

A swiss commemorative exhibition in London

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A SWISS COMMEMORATIVE EXHIBITION IN LONDON.

August to October, 1951.

As part of the Commemorative Exhibition recalling the Great Exhibition held in London's Crystal Palace in 1851, showcases are set up until the 11th of October, 1951, at the Victoria and Albert Museum containing Swiss products which were on show 100 years ago.

The combined efforts of the Swiss Office for the Development of Trade, the Directorate of the Swiss National Museum, Zurich, the Museum of History, St. Gall, the Museum of Industry and Artisanry, St. Gall (Iklé Collection), the School of Weaving, Wattwil, the St. Gall Chamber of Commerce, the silk industry associations at Zurich and Basle, the Argovian Association of Hat Braid Manufacturers, Wohlen, the State School of Wood Carving, Brienz, the Swiss Chamber of Watchmaking, La Chaux-de-Fonds, and the managements of numerous firms, have enabled some fifty objects to be assembled which were displayed in 1851 in the Swiss section of the Crystal Palace Exhibition in London.

A particularly gratifying fact is that it has been possible to locate the principal attraction among the exhibits on show in the Swiss Section of the 1851 Exhibition, namely the silk cloth which was suspended in a frame in the centre of the display and constituted the joint exhibit of the Zurich silk industry. The text woven into the fabric of the cloth reads:

"MANUFACTURES de Soieries de Cant: de Zurich en Suisse. Fabriqué Pr. L'Exposition à Londres 1851 de Frères Staub, mis en Carte de J. Staub à Horgen."

In 1851, 270 Swiss firms exhibited at the Great Exhibition of these firms, no less than 120 received awards from the international jury. Particularly prominent were the St. Gall cotton and embroidery industries, the Turkish-red dyers, the printing trades of the Cantons of Neuchâtel and Glarus, the Zurich silk industry (64 firms), the Basle silk ribbon manufacturers, the Bernese linen industry, the Aargau plaited straw industry, the watch industry of the Jura, the enamellers of Geneva, and the wood-carvers of the Bernese Oberland, in addition to which the exhibitors included a Schaffhausen foundry and a number of precision-instrument makers. The chemical and machine industries were as yet entirely lacking in the Swiss section of the Great Exhibition, and the food industry was represented only by a new meat-preserving process and by one firm's display of chocolate.

Those exhibitors who were granted awards received their medals through the then President of the Confederation (Dr. Jonas Furrer, first President of the Swiss Republic), who sent them to the various cantonal governments to be forwarded to their respective canton's exhibitors. Such handwritten letters, and also medals and certificates bearing the signature of the Chairman of the International Exhibition Committee, Prince Albert, will be on show as commemorative exhibits.

The following are the main objects to be displayed again in London:—

Canton of Geneva:

Two watches by P. Patek & Co., Inventors and Manufacturers, Geneva (Ancienne Manufacture d'Hor-

logerie Patek, Philippe & Co. S.A., Geneva).

One watch incorporates the (at that time) new invention of Adrien Philippe, by which the winding key was built into the watch. The other watch has a valuable case on which is engraved a representation of King Stephane Bathori Kosciuszko and of the arms of Poland.

Canton of Vaud:

A razor by J. Lecoultre, Le Sentier (Jacques Lecoultre & Cie. S.A. Le Sentier).

A Musical Box by E. & A. Paillard-Bros., Ste Croix (Paillard S.A. Ste. Croix) which was incorporated in the tobacco boxes exhibited at that time.

Canton of Neuchâtel:

One of the first chocolate wrappers carrying reproductions of the medals awarded at the world exhibitions of London, 1851, and Paris, 1855. By P. Suchard, Neuchâtel (Chocolat Suchard S.A., Serrières-Neuchâtel).

Canton of Berne:

A photograph of the jewel casket carved by Andreas Baumann, Brienz, with a carved frame of the same period, Exhibitor No. 239. The catalogue wrote as follows on this exhibit:—

"particularly noteworthy for the accurate flower reproductions on the lid and for the delicacy of the leaves, carved freely from the solid wood."

Also specimens of linen by Schmid Brothers, Eriswil (Schmid & Co., Burgdorf).

Canton of Aargau:

The 1851 collection of straw braids of the then firm of Sulzberger & Ackermann, Meisterschwanden.

Also a set of mathematical drawing instruments by J. Kern, Aarau (Kern & Co. A.G., Aarau).

Canton of Basle:

Silk ribbons and sample albums from the joint collection of the Swiss ribbon manufacturers, by Luc. Preiswerk, Basle (Senn & Co. A.G., Basle). J. de Bary & Bischoff, Basle (De Bary & Co. A.G., Basle), Sarasin & Co., Basle (W. Sarasin & Co. A.G., Basle).

Canton of Zurich:

Silk fabric by J. Staub, Horgen, and a clay medal bearing a representation of the Duke of Wellington by J. Ziegler-Pellis, Winterthur (Tonwarenfabrik Ziegler A.G., Schaffhausen).

Canton of Schaffhausen:

A copper engraving showing the objects exhibited by Johann Conrad Fischer, Schaffhausen (bars of meteor steel, objects made therefrom, together

APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED

from Swiss or Anglo-Swiss Gentlemen between 30 and 40 years of age for position of Assistant to both General Manager and Secretary of Manufacturing concern near London. Required are good education and knowledge of German language, English Commercial practice, accountancy and general organisation. Write giving full particulars of education and business experience to Box No. 59, c/o Swiss Observer, 23, Leonard Street, London, E.C.2.

with a handwritten description of the objects by J. C. Fischer and his printed diary of his visit to London in 1851.

Canton of St. Gall and Appenzell:

Specimens of colour-woven fabrics, embroidery, neckerchiefs with chainstitch embroidery, embroidered sleeves, albums (cuffs), collars, curtains, lambrequins, etc., by the following firms:—

J. R. Raschle & Co., Wattwyl,

J. J. Nef, Manufacturer, Herisau,

J. J. Sutter, Manufacturer, Bühler,

B. Tanner, Manufacturer, St. Gall,


C. Stäheli-Wild, Manufacturer, St. Gall, etc.

The St. Gall and Appenzell exhibits were located by Prof. Hch. Edelmann and by Mr. Hans Oderbolz of the St. Gall Chamber of Commerce.

We are convinced that this small display, which shows a cross-section of Swiss industrial production in 1851, will help in once more confirming in the world commercial centre of London that Swiss industry is a solid industry with a tradition of quality workmanship built up on the inventive genius and skill of many generations.

OUR NEXT ISSUE.

Our next issue will be published on Friday, August 31st, 1951. We take the opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their kind and helpful donations over and above their subscription: Mrs. Habersaat, Wm. Preiswerk, H. O. Ernst, E. Eha, L. O. Adam, Mrs. R. Homberger, W. Landauer, E. Bachofen, P. Walser, Anton Bon, H. Trepp.



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