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# SWITZERLAND IN BRITAIN'S CULTURE

January to mid-February – Aberdeen – 21st February to 18th March – Faculty of Art & Design, Liverpool Polytechnic – *Award-winning Books and Posters from Switzerland*.

1st to 30th January – Ferens Art Gallery, Kingston-upon-Hull – 12th February to 12th March – Reading Museum & Art Gallery, Reading – 19th March to 17th April – Courtauld Institute Galleries, Woburn Square, WC1 – 23rd April to 15th May – Usher Gallery, Lindum Road, Lincoln – *Print and Drawings by Felix Vallotton* (see profile below) an Arts Council Exhibition.

February – Dept. of Geography, The Queen's University of Belfast – *Swiss Cartography Exhibition*.

7th to 27th February – The Concourse Gallery, Polytechnic of Central London, 35 Marylebone Road, NW1 (Baker Street Tube Station) – 8th March to 12th April – City Museums & Art Gallery, Birmingham – 22nd April to 22nd May – Graves Art Gallery, Sheffield – Exhibition *Photography in Switzerland from 1840 to the Present Day* – (see summary opposite).

Sunday, 13th February – Royal Festival Hall, 7.30 p.m. – *Martha Argerich* plays Chopin's Piano Concerto No. 1 with the London Symphony Orchestra, under James Levine.

Monday 14th February – Swiss Embassy, 16 Montagu Place, W1, 6 p.m. (a limited number of free tickets available from the Cultural Counsellor) – The German-language writer *Paul Nizon* (see profile below) gives a reading from his works and answers questions (Mr Nizon will be addressing students in several British Universities between 7th and 18th February).

Thursday, 17th February, to Saturday, 19th February – Cockpit Theatre, Gateforth Street, Marylebone, 8 p.m. – Performances by the mime *Amiel*.

February 28th to March 12th – Manchester – *Manola Asensio* dances leading roles with the London Festival Ballet.

FRIDAY, 11th March – Queen Elizabeth Hall, 7.45 p.m. – *Elisabeth Speiser* sings with the English Chamber Orchestra.

THURSDAY, 24th March – Royal Festival Hall, 8 p.m. – *Charles Dutoit* (see profile below) conducts the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra (Prokofiev, Ibert, Poulenc, Stravinsky).

April/May – Royal Opera House, Covent Garden – *Peter Maag* conducts Gounod's *Faust*.

## Félix Vallotton

Félix Vallotton and Ferdinand Holder, who was twelve years older, were among the most important Swiss artists at the turn of the century. Like many other Swiss artists, such as the Tessin architects in the 17th and 18th centuries and Le Corbusier and Giacometti in more recent times, Vallotton reached full maturity as an artist in a country other than his own. This is a familiar pattern. In former times Swiss soldiers became mercenaries at the service of foreign governments. Today it is our artists who establish themselves abroad. Nevertheless they continue to represent an essential part of Swiss cultural life, creating valuable links with other countries and cities.

In 1882, at the age of seventeen, Félix Vallotton moved to Paris where he joined the group of "Indépendants". As a member of the group of the "Nabis", he was at the centre of the Paris avant garde in the eighties and nineties. His graphic work, especially the wood cuts, was done almost exclusively between 1891 and 1901.

The exhibition, organized by the Arts Council of Great Britain in collaboration with the Swiss Pro Helvetia Foundation and made possible by the Galerie Paul Vallotton of Lausanne, has been shown at Leeds, Derby, Bolton, Sunderland, Belfast and Norwich. It will be on show at the Courtauld Gallery in London in March-April 1977.

## Charles Dutoit

Charles Dutoit was born in October 1936 in Lausanne, and studied violin, piano, composition and conducting at the



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He was conductor of the Radio Zürich Orchestra from 1964-66 and ballet conductor at the Vienna Opera between 1965 and 1967. In the same year he became conductor at the Tonhalle in Zürich and he is also musical director of the Berne Symphony Orchestra, having succeeded Paul Kletzki.

Charles Dutoit has conducted all over Europe and Japan, and has visited South America on several occasions. He has appeared at international festivals.

Charles Dutoit will be conducting the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra on Tuesday, 18th January, and on Thursday, 24th March, 1977.

## Paul Nizon

The Swiss writer Paul Nizon was born in Berne in 1929. He studied history of art, archaeology and modern German literature in his native town and in Munich. The subject of his thesis was Vincent van Gogh's early style of drawing. He began as an assistant at the Historisches Museum, Berne, and in 1960 was awarded a scholarship by the Swiss Institute in Rome. Since 1961 he has been a free-lance writer and journalist (art critic) in Zürich. He has also won a number of awards.

*Photography in Switzerland from 1840 to the present day*

There is a pioneering flavour about

the exhibition "Photography in Switzerland from 1840 to the present day". This is the first comprehensive inventory of photography in Switzerland from its beginnings to the latest works. More than 1,000 photographs taken by 120 photographers tell the history of photography in Switzerland. The exhibition is not arranged in strict chronological order, although within the single sections the photographs are presented in a certain time sequence. Subjects such as landscapes or portraits, reportages or photo-

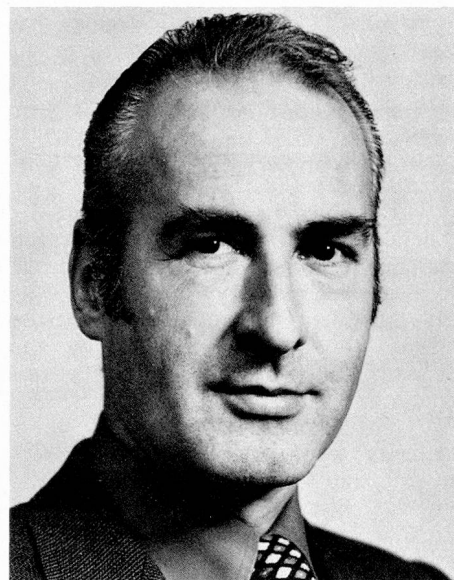
graphic essays are grouped to give a vivid over-all view. At the same time an attempt has been made to show the expressive possibilities of the camera in its diversity as well as in its technical development. Thus the exhibition is not only the history of a modern means of expression in Switzerland but offers personal visual experience of the artist's own visual experience. It is an opportunity to see ourselves and to learn to see because others have looked through the camera for us.

## Swissair news

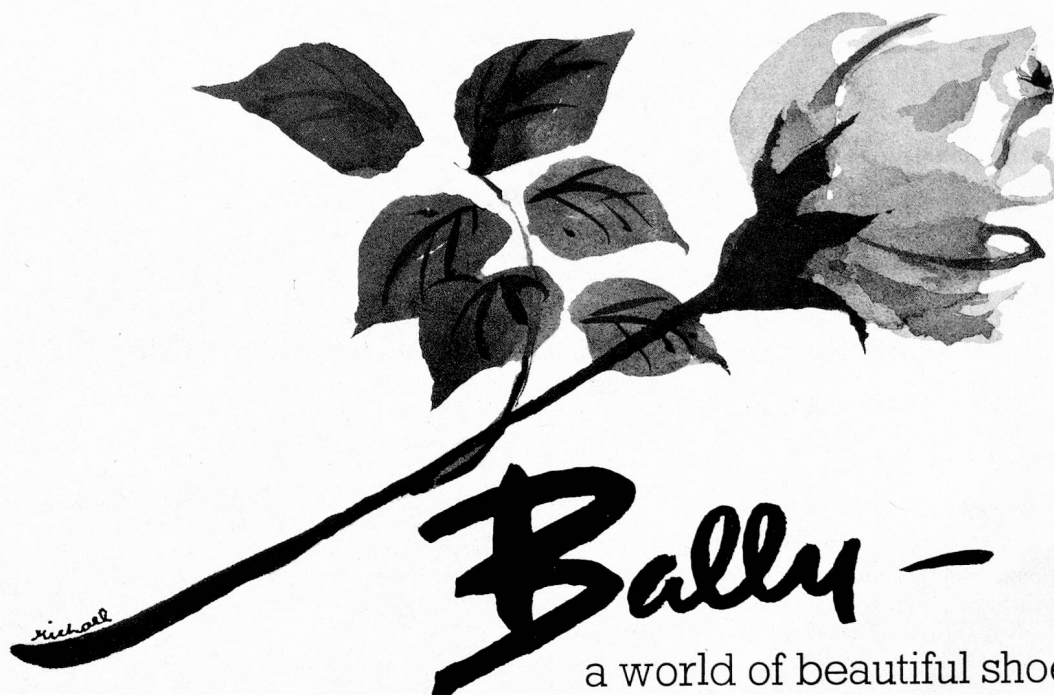
Swissair has appointed Alex Hegi station manager at Heathrow Airport London. He succeeds Albin Meyerhans who has become the airline's station manager in Bombay.

Mr. Hegi, who is 41, joined Swissair at Zürich station in 1955. Two years later he transferred to flight operations; between 1958 and 1967 he was in charge of flight operations and telecommunications in the Far East and of Swissair stations in India and Hong Kong.

Returning to Zürich he became manager of the newly formed station control centre there and subsequently manager of load control, introducing Swissair's new computerised loading and passenger check-in system. Since 1972 he has been duty station manager at Zürich.



Alex Hegi, newly appointed Swissair station manager at London's Heathrow airport. Photo by courtesy of Swissair.



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