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Otherwise it would have included the necessary provisos in the agreements, as has been done in other connections and also in the agreement on social insurance concluded with Norway in 1979. In 1979, therefore, when the agreement with Norway was con-

cluded, the Federal Office had noticed that the clause on equal treatment might have undesirable results, as long as the old interpretation of the law regarding the wives of compulsorily insured Swiss citizens abroad prevailed. The Insurance Tribunal on its part

had not yet made the change in the legal interpretation. The wives of Swiss abroad, therefore, have to suffer for mistakes which the Federal Office for Social Insurance made when preparing the interstate agreements on social insurance.

New History of Switzerland – and the Swiss

A bold realization at federal level.

Since details and associations of daily life were often not known, history was compiled and taught according to dates of battles, important diplomatic events, big catastrophes and revolutions. Nowadays, one is far more sensitive to what happens in economic, social and cultural life.

In the «New History of Switzerland – and the Swiss», the above-mentioned aspects have been reconciled, which makes this collective work the helvetic literary event of the year. This all the more, as it is the first time that a Swiss history book is published at the same time in German, French and Italian. Thus all regional patriotic bias has been avoided, although the eleven authors did not always have an easy passage to present certain difficulties in the territorial development of Switzerland in the course of the centuries, for, as an example, history is not seen the same way by the Bernese as by the Vaudois.

Ten historians, Georges Andrey, François de Capitani, Pierre Ducrey, Peter Gilg, Peter Habluetzel, Hans-Ulrich Jost, Martin Koerner, Ulrich im Hof, Guy Marchal, Nicolas Morand and Roland Ruffieux worked according to directives under the patronage of a learned committee chaired by Jean-Claude Favez, Professor of History at Geneva University. The complete work comprises



three volumes, each of approximately 350 pages.

The first volume takes us from the old civilizations to the beginnings of our independence and to the zenith of the warrior nation (from prehistoric history to the beginning of the 16th century). The second volume shows the structural development of Switzerland, reforms and growth, the end of the Ancien Régime and the creation of the Federal State (1515–1848).

The third volume is devoted to modern history and Swiss contemporary life (1848 to today).

«We preferred this formula to a thematic analysis», declared Jean-Claude Favez. «We have put the diplomatic, economic and cultural aspects in the foreground

and Switzerland in the centre of her place within Europe. It is not only the history of an elite strata of Society, but also of the people and the masses who may not necessarily have left archives to posterity.»

In addition emphasis has been put on the illustrated part in order to express the federal diversity. The presentation of this living diversity was possible because authors of the German, French and Italian language groups cooperated in creating this work.

The first volume was published in November 1982, the second one in February 1983, and the third will appear early in April.

The total work comprises more than 1000 pages, 550 illustrations, tables and maps.

The Swiss living abroad will be able to purchase the work at a preferential price until 30th April 1983 – Fr. 129.– (price per volume Fr. 43.– instead of Fr. 50.–).

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