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The new Kirchner Museum

Davos gets a cultural gift

This resort in the Grisons will not only be getting possession of the world's biggest and most significant collection of works by the famous expressionist painter Ernst Ludwig Kirchner, but will also acquire a *new* Kirchner Museum. The family foundation "Benvenuta", domiciled in Vaduz in the Principality of Liechtenstein, has decided not only to donate the collection, but also to assume the entire cost for the erection and installation of the museum. The new edifice housing the museum is planned to be inaugurated in the early part of the summer in 1992.

Why in Davos?

According to a statement from the Kirchner Foundation in Davos, the reason why Davos is being blessed with the gift of contemporary patronage or "Maecenatism" lies in the fact that the exponents of the family foundation feel a very close affinity with Davos and its surroundings, through Kirchner's production: the artist spent the last 21 years of his life in Davos, until his voluntary death in the summer of 1938. The location in which Kirchner had worked for so many years is therefore better qualified than any other town to

reveal and demonstrate the interaction between the surroundings in which he lived and worked, and the works of art that he left for posterity.

The magnanimous donation of the Kirchner collection to Davos comprises numerous oil paint-

A leading expressionist

The painter Ernst Ludwig Kirchner was born in 1880 in Aschaffenburg, and died (by suicide) in 1938 in Davos. He was one of the foremost German expressionists. Of the young painters who founded the group of artists called "Die Brücke" ("The Bridge") in Dresden in 1905, Kirchner was the most versatile and talented member. In 1917 he moved to Switzerland and settled here, living in Davos until his death.

ings, hundreds of graphic works (woodcuts, etchings and lithographic works), water-colours, drawings and sculptures, as well as Kirchner's sketch-books and other documents. In addition, it includes a comprehensive collection of books about the artist and his work, as well as a spe-

A tricky task for Manz



An outstanding honour has been achieved by a Swiss diplomat. The Secretary-General

of the UNO has designated as his special commissioner for the Western Sahara, Ambassador Johannes Manz (see our picture), currently the 52-year old head of the Board for Administration and External Relations in the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. Manz will probably take up his new duties during the summer of 1990, with the rank of Assistant Secretary-General. Thus for the first time a Swiss will be performing the duties of one of the highest offices in the main UNO organisation. Manz's task will be to prepare and implement the UNO peace plan for the Western Sahara. (Photo: EDA)

cialised library of works about the visual arts of the 20th century, totalling almost 6,000 volumes! The museum will also display numerous Kirchner works from the personal collec-

tion of Mr. and Mrs. Ketterer, Mr. Ketterer having been for many years the administrator and curator of the estate, and adviser to the "Benvenuta" Foundation.

Resorts without car traffic



Good news for those tourists who need peace and quiet, and who are concerned about the environment! The eight Swiss health resorts that already ban car traffic are being joined by a ninth one. The existing members of the group, comprising Bettmeralp, Braunwald, Mürren, Riederalp, Saas Fee, Stoos, Wengen and Zermatt have now accepted Rigi Kaltbad (see our picture) as a new member of the "Association of Car-

Free Swiss Tourist Resorts". This Association is a pool of resorts with the common aim of permitting only means of transport that are friendly to the environment. In these resorts, no vehicles with internal combustion engines will be allowed to circulate. Exceptions will be granted only in very special cases, the applications being treated very restrictively.

(Photo: M. Bürgi)



The old Kirchner Museum in Davos (Photo: Keystone)

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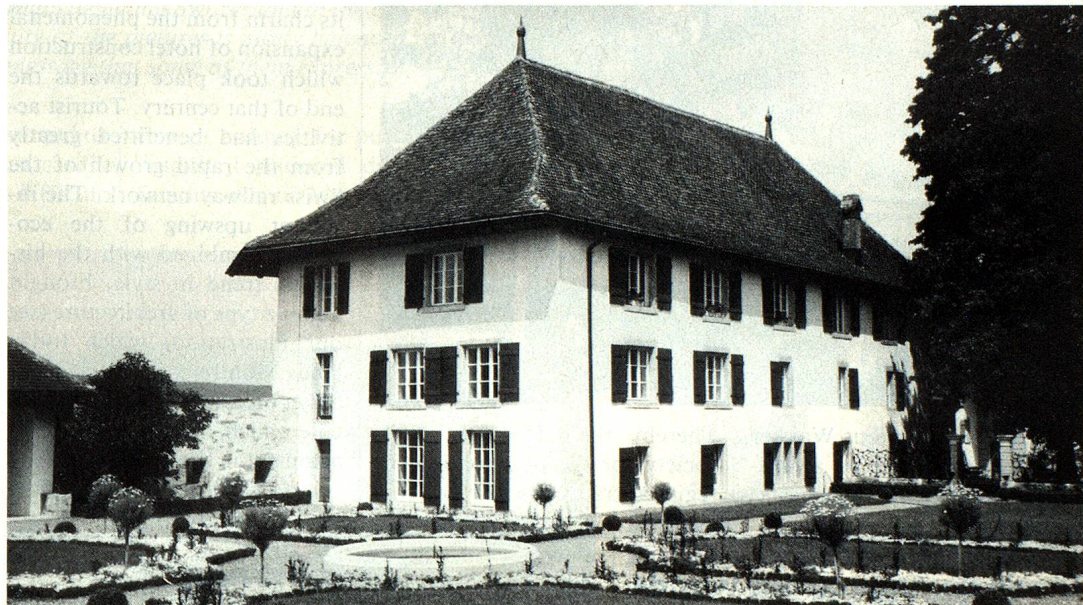
New Helvetic Society: 75 years young

The Jubilee Book

To commemorate the 75th anniversary of its foundation, the New Helvetic Society (NHS) has published an impressive work which should not be missing from any expatriate Swiss household.

The authors of the NHS Jubilee Book write as follows: "The establishment of a body to take care of the interests and welfare of expatriate Swiss, known today as the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA), is no doubt the best-known achievement of the NHS. As an important instrument for the implementation of national Swiss policies in various fields, the 'daughter' of the earlier years has by now overtaken the 'mother' organisation in significance." This fact alone should suffice to enable all expatriate Swiss who are interested in politics to familiarise themselves with the history of the NHS – an organisation that has rendered outstanding service to the 'Fifth Switzerland'.

The book was published at the end of 1989 under the clever title "Critical Patriotism" in the series appearing under the generic title "Schweizer Heimatbücher", and it outlines in a convincing manner the 75-year history of the NHS. The authors, Catherine Guanzini and Peter Wegelin have as their objective taken the "achievement of intelligibility and vividness, without by any means aiming



An achievement of the NHS: the Stapferhaus in Lenzburg Castle. (Photo: Stapferhaus)

for completeness." One feature of the book which deserves special mention is that it is not only trilingual, but that the chapters in French and Italian are original contributions, and not – as is so often the case – merely translations from a German text. The carefully chosen illustrations – which include *inter alia* reproductions of rare historical documents – the clarity of the construction and the provi-

sion of abridged summaries for quick reference, as well as tabular surveys and documentary inserts combine to make the work a rich source of information about recent history that it will be a pleasure to read.

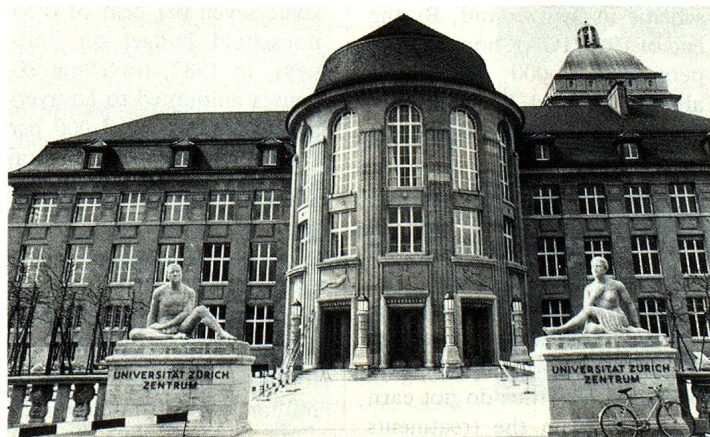
And as these same objectives were to be shared with the Swiss Abroad, it was very soon felt desirable to set up local groups in various foreign countries. Together with its "daughter" the OSA, the NHS made great

When the NHS was founded in 1914 as an all-party organisation its principles were right from the start envisaged as comprising a contribution to the formation of responsible volition and opinion in a democratic state, the deepening and furtherance of good relations in our multi-cultural society, and collaboration in the search for solutions to urgent regional problems of the Confederation.

efforts to help these groups in the fields of culture and civics. Since March 1989, OSA has, as we all know, taken the form of an independent Foundation. The OSA is not the only body in respect of which the initiative was taken by the NHS. The creation of the Stapferhaus Meeting Centre in the Lenzburg Castle, the arranging of exchange visits by school classes between the French-speaking "Romandie" and the German-speaking regions of the Federation, and the publication of the NHS Year Book are other activities of the NHS aimed at improving mutual understanding. JM

Catherine Guanzini/Peter Wegelin. "Kritischer Patriotismus, Patriotisme critique, Patriotismo critico. The New Helvetic Society, 1914-1989". Publishers: Verlag Paul Haupt, Berne. (Volume 189 in the series "Schweizer Heimatbücher". Price: SFr. 29,- (This book can be ordered through the Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad. No charge for postage.)

Greater freedom of movement for university students

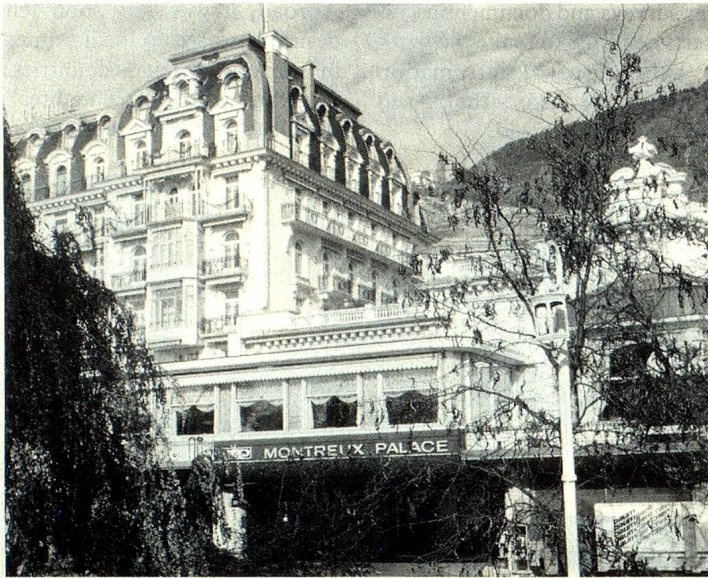


Students at universities in Switzerland will soon be able to transfer more easily from one university to another, and academic degrees will be mutually recognised. A convention providing for this innovation has been signed by the rectors and principals of the eight cantonal universities and the two Federal Institutes of Advanced Technology.

The University of Zurich: now open to students from other Swiss universities. (Photo: Keystone)



Montreux awarded the Wakker prize



In June the prestigious Wakker prize for 1990 will be awarded to the city of Montreux.

Thereby the "Heimatschutz" society for the preservation of regional traditions rewards the

good work by the people of Montreux in caring for the buildings which had their origins in the development of tourism in the 19th century. Montreux has derived much of its charm from the phenomenal expansion of hotel construction which took place towards the end of that century. Tourist activities had benefitted greatly from the rapid growth of the Swiss railway network. The resultant upswing of the economy, combined with the historical trend in style, brought about a type of architecture (see our illustration) which today lends Montreux its special character (in spite of sneers and ridicule which have been directed against it in the past!).

(Photo: Heimatschutz)

Grave damage to our woods

Storms of hurricane character and torrential rain were the direct cause of four fatalities in Switzerland in February of this year. They also gave rise to devastating damage to the countryside and to buildings. It was woods of the type known in Swiss-German as "Bannwälder" that suffered most (they are woodlands that are very useful, as providing protection against avalanches and heavy rain, especially in mountain districts). The cost of the damage runs into millions of

francs. The Federal Director of Forestry, Heinz Wandeler, has declared that timber equivalent to about one third of a whole year's normal requirement was strewn all over the ground. Damage to the woods and forests alone is estimated to amount to several hundred millions of francs. Wandeler regards as particularly serious the loss of the protection which would normally have been provided by these "Bannwälder".



Hurricane damage in the Canton of Glarus: entire "protective" woods lying on the ground.

An "HMO" experiment

The acronym "HMO" stands for "Health Maintenance organisation", a new concept in health care which has been developed in the USA. The first group practice on these lines has been operating in the Canton of Zurich since the beginning of this year. Ten companies for health insurance ("Krankenkassen" or "Caisse-maladie") who have got together in an association with community of interest for alternative patterns of health insurance, known as IGAK, are participating in the very first HMO experimental scheme in Switzerland. By the end of 1990, IGAK hope to have persuaded 3,000 individuals already covered by health insurance to switch to the HMO system.

The aim of the HMO system is to effect cost reductions in health-care by what IGAK call "reversal of inducements". In the group practice in Zurich the three doctors are remunerated by a flat-rate or comprehensive payment, and thus do not earn any fees from the treatments

that they prescribe. The individual patients insured under the scheme renounce any right to freely choose their doctor, but pay premiums lower than under the more usual arrangements. No proportion of expense has to be borne by the patient, and the premiums payable by men and women respectively are of the same amounts.

Telegrams

■ *Concentration in the Swiss press* continues: the important Zurich enterprise in the media world, Tages-Anzeiger AG, is taking over 49% of the capital and voting rights of the Berner Zeitung AG.

■ Women conquer yet a further domain hitherto reserved for men: as from the beginning of 1991, women will for the first time serve on the borders of Switzerland as *qualified frontier guards*.

■ The permanently *resident population* of Switzerland grows and grows: at the beginning of 1990 it had numbered 6,673,200 persons. The increase over the previous year amounted to 53,000 or 0,8%.

■ The Swiss are one of the nations that are *fondest of travelling*. Regardless of the disposable income they spend some seven per cent of their household budget on journeys. In 1987, travelling expenses amounted to an average of almost Sfr. 5,000 per family, or altogether a total of Sfr. 12,300 million.

■ The *consumption of electricity* in Switzerland rose in 1989 to a record level - in spite of public appeals to cut it down, it increased by 2.7% to an all-time high of 45,500 million kilowatt-hours.