

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK

Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

Band: - (1961)

Heft: 1390

Rubrik: Odds and ends

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Odds and Ends

Our grandparents and great-grandparents loved the "Panorama", that artistic representation of vistas, dramatic events of a religious character and famous landscapes. Recently, in the park of the Château of Schadau at Lake Thun, new interest has focused on the 30-foot-high Wocher Panorama, named after its painter, Marquand Wocher. Painted at the beginning of the 19th century, it depicts the town of Thun as it must have appeared to the famous poets, Goethe and Kleist, from the roof of one of the town's period houses. A round building specially designed by the Town Architect was harmoniously set in the Château grounds for this lifework of the old minor master. In the Château of Schadau itself, a permanent exhibition of Swiss minor masters has been opened. The three historic castles of Thun, Spiez and Oberhofen are also open to the public.

* * *

Hilda had just given notice she was going to be married. The lady of the house, flustered because she'd not been told before, asked: "Couldn't you postpone your wedding until I got another maid?"

"Well," Hilda hesitated. "I don't know him well enough to ask him to put it off."

* * *

104 years ago, Tolstoy in his narrative, "Lucerne", described a "splendid five-storey building only recently built at the water's edge". Four years later, Adolf Hauser-Spâth bought that palatial house at the lakeside — the world-famous Schweizerhof Hotel in Lucerne. It has ever since remained in the hands of the same family, who recently celebrated the 100th anniversary of the "dynasty".

* * *

A Scotsman had just applied for admittance to the New York police force. After passing the physical test he was given one in general knowledge.

"Now then," said the inspector, glowering, "how would you act in dispersing a very large and argumentative crowd?"

"Weel," replied the Scotsman, scratching his head and looking puzzled. "I'm no too sure how ye do it here in New York, but doon in Aberdeen we just pass the hat round and they soon begin to shuffle off."

* * *

The Abbey library of St. Gall, famous for Switzerland's finest Rococo hall and for its treasures of art and culture from the medieval heyday of the Abbey, will again in the summer of 1961 open a special exhibition of valuables, representing a cross-section through the Abbey's medieval library. Last year, over 65,000 visitors toured the Abbey of St. Gall, at one time the stronghold of Continental scholarship.

* * *

A missionary who had given a very earnest address was touched to find a small boy waiting for him after the meeting. "Well, my son," he said, "I think I can guess what you want. You would like to be a missionary when you grow up."

"Oh, no, sir," answered the boy. "I just wondered if you had any foreign stamps you could give me."

* * *

It has become fashionable for companies, professional bodies, etc., to hold their annual or extraordinary meetings in places known for their touristic attractions. One of these centres is the well-known summer and winter resort

of Grindelwald in the Bernese Oberland. Grindelwald has over thirty hotels and pensions to cater for all tastes, and a modern theatre/congress hall seating 450 persons. First class excursion programmes ("First" Chairlift, Glaciersgorge, Wengernalp, and Jungfrau Railway) can be arranged for the ladies accompanying the delegates.

* * *

Chinese Foreign Minister Marshal Chen Yi, in Geneva for the Laos Conference, has personally acknowledged capitalistic superiority . . . in one field.

"British tennis balls", he admits, "are superior."

He told British delegate Malcolm MacDonald: "They bounce better than ours, which don't last very long."

* * *

Probably the highest degree of travelling ease for tourists is offered by Switzerland, writes Nigel Buxton in the *Sunday Telegraph*. He writes that it is not necessary to travel in one's own car to see something. The railways and postal coaches with their dense and remarkably reliable service network are more comfortable and dependable. Switzerland was once considered an expensive holiday country; to-day, it is one of the cheapest.

* * *

A lady advertised for a gardener and two men applied for the job, both professing the necessary qualifications. While she was interviewing them, she noticed that her mother was making signs for her to choose the more shabby looking one. When the women were alone again the daughter said, "Why did you signal me to choose the one who looked so shabby? The other man was neatly dressed and had a much better face."

"Face!" exclaimed the mother. "My dear, when you pick a man to work in the garden you should judge him by his trousers. If they're patched on the knees, you want him; if they're patched on the seat, you don't."

* * *

One of the world's greatest collections of military band instruments, comprising 239 brass instruments made by 127 makers from 54 places, can be seen at the newly installed museum of music at Greifensee Castle, half an hour by car from Zurich. Both the Castle and the little town of Greifensee feature as the scene of Gottfried Keller's Novelette, "Der Landvogt von Greifensee".

* * *

London Transport reports an all-time record in the number of umbrellas left by passengers in buses and Underground trains last year — 90,984 of them!

This was an increase of more than 31,400 on the year before.

Forty per cent. of the lost umbrellas found their way back to their owners.

Altogether, the number of items forgotten by travellers was 407,000, which represents more than 1,100 a day.

There were 80,000 pairs of gloves, 12,000 pairs of glasses, 22,000 books, 44,000 cases and bags, 52,000 items of clothing, and 11,000 keys.