

# A round - up and review of recent books

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# A ROUND - UP AND REVIEW OF RECENT BOOKS

A reception, hosted by Cultural Counsellor Mr. J.-J. Indermuehle, was held at the Swiss Embassy to launch the publication on 17th June of a book entitled *Jung and the Story of our Time*.

Written by the famous explorer and author Laurens van der Post, the publication of the books comes soon after last year's celebrations to mark the centenary of Jung's birth.

The reception included the showing of a half-hour film about the religious aspects of Jung's life. It was one of a series of three films shown recently on BBC2.

Laurens van der Post's book on Jung has obviously been occupying part of his mind for many years.

A close friend of the Swiss Carl Gustav Jung, who was born by Lake Constance in 1875, van der Post has written a masterpiece about a master.

The author himself has always been fascinated and beset by dreams and in this book he writes about the great philosopher and psychiatrist, drawing on his own experience of a long African childhood where he dreamed his dreams away and was teased by his large family for doing so. Only his revered grandfather was to have much sympathy with him and to remind him of Joseph the Dreamer and the importance of dreaming. Family apart, the young van der Post was part of a greater community of Africans – with complete absence of any racial feeling – and his special Bushman nurse had a father whose name was Dream.

Van der Post's earlier books, written about the Africa he loves, show vividly the imprint of a great naturalistic sense of being which, when he came to read Jung and became his friend, was part of the bond between them.

Who, then, more suitable to write this book on Jung? It is not a book on psychiatry, though that comes into it. It is not wholly a biography. It is, as the title tells, the story of our time. The way in which world events appear against this backcloth of oneness with nature (and conflict with it), the foresight of death and destruction which this wholeness brings, make the book a remarkable achievement.

"And the slumber of the body seems to be but the waking of the soul." This quotation from Sir Thomas Browne, used as a chapter heading, gives us a vital description of the dream life the author experienced and his necessity to meet someone with whom he should communicate. Jung, of course, was the ideal.

The young Jung, with his two

personalities, the ordinary, everyday schoolboy and the archetypal "wise old man" which provided him with wisdom most of the time but with conflict at others, was set apart from his contemporaries. They called him "Father Abraham" and kept their distance.

Jung's father was a stern priest who seemed to fail his bewildering son. Yet he was to act in the turning-point of Jung's life – the moment when he sent the boy up the Rigi Mountain by rail to the summit because he could not afford two rail fares. Jung came out on top of the Rigi and found himself looking "deep into the mythological heart of his homeland". This was his moment of initiation, his vision of the world.

Laurens van der Post has drawn deeply from his feelings about his own homeland, the magical Africa. But he wrote this book in Switzerland. He and Jung, his friend, looked beneath the surface of things and found them wonderful and terrifying. This is a book full of feeling. It was written about a close and much-revered friend. It makes compelling reading.

*Jung and the Story of our Time* is published by The Hogarth Press, price £5.50.

## SWISS MILITARY FLYING AIRCRAFT TYPES, DATA AND ANECDOTES

Switzerland now has a chronicle of its military aeronautical history – in aircraft types, technical data and anecdotes. Other countries, starting off with those which took an active part in the Second World War, have had such a book for some time. *The Aircraft of the Swiss Air Force since 1914* gives a wealth of valuable detail, often of matters previously known only to the pioneers of aviation and therefore in danger of being lost for ever.

The volume has 360 pages, is richly illustrated, and will certainly please model aircraft builders, aeronautical historians and aviation fans. It does not confine itself to a mere listing of technical specifications, or just to giving information about the types of aircraft which have been registered for military flying, tested by the appropriate authorities and seen service in the Swiss Air Force.

The romance and destiny-influencing events associated with the development of military flying in Switzerland are also to be found within the covers of this book. The author, *Jakob Urech*, aeronautical specialist and enthusiast, has seen to this. Now retired from his position on the specialist staff of the Department of Military Airfields

(AMF), he was entrusted by the AMF with the task of producing this work, and has combined all the available archive material with his own records to produce a handy and fascinating publication. Emil Hunziker has been responsible for the three-elevation drawings of each design quoted in the text and illustrated by photographs.

The book, produced by Th. Gut & Co., of Stäfa, Canton Zürich, supplements earlier publications in which particular aspects of the history of the Swiss Air Force have been chronicled. *The Aircraft of the Swiss Air Force since 1914* is not a history book in the classical sense. Nevertheless, many basic decisions and their far-reaching effects are described by the author in a very personal style. Two world wars left their imprint on this era, which – as far as this book is concerned – began in 1910/11 with the first military tests of machines produced by Dufaux of Geneva, and extended to the advent of the Mach 2 high-performance combat aircraft Mirage III S, whose purchase in the 1960s gave rise to some political controversy.

The gripping description of the none too numerous successful types of combat aircraft used by the Swiss Air Force during its sixty years of existence, coupled with that of the many almost forgotten machines tried out in very small quantities and rejected, illustrates the fact that the evaluation worries and purchasing difficulties now confronting the authorities are by no means new.

René Bondt

*The Aircraft of the Swiss Air Force since 1914*, published by the Department of Military Airfields, Dübendorf, author Jakob Urech, drawings by Emil Hunziker. Publishers: Th. Gut & Co., CH-8712 Stäfa, Switzerland, 1974/76. Sales outside Switzerland: Office du Livre, CH-1701 Fribourg, Switzerland. Price Sw.Fr.54 plus postage and packing.

Other recently published books which might be of interest to our readers include *Die Kantone der Schweiz*, a collection of volumes about each canton (there are two volumes for Berne and Graubünden).

Published by Editions Panoramic, Jean Moreillon, Postfach 35, 1211 Geneva, the volumes cost Sw.Fr.18.50 each and Sw.Fr.395 for all 24 volumes. They are available in either French or German.

For lovers of the sport of shooting and for weapons enthusiasts Fritz Hänsler, Muhletobelstrasse 33 CH 8500 Frauenfeld has published *Swiss Handguns*.

The profusely illustrated 140 page book is available in English, French or German, price Sw.Fr.58 direct from the publisher.

Finally, Editions Universitaires Fribourg announces publication of a 300 page historical work entitled *Le Canada et les Suisses*. It costs Sw.Fr.65.

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