

Zeitschrift: Swiss review : the magazine for the Swiss abroad
Herausgeber: Organisation of the Swiss Abroad
Band: 16 (1989)
Heft: 4

Rubrik: Mosaic

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Theme Number one – the Army

The summer and autumn of this year have been dominated by discussions about the Swiss Army. First and foremost in the news were the various events scheduled to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the mobilisation at the start of World War II, and the campaign that went on for months in advance of the poll for the popular initiative "For a Switzerland without an Army" taking place on November 26, 1989.

Between August and October, more than 140,000 veterans of their active service during the war years took part in the commemoration programme (which was given the title "Diamant" – an allusion to a work by the poet Gottfried Keller, extolling the "diamond-hard" courage of the Swiss). A special exhibition was arranged in Berne on the theme of "Switzerland 1939–1945", and a mobile expo on the same theme was shown to the public in more than 60 towns, giving historical and military information about the years of World War II. Behind the colourful façades of the mobile "buildings" of the travelling expo, a fascinating collection of pictures, video films and documents gave a survey of this important period in the history of Switzerland.

In addition, one branch of the armed services has been able to

celebrate the 75th anniversary of its foundation. It was on August 1, 1914, that the Swiss Flying Corps was inaugurated, at the former airfield of Beundenfeld near Berne.

Because of the numerous military ceremonies and other events arranged in the "Diamant" programme not very long in advance of the national poll on the issue "Switzerland without an Army", the responsible officials in the Federal Military Department were criticised in some quarters for having conducted "a propaganda campaign costing millions in favour of the army" in connection with the voting.

In the light of the highly-charged emotional atmosphere in this context, it is not surprising that the literary "best-seller" of the summer was devoted to this military theme. It was a book by Max Frisch with the title



Memories of 1939: mobile buildings of the "Diamant" travelling exhibition. (Photo: Diamant)

"Schweiz ohne Armee? Ein Palaver" ("Switzerland without an Army? Just hot air!"). The famous author lets young Jonas discuss the issue with his grandfather: a slim volume, subtly worded and although serious – a pleasure to read. Both pro-Army supporters and their op-

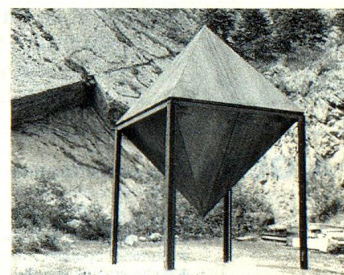
ponents should not miss it, even after the famous vote has taken place. JM

Max Frisch. "Schweiz ohne Armee? Ein Palaver". Publisher: Limmat Verlag, Zurich 1989. Price SFr. 14.-. To be ordered from the Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad, Alpenstrasse 26, 3000 Berne 16. (Mailing free of charge)

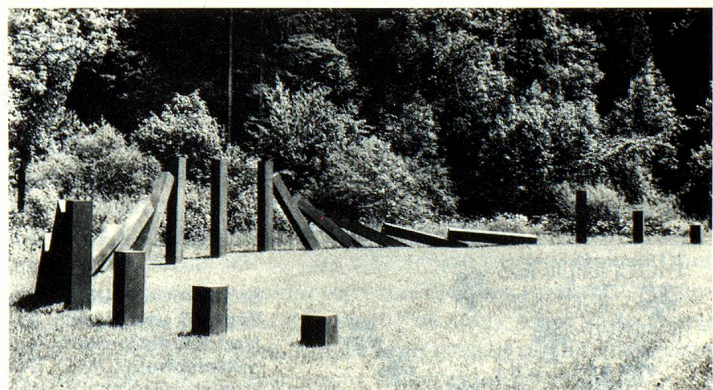
"Môtiers 89"

The small secluded village of Môtiers, which lies in the Val-de-Travers between Neuchâtel and Pontarlier behind the peaks of the Jura mountains, embarked on a bold venture yet again when it staged an Exhibition of Swiss Sculpture for the second time during the summer months of this year. With some fifty artists displaying their work, the event enabled the visitor to become better acquainted with

contemporary sculpture in rural surroundings.

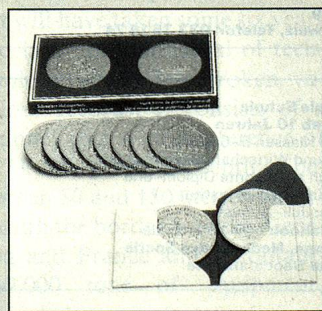


"Oktaeder" by Jürg Altherer. (Photo: François Charrière)



Memories of a 'sun shrine': "The winds with wonder whist" made from Corten steel by Gillian White. (Photo: Jean-Marc Breuget)

Telegrams



■ The proceeds from this year's sale of chocolate coins (our photo) in aid of the conservation and protection of Switzerland (Natur- und Heimatschutz) will go towards

the preservation of the historical appearance of Trogen (Appenzell-Ausser rhoden). Telephone No. for orders: (01) 47 27 27.

■ Between 1980 and 1988, a total of 91 instances of espionage were unearthed in Switzerland, 65 of which involved Eastern bloc countries. The aim of the espionage was, in the majority of cases, to obtain Western high technology secrets.

■ It is now illegal to import ivory into Switzerland. An embargo aimed at protecting the African elephant from extinction was introduced in the middle of this year.

Compatrioti italofoni: novità Radiofonica

Dall'ottobre 1989 Radio Svizzera Internazionale trasmette una nuova rubrica mensile di circa 8-10 minuti, dedicata agli Svizzeri all'estero. La nuova trasmissione, in onda il primo sabato di ogni mese in coda al giornale parlato, fornirà le ultime

informazioni di servizio e cercherà di approfondire argomenti che interessano gli Svizzeri all'estero. Nell'ambito della rubrica, dal titolo significativo di "Quinta Svizzera" verrà pure dato spazio a ritratti di cittadini svizzeri all'estero. E non mancherà nemmeno l'angolo dedicato alla corrispondenza. Per chi volesse scrivere l'indirizzo è il seguente: Radio Svizzera Internazionale, programmi in lingua italiana, 3000 Berna 15, Svizzera. A questo indirizzo è pure possi-

bile richiedere l'opuscolo gratuito con gli orari di diffusione e le frequenze dei programmi di Radio Svizzera Internazionale.

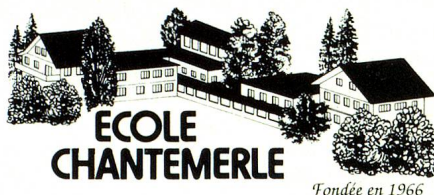
A Cheese Dairy as a "Show Place"

On the gentle slopes leading down to the lakes of Lowerz and Lucerne, the beautiful Schwyz region has been enriched by a new attraction. Close to the railway station at Seewen,

a demonstration cheese dairy called "Schwyzerland" opened its doors on August 1. The cheese dairy is open to the public from Tuesday to Sunday, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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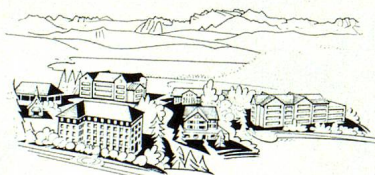
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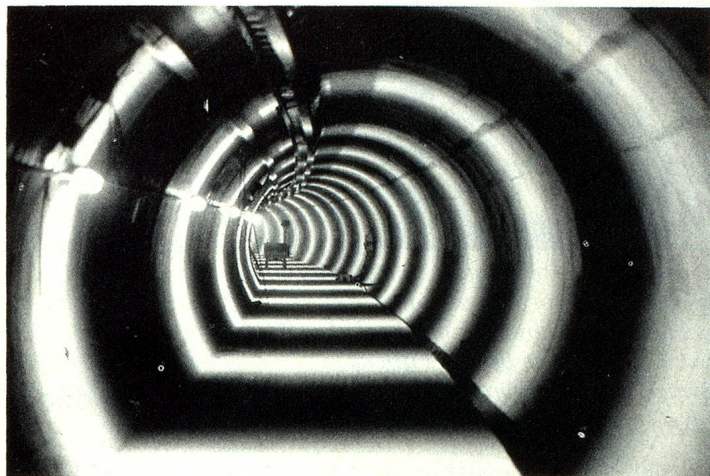
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CERN

"Cathedral" for Physicists



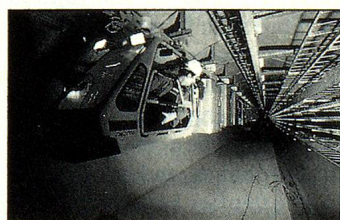
For the LEP accelerator installation, a 27 kilometre long "ring" tunnel is being built. The tunnel is to be 3.8 metres in diameter. (Photo: Cern)

For physicists the world over, 1989 will go down as a year to remember, the year in which the LEP (Large Electron/Positron Collider) was inaugurated at CERN (the European Centre for Nuclear Research), near to Geneva. This enormous collider of electrons and positrons is, in the words of the people who built it, the largest instrument ever constructed by man. It is an extraordinarily large apparatus designed to detect infinitesimally small quantities at the heart of matter. It remains to be seen, however, exactly how much progress can be achieved with the new equipment.

It will have taken some six years to build this cathedral of technology which has broken various records. It consists of a tunnel with a circumference of 27 km dug out at a depth of between 50 and 150 metres underneath the border between Geneva and France and it contains 60,000 tons of equipment, which is equivalent to 6 times the weight of the Eiffel Tower. The whole project has cost a total of 500 million dollars.

The purpose of this scientific masterpiece is to rotate electrons and positrons in an inverse direction at a speed close to the

speed of light. It should then be possible to study the nature and behaviour of the new elementary particles which result from these collisions. This would then make it easier to understand better and therefore explain better the nature of the forces which rule the Universe. The Director of CERN, Carlo Rubbia, stressed as well that the perfecting of the LEP heralded the start of a new era for the Centre, an era in which they would be working together with industry for the first time. Much smaller particle accelerators than this one are starting to be used more and more in medicine or in industry. These aspects alone justify the importance of the investment, not to mention the future of purely theoretical research. *ms*



Partial view of the LEP tunnel with a monorail for transport of persons and material. (Photo: Cern)

Death of a Pioneer

With the death of Swiss painter Hans Hinterreiter at the age of 87, on the island of Ibiza, where he had made his home, Swiss painting has lost one of its pioneers. A representative of the "constructive-concrete" school, he was a member of the "Allianz" artists' association founded in 1937. Last year, the Salomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York honoured him with an exhibition of his works. His paintings can be seen in many important museums and collections in Europe and the USA.

New Book

Traditional Bernese Costumes – a Superlative Book

This newly published book magnificently produced provides a survey of the traditional dress of the Berne district and will delight the hearts of the most demanding bibliophiles. The illustrations – based on photographs by the Berne photographer Fernand Rausser – are in themselves works of art. They are not limited to static posed pictures – they are rather

a tasteful and highly skilled assortment of detailed close-ups and larger-scale idyllic pictures, full of atmosphere, illustrating folk festivals and picturesque processions. The texts accompanying them – in both French and German – have been kept admirably brief though informative, and have been clearly subordinated to the visual appeal of the all-colour illustrations. *JM*

"Unsere Berner Trachten – Nos costumes bernois". Publishers: Bernische Vereinigung für Tracht und Heimat 1989 – Association bernoise pour les costumes et les coutumes 1989. (German and French). Price: SFr. 67.– Can be ordered from the Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad, Alpenstrasse 26, 3000 Berne 16. (Mailing free of charge)



Holidays in Switzerland

Also for your Children?

The Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad, in collaboration with Pro Juventute are in 1990 once again offering summer holidays in Switzerland for children of Swiss Abroad.

When? June 25 to August 24, 1990, for periods of three weeks at a time.

Where? ● With a Swiss family ● In a holiday camp organised by us (minimum age: ten years) ● In a Swiss Children's Home.

Who? Children of Swiss nationality, or whose mothers were born in Switzerland. Ages: 7–15 years.

Cost? Contribution to cost depending on the financial resources of the applicant.

Last date for registration: End of March 1990.

Registration forms and further information can be obtained from Swiss diplomatic or consular representations or from the "Ferienwerk für Auslandschweizerkinder" ("Holiday Agency for Young Swiss Abroad") in Zurich. Applications must be submitted through the relevant Swiss representations in the respective countries.

Address: Ferienwerk für Auslandschweizerkinder, P.O. Box, CH-8022 Zurich, telephone: (01) 251 56 04.

The Place of the Swiss Abroad

Events planned for 1991

A number of the activities which are due to take place around the "Place of the Swiss Abroad" in 1991 are already known, the high-point being a reception for the Federal Council (Swiss government) on 1st August 1991.

On 4th May 1991, the "Place of the Swiss Abroad" and the "Swiss Path" around the Lake of Uri will be opened ceremonially. As the Day for the Young will be taking place on 30th and 31st July, and as Swiss youngsters from abroad will be taking part as well, the Place will also be used in some form or other for these festivities. The highlight of the celebrations will, however, take place on 1st Au-

gust when all the members of the Federal Council will be welcomed by a delegation of Swiss abroad on their peninsula in the Bay of Brunnen. The honoured guests will arrive by boat from Lucerne and then proceed to the Rütli once the reception is over. The "Place of the Swiss Abroad" will also have its part to play in the people's festival on 2nd and 4th August. Another date to note in our diaries is the weekend of 30th August to 1st September 1991 when the Congress of the Swiss Abroad will be held. This Congress will commemorate not only the 700th birthday of the Confederation, but also the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad. In addition to these events, the youth camp organ-

The collection will continue until 1st January 1991. Donations should be paid into the following account: Kantonalbank Schwyz CH-6430 Schwyz Account No. 203982-1951 Foundation for the "Place of the Swiss Abroad"



Even at such an early stage, this plaque written in all four national languages shows visitors the work carried out by the Fifth Switzerland to celebrate the anniversary.

ised by the Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad will also be held in the area of Brunnen/Schwyz in the summer of 1991.

The prize-winner designs from the architecture contest to develop the "Place of the Swiss Abroad" will be on display as well at the "Place" throughout the summer of 1991. (Details of this competition were announced in edition 3/89 of "Swiss Review"). ASS

make up 40% of the key-words and headings. The version in German should be ready for publication in 1991, the French and Italian editions will take somewhat longer. The work will be published by the newly-established "Schweizer Lexikon Verlag" and will cost about 1,300 francs in the bookshops. – The contributors number more than 1,200, and include the Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad, which has provided the key-words for matters concerning the "Fifth Switzerland". JM

Celebrating abroad

The Swiss Confederation's 700th birthday in 1991 will be celebrated outside of Switzerland as well. The Federal Council has granted 10 million Swiss francs for various projects which are intended to emphasize the image of Switzerland in the world. A co-ordinating Committee for Switzerland's presence abroad (Coco) has been set up to work out a suitable programme which will feature projects specially conceived for the 700-year-celebration. These projects will be carried out in as many countries as possible and will include the strengthening of contacts and information in the area of the mass media, the making of a film about Switzerland – this task will be assigned to well-known Swiss film-makers – and an exhibition about federalism.

A visit to Switzerland in 1991

A proposal of big interest

In the last issue of "Swiss Review" we referred to a project by the Swiss Federation of Women's Associations for arranging stays by expatriate Swiss with Swiss families in Jubilee year 1991. The announcement has already attracted interest not only outside Switzerland but here in the "home" territory too.

At an initial meeting of a working party of the participating Women's Associations, various details of the project were settled. Thus in order to ensure the optimum coordination between "supply" and "demand" it was decided to stage it for the period between mid-March 1991 and mid-September 1991. The stay with the individual "host" family will be for not more than eight nights, and will in principle be free for the overnight stays and include simple meals. In addition, the visiting Swiss from abroad will – if they wish – be

able to visit also several families in various regions of Switzerland. Furthermore, it is hoped to arrange for individual host families in the same locality to "team up" together, so as to facilitate participation by families with several children in the project. The cost of travel to the locality of the host family and for any excursions will however be borne by the visitors. Needless to say, the participating Women's Associations hope that the families and individuals who are put in touch with one another will establish contact

between "guests" and "hosts" well in advance of the date for the visit, for which reason it is also hoped that applications will be sent in already early next year.

Application forms will be included in the next issue of "Swiss Review".

A Lexicon about Switzerland

In 1991 – after an interruption of more than 40 years – an up-to-date "Swiss Lexicon" will be published, thus coinciding with the 700th anniversary celebrations. It will be a reference work in six volumes, and its objective will be to offer a comprehensive inventory of contemporary Switzerland. It will contain only some 20% of general knowledge entries, while Federal and Cantonal information will each

Film-maker seeks contact with Swiss abroad

For a film planned for the programme of the 700th anniversary celebrations, contact is desired with Swiss. If interested, please get in touch with:

Benno Maggi, Eichstrasse, Altes Stellwerk, CH-8045 Zurich, Telephone (01) 461 04 55

or
Ueli Meier, Zimmerlistrasse 12, CH-8004 Zurich, Telephone (01) 53 58 09.