

Zeitschrift: Swiss textiles [English edition]
Herausgeber: Swiss office for the development of trade
Band: - (1951)
Heft: 1

Artikel: Notes and news
Autor: [s.n.]
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-798783>

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NOTES AND NEWS

Ciba Periodicals

The dyestuffs department of Ciba S. A. in Basle, the well-known makers of chemical products and pharmaceutical specialities, has for several years now been publishing a periodical of the greatest interest which appears every month, in French and German alternately, under the titles « Cahiers Ciba » — « Ciba Rundschau ». Each number is devoted to the study of one specific question, either technical, artistic, historical or cultural and connected in one way or another with the textile or finishing industries. The articles, written by experts in their particular field, are attractively presented and are detailed enough to be certain to bring new knowledge to the reader while remaining perfectly accessible to the layman who can read them with pleasure. The text is always abundantly illustrated with photographs, diagrams, drawings, reproductions of old engravings, etc. The twenty to twenty-five pages devoted to the main subject are always followed by articles grouped under the heading « Colour News », which deal with technical questions concerning the dyeing and finishing of textiles and the use of Ciba products for this purpose. An idea may be gained of the great interest offered by this publication from the mere mention of some of the subjects dealt with in it during recent months: Rubber, Swedish Rustic Textiles, The Handkerchief, Indigo, Water and Residuary Waters, Fashions and Textiles of the Elizabethan Era, Primitive Tanning, etc. The French texts are generally translations — excellent done, we might add — of the German numbers which have appeared previously. One can but be grateful to the publisher who, in this way, has put within the reach of all those concerned a wealth of information which is often useful and always interesting, for the ordinary man in the street as for the textile expert.

An Important Historical Commemoration

1951 marks the sixcentenary of the allegiance of the town of Zurich to the Swiss Confederation. The traditional « Spring Festival », whose origin goes back to pagan times and which is celebrated in the month of April, will have a particular brilliance this year. In addition, on June 2nd there will be an official and popular festival commemorating the alliance concluded in 1351 between the state of Zurich and the Confederate States of early Switzerland. We cannot enter here into the details of this celebration which will include a reception for delegations from all parts of the country, historical pageants, popular festivities of all kinds, illuminations, fireworks, etc.

Let us mention too the June festivals, during which Zurich is offering its visitors an extraordinarily rich programme of concerts, theatrical performances, ballets, exhibitions, etc. In this connection we want particularly to draw attention to the important exhibition called « 600 Years of Zurich Silks », which will be held in the Museum of Applied Art. This manifestation to the glory of one of the most famous branches of the Swiss textile industry, will outline its development and show the importance it has assumed in the town which has become one of the world centres for silks. When one

considers the care that the Museum of Applied Art in Zurich devotes to the organisation of its great, periodical exhibitions (see page 94), it will be realised that this will be an exhibition worthy of attracting large numbers of the public and especially all those interested in textiles in general and silk in particular.

A Fiftieth Anniversary

The Swiss Blanket and Cloth Mills, Pfungen-Thurbenthal Ltd. (Schweiz. Decken- u. Tuchfabriken Pfungen-Thurbenthal AG), founded in 1900, celebrated its fiftieth anniversary during 1950. At the end of last year it published a fine commemorative brochure which we have unfortunately not been able to mention in these pages before now. The history of this firm is recounted as a tribute to the manufacturers whose spirit of tenacity and determination has raised this enterprise to its present importance. The work is illustrated with very beautiful and descriptive photographs which agreeably round off the text.

A Centenary in the Silk Industry

R. Zinggeler S. A., Silk Twisters, Zurich, 1851-1951.

In 1851 the three brothers Rudolf, Samuel and Jacob Zinggeler founded their first company for the weaving of taffetas. These fabrics, manufactured at Wädenswil, were greatly appreciated both in Switzerland and abroad. While producing them, the brothers Zinggeler recognised the importance of good quality yarn in the making of fine quality fabrics. About the year 1865, they gave up weaving to go in for silk twisting. Thanks to their technical knowledge, they succeeded, using silk from the Far East, in producing yarns which found ever more important markets. During the decades that followed, the name of the concern was changed several times, but one thing that never changed was the connection between the name of Zinggeler and the idea of « quality ». In 1873 the brothers separated and Rudolf bought a cotton spinning mill at Richterswil, in which he started silk twisting. He was outstanding for his spirit of initiative and the services he rendered, particularly in the harnessing of hydraulic power. After his death in 1897, his three sons continued to run the firm under the trade name of « Rudolf Zinggeler's Sons »; then in 1908 his son of the same christian name took over the firm on his own under the name of « Rudolf Zinggeler, Silk Twisting ». During the last fifty years, the firm has grown, its workshops have continually been modernised and now supply high quality products which are becoming more and more appreciated on all markets. Last year, Mr. Rudolf Zinggeler — now 87 years old — retired from taking an active part in his firm and it was transformed into a family concern with one of his sons in the management.

We have given rather a brief account of the principal stages in the existence of a firm which has developed continually through the years in spite of crises and difficulties, and which has made a good name for itself with its quality products; there is no doubt that the future will fulfil the promises of its past.

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