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Cover The Orbe on its upper course between the Swiss frontier and the Lac de Joux

1 The source of the River Orbe in France: Lac des Rousses, six kilometres south-west of the frontier station of Bois-d'Amont in the Vallée des Rousses, the natural continuation of the Vallée de Joux on French soil

2 Detail of a map of the course of the Orbe dating from 1704

3, 4 Primaevial-seeming remnants of trees on the shores of the Lac des Rousses, from which the Orbe emerges as a stream hardly a metre in width

5, 6 Meanders of the Orbe between the frontier and the Lac de Joux

7 Junction of the Orbe and the Lac de Joux

8, 9 Sagnes de la Burtignière, a peat moor

10, 11 Mont-Risoux, a broad ridge that rises gently towards 1400 m (4600 ft.), borders the valley of the Joux to the west, forming a frontier rampart towards France. It is thickly wooded with remnants of the primaevial forest that once covered the whole of the Jura highlands. A decree of the Bernese government in 1646, which required the conservation of a band of frontier forest towards the Franche-Comté for strategic reasons, saved this continuous stretch of forest covering 2300 hectares or 4700 acres—the largest in Switzerland

12 In Charbonnières—the name recalls a former charcoal-burning site—wooden boxes are made for the vacherin du Mont-d'Or, a local cream cheese

13 The woodpiles in front of all the houses leave no doubt about it: the winter is long and hard in the Vallée de Joux

14 A simple stele in the solitude of Mont-Risoux bears the inscription: "À la mémoire d'un soldat français, 1871." An unknown French soldier of the Bourbaki army that was driven back against the western frontier of Switzerland in the Franco-German war is said to have died of exhaustion here after his flight through the snows of the frontier forest

15 A low stone wall runs for some miles along the frontier between France and Switzerland in the Risoux forest

16, 17 One of the few paths through the forest of Mont-Risoux leads to Roche Champion (1325 m = 4347 ft.), from where there is an unexpected open view of the French Jura

18 Monastery buildings and town of Romainmôtier

19 Painted ceilings from the fourteenth century can be admired in the Romanesque narthex, a three-aisled hall which in 1120 was built on to the west side of the older collegiate church of Romainmôtier

20 The clock tower with the main gateway in the wall surrounding the monastery buildings of Romainmôtier

21 South façade of the collegiate church with remains of the Gothic cloister. In the foreground the authoress and "lady of the castle", Katharina von Arx, who wrote the text in this issue on Romainmôtier and its craftsmen

22 Coat of arms of Romainmôtier

23 The writer Katharina von Arx in her study in the so-called castle, originally the priory and later the seat of the high bailiff of Berne. The conservation of the crumbling buildings goes to the credit of Katharina von Arx

24 The chapter hall on the first floor of the Maison du Prieuré. Here the wedding of Philibert of Savoy and Margaret of Austria was celebrated in 1501. Those who would like to emulate them today can rent the hall for the occasion

25 The Biedermeier tea room in the priory at Romainmôtier

26, 27 Many craftsmen have settled in Romainmôtier. Here a glimpse of a potter's workshop

28 The Dent-de-Vaulion (1483 m = 4865 ft.) is the landmark of the Valley of Joux and shields it from the north-east. In clear weather there is a fine view from the summit towards the Alps in the east and over the wooded hills of the French Jura in the west. Far below on the left the Lac de Joux, on the right Lac Brenet

29, 30, 31 Johann Ludwig Aberli (1722–1786): Views from Le Pont on the Lac de Joux and Charbonnières on Lac Brenet, 1774

32–34 The Lac de Joux, with an area of 9.5 km² (3½ square miles), is the largest lake in the Jura. It is 9 kilometres long, up to 34 metres deep and has no surface outlet. Though without sands, it has a few very charming and quiet bays with clean water for bathing. From 1887 to 1914 it held a European record: it was the highest lake with a steamer! But the service did not pay its way. Today the villages on its shores can be easily reached by rail and postal coach

35 The houses in the Jura of Vaud are multi-purpose buildings, with dwelling, stable and barn under one roof, the ridge of which usually runs parallel to the valley. The front of the house faces the sun, while the sides, which are exposed to wind and weather, are covered with shingles or metal sheet. Quite often several houses are united under a single roof ridge. The big arches are characteristic

36 This original fence is to be found in Orient. The strangely shaped stones are said to have been brought down from Mount Marchairuz in grandfather's day

37 The Lac de Joux has no surface outlet, its waters seep down through large funnels known as the Entonnnoirs by the western shore and reappear in springs near Vallorbe. The seepage holes have been sealed off by low walls so that the head of 240 metres between the lake and the spring can be used for generating electricity

38–41 The caves known as the Grottes de l'Orbe not far from Vallorbe are worth a visit because of the fantastic calcareous formations and the presence of the underground River Orbe

42 The karst spring of the Orbe

43 Fish nurseries have sprung up beside the clear waters of the Orbe redidivus. In the "Paradis de la truite" near Vallorbe the visitor can easily catch his own dinner. Payment is by the kilogram...

44 Tectonic map of the Jura pass of Orbe–Jougne–Pontarlier. The road follows a geological fault line along which the longitudinal chains of the Jura are suddenly interrupted and relatively displaced, in some cases even meeting at an angle

45 Detail of a map of Vaud dating from 1781. The easy Jougne pass over the Jura lies on the shortest route from Upper Italy to Central France. It has been used for long-distance communications since Roman times

46 The TEE Cisalpin from Paris to Milan and Venice via Lausanne leaves the Mont-d'Or tunnel near Vallorbe

47–49 Les Clées was in the Middle Ages an important customs station on the bridge over the deep gorge of the Orbe. The castle was destroyed by the Swiss in 1475 at the time of the Burgundian Wars. The keep has since been rebuilt and is inhabited even today

Market-day in the little town of Orbe

50 The armorial bearings of the town of Orbe on the embattled roof of the Town Hall

51 The Grand-Rue with a few fine old houses. The flags are out for the "Quinzaine artistique", an arts fortnight that underlines the town's cultural aspirations with summer concerts and open-air performances

52 The original church steeple of Notre-Dame is mirrored in the big fountain in front of the Town Hall

53 The façade of the Town Hall, in yellow Jura limestone, dates from the eighteenth century

54 The market square, where the whole region meets every Thursday

55–57 Corners of the old town

58 The steeple of Notre-Dame and the two towers of the former castle, destroyed at the time of the Burgundian Wars, rise from the silhouette of the old town of Orbe. In the foreground the River Orbe, here tamed between embankments

59 Two kilometres to the north of Orbe, on the road to Yverdon, well-preserved floor mosaics have been found, relics of the great Roman past of this crossroads of two military lines of communication. The finds have been protected by small buildings, the keys to which can be obtained from the nearby Boscèaz farm

60, 61 Where the Orbe loses its name: Over the last nine kilometres of its course in the plain of the Orbe, from its confluence with the Talent to its entry into the Lake of Neuchâtel near Yverdon, the river becomes a geometrically straight canal and is known as the Thielle

Swiss cultural events

Freuler Palace in Nâfels:

Atlases, globes, maps

A cartographic collection of international significance is currently on view at the Freuler Palace in Nâfels. All the items selected for display originate from the collection of the well-known Glarus cartographer and map historian Walter Blumer. They include the basic European atlases and record the development of the Swiss map almost without a break. Now, for the first time, some representative maps from this collection, which in fact were donated to the canton of Glarus in 1975 by Walter Blumer, are accessible to the general public.

Maps and globes are the most important means of demonstrating the spatial relationships of places and regions on our planet. The works have been suitably supplemented by informative and illustrated printed panels, which furnish a survey of the entire history of maps. In addition to important world atlases of the 15th to 18th centuries (Ptolemaic issues, cosmography of Sebastian Münzer, atlases of Gerhard Mercator, Willem and Joan Blaeu, Johann Baptist Homann and others) the most important Swiss maps are also represented, from the pen-and-ink drawing of the Zurich city physician Konrad Türist (Switzerland with 500 localities, 1496) to the accurate printed maps of General Dufour (1842/64) and Hermann Siegfried (1922). Detailed descriptions of the individual maps are given in the catalogue by Hans Laupper and Elmar Hilber. The exhibition is to continue until October 3. Open daily, except Monday.

Historic instruments in Gruyère Castle

Exhibitions are held every summer in the castle at Gruyère. This year, one of the rooms is showing 40 historic stringed and wind instruments, originating in part from the stock of the Musée d'art et d'histoire in Fribourg. The exhibition affords an insight into the development of instrument-making from the 17th to the 19th century. Until end of December.

New appointments

at the Rhaetian Museum in Chur

Several of the show-rooms in the Rhaetian Museum in Chur have been re-arranged. Important collection items from the history of the Grisons are on view in large glass cases provided with descriptions and photographs. While the two cabinets "The Grisons militia from 1803 to 1842" and "Armour of the Grisons" display military attire and equipment, the similarly re-decorated room "Coinage of the Grisons" provides a survey of coinage rights and mints in the Grisons. The cast copy of the statue of Charles the Great in the abbey church of Müstair dating from around 1200, recently completed by the museum restorer, receives much attention.

Pictorial documentation, in addition to the negative form of the life-sized statue, describes the interesting casting work.

Open daily, except Monday.

Book illumination at the Musée Rath in Geneva

A selection of high quality and important book illuminations from the 9th to 16th centuries from

the library of the University of Geneva are to remain on show until September 26 at the Musée Rath in Geneva. Under the title "L'enluminure de Charlemagne à François I^{er}" this compilation includes works of art from the northern European, French, Italian and Byzantine regions.

Third exhibition of primitive painting in Lugano

The Villa Malpensata in Lugano is providing accommodation for the third international exhibition of primitive painting until November 7. In addition to a retrospective of Adolf Dietrich, works by contemporary Swiss artists, considered representatives of primitive art, provide the central feature of the show. But artists from abroad, including those from Italy, France, Austria, Poland, Uganda and China, have also been invited by the organisers to display their work at the exhibition.

Burgundian sculpture from the late Middle Ages at the Museum of Art and History in Fribourg

The intention of the exhibition entitled "Burgundian sculpture from the late Middle Ages", on view until October 10, is to acquaint visitors a little more closely with the immediate successors of the most important Burgundian sculptors, Claus Sluter and Claus van Werve, with a selection of their work: Jean de la Huerta and Antoine de Moiturier are the producers of 29 works in wood, stone and alabaster. 43 further items on view at this exhibition are the work of unknown masters.

The Spaniard Jean de la Huerta was summoned to the Burgundian court during the first half of the 15th century in order to complete the tomb of Johann ohne Furcht (Fearless John) and his wife, begun by Claus van Werve. Sacral figures from Rouvres-en-Plaine, Autun and Seurre testify to the wide field of his work in France. Following his departure from Dijon, he was succeeded by the sculptor Antoine de Moiturier, who was born in Avignon around 1425. The work of this master likewise made a decisive contribution to the character of Burgundian sculpture during the late Middle Ages. The statues from Dijon, Manlay, Autun and Semur-en-Auxois, on show in Fribourg, are works from his hand.

Open daily 10 to 12 a.m. and 2 to 7 p.m. Thursday and Friday until 10 p.m. Closed Monday.

New books

It may be remembered that four Swiss communities, Ardez, Corippo, Murten and Octodurus/Martigny, were selected as typical examples of well-kept municipalities during the European Architectural Heritage Year 1975. Four attractively presented small monographs have now been published by the Swiss Art History Society, Berne, and the Swiss National Heritage Preservation Society, Zurich, to provide information about the history and art as well as the contemporary and future problems of the above-mentioned localities. The brochures, printed in two languages and beautifully illustrated, can be obtained at Fr.8.- each from book stores or directly from the Swiss Art History Society, 3000 Berne 12.

Au Palais Freuler à Nâfels: des atlas, globes et cartes

On peut admirer actuellement au Palais Freuler à Nâfels un ensemble cartographique d'envergure internationale. Toutes les pièces exposées ont été sélectionnées dans la collection du cartographe glaronais bien connu, Walter Blumer, qui est aussi un historien de la cartographie. Elle comprend les atlas d'Europe les plus remarquables et permet de retracer presque sans lacune l'évolution de la carte de Suisse. Le public a pour la première fois l'occasion de voir quelques cartes caractéristiques de cette collection, dont son auteur a fait don au canton de Glaris en 1975. Cartes et globes offrent la meilleure possibilité de visualiser la position géographique des sites et des faits saillants de notre planète. Les ouvrages exposés ont été judicieusement complétés par des tableaux explicatifs illustrés, qui procurent un aperçu de l'évolution historique de la carte. A côté d'importants atlas du monde du XV^e au XVIII^e siècle (éditions Ptolémée, cosmographie de Sebastian Münzer, atlas de Gerhard Mercator, Willem et Joan Blaeu, Johann Baptist Homann et d'autres), on trouve également les cartes les plus significatives de Suisse, à partir du dessin à la plume de Konrad Türost, médecin de la ville de Zurich (la Suisse avec 500 localités, 1496), jusqu'aux cartes imprimées, très précises, du général Dufour (1842/64) et de Hermann Siegfried (1922). Le catalogue par Hans Lauppper et Elmar Hilber donne des descriptions détaillées des différentes cartes. L'exposition dure jusqu'au 3 octobre. Elle est ouverte tous les jours, sauf le lundi.

Nouvelles installations au Musée rhétique à Coire

On a procédé à d'importantes innovations dans quelques salles du Musée rhétique de Coire. Des pièces de collection, importantes pour l'histoire des Grisons, sont présentées dans de grandes vitrines et expliquées par des textes et des photographies. Tandis que des uniformes et des armes sont exposés dans les deux vitrines consacrées aux «Milices des Grisons de 1803 à 1842» et aux «Equipements grisons», la salle des «Monnaies grisonnes», qui a été également renouvelée, renseigne sur les droits de monnayage et sur la frappe des monnaies dans ce canton. On y voit aussi une remarquable copie, faite récemment par le restaurateur du musée, de la statue de Charlemagne qui se trouve dans l'église du couvent de Münstair et date du début du XII^e siècle. Une documentation iconographique, ainsi que l'empreinte de la statue grandeur nature, expliquent les intéressants travaux de moulage. Ouvert tous les jours, sauf le lundi.

Sculpture bourguignonne au Musée d'art et d'histoire de Fribourg

Cette exposition de sculpture bourguignonne de la fin du Moyen Age, ouverte jusqu'au 10 octobre, présente une sélection des œuvres des successeurs des célèbres sculpteurs bourguignons Claus Sluter et Claus van Werve. Jean de la Huerta et Antoine de Moiturier sont représentés par 29 sculptures en bois, en pierre et en albâtre. Il s'y ajoute 43 autres œuvres de maîtres anonymes.

L'Espagnol Jean de la Huerta fut appelé à la cour de Bourgogne dans la première moitié du XV^e siècle pour y achever le tombeau de Jean Sans Peur et de son épouse, qu'avait commencé Claus van Werve. Des statues saintes de Rouvres-en-Plaine, Autun et Seurre, témoignent du vaste territoire où il a travaillé en France. Après qu'il eut quitté Dijon, Antoine de Moiturier, né à Avignon vers 1425, lui succéda. Les sculptures de ce maître ont également marqué profondément l'art bourguignon pendant la dernière période du Moyen Age. Les œuvres de sa main exposées à Fribourg sont des statues provenant de Dijon, Manlay, Autun et Semur-en-Auxois. Ouvert tous les jours de 10 à 12 et de 14 à 19 heures, le jeudi et le vendredi jusqu'à 22 heures. Fermé le lundi.

Enluminures au Musée Rath, à Genève

Une admirable sélection d'enluminures du IX^e au XVI^e siècle provenant de la Bibliothèque universitaire de Genève est exposée jusqu'au 26 septembre au Musée Rath. Sous le titre «L'enluminure de Charlemagne à François I^{er}» on peut y admirer des chefs-d'œuvre de l'Europe du Nord, de France, d'Italie et de l'Empire byzantin.

Instruments de musique anciens au Château de Gruyères

Des expositions ont lieu chaque année, à la saison d'été, au Château de Gruyères. On y montre cette année, dans une des salles, une collection historique de quarante instruments à cordes et à vent, qui proviennent en partie du Musée d'art et d'histoire de Fribourg. Cette exposition donne un aperçu de l'évolution de la facture des instruments de musique entre le XVII^e et le XIX^e siècle. Elle est ouverte jusqu'à fin décembre.

Troisième exposition de peinture naïve à Lugano

La Villa Malpensata à Lugano abrite jusqu'au 7 novembre la troisième Exposition internationale de peinture naïve. A côté d'une rétrospective d'Adolf Dietrich, ce sont les œuvres des peintres suisses contemporains, classés sous l'étiquette de l'art naïf, qui ont la vedette. Toutefois de nombreux artistes étrangers, notamment italiens, français, autrichiens, polonais, ougandais, chinois, y présentent également leurs œuvres.

Livres nouveaux

On se souvient qu'en 1975, année européenne du patrimoine architectural et de la protection des sites, quatre localités suisses – Ardez, Corippo, Morat et Octodurus/Martigny – ont été sélectionnées comme exemples de préservation et d'entretien. Les Editions de la Société de l'histoire de l'art en Suisse, à Berne, et de la Ligue suisse du patrimoine national, à Zurich, ont publié quatre petites monographies d'une présentation attrayante, consacrées à l'histoire et aux arts des quatre localités mentionnées, comme aussi à leurs problèmes présents et à ceux de leur avenir. Ces brochures, rédigées en deux langues et remarquablement illustrées, sont en vente au prix de Fr.8.- dans toutes les librairies, ou directement auprès de la Société de l'histoire de l'art en Suisse, 3000 Berne 12.