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Liechtenstein is for the Swiss not just like any other country. The two states have relations which are far closer than is common even between good neighbours. In that way Switzerland represents Liechtenstein abroad. In Liechtenstein one uses the Swiss currency and the Swiss Post Office is in charge of the postal system. Finally the Swiss customs border includes Liechtenstein. The close cooperation between the two countries is justification enough for an exhaustive article on Liechtenstein in this magazine.

Any description of Liechtenstein must begin at the outset with a reference to its diminutive size: its population of 26,000 today lives on an area of 160 square kilometres or 61 square miles. And yet this country and its people claim to be a sovereign state.

Models are essential for any major enterprise. For all his uncommon powers of imagination, Michelangelo needed models of clay or wax for direct carving of the marble. Draft systems, whatever their nature, should be diligently compared with models, which enable the eye, and hence the mind and the judgment, to obtain a synoptic picture. Thus it is that sages, philo-

sophers and poets have praised the virtues of the small state. It was Lao-Tse who said:

«Let the country be small, the people few, let it have officials for ten and a hundred people and never use them.»

And Lao-Tse, an official in the great empire of the Chou dynasty, continued:

«Neighbouring countries should be viewed one against the other, the voices of cocks and dogs should be heard one against the other.»

These insights of the oriental sage are closely reflected in the basic structure of the Greek city-state, the polis. The Greek despised ostentation, pomp and circumstance; he valued measure, canon and harmony more. In his «Politics» (politeia) Aristotle writes: «that it is difficult if not impossible to administer a too populous state with good laws. At all events we do not see among those states that are accounted good any single one that strives for an excessively large population.» Aristotle continues: «But to form a true judgment and to be able to give offices to those most worthy of them the citizens must know each other for their qualities.» Basic to Aristotle's political philosophy is the statement. «We see that every state is a community and that every community exists for the sake of an aim. For all creatures

The 60th Conference of the Swiss Abroad will take place in Siders in Canton Valais on August 20–22, 1982, and is dedicated to Swiss women abroad. You will find the application form in one of our next issues.

Dr. Georg Malin

Dr. Georg Malin was born in 1926 in the principality of Liechtenstein. He studied history and art history at the universities of Fribourg and Zurich. He is the author of important historical works on Liechtenstein, for instance reports on archeological excavations, an art guide and a record of historical documents. In addition to scientific work, Mr. Malin works as a sculptor. He has created several sculptures for public and religious buildings. They can be seen in some cities and collections. Exhibitions in Europe and South America have made him known far beyond the boundaries of the principality. As a graphic artist Mr. Malin has created some fifty of the well known stamps of Liechtenstein. Georg Malin is a resident of Mauren.