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Vice-Chancellor appointed



Hanna Muralt.

The Federal Council has appointed the 44-year-old Social Democrat, Hanna Muralt, as Vice-Chancellor, one of the highest federal posts to be filled by a woman so far.

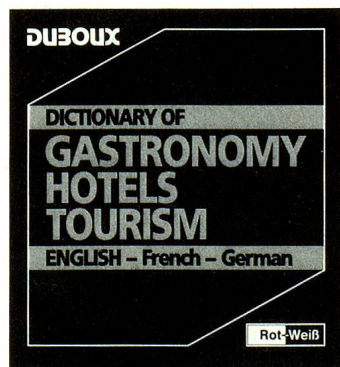
A citizen of Trub, Canton Berne, Ms. Muralt succeeds François Couchepin, appointed Federal Chancellor by the Federal Assembly on 12 June this year. Ms. Muralt has been in charge of the Federal Chancellor's administrative secretariat since 1988. In her new job she will be mainly concerned with medium-term planning as well as with drawing up general government policy guidelines.

Ms. Muralt grew up in Zollbrück in the Emmental region of Canton Berne. After attending the Cantonal Teachers' Training College for Women in Thun, she taught at primary schools in Eriswil and Kirchlindach for three years. In 1970 she began history studies in Berne, concluding these by gaining a doctorate. In 1983 she became deputy head of the Federal Office for Education and Science, where she was entrusted with planning and concept duties in the field of higher education and research.

Book reviews

Specialised dictionary of gastronomy

Duboux. Dictionary of Gastronomy, Hotels, Tourism. English-French-German. Filling a gap in the market, the "Duboux" is an ideal work of reference which will facilitate the translation of gastronomic texts for people in the catering and hotel businesses as well as in advertising agencies and the printing and food processing trades.



Orders (mail order simplest – Visa, Eurocard and Diners) by fax please, 41 33 229 810 direct to Verlag Rot-Weiss AG, Thun. Price: Sfr. 96, plus postage and packing. (Wanted: licensee and distribution companies worldwide. Spanish edition is planned.)

Swiss in colonial Africa

Adventurers, idealists, merchants and others of Swiss extraction played a part in colonial history. In this book Hans W. Debrunner, an acknowledged Africa expert records in detail the widely differing stories of 14 people, such as a slave trader, a farmer's wife, a soldier of the French Foreign Legion, a minister in the Ethiopian government, a cotton dealer and a globetrotter. With this book Debrunner makes a valuable contribution to the history of Swiss emigration. Hans Werner Debrunner.

Schweizer im kolonialen Afrika. 245 pages with illustrations and map. Verlag der Basler Afrika Bibliographien, Basle 1991. Price: Sfr. 30.

Talking to each other

This book endeavours to draw attention to the increasing isolation, inability to communicate and growing polarisation in dialogue. The author makes the point that without constant readiness to talk to each other, living together in a democratic state is jeopardised. Robert Schnyder's book contains a card game with novel suits (head, heart, eye and hand) intended to arouse interest in and awareness of the rules of dialogue.

Robert Schnyder von Wartensee. Rede miteneand. Die Spielregeln des Gesprächs. Benteli Verlag, Berne, 1991. Sfr. 19.80

This book can be ordered from: Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad, Alpenstrasse 26, CH-3000 Berne 16. No charge for postage.

Switzerland 1291-1991

Professor Georges Grosjean, author of this map published by the National Topographic Survey, Wabern, compares the most important past and present traffic

routes. Explanations are given in German, French, Italian, Romansh and English on the reverse side of the map. Price: Sfr. 7.50. Obtainable from: Federal Topographic Office, Seftigenstrasse 264, CH-3084 Wabern.

Folk music to treasure

To mark the 80th birthday of the Swiss accordion virtuoso Rees Gwerder – the Grand Old Man of Central Swiss and Muota Valley folk music – original digital recordings were made at Rees' homestead on the Artherberg (Canton Schwyz). In this way the unadulterated atmosphere of Rees' natural style of playing is particularly brought out.

The second record, also produced by the digital process is devoted to the "Zäuerli", the Appenzell natural yodel. The recordings were made on "Old New Year's Eve" (13 January) in Urnäsch, Appenzell Outer Rhodes. The mystic, melancholy strains of the "Zäuerli" create a moving, solemn mood and fascination.

Obtainable from: CSR Records Zurich, Dienerstrasse 62, CH-8004 Zurich, Tel. 411 241 58 70; fax 411 291 25 28.

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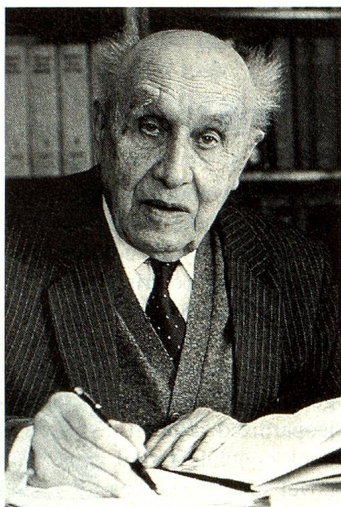
Zäuerli-Suns Gerbergasse 57, CH-4001 Basel

Death of Edgar Bonjour

The well-known Swiss historian, Edgar Bonjour, has died in Basle at the age of 92. One of his chief claims to fame is his work on the history of Swiss neutrality. At the behest of the Federal Council he wrote the "Bonjour Report" which examined government foreign policy during the Second World War.

He grew up in Berne where – after studying at Berne, Geneva, Paris and Berlin universities – he taught at the city's Grammar School and from 1932 was Deputy Director of the Federal Archives. In 1935 he became Professor of Swiss History and Modern General History at Basle University, of which he was Rector in 1946.

After retirement in 1968, Professor Bonjour continued to give lectures for many years. As re-



Edgar Bonjour.

cently as the Gulf war he gave a long interview in which he discussed current problems of Swiss neutrality.

Switch to Private Industry

Ambassador David de Pury, leader of the Swiss delegation to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), left the Federal Department of Political Economy at the end of April to take over the position vacated by Fritz Leutwiler as Chairman of the Board of Brown Boveri Ltd. (BBC). As from 1992 he will also be Co-President of the multinational group Asea Brown Boveri (ABB).

Contrary to rumours that tensions within the Department and the Federal Office for Foreign Trade had been the reason for his resignation, the top-ranking diplomat explained that he was parting from his two superiors, Federal Councillor Jean-Pascal Delamuraz and Secretary of State Franz Blankart on the best of terms. Indeed the Federal office for Foreign Trade has already acted as a springboard for many a diplomat wishing to take up senior positions in private industry. The successful com-

mercial diplomat, whose task as "Mr Gatt" was certainly not an easy one, in particular with regards to Swiss agriculture, is taking a brave leap into the presidency of an international corporation. Asked about his suitability for this new job, de Pury replied that he was bringing a lot with him but that he still had much to learn.

Four Swiss in UN service

The Berne Professor of International Law, Walter, Kälin has been appointed by the UN to investigate the human rights situation in Kuwait during the Iraqi occupation. Aged 40, Professor Kälin is regarded as a specialist in the field of the protection of human rights. He will submit his first report before the end of this year.

Professor Kälin's appointment brings to four the number of Swiss currently working for the UN. Joseph Voyame has been dealing with the human rights situation in Romania since 1989

and also presides over the UN Committee Against Torture.

In addition, at diplomatic level, as special emissaries of the UN Secretary-General, Ambassador Edouard Brunner and Ambassador Johannes Manz have been appointed to help in bringing peace to the Middle East and Western Sahara respectively.

An alternative to boarding schools

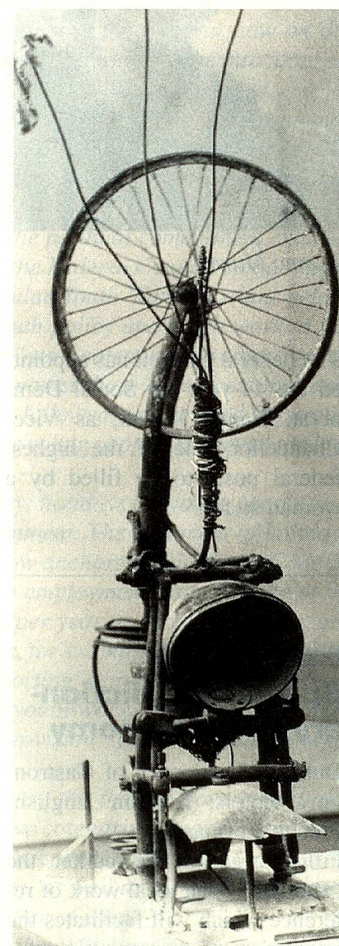
The Val-de-Travers, in the canton of Neuchâtel, boasts a grammar school which places its main emphasis on modern languages (type D of the Swiss matriculation examination with German, English and Italian as foreign languages). Up until now, pupils attending this grammar school in Fleurier have come solely from the small towns and villages in the Val-de-Travers region. This catchment area with its 12,000 inhabitants enjoys a well-developed infrastructure offering a small theatre, a cinema, concerts, an ice skating rink, tennis courts, a discotheque etc. as well as good train connections to Neuchâtel. But with 'mobility' of grammar school pupils and students a very popular topic of discussion these days, the authorities at Fleurier Grammar School feel it is important to make a very valid contribution to mobility by opening its doors to the outside world.

This offer is particularly directed towards the children of French-speaking Swiss families living abroad (members of the diplomatic service or foreign aid organisations, senior management in industry, missionaries, etc.) who are seeking a grammar school education to qualify them for entry to Swiss universities. As a part of this concept, the young people are not to be accommodated at the school, but will live with selected families from the area. The all-in price, which covers all costs (school fees, board and lodging etc). except pocket money, amounts to Sfr. 15,000 per year. Further informa-

tion may be obtained by contacting the following address:

"Projets familles d'accueil", Gymnase du Val-de-Travers, Place Longereuse, 2114 Fleurier, Switzerland.

Jean Tinguely dies



Jean Tinguely. «Hommage à Duchamp», 1965. (Photos: Keystone)

At the end of August, the world-famous Fribourg artist, Jean Tinguely, died of a stroke in Berne at the age of 66. With his "articulated pictures" and particularly the machine sculptures constantly ticking over which he devised from scrap iron, Tinguely has had a sustained influence on the artistic scene since the early 1950s.

In its next number the Swiss Review will include a comprehensive feature on the life and work of this great artist.