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2,000 YEARS OF BASLE HISTORY.

Shortly after the death of Julius Caesar the Roman general Lucius Munatius Plancus founded in 44 B.C. the *Colonia Raurica* in the region of the present-day village of Augst on the Rhine, a few miles upstream from Bale, and the town of Bale (Basilea) traces its origin back to that colony. In the courtyard of the Bale Town Hall there is a monument of Munatius Plancus, created in 1580 by the Strasbourg sculptor Hans Michel.

Bale is probably the oldest of the large towns in Switzerland and can thus this year look back upon 2,000 years of history, a rare event which is to be worthily celebrated by a wide variety of festivities.

Official Celebrations :

1. Festival Meeting of the Bale City Council, 22nd August, 1957. 5 p.m. in the Bale Town Hall.
2. Opening ceremony: 10 a.m. on August 23rd in the Roman Theatre in Augst.
3. Second ceremony: 4 p.m. on August 23rd, in the Cathedral Square in Bale.
4. Third ceremony: reception at 10.30 a.m. on August 24th, in the Bale Town Hall, for citizens of Bale living abroad.

Theatrical Performances :

1. Performance of G. F. Haendel's opera "Julius Caesar". Opening performance August 25th, in the Bale Municipal Theatre. Repeat performances on August 28th, 30th, September 1st, 3rd, 5th and 7th.
2. Performance of Dr. Rudolf Suter's play "Basler Stadtspiegel" (Bale in the Looking Glass). Opening performance August 23rd in the Bale Cathedral Square. Repeat performances August 24th and nightly 26th-31st August.

Exhibitions :

1. "Switzerland in Roman Times" in the Bale Hall of the Swiss Industries Fair. Duration: August 17th to October 13th. Devised and arranged by Prof. Dr. R. Laur-Belart.
2. An exhibition of works of art kindly loaned for the occasion by private owners in Bale. In the Kunsthalle Bale from July 4th to the end of September.
3. "Documentary Records of the History of Bale" in the Kleinen Klingenthal" Museum, Bale. August 23rd - Beginning of October.
4. "Games, Sports and Athletics in Ancient Bale" in the Swiss Athletics and Sports Museum, Bale, from August 17th to October 27th.

Popular Festivities throughout the night 24th/25th August, in the centre of the town, which represents the entire area of the former Roman settlement.



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SWISSAIR.

A successful year's working.

An abridged English version of the annual report, issued to shareholders of Swissair, for the year ending 31st December 1956, lies before us.

From it emerges a picture of continued progress, the result of initiative, wise planning and great efficiency. The balance sheet discloses a strong financial position. As in the preceding year, a dividend of 6% has been declared.

Some of the outstanding features of the year's operation were :

increase of the capital from 14 to 42 million francs; issue of Bonds totalling 30 million francs; 17% increase in revenue; replacement of Convair 240's by Convair Metropolitans; extension of network and additional services on existing routes; installation of Radar and improved Radio equipment.

Looking into the future Swissair take the view that in a few years' time the bulk of the long-distance traffic will be carried by jet plane. The decision has therefore been taken to order three planes of this type, the Douglas C.8, for delivery in 1960. These planes will enable 110 to 130 passengers to be carried in one flight from New York to Switzerland in seven hours.

Throughout the report runs a note of confidence and progress. It reflects credit on all connected with this great undertaking, and the Directors as well as the executive staff are to be congratulated on a fine achievement in the field of civil aviation.

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