

It happend in the cantons of Vaud and Ticino

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character and his art are unmistakably Swiss: the inner pictorial plenitude, the fantastic narrative quality, the ironic-fantastic element, the psychological-pedagogical bent. Moreover, there are evident in his work hidden relationships to the primeval grotesque forces that continue to be given expression in popular customs and masks of Switzerland. From the fantastic scenes of the Basle Carnival to the pictorial ideas of Klee is but a step, by which, to be sure, the decisive transformation toward artistic creation takes place.

The most recent trends in art are having a great impact in Switzerland, and this is shown by the manifold liveliness with which many young Swiss painters are expressing themselves. In 1937 a large number of young artists banded together in the "Alliance" and made the decisive step from representational to non-representational art. The various underlying currents, which have emerged in European art in the twentieth century, making their appearance: the abstract, the constructive, which is called "concrete" by the artists themselves, the surrealist, the motion-visionary movements. A distinct Swiss feature can be discerned running through these various idioms: earnestness and intensity in grappling with themes, neatness of execution and a pronounced sense of organic, formal interrelationships.

A number of strong and imaginative personalities give definition and contour to these new trends which are also important beyond the frontiers of Switzerland. Especially worthy of mention among the concrete artists are,

above all, Max Bill, Richard P. Lohse, Camille Graeser, Hans Fischli and Fritz Glarner who lives in New York, among the so-called abstract artists, Leo Leuppi, Oskar Dalvit, Walter Bodmer and, not to be forgotten, the architect Le Corbusier, among the surrealists, the early deceased Walter Kurt Wiemken, Otto Tschumi, the late Hans Fischer and the Lucerne virtuoso Hans Erni who has recently been turning toward a new realism, among the motion-visionaries, Wilfried Moser, Charles Rollier, Hugo Weber, Rolf Iseli, Lenz Klotz and others.

Two outstanding Swiss artists of European scale are representing modern figurative painting: Alberto Giacometti, the world-famous sculptor who has died recently and was also one of the most sensitive painters of our time, and the Zurich painter Varlin, well known as master of expressive portraits and scenes of contemporary life.

This rich abundance of painting has appeared in towns large and small all over Switzerland, in carefully organised exhibitions. Also, commissions and purchases by the Cantons, the municipalities and large private concerns are giving artists a chance to establish themselves. It should be pointed out that, in the case of the commissions and purchases for public buildings and especially for schools, the authorities proceed in a spirit of open-mindedness, which gives every type of serious artistic expression a chance to unfold and to make its appeal to the public at large.

(Pro Helvetia Foundation.)

IT HAPPENED IN THE CANTONS OF VAUD AND TICINO

VAUD

The Vaudois Council of State elected Councillor Edourad Debétaz as its President for 1966. The budget for the present year estimates a deficit of 6.8 million francs, revenue being estimated at nearly 441 mio. Road construction was a heavy burden last year, and in November, an additional credit of 15.3 mio was asked for. A fortnight later, the Cantonal Parliament granted another 22.8 million francs for the same purpose. The figure for road accidents in the Canton in 1965 meant that every 76 minutes there was an accident, every 2h.19m. somebody was injured, and every 61½ h. someone was killed.

Building projects for which the State is responsible, include renovating the laboratory for anorganic chemistry at Lausanne University, enlarging the testing station of the Technical Institute and rebuilding the prison of Vennes. The new nursing and midwifery training centre, a twelve-storey block, is now in operation.

In November, the first forty-five students were able to move into the new students' home in Bellerive, the Canton having made available the administration building of the EXPO. Alfred Corbaz is the new chief of the cantonal office for vocational training, and the new Director of the Vaudois Technical College at Yverdon is the engineer Georges Thalmann. The Church Synod has decided to create a theological seminary for future Ministers of the Church.

In December, a "Centre Dramatique Romand" was founded, aiming at stimulating drama and opera.

The Vaudois wine of 1965 is apparently about the same as that of 1963 as far as quality is concerned; the harvest of 29 million litres is above average. The official verdict is "a pleasant light wine".

In the middle of November, the elections took place in all Vaudois Communes. Voting participation was as high as 76% in one or two places.

During the last legislative period (1962-65), a total of 270 women were members of Vaudois Commune Councils, and in the new period, the figure is slightly less.

Last June, Federal Councillor Tschudi appealed to the Swiss population for funds to restore the unique remnants of Switzerland's first capital, the old Aventicum (**Avenches**). Over 11,000 men and women contributed, as well as firms and Communes, and Fr.600,000.— have so far been collected. Of the four million francs which will be needed to secure the old town only one-fifth will still have to be collected.

The firm of Bourgeois Frères s.a. at **Balaigues** celebrated its 175th anniversary in autumn. 1,407 delegates took part in an international study conference at the **Caux** centre for Moral rearmament.

The budget for 1966 of the town of **Lausanne** estimates expenditure of well over 163 million francs and a deficit of Frs.328,000.—. The President of the new Commune Council is Marcel Corbaz (Workers' Party). The Municipal President is once more Georges-André Chevallaz. The Workers' Party shows an increase of six seats and the Socialists' of three.

The Union Bank of Switzerland took over the oldest private bank in Lausanne, Bugnion et Cie, founded in 1803. A new evening school of grammar school standard has been started with a first batch of 119 students. The Hotel School in Lausanne is being enlarged.

The International Federation of Women Lawyers assembled for their congress in Lausanne last autumn, and

barely three weeks later, the European insurance experts met for their general assembly; Federal Councillor von Moos addressed the 150 members who met for the first time in Switzerland.

At **Lucens**, the electorate accepted a proposal (Initiative) to reintroduce elections on a simple majority system. On the occasion of the centenary of the International Union of Telecommunications, a conference lasting two months was held at **Montreux**. It is the oldest technical world organisation and has 128 member States. The then Swiss Minister of Communications, Federal Councillor Spuehler, attended the congress.

Moudon was the venue for the centenary of the Vaudois Military Rifle Association. The Municipal President of **Nyon** is once again the Radical Alfred Michaud. The town now has a new drinking-water plant. The **Payerne** Municipal President, the Radical Achille Meyer has been re-elected.

La Tour-de-Peilz counted 8,200 inhabitants on 1st December, 223 more than a year previously. Of these, only 499 are citizens of the Commune. The Municipal Band of **Vevey** reached its centenary in October. At the end of November, a new cigarette factory was added to the old concern of Rinsoz et Ormond s.a. dating back to 1848. The President of **Yverdon** has been re-elected in the person of Radical André Martin. After four years without representation, the Communists have managed to get six seats. On 30th January, the electorate rejected an Initiative which was against the Commune Council's decision to cede a site to the Yverdon airport authorities free of charge. Yverdon, too, has now poison-free gas.

TICINO

In 1946, a plebiscite took place in the Canton of Ticino regarding women's suffrage. The proposal was defeated by 14,000 to 4,000 votes. In the federal plebiscite in 1959, the Ticino voters had refused to support the vote for women by 18,000 to well over 10,000. Now, an Initiative has been launched to make the constitutional changes.

The Cantonal Government has given a subsidy towards the restoration of the Villa of Loverciano in Castel San Pietro, one of the Ticino show pieces of Lombardy architecture of the seventeenth century.

The Monte Ceneri Road has been completed, and vast sums are being spent on the Maggia Valley road, where a bus service is to replace the railway.

October was the month during which the anniversary of the signing of the Locarno Pact was commemorated. With the exception of Poland and Czechoslovakia, all the signatories of the original pact attended the celebrations.

[A.T.S.]

FEDERAL SUBSIDIES

A report has recently been published on subsidies granted by the Confederation in 1964. For the first time, these surpassed the thousand million mark (1,066 mio). This is 153½ million francs more than in the previous year. Not in all sectors were increased subsidies granted. Health services showed an increase of 57.7 mio, roads 27.2 provisioning of cereals 26.8, utilisation of potatoes and fruits (*via* "Alkoholverwaltung") 19.8 and civil defence 8.8 million francs.

Science, art and culture had much the same grants, i.e. 41.2 mio, which is only 3.9% of the total as against 4.6% previously. Education and vocational training received 53.3 million francs, an increase of 7.9 mio. International organisations and assistance schemes received 7.2 million

francs more than in 1963 (35 mio), and 34.3 million francs were granted to private railways and coach services to enable them to offer the same fares as the Federal Railways. In this sum, other railway subsidies are not included. Agriculture received grants of 33 mio for ground amelioration, farming and viticulture 37.4, cattle breeding 50.3, and dairy produce utilisation 111.8 million francs.

As in previous years, about one-third went to the Cantons to be passed on, whilst about 690 million francs were paid by the Confederation direct. Out of the total sum, 368 million francs had been received from special revenue and had been earmarked for such items as agriculture, road construction and milk subsidies.

[A.T.S.]

RECENT DEATHS IN SWITZERLAND

Jean Haecy (86), Lucerne, hotel proprietor (Hotel des Balances in Lucerne, St. Petersburg in Paris, Weissenbad im Simmental) and founder of the Jean Haecy Import A.G. in Basle; appointed by the Federal Council to manage the restaurant at the World Exhibition in New York in 1939; keen horseman.

Alfred Bringolf (86), Basle, ETH building engineer; in charge of construction of the Rhine Harbour in Basle; consulted in many parts of Switzerland as expert on harbour installations.

Charles Virédaz (72), Lausanne, founder and, until 1961, President of the Vaudois Employers' Federation; specially active in social welfare institutions.

Samuel Chapuis (86), Yverdon, from 1910 to 1952 medical practitioner at Grandson and Yverdon; concerned in the fight against alcoholism; author.

Albert Kuhn (57), Berne, until 1948 secretary of the Bernese Cantonal Police; from then President of the Tribunal in Berne; Major of Military Police.

Dr. med. Ludwig Binswanger (84) Kreuzlingen, psychiatrist; head of the psychiatric clinic "Bellevue" founded by his grandfather; author of repute and holder of several honours (Universities of Basle and Freiburg i/B honorary doctorates, and Kraepelin Medal).

Dr. Carl Mutzner (81), Berne, engineer; from 1918 to 1947 Director of the Federal Office for Water Conservation.

Landammann Jakob Bruderer (75), Teufen/AR, builder and politician; member of the Commune Council and from 1943 in the Cantonal Government; from 1951 to 1955 Liberal National Councillor.

Emil Balmer (76), Berne, famous dialect author and playwright and Nestor of the Bernese dialect writers; one-time curator of the Federal Record Office; with Otto von Greyerz, he founded the "Berner Heimatschutztheater".

Madame Fébronie Lance (101), Carouge, the oldest inhabitant of the Canton of Geneva.

Mademoiselle Laure Choisy, Geneva, writer, composer and co-founder of the Geneva Puppet Theatre.

Paul Chapuis (84), St. Sulpice, teacher for 36 years; from 1937 to 1959 general agent of the welfare foundation for prisoners; Liberal Member of the Cantonal Parliament from 1938 to 1949; journalist.

Heinrich Ogg (61), Thayngen/Schaffhausen, Cantonal Judge; Social Democrat, M.P. in the Schaffhausen Parliament; Commune Councillor.

Pfr. Charles Cellérier (75), Geneva, Minister of the Parish of Eaux-Vives and subsequently at the Cathedral of St. Pierre; for 25 years Army Padre (Third Infantry Regiment); Minister in the Boy Scout movement.

[A.T.S.]