

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: - (1967)

Heft: 1537

Artikel: New institute of medieval art in Berne

Autor: [s.n.]

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-696509>

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NEW INSTITUTE OF MEDIEVAL ART IN BERNE

The newly-opened Institute of the Abegg Foundation at Riggisberg, near Berne, offers an impressive record of the origins of European medieval art. By means of precious textiles, sculptures and paintings, which the Zurich industrialist Werner Abegg and his wife spent decades collecting, the origins of leading motifs and symbols in European art may be traced back from Spain, Africa and Byzantium through the Middle East to India and China. At the opening of the new Foundation, Federal Councillor Tschudi rightly pointed out that, in beauty and intrinsic worth, the material on display can be compared to the collection of the Gottfried Keller Foundation and to the famous art collection of Dr. Oskar Reinhardt in Winterthur. [S.N.T.O.]

AN INTERESTING ARTISTIC INITIATIVE IN GENEVA

The generous voluntary activity of the Association of the Geneva Centre for Contemporary Gravure is worth mentioning. It is a private, non-profit institution which, in order to encourage the development of the art of gravure in Geneva, has created a Centre in this city where artists from all countries can work and meet. The City of Geneva has put a building at the disposal of the Association and this has been converted into gravure workshops, extremely well-equipped with all necessary machines and materials which are available at unusually favourable conditions to professional and amateur engravers of all nationalities. The Centre also offers lodging and restaurant facilities for artists from outside the city who are taking courses. [O.S.E.C.]

THE NEW SEASON AT ZURICH'S MUNICIPAL PLAYHOUSE

The schedule of the Schauspielhaus (Municipal Playhouse) for the 1967/68 season shows strong leanings toward the Anglo-Saxon. Aside from the classics (Shakespeare's "Much Ado About Nothing" and Congreve's "Love for Love") there will be several plays by English writers, some of them being performed for the first time in German: Peter Ustinov's "Halfway Up the Tree", David Mercer's "Ride a Cockhorse", and Tennessee Williams' "Orpheus Descending". Of Germanic origins will be Schiller's "Jungfrau von Orleans", Büchner's "Leonce und Lena", Nestroy's "Der Talisman" and, in keeping with the Brecht tradition of this outstanding theatre, "Heilige Johanna der Schlachthöfe". Chekhov will be represented with a German-language production of the "Cherry Orchard", and a younger playwright, Otto F. Walter, will have his "Die Katze" ("The Cat") produced. The world première of "Biografie: ein Spiel", a new play by Max Frisch, is being awaited eagerly. And late in the season there will be still another première, of a play not yet announced, bringing the season's total to thirteen. [S.N.T.O.]

ZURICH'S "PODIUM"

The "Municipal Podium" is a cycle of musical and literary events which was founded by former Zurich Mayor Emil Landolt. This winter nine concerts and five literary readings will offer contemporary Swiss artists an opportunity to make new contacts with the public. This cycle was expanded some years ago by the institution of "Podium 9" and "Podium 11", events aimed at stimulating life in two of Zurich's larger peripheral areas. [S.N.T.O.]

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