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AUCTION OF HISTORICAL SWISS STAMPS

Unique in the history of philately was an auction which took place in Basle mid-April and naturally attracted stamp collectors from many countries. Up for auction were the Swiss and Austrian sections of the collection which Maurice Burrus, a leading man in the tobacco industry, had built up throughout his life. Mr. Burrus, born in Alsace, was German and a naturalized Swiss. He died in 1959.

Unrivalled as to size, the collection included the most valuable stamps imaginable. The Auction yielded the amount of three million Swiss Francs, and the prices achieved made many an experienced philatelist hold his breath. Not only experts were fascinated by the treasures which came to light here, but a wide public following the auction on Television and in the papers was stunned at the astronomic sums bid for the tiny coloured scraps. The first day of the auction already brought the sale for 465,000 Swiss Francs of a "Double-Geneva" series of six. The auction was organized by the young Basle philatelist Urs-Peter Kaufmann, in connection with Robson Lowe of London.

[S.N.T.O.]

A MULTIPLICITY OF ART EXHIBITIONS

Pride of place goes at present to the great thematic exhibitions "Swiss Art in the Twentieth Century" at the Museum of Fine Arts and "Masterpieces from Swiss Collections" at the Palais de Beaulieu in Lausanne, both of which form a notable extension to the Exhibition programme. "Watches and Jewels from Geneva" are also on show in Lausanne. Still in French-speaking Switzerland, the exhibition at la Chaux-de-Fonds showing the work of painters and sculptors hailing from the Jura region — from Léopold Robert to Le Corbusier — deserves special mention. The Third International Triennial for Original Graphic Art in Colour begins in the watchmaking town of Grenchen on 13th June. To mark the 175th anniversary of the founding of the Basle Art Society there will be an exhibition at the Kunsthalle entitled "A balance of the Last Ten Years", starting on 20th June. Lucerne can look forward to an influx of visitors to its Paul Klee exhibition in view of the great popularity of this painter with lovers of modern art. The Museum at Winterthur is to show historical and genre pictures of the nineteenth century, while from 14th June onwards Schaffhausen museum will be giving an exhibition of the works of Emil Kiess.

[S.N.T.O.]

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