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## NEWS AT RANDOM

A young La Chaux-de-Fonds artist was awarded the international *grand prix* for stereophony.

Prof. Max Rostal, famous violinist and for over ten years in charge of a master class at the Conservatoire in Berne, received the *Bundesverdienstkreuz* First Class from the Federal German Republic.

The Swiss National Fund for the Promotion of Scientific Research awarded the Werner Naef Prize for 1967 to Dr. Jacques May, Lausanne, for his work on Buddhism and oriental languages.

The German Hermann Hesse Prize for literature in the German language was awarded to the Swiss philosopher Hans Saner, personal assistant to Prof. Carl Jaspers in Basle. He was given the prize for the first part of his work "Kant's Way from War to Freedom".

Franco Barberi of the "Nebelspalter" received the third prize for caricature (editorial) at the International Salon of Caricature in Montreal.

The highest photographic honour was awarded to the Swiss photographer Hans Westhauser by the German UNESCO Commission at their competition in the "International Human Rights Year".

The Art Prize of Zurich for 1968 was given to Max Bill, Zumikon, whilst Prof. Dr. J. R. von Salis was awarded the first Zurich Cultural Prize.

Among the prize winners at the Geneva International Music Competition, there were three Swiss oboists, one singer, two trumpet players, and one girl, Monica Hoffmann, piano. The prize donated by the Federal Council for the best interpretation of a piece by a Swiss composer was awarded to a Thailand girl who played a piano piece by Henri Gagnebin, co-founder of the Competition 30 years ago.

The Swiss Ambassador in Canada presented the Rector of Montreal University with the sculpture by Johannes Burla, which had decorated the Swiss Pavilion at the EXPO 1967 in Canada. The four Basle chemical works of Ciba, Geigy, Roche and Sandoz financed the gift.

Friedrich Duerrenmatt's "The Physicists" has been performed with great success at Olney Theatre near Washington.

In Canton (Ohio, U.S.A.), a Swiss-American singing festival took place, combined with a general "Switzerland Week", in which Switzerland was well presented in every field.

Switzerland has its first tropical hospital, the "Sonnenrain" in Basle, connected to the Swiss Tropical Institute (32 beds and most up-to-date equipment).

The first stage in the Swiss Technorama and future Museum for Science and Technology in Winterthur will cost 16m. francs.

A special office for stamp collectors opened early in October in St. Gall. It concentrates exclusively on selling items offered for sale by the Official Philatelic Office of the Postal Department in Berne, including stamps, first-day covers, sheets, etc. The "Pro Juventute" stamps for this year show bird pictures and will be on sale as from 28th November.

A helicopter air taxi is operated by "Heliswiss", and it is based at Berne-Belpmoos.

The Aarau bell foundry H. Hüetschi has begun work in its seventh century: the first bell was started in 1367, and it hangs in Fribourg Cathedral.

(A.T.S. and "Pro Helvetia".)

## RECENT DEATHS IN SWITZERLAND

The following deaths have been reported in Switzerland:

Meinrad Michlig (63), Brigue, Commune President of Naters for 25 years, Cantonal and Federal M.P.

Mrs. Anna Wegmann (101), Oetwil am See, formerly of Hoengg, the oldest Zurich *Stadtbürgerin*.

Armin Schweizer (76), Zurich, well-known actor.

Raymond Degoumois (59), Moutier, lawyer and notary and President of the Jura Section of the Swiss Touring Club.

Jakob Iseli (94), Spiez, farmer and cattle breeder and initiator of Simmental *Fleckvieh* exports; owner of a model farm and benefactor to the Niedersimmental home for the aged.

Fritz Gasser (56), Schaffhausen, Municipal Councillor (Liberal Democrat), formerly *Kaminfegermeister*; since 1949, member of the Cantonal Government. His death was suicide.

Friedrich Ohngemach, Zurich, Secretary of the Swiss Federation for "Innere Mission und Evangelische Liebestätigkeit" and for 30 years reporter with the Swiss Evangelical Press Service and other Zurich papers.

Sven Stiner (58), Swiss Ambassador to the Netherlands, citizen of Unterentfelden (AG), Berner *Fürsprecher*, in the service of the Swiss Confederation since 1939; Ambassador to Chile from 1959 and to the Netherlands. He was killed in an accident. Queen Juliana sent a message of condolence.

Charles Strebel (65), Fribourg, Cantonal M.P. (Socialist) and former National Councillor; began his life as worker in a brewery and later opened a restaurant with his wife.

Marcel Lavanchy (65), Lausanne, Town Clerk, Administrator of the Municipal Theatre.

Minister Dr. Ernst Feisst (71), Brissago (from Basle), Dipl. Ing. Agr. and Dr. Sc. Techn. ETH, Director of the Section for Agriculture in the Federal Department of Economy and Chief of the War Nutrition Office and later first Swiss Minister in Hungary (first diplomat with political farming background); from 1948 President of the Management Council of Dr. Wander A.G. in Berne and later member of the Board. He was also a writer on nutrition and agriculture and held several international honours awards.

Dr. Benedict Mani (75), Andeer, Journalist and Editor of the "Neue Bündner Zeitung" since 1928. For many years member of the Church Council of Chur.

Mrs. Antoinette Blanc formerly Oderbolz (83), Lausanne, journalist, widow of a former Prefect. With her husband, she took on the "Feuille d'Avis" in Le Locle in 1919. She carried on after her husband's death, remarried and settled in Lausanne.

Prof. D. med. Jean Mueller (60), Zurich, chief medical man at the Zurich *Frauenklinik*, and for 30 years leader of the X-ray department. He was also consultant at the Cantonal Hospitals of Chur and Glarus.

Eugen Schneider (70), Zurich, well-known journalist and local historian.

Jean Sickert (56), Macolin, Deputy Manager of Omega Watch Company, for a number of years at their London office.

Olivier Nussle (35), La Chaux-de-Fonds, head of the old ironmongery and installation firm, son of the Curator of Castle Valangin. The Nussle Family has played a part in La Chaux-de-Fonds for 125 years.

[A.T.S.]