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HENRI FUESSLI, THE GREAT SWISS PAINTER OF ENGLISH ART

Zurich-born Henri Füssli takes a place alongside Reynolds and others as one of the great British artists of the 18th century. His career was typical of many Swiss whose reputation was first established abroad. Among contemporary names, Le Corbusier, Max Frisch, Friedrich Dürrenmatt and C. F. Ramuz are cases in point.

In 1763, almost immediately after taking orders, Henri Füssli, who was a great admirer of Rousseau, found himself at odds with the oligarchic government of the day. A friend of Bodmer and Lavater, and Translator of "Macbeth", the young man appeared to have a brilliant career before him. But he chose to leave his own country like other contemporaries such as J. J. Rousseau, Carl Victor de Bonstetten, and the historian Jean Müller. After a time in Berlin, he moved to London, where he devoted himself to translation and book illustration. His talent was quickly noticed. In 1768 the opinion expressed by Reynolds concerning his essays (which included several portraits of the great actor Garrick) made his future assured.

His powerful creations, inspired by the works of Dante, Shakespeare and Milton, roused enthusiasm. They gained him the friendship of William Blake. His company was sought by some of the greatest English writers. Even at Dr. Johnson's table he could hold his own repartee. His letters to Bodmer and Lavater went the rounds of Europe. Herder and Goethe both read them and the latter bought works by the great Zurich artist. In 1790 Füssli (or Henry Fuseli as he became known in England) was appointed as a member of the Royal Academy, where he became a professor and then an inspector. His lectures on the history of painting have been translated into several languages. He died in 1825 and was buried in the crypt of St. Paul's in London. [S.N.T.O.]

NORDIC GROUP TAKES OVER SWISS BANK

A group of Nordic banks have taken over the Swiss bank, Verwaltungsbank A.-G., in Zurich. The name of the bank is being changed to the Nordfinanz Bank, A.-G., and the capital will be increased to 10m. Swiss francs with a further 2m. Swiss francs in the reserve fund. The share majority in the new bank is kept by Svenska Handelsbanken, Stockholm, with Den Norske Creditbank, Norway, Københavens Handelsbank, Copenhagen, and Kansallis-Osake-Pankki, Helsinki as partners. The new bank will specially serve customers in Scandinavia with credit arrangements, and floating loans or share issues.

"The Times" 31.6.1964.

SWISS PARTICIPATION IN THE VIANDEN HYDRO-ELECTRIC DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

The inauguration of the new hydro-electric power station at Vianden in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg took place last April. With an output of 900,000 kW from its turbines and 630,000 kW from the pumps, this power station is the biggest pumping plant in the world and the biggest electricity works producing peak energy in Europe.

Designed and built by engineering offices and building and machinery firms of six western European countries, this new plant can be cited as an example of fruitful international co-operation. Switzerland's part in the project was a big one, since the Société Générale pour l'Industrie (SGI) in Geneva was entirely responsible for the general co-ordination of planning and execution on behalf of the commissioning firm, the Our Electricity Company.

[O.S.E.C.]

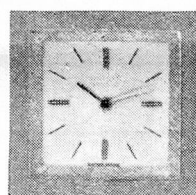
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