

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: - (1961)

Heft: 1385

Rubrik: Commercial news

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: 04.04.2026

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

COMMERCIAL NEWS

Swiss machines abroad

During the first few months of this year, a big firm in the French-speaking part of Switzerland, which specialises in mechanical constructions, received a number of important orders from abroad. For the equipment of a Portuguese hydro-electric station, it will provide three Francis turbines of 120,000 h.p. each, which will be furnished with a new electronic regulator made by the same firm. Two Francis turbines of 44,300 h.p. each have been ordered for France. Finally, two pivots with revolving segments, for a load of 309 tons each, are to be placed on the alternators of a Portuguese electric station which has already purchased the turbines from this plant.

The first Swiss electric wrist-watch

At the Swiss Industries Fair at Basle, one could see the first electric wrist-watch to be entirely manufactured in Switzerland. This novelty, which has been awaited impatiently, aroused the keenest interest. In this watch, the regulating organ is constituted by a hairspring balance unit, the oscillations of which are controlled by a tiny electromagnetic motor. A very small battery or accumulator, of approximately the same volume, supplies the power to make the watch run for 7-9 months. The devising and execution of all the parts in this watch have required exhaustive research, followed by the most minute testing. In consequence of its accurate running, its pleasing appearance and its moderate price, this first electric wrist-watch made in Switzerland will, without doubt, be the predominant and most reliable article of its kind to be found on the market.

The minting of Swiss and foreign coinage

During the course of last year, the Federal Mint in Berne minted, for the Federal Treasury, 49 million coins to the total value of 22.6 million Swiss francs. Moreover, it minted coins and medals for foreign countries, to the value of 2.4 million Swiss francs.

The thirtieth anniversary of Swissair

It was thirty years ago—on 26th March 1931—that the Swiss Air Navigation Company "Swissair" was founded, through the merging of two existing companies, one at Basle and the other at Zurich. At the start, it possessed a capital amounting to 800,000 Swiss francs, 22 aircraft with a total seating capacity of 88, and a network of 4,302 kilometres, which was flown exclusively in fine weather, and only between March and October. At the present time, Swissair's share-capital amounts to 105 million Swiss francs, its operational network extends over 139,292 kilometres and comprises all the continents except Australia. Although the number of the company's aircraft has only increased by half during these thirty years — there are now 32 machines available — the number of seats has increased to 2,345, i.e. it is now nearly 27 times greater.

Swiss inventor awarded the 1961 "Inventors' Oscar"

At the Inventors' Exhibition in Brussels, the 1961 "Oscar" for the most outstanding invention has been awarded to a Swiss inventor, Mr. Guignard, for his apparatus for tying up plants. This Guignard "tyer-up", which uses a special fibre for binding (which is more advantageous than the usual fibres employed for this purpose), is made in the shape of a pistol; it attaches the plants, branches of trees, vines, etc., automatically and more firmly and more rapidly, to the props, poles or trellises.

In the snow of the Sierras

A company in Zurich, which specialises in the manufacture of machines for clearing away snow, has received an order for a snow-plough from the official network of the Spanish Railways. This order comprises two automatic rail-cars, driven by Diesel engines and equipped with Rolba snow rotaries; one is intended for the normal Spanish railway network and the other for a mountain railway. These two machines, weighing 25 tons and 20 tons, will be built entirely in Switzerland and will be delivered in the summer of 1962.



CARAVELLE SUPER SWISS London - Zurich twice daily

For a full appreciation of the finer, more delectable points of European air travel, you must fly Caravelle 'Super Swiss'! For by weather-radar equipped Rolls-Royce powered Caravelle jetliners — cutting flying time to 90 minutes! — Swissair have set to wings a service between London and Zurich that is second to none. Elegant cabin interior, superb comfort and genuine hospitality make the 'Super Swiss' a supreme example of luxury in flight.

Morning and afternoon flights from London at 11.30 and 19.05.

(Afternoon flights via Basle on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.)

First and Tourist class on all flights.

SEE YOUR TRAVEL AGENT



UK — Switzerland flights
in association with BEA

THE PERSONAL TOUCH—that's what counts
For all travels—by land sea and air
let A. GANDON make your reservations

Tickets issued at Station Prices · no booking fee

HOWSHIP TRAVEL AGENCY

188, Uxbridge Road - Shepherds Bush - W.12

Telephones: SHE 6268/9 and 1898

→ SWISSAIR

EUROPE MIDDLE EAST FAR EAST USA SOUTH AMERICA
Offices in LONDON MANCHESTER GLASGOW BIRMINGHAM DUBLIN