary greatly in design. The sculptors were not all Swiss and indeed it is known that several were the work of Hans Gieg who came from Franconia in the sixteenth century. Others by the shape of the columns and capitals reflect Italian taste and style. Perhaps even in these days it was interesting for workmen to cross the border and earn money in Switzerland.

On the whole the statues are more secular than religious. So the fine statue of Moses standing in the cobbled square before the eighteenth century Gothic cathedral is rather an exception. Magnificently clothed in red and purple from an imposing classical column he faces the cathedral with his tablets. It has been thought by some people that this statue together with the Samson statue in the Kramgasse which dates from 1544 and is the work of Hans Gieg formed part of a group of four which represented the cardinal virtues. Just near the central station in the Spitalgasse is the fountain of the Bagpipes player also the work of Hans Gieg and thought to have been sculptured between 1544 and 1546. A brightly painted purple column decorated with golden Cupids who are separated from one another by golden geese supports the figure of the Bagpipes player who is clothed in red. A white goose stands at his side listening to



parison with Albrecht Dürer's engraving of a Bagpipes player which is signed and dated 1514.

The Zähringen statue in the Kramgasse is one of the most impressive both in its subject and in its position as the cobbled street slopes slightly downwards towards the old town and the city clock – Zytglogge with mechanical figures appearing as the hour strikes – forms an enchanting background. A medieval knight in full armour stands holding the banner of the Duke of Berchtold, founder of the city of Berne and bearing the arms of the Zähringen. Between his feet and surmounting the column of the statue is a bear, the heraldic beast of the town. There are many statues of knights *banneret* all over Switzerland but the detail of the chained armour of this knight makes it of particular interest especially as the date 1542 and the arms are known.

But perhaps the most famous of all and certainly the only one that exists in Switzerland is the fountain with the Ogre eating small children. Dressed as a knight this gruesome gentleman sits on his column. One child is in the process of being devoured meantime another three are held as a reserve on his arm. It takes several minutes to discover that there are four more hidden away under his seat.

The fountain of Anna Seiler (1549) who founded the hospital named after her is in the Marktgasse, the principal shopping street. When it was moved to its present site

in 1785 from another part of the town the statue was put on to a new fountain, the column of which probably dates back to Roman times. The original is preserved in the Historical Museum.

This removal of the fountains from one place to another and changing of names was considered quite normal in former times but what it has resulted in is a mixture of styles which however does not detract either from their charm nor from their harmony. The Marksman fountain has borne several different names and has been reconstructed on many occasions. The figure dates from 1543, the column from the eighteenth century, the base from 1939 and the basin from 1783. The Markman's Guildhouse used to be opposite the fountain and gave its name to the fountain.

Some subjects are topical and can be seen in other towns. The Justice fountain, a woman with her eyes blindfolded holding in her right hand a sword and in her left the scales of justice. Her blue dress is Renaissance in style with puffed sleeves and a golden corselet; the date is 1543. At her feet are miniature representations of the four temporal rulers; the Pope, the Sultan, the Emperor and the Governor.

The best account of these delightful monuments is to be found in the series «Historical Monuments of the Canton of Berne» by Paul Hofer.

Kathleen Watts

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