

# Federal mosaic

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although it must not be forgotten that Swiss literature as such still does not enjoy its fair share of the market.

People in Switzerland pride themselves, and rightly too, on the spectacular achievements and successes of their main industries both at home and abroad, in the fields of watchmaking, engineering, textiles, and chemical and pharmaceutical products. Much less well known however is the prestige enjoyed by other national activities, less important perhaps but just as praiseworthy, especially as they do not possess the economic and financial power of the above, or of their foreign competitors. This is true of Swiss publishing.

Although the statistical comparison of the production of several countries calls for a certain reserve, the notion of books not being interpreted everywhere in the same way, the criterion of the number of works published does make it possible to gain an idea of the importance of a country's publishing industry. In the list of the main world producers, Switzerland is quite well placed (16th) with some 5,000 titles a year, i.e. a fifth or nearly a quarter of the number published in the United States, Germany, France or Great Britain. However when its book production is calculated per million inhabitants, the country comes second immediately after Israel.

In 1939, Switzerland published 1,802, in 1948 4,692 titles. The number decreased in 1950, and ten years later, it stood at 4,899 titles. In 1965, the number was 5,202.

The Swiss are said to read a great deal. To convince oneself, one has only to think of the vast number of books of all kinds on sale in bookshops or bookstalls. The great majority of these being of foreign origin, no one will be surprised at the size of book imports into Switzerland, which totalled a value of 81 million francs in 1964 (+7% compared with 1963). What is extraordinary, however, is to see how closely balanced are purchases and sales abroad, since the value of Swiss literature exported in 1964 amounted to nearly 67 million francs (+20% compared with 1963). From this point of view, the fact that sales of Swiss books in French-speaking countries (France and Belgium in particular) are only slightly less than purchases made in the same countries, gives to a certain extent an interesting idea of the contribution French-speaking Swiss publishers make to Swiss publishing as a whole. Publishing in German, which is on a far bigger scale, compares very favourably with competition from Germany and Austria, but it is only natural that Switzerland is a very big buyer of the book production of these two countries.

The Swiss book trade is distinguished in fact by very great specialization; it has gone in for a type of publishing corresponding to the particular nature of the country and has acquired in very special fields, such as art, science, religion, philosophy, history, law and economy to quote but the main ones, a reputation which is by no means exaggerated.

(*"Swiss Industry and Trade"*.)

## MILITARY APPOINTMENTS

Corps Commander Col. Jakob Annasohn retired at the end of the year, as did Corps Commander Col. Ernst Uhlmann (Army Corps IV), Divisional Commander Col. Max Waibel (*Waffenchef* of Infantry). Col. Uhlmann's successor is Divisional Commander Adolf Hanslin from Diessenhofen. The new Infantry Chief is Col. of General Staff Hans Roost, from Beringen (Schaffhausen). Col. Hans Wildbolz from Berne, has been promoted to Divisional Commander.

Brigadier Laurenz Zollikofer from St. Gall has been appointed Commander of *Felddivision VI*.

The new *Oberkriegskommissar* is Col. Hans Messmer, now Brigadier, from Thal (St. Gall).

[A.T.S.]

## FEDERAL MOSAIC

There used to be a time in Switzerland's governmental history when Federal Councillors hardly travelled while in office. Not so of late. There have been several important meetings outside Switzerland, at which the Confederation was represented by members of the Government. Federal Councillor Tschudi led the delegation to the Fourteenth General Conference of UNESCO in Paris. Federal Councillor Spuehler attended the meeting of EFTA Council in Lisbon at the end of October. A month later the Swiss delegation to the European Organisation for the Development of Trade (OECD) in Paris, was led by the then Federal President Schaffner who addressed the meeting on the policy of aid to developing countries.

Federal Councillor Gnaegi chaired the 24th meeting of European Ministers of Transport in Paris at the end of November. Early in December, Federal Councillors Schaffner and Spuehler led the Swiss EFTA delegation to a meeting in London. A few days later, *Bundesrat* Spuehler travelled to Paris to represent Switzerland on the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. (Hardly back, he flew to Bangkok where he and his family spent a few days on an entirely private visit).

Federal Councillor von Moos went to Strasbourg on 25th January, in order to take part in a meeting on juridical questions.

Federal Councillor Schaffner will be the official representative of the Confederation at the World Fair in Montreal this summer.

Just before Christmas, the former Federal Councillor Dr. h.c. Philipp Etter celebrated his 75th birthday.

The Federal Council was invited to the traditional reception given by the Diplomatic Corps in Berne at the end of November. On 10th January, the Government received heads of diplomatic missions or their representatives accredited in Berne, for the usual ceremonious *Neujahrsempfang* at the "Federal Palace".

The spring session of Parliament will begin on 27th February. Thirty-six meetings of Parliamentary Commissions are taking place between the beginning of the year and the day of opening.

The General Elections for the National Council (Parliament) will take place on 29th October; the 200 members will be chosen for four years.

Last year, the Confederation received two unusual gifts:

In order to replace the carpets covering the stairs and corridors of the Federal Palace, the Swiss Association of the Wool Textile Industry offered the Confederation about 5,500 sq. ft. of carpeting, i.e. sufficient to cover stairs and corridors as well as to unroll on the pavement outside for the official visits of foreign sovereigns or heads of State.

The Florentine art collector Ugo Bordini bequeathed his considerable estate to Switzerland. A cultural centre will be created in Florence.

The federal civil servants have demanded a minimum annual holiday of three weeks.

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