

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK
Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom
Band: - (1952)
Heft: 1179

Artikel: The Swiss seen by a Swiss "l'art pour l'art"
Autor: [s.n.]
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-689109>

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 13.08.2025

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

The Swiss seen by a Swiss . . .**"L'ART POUR L'ART".**

"It just can't go on like that", said Maurice.
 "There is exactly Frs.14.60 left in the till",
 whispered Pierrot.

"Sad, very sad", concluded Noël.

This conversation took place one summer evening at No. 15, rue Guillaume Tell. Those present were the Editor, the Treasurer and the Publisher of the monthly magazine "L'art pour l'art", in ordinary life students at the Collège Helvétique. Three issues of this magazine devoted to the better understanding of the arts in Switzerland had been published to date, but the lack of public demand and the precarious financial situation made further publications very doubtful.

"We Swiss will never be an artistic nation", Maurice went on after a pregnant pause. "In our country Art is a huge labyrinth of misunderstanding and snobbery, of prejudice and pretence. Look at our fathers. If an opera or a symphony concert is broadcast they have it switched off straight away. Have they ever been to either? They have not. If we start talking about Klee or Picasso, they sigh and leave the room. Have they ever attended a lecture where a painter explains his pictures? They have not. My dear fellows, the situation is hopeless!"

"At least they are frank and do not hesitate to express their views, however wrong and illogical they may be", Pierrot interrupted, "the real enemies of art are the snobs, the people who do not enjoy art for

art's sake, but who regard art as a social function, as an opportunity for displaying their intellectual superiority. Look at Jean Barbay. When he gave his first piano recital the audience consisted of forty people. He was unknown, and the music he played was unknown. But the next day the Concert d'Abonnement was sold out. Why? Because a famous soloist played famous music."

"So the hard facts are that we Swiss only believe in orthodox and established art", Maurice continued. "Everything new and original is viewed with suspicion, with hostility even. We condemn without knowing. If only we would realize how much escapes us through lack of understanding!"

"Sad, very sad", said Noël.

"There is exactly Frs.14.60 left in the till", whispered Pierrot.

"It just can't go on like that", concluded Maurice.

Helveticus.

OUR NEXT ISSUE.

Our next issue will be published on Friday, April 25th, 1952.

We take this opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their kind and helpful donations over and above their subscription: J. P. Inebnit, M. Wiesendanger, E. Ritzmann, A. Abplanalp, L. Audenmars, O. Braga, S. Alberti, J. Schad, F. Battis-lana, Dr. H. H. Geissberger, E. Hafter, G. N. Ross.

LES GRANDS VINS DU VALAIS

SPECIALITÉS EN BOUTEILLES

HOIRS CHARLES BONVIN FILS,
SION

Maison Fondée en 1858

Sion Petillant Fendant Étoile
 Château-Conthey Fendant Supérieur
 Mont-Fleuri Johannisberg Riesling
 Dôle Clos du Château

WE SHOULD BE PLEASED TO SUBMIT PRICES ON APPLICATION

SOLE DISTRIBUTORS:

J. S. WOOLLEY & CO. LTD.,

7/8 IDOL LANE, LONDON, E.C.3

Tel.: MANSion House 1314



Lindt

THE
CHOCOLATE
OF THE
CONNOISSEUR