

A philatelic curiosity and a swiss achievement

Autor(en): **[s.n.]**

Objektyp: **Article**

Zeitschrift: **The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK**

Band (Jahr): **- (1965)**

Heft 1470

PDF erstellt am: **29.04.2024**

Persistenter Link: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-686391>

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RECENT DEATHS IN SWITZERLAND

- Hans Kottmann (54), Solothurn, director of the watch factory Langendorf; killed in a motor accident.
- Dr. Joseph Littmann (67), Zurich, psychiatrist; active in the Jewish community, son of a Rabbi.
- Rudolf Matossi-Sulzer (89), Winterthur, engineer (ETH) and member of the board of Gebrüder Sulzer; judge in the Zurich commercial tribunal; Colonel with mountain troops and working in several industrial wartime offices and officers' organisations.
- Max Luescher (50), Berne, journalist and parliamentary correspondent.
- Emil Bosshard (75), Zurich, journalist and former parliamentary correspondent of the Agence Télégraphique Suisse; for twelve years member of the Zurich Commune Council; for nearly four decades shorthand teacher at the "Kaufmännischer Verein".
- Jean Gabus (81), Le Locle, manager of a watch case factory and well known in industrial circles.
- Dr. Robert Corti (89), Winterthur, lawyer, art lover, philanthropist; member of the board of several industrial undertakings.
- Walter Niggeler (86), Baden, chief engineer with Brown Boveri; mountaineer and well-known numismatist.
- Canon Vergères (51), Saint-Maurice, missionary in India and preacher in Kalimpong (Sikkim) where he died.
- Dr. Jean Bourgnecht (62), Fribourg, former Federal Councillor. He studied law in Fribourg, Vienna and Berne and opened his own practice in Fribourg in 1928. Reader at Fribourg University and member of several boards of directors. Became "Stadtammann" of Fribourg in 1950. Member of the National Council from 1951-1955. May 1956 he was elected Councillor of States and became President of the Conservative/Christian/Socialist Party. On 17th December 1959, he was elected Federal Councillor and became chief of the Federal Department of Finance and Customs. In 1962 he had a stroke and had to resign his office in September of the same year. His resignation was regretted all over the country, and news of his death just before Christmas was received with deep regret everywhere. The Federal Council was present *in corpore* at the funeral service in Fribourg. Several former Federal Councillors and politicians were among the large congregation.
- Oberrichter Walter Loppacher-Frehner (81), Herisau; judge, and for many years chairman of the board of the Sântis-Schwebbahn.
- Prof. Auguste Deluz (90), Lausanne, professor at Lausanne University and until 1944 director of the "Ecole des Sciences Sociales et Politiques" of the same university.
- Samuel Thévoz, Lausanne, former Socialist and subsequently Communist Commune and Cantonal Councillor and district judge.
- Dr. Beda Hophan, Disentis, Abbot of the Monastery, educationalist and expert in old languages.
- Paul Fell (64), Bümpliz, member of the Grand and the National Council; Socialist and later Communist. He resigned from politics and went back to teaching.
- Anton Niedermann (87), Steinach/Arbon, oldest "Sektionschef" in Switzerland; for 67 years in the service of the Commune.
- Pierre Jacot (65), Neuchâtel, violinist.
- Prof. Dr. Josef Tomcsik (66), called from Hungary to the University of Basle in 1943; professor of hygiene and head of the Institute of Hygiene at Basle University.

- Franz Gyga (66, Langnau, Vicar of Langnau from 1927 to his death.
- Bernd W. Beckmeier (47), Kuesnacht (Cch.), journalist and editor of the "Zürcher Wirtschaftsbrief", publisher of various international financial bulletins.
- Walter Muff (57), Lucerne, "Fahndungswachtmeister" of the Municipal Police, honorary member of the Federation of Swiss Police Officials.
- Willy Forster (65), well-known in the embroidery industry and member of the Swiss Federation of Embroidery Exporters.
- Ferdinand Mathier (73), Salgesch, politician and well-known personality in the Upper Valais.
- Emil Schneiter (76), Worb, head of the felt factories of Enggistein and Muensingen; former member of the Bernese Grand Council; president of the domestic science college at Worb and author.
- Eugène Fabre (74), Geneva, journalist, editor of "La Suisse" in 1919, correspondent in wartime Vichy; since 1948 with the "Journal de Genève"; literary and art editor and member of several press and publishing committees.
- Rudolf Wittmer (87), Basle, for many years manager of the Cantonal Bank and at the head of the Federation of Swiss Cantonal Banks; chairman of numerous economic, cultural, humanitarian and educational organisations. [A.T.S.]

THE "GREAT WORLD THEATRE" IN EINSIEDELN

One of Europe's most splendid dramatic presentations is the production of "The Great World Theatre" by Don Pedro Calderon de la Barca, given every five years at Einsiedeln and performed on the town's monumental square before its world-famous church. A particularly lavish production of the best-known work of the Spanish poet and dramatist is currently in preparation for 1965. Under the direction of Swiss actor-director Erwin Kohlund, more than 700 performers — most of them local amateurs — have begun rehearsals for the play, which will feature music by Heinrich Sutermeister. According to an advance statement the play deals with "human life as it is played on the world's stage, success and failure, mortality and eternity". The performances will begin on 19th June and will be held every Wednesday and Saturday evening until 18th September. From Zurich or Lucerne, the scene of the impressive performance is accessible in barely an hour by train or car. [S.N.T.O.]

A PHILATELIC CURIOSITY AND A SWISS ACHIEVEMENT

In order to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Benelux Customs Union, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg have each simultaneously issued a stamp bearing the portraits of the three heads of state, which constitutes a novelty in philately; the same stamp therefore shows the portraits of King Baudouin I, Queen Juliana and the Grand Duchess Charlotte, each issue being marked with the name of the appropriate country. The project submitted by the Swiss firm of Hélio Courvoisier at La Chaux-de-Fonds was the one selected for execution and the same firm was asked to print the issue for the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg in three-colour photogravure. [O.S.E.C.]