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Main Events – a Selection

Von oben. Spelterinis Ballon und die Drohne

28.2.–28.6.2019

Eduard Schweizer (1852–1931) undertook some 570 balloon flights in Europe, Africa and the Middle East under the pseudonym Eduard Spelterini. They made him one of the world's most famous aviation pioneers.

The exhibition took Spelterini's photographs from the National Library's Department of Prints and Drawings as the starting point for a history of aerial photography in Switzerland. Originated by enterprising pioneers in the century before last, the medium has now been opened up to anyone with the advent of drones. Historical images, a virtual-reality balloon flight, photographs taken from aeroplanes and satellites as well as drone images enabled visitors to see the world from a different perspective.



Image-recording technologies
past and present

Museum Night. From above

22.3.2019

The theme of Museum Night 2019 was ascents and descents. Right on time and in wonderful spring weather, *luminéoles* – fantastic birds filled with light – drifted across Bundesplatz on their graceful wings. The air was filled with the sound of auto engines as 90 classic cars rumbled through the streets of the old town, while coaches drawn by two horses trundled through the park of the city's History Museum. The Swiss National Library staged a spectacular drone show.

“Lieb mich von allen Sünden rein”

24.4.2019

A century ago, the writer Emmy Hennings spent almost two years living in Bern. While the city was only her temporary home, this period nevertheless marked a turning point in her life. Her artistic work still has great appeal today. A soirée celebrated the literary oeuvre of Emmy Hennings and placed it in the context of modern-day trends in literature. Heidi Maria Glössner, the “grande dame” of Swiss theatre and film, read from Hennings' poems and prose. The author Ariane von Graffenried, who received the Canton of Bern Prize for Literature for her most recent book “Babylon Park” (2017), presented some texts and talked about her relationship to Emmy Hennings.



View of the exhibition gallery
from above

Swiss Reading-Aloud Day

22.5.2019

Swiss Reading-Aloud Day is an annual event across the nation that highlights the importance of reading aloud and the ways in which it inspires and brings communities together. To mark the event, the NL invited Noelia Berberat (@noeliavid) to read from J. K. Rowling's “Harry Potter” novels. The Instagrammer, who is known for her self-irony and quirky humour, attributes her vivid imagination and sensibility to her mother who, every evening, would read to her from children's books in Italian or make up her own stories before her daughter went to sleep. Noelia wants every child to grow up with good stories.



The drone kept the exhibition
in view the whole time



Late-night museum visitors at the entrance to the National Library

Panel discussion on aerial images and democracy

20.6.2019

Since the turn of the millennium, photos and films taken using drones have not only been documenting wars but have also found their way into holiday albums and Instagram accounts around the world. They enable people to take spectacular images with little effort and prior knowledge, opening up entirely new perspectives in the process. But what does this democratisation of aerial imagery mean for our society? Where are drone images taken in Switzerland? How are they used? Who profits from them? Who needs to protect themselves, and what is the potential of these pilotless flying objects?

The panel discussion brought together Markus Höpfinger (Research Director, armasuisse), Max Jablonowski (Department of Social Anthropology, University of Zurich), Francisco Klauser (Director of the Institute of Geography, University of Neuchâtel) and Ina Neddermeyer (Head of the Art Department, Zeppelin Museum). It was moderated by Eliane Leiser of SRF 4 News.



Children had the chance to release balloons on Museum Night

“Ediziuns e reediziuns grischunas – problems e propostas”

30.–31.8.2019

At a conference organised at the University of Fribourg by Matthias Grünert and Renzo Caduff from the University’s Romansh studies programme in association with Annetta Ganzoni from the Swiss Literary Archives, speakers from three generations discussed current publishing projects involving texts from Graubünden. The lively and constructive exchange dealt with publications of historical manuscripts and books, as well as new editions of poetry and prose from the 19th and 20th centuries. Author and linguist Dumenic Andry offered his own satirical take on the topic.

Wikimedia CH invited to the National Sound Archives

25.–27.10.2019

The biggest event held at the Swiss National Sound Archives in 2019 was “GLAM on Tour” (25–27 October). To mark UNESCO World Day for Audiovisual Heritage on 27 October, the Archives issued an invitation to Wikimedia CH. Over three days of total immersion, the “Wikimedians” were given an introduction to the history of recording technology and an insight into the countless audio documents held by the Archives, which are an invaluable record of our cultural identity. This was an intensive and exciting weekend during which the Wikimedia members learnt about the cultural heritage in audio form preserved by the Archives through presentations, guided tours and guest lectures.



Bettina Gugger reading from “Ministerium der Liebe” in the National Library Director’s office

“Zur Aktualität von Spittlers Texten. Komparatistische Perspektiven. Quelle actualité pour Spitteler? Perspectives comparatives”

31.10/1.11.2019

To mark 100 years since Carl Spitteler was awarded the Nobel Prize, Thomas Hunkeler, Professor of Comparative Literature at the University of Fribourg, and Stefanie Leuenberger, head of the Spitteler anniversary programme project, offered a new reading of Spitteler's texts. The event formed part of the annual conference of the Swiss Society for General and Comparative Literary Studies (SGAVL). Bern-based author Beat Sterchi also presented his readings of Spitteler.

“Briefe im Netzwerk / Lettres dans la toile”

7.–8.11.2019

This international colloquium in German and French analysed and presented correspondence networks and literary archives of the 20th century. The lectures focused on theoretical and methodological issues of network research as well as the correspondence of Blaise Cendrars, Jean Paulhan, Marcel Proust, Gustave Roud, the Geneva School, Heinrich Mann, Hugo von Hofmannsthal, Rainer Maria Rilke and Siegfried Unseld. It was accompanied by a reading and a performance from the private correspondence of Le Corbusier.

“Jean Starobinski et Georges Poulet”

26.11.2019

Moderation and presentation: Stéphanie Cudré-Mauroux and Marta Sábado Novau. The 2019 meeting of the Cercle d'études Jean Starobinski took place in Belgium at the Université catholique de Louvain on 26 November. Its topic was “Jean Starobinski and Georges Poulet: a critical friendship”, and it featured talks by Bruno Clément, Stéphanie Cudré-Mauroux, Marta Sábado Novau, Pierre Schoentjes and Julien Zanetta. It was a collaboration between the Cercle d'études internationales Jean Starobinski (ALS) and the Institut des Civilisations, Arts et Lettres, Université catholique de Louvain.

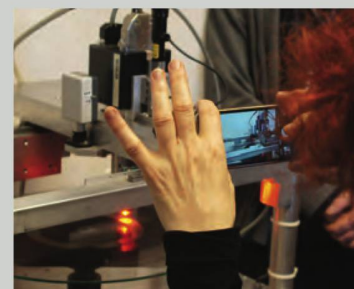
Paul Nizon at the NL

4.12.2019

The writer Paul Nizon celebrated his 90th birthday on 19 December 2019. To mark the occasion, Quarto devoted its 47th issue to his fascinating life and extensive oeuvre. It also presented his archive, which was delivered to the SLA in a number of consignments and has now been catalogued in a detailed online directory. In an event that Paul Nizon himself attended and took part in, Reto Sorg, Silvia Henke and Pino Dietiker honoured his life and work. It was accompanied by the vernissage of the Quarto issue.



Instagrammer Noelia Berberat reading from Harry Potter



GLAM on Tour. Wikimedia visits the National Sound Archives (photo: Miriam Bolliger Cavaglieri)



Beat Sterchi reading at the Spitteler evening