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Zurich City Guide for the Handicapped

The first edition of the City Guide for the Handicapped has been compiled by the School of Ergotherapy in Zurich and published by the Swiss Association to Help the Disabled at Feldegstrasse 71 in Zurich (Telephone: 01 320131). Copies may be obtained there of this interesting booklet which could be of great help to many. The handy guidebook concentrates on places like shops, railroad stations, hotels, banks, post offices, pharmacies, cinemas, museums which visitors and local people who have difficulty in walking would like to visit, provided that no architectural obstacles scare them off. The first edition of this guidebook concentrates mainly on the centre of the city on the Limmat River. Seagulls in front of the towers of Grossmünster Church illustrate the cover together with the signet for the handicapped, an invalid in a wheelchair.

125 years Swiss Railways

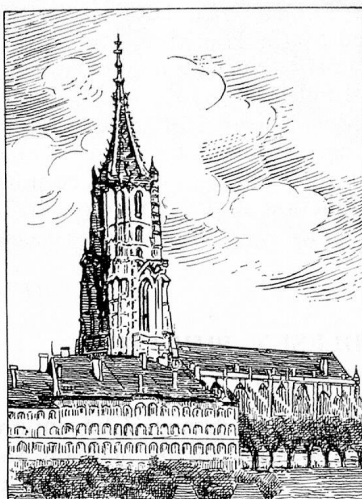
Switzerland's first railway line between Zurich and Baden was inaugurated on 9th August, 1847. On the occasion of the 125th anniversary special gold and silver coins will be minted. Two hundred gold and 2,000 silver coins will be on sale at banks and money exchange offices of the Swiss Federal Railways.

Lake Lucerne Steamer saved from Breakers Yard

The well known lake steamer "Wilhelm Tell" of the Lake Lucerne Navigation Company was recently retired after 62 years of service during which it carried vast numbers of happy tourists on the popular boat trips. The boat will be anchored at the Schweizerhofquai and used as a floating restaurant from April 1972 onward.

Interlaken Music Festival 1972

According to the provisional programme the Interlaken Music Festival 1972 will start on Saturday, 24th June with a Symphony Concert, followed by two operas on Sunday, 25th June, 1972. An Opera ball is planned for Friday, 30th June, 1972. A matinee concert and a ballet are listed for Sunday, 2nd July, 1972 and the Opera "La Traviata" by Giuseppe Verdi will be performed on Wednesday, 5th July and Friday, 7th July, 1972.

BERNE:**ST. VINCENT CATHEDRAL**

With the support of the gentry which had become powerful in the 14th and 15th centuries, the collegiate church of Fribourg was built in the 14th century, and that of Berne in the 15th. The Gothic style of this edifice is the last construction of the great Gothic churches in Switzerland. It was commenced in 1421 by Matthieu Ensinger of Ulm.

The tower which stands over the richly decorated porch, remained, in 1530, unfinished at a height of 54m. and was roofed at the height of the first gallery. It was finished between 1891 and 1893 under the direction of Professor Beyer of Ulm.

The tympanum of the principal porch, the masterly work of Erhard Kűng, is of remarkable beauty. It represents the Last Judgement in a multitude of personages where the figures of the chosen and of the damned are treated with great realism. In the

covings, statues of Prophets and the Twelve Apostles; in the great embrasures, the Wise Virgins on the left and the Foolish Virgins on the right; on each side of the porch are grey frescopaintings of the beginning of the 16th century.

The interior of the cathedral with its three naves and its chancel of resplendent paintings, has all the charm of the Gothic art in its simplest form. The nave without transept is very spacious, with painted vaults and armorial bearings. The chancel is adorned with great stained windows of the 15th century and stalls of the Renaissance. This beautiful vault of the chancel, finished in 1517, is by the Bernese Niklaus Manuel Deutsch (1484-1540), one of the important masters of that epoch.

The southern front of the edifice is shaded by the lime trees of the platform, a quadrangular place with flower beds, edged with walls and giving a fine view of the Aar Valley, the Kirchenfeld Bridge and the Bernese Alps.

On the terrace stands the statue of Berthold V, the last of the Zähringen Rector of Burgundy, and the founder of the town in 1191. The platform is 35m. above the river Aar and the steeple 100m. above the platform.

The cathedral is to be seen from the bottom of the valley to enjoy fully the impression that produces the mighty architecture of this superb edifice. The spot where rises the cathedral was formerly occupied by the Leutkirche. It was given the name of the patron saint of the town: Cathedral of St. Vincent (Saint-Vincent and Berne) was an ancient "cri de guerre" of the Bernese troops.

Pierre Savoie



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Basle
15th-25th April
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