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SWISS ABBEYS



PAYERNE ABBATIAL CHURCH

Payerne possesses a remarkable Romanesque abbatial church which belonged to a monastery until the

Reformation. According to a tradition, this church was founded in about 595 by Bishop Marius in honour of Sainte-Marie. A convent already existed in Payerne at the beginning of the 10th Century.

It was at that time that the name of Queen Bertha, a woman whose memory has remained very popular in Canton Vaud and especially near Payerne, was first mentioned in history.

Queen Bertha, widow of Rodolphe II, offered the town of Payerne and its dependencies to Saint Mayeul, Abbot of the Monastery of Cluny, Normandy, in order to found a monastery of the same Order in Payerne. This was in 962.

A decree, commonly named "Testament of Queen Bertha" was confirmed by her son, King Conrad, who added land properties and rights. Queen Bertha, whose tomb is in the Payerne parish church, was venerated for her faith and charity.

Until 1220, the patronage of the convent of Payerne appertained to the emperors of Burgundy, but the dukes of Zähringen held the power of patronage in their name. The protection of the convent finally passed over to the House of Savoy in 1314. During its most prosperous days, the Convent had 32 monks.

In 1536, at the time of the conquest of the Country of Vaud by the Bernese, the Abbey and the premises of the Convent became the property of Berne, and so was its Treasure which, like

that of Lausanne Cathedral, was taken to Berne. The church, which is the only vestige of this historical abbey, was abandoned. It was eventually transformed into an arsenal and store-house and underwent multiple degradations.

Important restoration works have since given back to the edifice its primitive aspect.

The church forms a Latin cross. The main part of what has been preserved dates from the 11th Century, or the beginning of the 12th. The Gothic tower replaces on the transept side a Romanesque tower and dates probably from the 15th Century. The spire was completed in 1645.

The outside aspect of the building is of great simplicity but presents an imposing ensemble which is particularly interesting because it has been made of a variety of materials coming in part from the ruins of Aventium (Avenches).

The spire rising above the tower contains three bells, one great and two small. Together with those of the parish church, they make a nice ringing song.

The nave is of great sobriety. It is very large for a Romanesque building and is lighted by high windows. The choir is ornamented with frescoes and embellished capitals.

The purity of lines and harmony of proportion gives the visitor the impression of greatness, but also of austerity which is accentuated by the absence of capitals and sculptured decoration in the nave.

This splendid and valorous church is one of the greatest in Switzerland.

Pierre Savoie

TOURIST NEWS

On Foot through the Vaudois Vineyards

A new sort of hiking region is now open in canton Vaud: 70 miles of "chemins du vignoble". There are 16 walking paths within the wine-growing regions of canton Vaud, i.e. at La Cote between Morges and Nyon, in the Bonvillars-Vully regions between Concise and Corcelettes near Grandson on Lake Neuchâtel, at Pranz and Vallamand on the lake of Morat, in the Lavaux and Désaley region and in the Chablais area between Yvonne and Bex. There's an SFR station close to the departure and arrival points of these hiking paths which join up in certain parts. These 2½ to 4 mile long distances can easily be covered in 1½ to 2 hours and lead through traffic-free lanes.

Creative Holidays in the Toggenburg

Unusual holidays are in store for young and old visitors to the resort of Wildhaus in the Toggenburg this summer. Young holiday guests from 11 to 13 years of age will be able to discover and develop their artistic skills by making decorations with paper and colour or by

discovering new dance movements, etc. All-inclusive cost: Fr. 260. A creativity training session for young and old will be held from July 29 to August 11. This is to help develop artistic skill by acoustic and optical means. All-inclusive cost: Fr. 320. Information obtainable at the "Zwingliheimstätte, CH 9658 Wildhaus.

Electronic Hotel Information in Zurich

Two self service hotel information booths have just been installed by the Zurich Hotel Association and the Zurich Tourist Office at the main railway station and at the arrival hall of Zurich International Airport. It takes only a matter of minutes to reserve a hotel room in Zurich itself. Hotels in Zurich and its surrounding Winterthur or Lucerne are presented on an illustrated screen by means of colour slides and described in five different languages. At the same time, one can tell if a room is free in a specific hotel. By pressing a button, one can find out on a city-map where the hotel is located. Once a tourist has selected his hotel all he has to do is pick

up the phone, press the button of the respective hotel and he is connected, free of charge, with the reception desk of the hotel of his choice.

New Accommodation list for the Swiss Jura Region

The Swiss Jura, a region still hardly touched by tourism, is ideal for quiet, family hiking and riding holidays. "Pro Jura*" tourist office has recently issued a brochure which will prove indispensable to travellers. It is divided into eight regions listing all kinds of accommodation from simple flats and bungalows to large country houses with heated swimming pools. Leisure activities such as hiking, riding, fishing, etc., are also described. Another chapter deals with accommodation in youth hostels, holiday camps, huts, etc. There are five motels in the Jura. Camping is permitted in 13 areas. This brochure and the hotel and restaurant guide are both obtainable from "Pro Jurs", CH-2740 Moutier, Switzerland.

Farm Holidays now possible in Switzerland

Those who want to experience a holiday on a Swiss farm will be interested in the new facilities available at the 300

years old Ruetifarm located at Abtwil in the countryside of Appenzell. The town of St. Gall is only 3 miles away and Lake Constance is quite nearby too. One week's full board and lodging costs Fr. 167 for an adult and Fr. 104 for a child.

New Convention Centre in Montreux

A new convention building has just been opened in the centre of Montreux. The most important feature about it is that the partitions, chairs and stage are movable so that the centre can be

adapted for many kinds of functions — including boxing matches. There is room for 2,000 people in the main conference hall and there are two additional smaller rooms that can seat up to 500 each for receptions, exhibitions, etc.

NEWS from the COLONY

25th LANDSGEMEINDE OF THE SWISS OF THE NORTH

As in many years past, also this year, on Sunday, the 17th June 1973, Swiss men, women, children and their many friends flocked together at the Memorial Park in Hebden Bridge — coming from Lancashire, Yorkshire and Liverpool to be welcomed by the Civic Authorities and people of the Town to be entertained to a morning coffee and take part in a short service conducted by the Minister of the Hope Baptist Church.

The Town received us in a most festive mood; streets, buildings, houses and shop windows profously beflagged and decorated in the colours of our home-country, some displays very much admired, the aftermath of a most successful "Swiss Week" organised by the Hebden Bridge-Swiss Organisation. For several evenings the town's citizens and friends were entertained at such popular occasions as Film-Shows with cheese and wine refreshments; a very successful musical evening when people could listen to an excellent performance of the senior and junior brass-bands, songs and operatic tit-bits; finally, a beer-cellars evening, overflowing to the main streets where people could sit comfortably at tables, being served with all kind of drinks by Ladies of the Town, attractively dressed in Swiss Costume, and listen to the local brass-band. On this particular occasion Swiss Wines could be had, very kindly supplied by Dr. H. Bolliger of the Manchester Swiss Club. Some of the events were also supported by compatriots of ours, although from our side we could have hoped for a better turnout. To us it seemed to be in a small Swiss Town or Village enjoying a typical "Volks-Fest".

Walk to the Hardcastle Crags

People gradually started on the walk up-valley to Hardcastle Crags — admiring on the way the lovely, still unspoiled, landscape, and others took advantage of a modest and slightly rough mountain-track to reach by car Hardcastle Crags, now a centre of Scouts activities. We all sat down to a hearty picnic lunch and even the indifferent weather conditions prevailing at that time could not dampen our good spirits. Eventually we were called to the Landsgemeinde properly and we felt most

fortunate that also this year it was conducted by one of its three founders, Prof. Jean Philip Inebnit, the other two being Mr. H. Money, not anymore with us, and Mr. J. Amman, now living in the South of England. Everybody was well aware of the fact that we were celebrating the 25th Anniversary of a function which has grown all these years and become increasingly important to the Swiss of the North of England. It is, of course, only a symbolic and idealistic version of the real thing in Switzerland but, nevertheless, we gathered around the man one could imagine to be our Landamann, being called forward in the order of the entry into the Confederation and this was repeated 22 times. He addressed us with a few well-chosen words, suited to this particular occasion and the ceremony was concluded with the song "La haut sur la montagne".

Later in the afternoon, everybody moved down to the Town and the members of the Liverpool, Manchester and Yorkshire Swiss Clubs and their many friends, met again in the lovely Civic Hall to enjoy an excellent high-tea, well-served by a friendly and efficient staff. For us it was a reason for sincere satisfaction to see how well we were supported by the younger generation — whole families honouring us with their presence.

Tea at the Town Hall

Mr. Ermanno Berner, President of the Yorkshire Swiss Club, was in the chair and welcomed the many guests, in particular Councillor Mrs. Sheila Doyle (the Chairman of Hebden Royd Urban Council) and her husband, Councillor Milton Sunderland (Chairman of Hepton

Rural Council) and Mrs. Sunderland, some prominent members of the Hebden Bridge-Swiss Association, Mr. & Mrs. Jack Waring (District Commissioner of the Halifax and District Scout Council) our Land-Lord at Hardcastle Crags and the Rev Knight and Mrs. Knight (minister of the Hope Baptist Church and his wife). The absence of our Ambassador and other representatives from the Embassy in London was very much regretted, but we were happy to see Mr. Leuenberger, Vice-Consul, who represented our Consul General in Manchester, Mr. Rolf Born, absent in Switzerland. The chairman extended also a warm welcome to Mr. P. M. Beguin, who did not fear a long journey to be with us. He is known by all of us as the able Editor of the Swiss Observer of London, in which columns we are always well-informed of what happens within our Colonies and back in our Homeland.

The Manchester Swiss Club was represented by its President, Mr. Peter Senn, who was accompanied by some of its members and with the presence of some compatriots from Liverpool it proved to us the wider scope of this yearly function.

Model Railway for Refugees

Referring then specially to Prof. J. P. Inebnit, he reminded us all of what we owe to him, his 25 years of devoted and successful service for this good cause and he was most warmly thanked, in the usual way, by everyone present. We know, of course, of his latest initiative when to mark the 50th Congress of the Swiss Abroad, and with the help of Mr. Philip Sayers, Art Master of the Uppercalder Valley Comprehensive School and an enthusiastic group of students, a large Model of Hebden Bridge and its Landsgemeinde was built and exhibited in the Kramgasse in Bern, attracting much interest and admiration. Having served its original purpose, it is

Swiss Week Festivities (Halifax Courier).

