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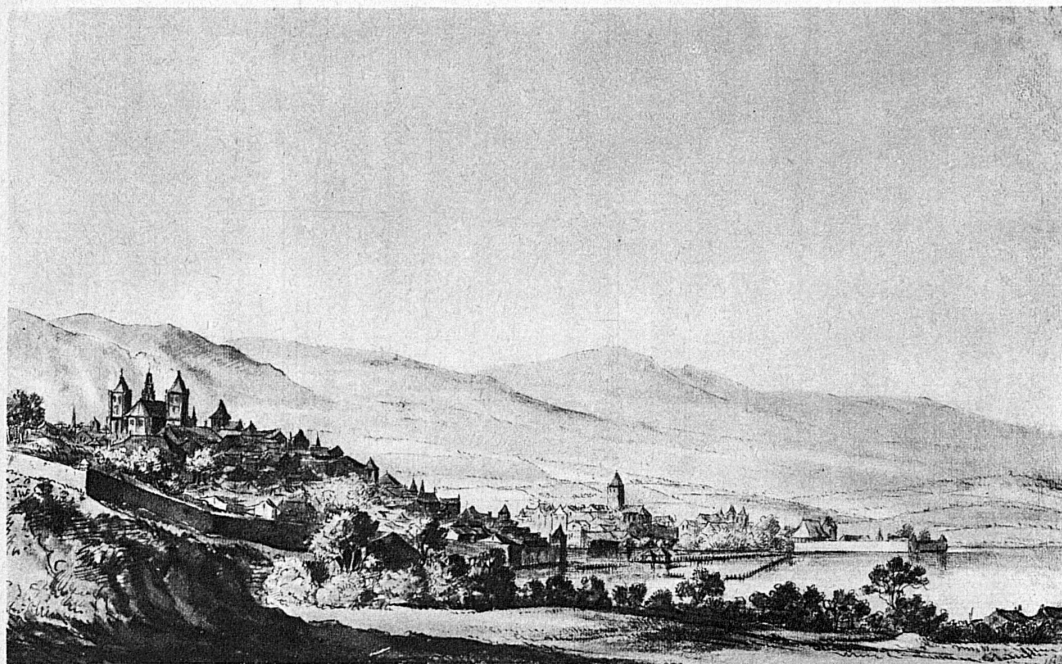
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Switzerland, seen by 17th Century Dutch Painters

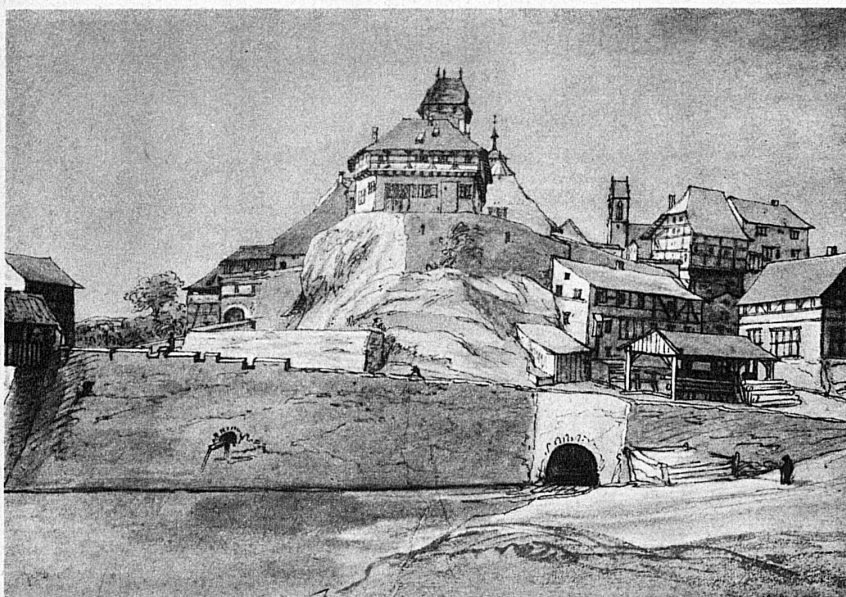
La Suisse vue par les peintres hollandais au 17^{me} siècle



Attribué à Jacob van der Ulft, probablement d'après V. L. van der Vinne. Vue de Genève avec la Cathédrale de St-Pierre et les fortifications de la ville, 1685 (Musée d'art et d'histoire, Genève) — Jacob van der Ulft (not authenticated), probably after V. L. van der Vinne. View of Geneva with St. Pierre Cathedral and Fortifications, 1685 (Musée d'Art et d'Histoire, Geneva)

In the time of Rembrandt, Dutch art had attained its zenith in the domain of landscape painting. In this, and chiefly in the vividly sensitive reproduction of the atmosphere, the painters of the Dutch plains were unsurpassed. Many of them, urged by wanderlust and the desire for new artistic motives, made their way southwards, and thus we find that, in Switzerland too, these itinerant painters brought numerous landscape scenes to paper or canvas. One of the finest collections of such works is that of the Amsterdam lawyer Laurentius, which is now in the Vienna National Library; further specimens are to be found in private hands both in Switzerland and abroad. A splendid selection is reproduced — mostly for the first time — by S. Stelling-Michaud in his book « Unbekannte Schweizer Landschaften aus dem 17. Jahrhundert » (Unknown 17th Century Swiss Landscapes), published by Max Niehans, Zurich. In his preface the author rightly points out that we have before us examples of landscape painting at its zenith.

The greatest of these itinerant painters was Jan Hackaert (born at Amsterdam in 1628, died about 1700), who made several stays in Swiss towns between 1653 and 1658. In 1655 he travelled through the Grisons, marking his route by a succession of wonderful sketches. Lambert Doomer, of Amsterdam (1622—1700), also painted in Switzerland, while V.-L. van der Vinne, born at Haarlem in 1629, and Willem Schellink (1632—1678) have left us detailed descriptions of their journeys of 1653 and 1665 respectively, the most interesting passages of which have been published by S. Stelling-Michaud.



Lambert Doomer: Le château de Frauenfeld avec le pont de bois couvert sur le Murg. Lavis (Propriété privée, Zurich) — Lambert Doomer: Frauenfeld Castle with the covered bridge over the Murg. Watercolour etching (Private collection, Zurich)



Jan Hackaert: Vue sur le Schamsertal (Rhin postérieur). Lavis, teint à la sépia, 1655 (Bibliothèque nationale, Vienne) — Jan Hackaert: View of Schams Valley (Hinter-Rhine). Sepia-toned water-colour etching, 1655 (Nat. Library, Vienne)