

Special events

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

Objekttyp: **Article**

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

Band (Jahr): **- (1969)**

Heft 1563

PDF erstellt am: **29.04.2024**

Persistenter Link: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-688286>

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SPECIAL EVENTS

There is no end to local, regional, cantonal and federal events which take place in Switzerland, quite apart from regular and special international meetings for which helvetic soil has always been a popular venue. It is obviously quite impossible to enumerate them all, and the choice, as usual, has to be curtailed drastically. There were political Party congresses, manoeuvres by the Army, a demonstration by "Mirage" fighter pilots at Payerne, exhibitions (of special interest is the touring art show "from Toepffer to Hodler"), a youth book exhibition in Zurich, at which 900 new books for young people were shown, the opening of the first church music library in Switzerland in Lucerne, the Johanna Spyri Foundation's exhibition in Zurich, an art exhibition in Basle by Swiss women painters and sculptors, and a Pestalozzi birthday celebration (12th January 1746) in Zurich.

There were three jubilees: the oldest Ski Club in Switzerland, Glarus, celebrated its 75th anniversary; the "Gemeindestuben" movement its golden jubilee; and the National UNESCO Commission its 20th anniversary when Federal Councillor Tschudi addressed the 60 members at Murten. Federal Councillor Celio gave an outstanding address at the "Rencontres Suisses", founded in 1945 and whose aim is the study of the most important problems Switzerland faces. His speech was a masterpiece of presenting idea and reality and of sketching the Switzerland of the year 2000: ten million inhabitants, an increase in the Latin element of the people and a strengthening of the R.C. faith, the danger of gigantic, ever-present bureaucratic State machinery. He also said that during the next 30 years, it would be a race trying to catch up with, organise and develop the inevitable rapid growth in every field.

The Swiss Europa Union met in Basle in November to launch a petition that Switzerland should join the United Nations, and similar problems were discussed in Lausanne. There were historic events, such as the Morgarten Battle Commemoration Day and the "Ruetlischiessen" at which over 1,000 marksmen met for the 106th time. At the "Ustertag" Celebration, National Councillor P. Duerrenmatt spoke to 500 people on the theme of Switzerland's wish for national self-determination and existence which, he said, was a bold venture well worth while. The difficulty was to find the way of the possible between self-determination and solidarity with the world. The Foundation for Federal Co-operation met in Solothurn, and the 25 representatives of the Cantons and 15 of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique agreed that the good relations with the Cantons, which existed after the first year of activities had to be extended and consolidated.

Amongst international meetings, one could mention a symposium at Zermatt at which 350 experts on rheumatism were present. In Geneva, medical men, mainly American and Russian, met to discuss space medicine. The second World Fair of Photography was held in Basle and Zurich with "Woman" as the theme. 80 people attended the third international avalanche safety course; 250 competitors took part in the Chess Olympiad in Lugano; there was a congress of former prisoners of war and one of the Road Transport Union, both in Geneva; and in Basle met the voluntary services organisation.

Amongst the rather unusual events was the *Scheinfirmenkongress* in Aarau; a training course for police divers; a congress of biosteticians (biological hair and skin

care experts) the Pop, Rhythm and Blues Festival in Zurich, air hostesses' meeting in Geneva and, perhaps the rarest event of all, an *Ehrenkomtur* Ceremony in the Baroque Church of Rheinau where Archbishop Dr. Bruno Heim (Solothurn) presented the Jerusalem Cross to Friedrich Schertenleib, Zurich, for his great merits on behalf of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre. So far, only two Honorary Knights had been created in Switzerland, Minister Feisst and ETH Professor Dr. A. Knoepfli.

(Compiled from news received by courtesy of A.T.S. and "Basler Nachrichten".)

RECENT APPOINTMENTS

The Consul-General in New York, Dr. H. Lacher, has been appointed Ambassador to the Federal German Republic in succession to Ambassador M. Troendle who will be the Swiss Commissioner-General for the World Exhibition 1970 in Osaka, Japan. The present *Chargé d'Affaires* in Tanzania, Monsieur M. Luy, is the new leader of the Swiss delegation in Berlin, in succession to Dr. Max Corti who will be Ambassador to New Zealand. The Delegate of the Federal Council with OECD in Paris, Ambassador C. Caillat, has been appointed Ambassador to the Netherlands.

Dr. J. J. Senglet, Geneva, is the new Director of the Federal Statistical Office, Prof. M. Imboden, Basle, has been appointed President of the Swiss Science Council, and National Councillor G. A. Chevallaz (Mayor of Lausanne) President of the Swiss UNESCO Commission. Minister Barbey has been confirmed as member of the Executive Council of UNESCO. The new Chief of the PTT Press Service is Mr. Hans Laue, journalist. Another journalist has been appointed President of the Federal Commission for Technical Co-operation: Dr. W. Stutzer, Zurich. As from 15th February, Dr. iur. Walter Stamm, Thayngen will be the new Director of the Federal Office for Intellectual Properties.

The future President of the International Red Cross Committee will be lic.phil. Marcel A. Naville, Geneva, in succession of Mr. Samuel A. Gonard. SBB Press Chief William Wenger, has been elected Chief of the Information Centre of the European Railways (Paris). The Chairman of the International Drug Commission which met in Geneva in January, was Dr. pharm. J. P. Bertschinger, Berne.

The new President of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique is Mr. Jean-Claude Nicole, Geneva ("La Suisse") in succession to Mr. Oskar Reck ("Thurgauer Zeitung"). The Chief of the Women's Voluntary Military Service, *Chef FHD* Andrée Weitzel, has been elected President of the Berne Group of the NHG.

The Swiss Dairy Fair OLMA has a new Director in *Schiffahrtsdirektor* R. Osterwalder, Stettfurt, Thurgau, in succession to Dr. B. Meyer. Albert Wettstein, Zurich, is the new head of the "Schweizer Heimatwerk".

The first journalist from Central Switzerland to be elected to the post of the Swiss Journalists' Association since 1928 is Editor Robert Zingg ("Luzerner Neueste Nachrichten"). The International Centre of the Swiss Watch Industry in Lausanne has chosen Mr. Pierre Bellmann as its new Director-General.

(A.T.S.)