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RECENT AWARDS OF HONOURS AND PRIZES IN SWITZERLAND

A number of literary prizes have been awarded in Switzerland, as well as by foreign organisations to Swiss citizens. Among the latter is Prof. O. Cullmann, lecturer on theology at Basle University, who received the Insignia of an Officer of the French Legion of Honour.

The Académie Française has bestowed the "Grand Prix Broquette Gonin" on the former Swiss Minister, Henry Vallotton, for his latest book, "Bismarck". Monsieur Vallotton is already a recipient of other prizes from the Académie Française.

At the annual Dante Celebrations at the Palazzo Vecchio in Florence, this year's Gold Medal to a foreign Dante scholar went to Prof. Dr. Theophil Spoerri of Zurich University in recognition of his "Introduction to Dante's Divine Comedy".

At the end of May, Dr. h.c. Charles Veillon, well known in Lausanne's commercial circles and originator of a French, a German and an Italian prize for literature, received the Order of Merit of the Republic of Italy for his many efforts in promoting literature.

The following day the three "International Charles Veillon Prizes" were awarded to the Frenchman Jean-Pierre Chabrol for his novel "Les Fous de Dieu", to the Italian Enrico Emanuelli for his "Settimana Nera", and the German prize went to Edzard Schaper, a Finn who has been living in Switzerland for 15 years and wrote "Der Vierte Koenig".

The second Grand Ramuz Prize was given to C. F. Landry. Catherine Colomb is the recipient of the Eugène Rambert Prize (Fr. 1,000) for her novel "Le Temps des Anges". This prize is awarded every three years by the Vaudois Section of the "Zofingerverein".

The First Art Prize of Solothurn had gone to the painter Cuno Amiet, the Second to the musician Ernst Kunz, and now the "Regierungsrat" of Solothurn have chosen the well-known writer Felix Moeschlin as the recipient of the Third Grand Prize of Fr.5,000. This award coincides with the writer's 80th birthday on 31st July. At the same time the village of Witterswil (SO) has made him an Honorary Citizen of his commune of origin, where his family can be traced back to the early 17th century.

The interdenominational review "Le Monde Religieux" in Lausanne celebrated its 20th anniversary by a competition on the Islam in Africa. The First Prize has now been awarded to J. C. Froelich, leader of the Paris Study Centre on Administrative Questions in Africa and Asia.

The Swiss Teachers' Association has given this year's "Jugendbuchpreis" to Hans Cornioley, who has worked unceasingly for several decades in the furtherance of good books for young people. He had already received the Bernese Literary Prize in 1959.

The Swiss Schiller Foundation (Schillerstiftung) has awarded nine prizes ranging from Fr.5,000 to Fr.1,000 to: Denis de Rougemont "pour l'ensemble de son œuvre", Ernst Howald "für sein essaistisches Werk",

Philippe Jacottet "pour son œuvre poétique", Giuseppe Martinola "pour son œuvre historique et littéraire", Hanneliese Hinterberger "für ihre Uebersetzungen italienischer und französischer Lyrik", Cla Biert "für seinen Roman 'La Muedada'", Amleto Pedroli "pour le recueil de ses vers 'Nuove Poesie'", Ludovic Hendry "für seine Prosa", Juerg Federspiel "für seine Erzählungen 'Orangen und Tode'".

The Institut Neuchâtelois has given the 1962 Prize to Prof. Eugène Wegmann, the geologist at Neuchâtel University. Also from that city hails Prof. Jean Burger, who has been honoured with this year's Fritz Kunz Prize by the Society for History and Archaeology for his work "Les Inconvénients de la Discipline Ecclésiastique".

The international judges at the 31st "Biennale" of modern art in Venice (16.6 — 7. 10. 1962) has awarded the Grand Prize for a foreign sculptor to the Swiss Alberto Giacometti, who lives in Paris. Another Swiss, the sculptor Albert Schilling, Arlesheim, received a prize from the "Instituto Internazionale di Arte Metodica".

From Berne we hear that the Swiss Television Prize was assigned to the documentary "L'Eté", realized by Gilbert Bovay in the French programme of Swiss TV. "Korczak et les Enfants" by Erwin Sylvanus and produced by Jacques Lagrange has been given the Drama Award. These two Swiss TV programmes will be entered for the Prix Italia 1962. Also representing Switzerland in the international competition of the Radio-televisione Italiana will be several items chosen by the Swiss adjudicators in Geneva. Amongst them are the Cantata "Papagei aus Cuba" by Heinrich Sutermeister and the "Battements de Cœur", a radio play by Hubert Leclair. These two programmes, one for music, the other for drama, have been chosen by the same judges as recipients of the Swiss Radio Prizes 1962.

The Hans Georg Naegeli Music Medal has been presented to the Zurich violinist Alexander Schaichet on his 75th birthday, and to the flautist André Jaunet, member of the Zurich Tonhalle Orchestra since 1938 and leader of concert classes for flautists at the Zurich Conservatoire.

Another artist was honoured on his 70th birthday, the well-known concert singer Felix Loeffel, whose career from carpenter's apprentice to teacher and from painter to concert and stage singer is no less remarkable than his great success as an artist all over Europe. He was given the Music Prize of the Canton of Berne not only for his art but also for his successful endeavours to train young soloists and choir leaders.

The University of Neuchâtel has conferred three honorary degrees, one to the writer André Chedel, Le Locle, to Fritz Marti, director of a large watch factory, and to Prof. Stückelberg, the physicist at the Universities of Geneva and Lausanne.

The University of Geneva has bestowed five new honorary doctorates: on David A. Morse, director of the International Labour Office; Xavier Givaudan, industrialist and Hon. President of the French Chamber of Commerce in Switzerland; Pierre Burgelin, professor of philosophy at the University of Strasbourg, for his work "Die Existenzphilosophie bei J. J. Rousseau"; Robert Derathe, professor of philosophy at Nantes, also for his writings on Rousseau; and on Bernard Guyon, professor of French literature at the University of Aix-Marseille, for his commentary on the "Nouvelle Héloïse".

The Italian Society for Obstetrics and Gynaecology has made Prof. Dr. Robert Wenner, Basle, an Honorary Member.

The Medical Faculty of the Swedish University of Uppsala has conferred an honorary degree for medicine on Prof. Hans Goldmann, director of the Berne University Clinic. This doctorate was given on the occasion of the 100th birthday of the famous Swedish oculist A. Gullstrand, a Nobel prize winner in 1911. Dr. Goldmann has considerably improved a special instrument evolved by the Swede and is responsible for the present high standard of biomicroscopy of the eye.

Another doctor, Prof. Dr. Federico Andina, chief surgeon at the district hospital of Locarno and lecturer at the University of Berne, has been made a member of the Senate of the Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences.

Pope John XXIII has honoured Wilhelm Fillinger from Kriegstetten (SO), for 16 years Swiss missionary at Paispamba-Cauca (Colombia), by creating him "Papal Secret Chamberlain".

Finally, several honorary citizenships have been conferred recently. The village of Densbueren (AG) has made Miss Hulda Schenker, who retired after 38 years of teaching, an Honorary Citizen of the commune.

The commune of Flueelen (URI) has bestowed the same honour on Regierungsrat, now Landamann, Josef Mueller, Naefels, and his wife.

Lastly, the writer Hermann Hesse has been awarded Honorary Citizenship of Montagnola, the Ticinese village where he has been living for over forty years.

Mariann.
(Based on news items mostly supplied by ATS.)

REMINDER

A number of our subscribers are in arrears with their subscriptions. We should be most grateful if they would kindly send in their renewals as soon as possible. With the rising cost of printing and material we depend more than ever on the support of our readers. We shall gladly send specimen copies of "The Swiss Observer" to friends and relatives who might be induced to become subscribers. May we also suggest that the paper would make an attractive present to Swiss living in this country as well as to English friends who are interested in Switzerland and in the happenings in the Swiss Colony here.

RACLETTE — THE "NATIONAL DISH" IN THE CANTON OF VALAIS

When the people of the Canton of Valais, Switzerland, want to have a good time with their friends, they hike to a beautiful spot, build a fire, and roll up a huge wheel-like Swiss cheese, one of those delicious, melt-in-your-mouth varieties, made with care by hardy mountain shepherds. Then the fun begins. Wielding a mighty knife, the "master of ceremonies" slices the cheese in two semicircular halves, while the others in the party crowd around for a sniff, voicing an expert appraisal of the colour and texture and an equally qualified opinion as to the forthcoming gastronomic delight. Now both halves of the giant cheese are set down near the glowing coals of the fire, the cut face towards the heat. In a few moments, when the cheese begins to melt, the hot sticky mass is scraped off on to a plate and handed to the first in the waiting group. After a grind or two on the pepper mill, the one who is lucky enough to be first winds a bit of his molten cheese on to a fork and begins to eat with epicurean delight.

The native Valaisan will, likely as not, take his first bite with his eyes closed, in a devout silence punctuated by an "ah" of the keenest enjoyment. Meanwhile more cheese has melted, and one after another the members of the party are served, turn and turn about, in strict impartiality. All are happy, and as the evening wears on, the rocks of the mountains round about echo back the sonorous voices of the group singing songs, as they wait for the next round.

Among all Switzerland's culinary specialities, raclette holds a high place, and a holiday in Switzerland is really not complete without a trial of this Valaisan national dish.

S.B.
(S.N.T.O.)

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