

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: - (1977)

Heft: 1727

Rubrik: Switzerland in Britain's cultural life

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"TURNER IN SWITZERLAND" -BOOK REVIEW

This is a title of a book by John Russell, former art critic of the *Sunday Times* and now art critic of the *New York Times*, and Andrew Wilton, until recently Assistant Keeper in the Print Room of the British Museum and now Curator of Prints and Drawings at the Yale Center for British Art; he was responsible for drawings and prints in the Turner exhibitions in London in 1975 and 1976.

Turner visited Switzerland six times between 1802 and 1844. He was greatly attracted by the country's natural beauties and they inspired him to produce some of his greatest masterpieces.

The illustrations in this book are a representative selection of Turner's best Swiss and Alpine drawings. There are 90 reproductions of all regions. The selection is all the more valuable because many of the originals are not easily accessible. There are 60 colour reproductions, 22 of them on double-page spreads, and most of them in five colours. "The Avalanche in the Grisons" appears on the cover of the book. There are Turner portraits, five old and modern maps, marked in some cases with the artist's itineraries, informative annotations and new identification of many drawings; and thus the book may be considered one of the most valuable in the extensive list of Turner literature.

The book, edited by Walter Amstutz, may be ordered from DeClivo Press, P.O. Box 8600 Duebendorf, Switzerland. The price is Sw.Fr. 140, plus postage.

The Swiss National Tourist Office published its 1977 calendar by way of presenting the "Turner in Switzerland" book. It contains 13 reproductions, all of them from the book. It also contains a map and many quotations "In Praise of Switzerland", amongst them from Byron, Tennyson and Dickens.

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DATES TO REMEMBER

- 10th March, 1892: Birthday of the composer Arthur Honegger.
- 17th March, 1867: The composer of "Oh mein Heimatland", W. Baumgartner died.
- 21st March, 1487: Niklaus von Flüe died.
- 23rd March, 1697: Beat Fischer, founder of the organisation of postal services in Switzerland, died.
- 25th March, 1962: Anniversary of the death of Prof. August Piccard.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- Thursday, 24th March, Nouvelle Société Helvétique, ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & DINNER.
- Friday, 22nd April, Swiss Industries Fair, Basle, special day for the Swiss abroad. Apply to Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad, Alpenstrasse 26, 3000 Berne, Switzerland.
- Saturday, 23rd July, Jass Competition for Swiss Abroad within the Swiss Jass Championships. Please apply to OK SJM, Post Box 860, 8401 Winterthur.
- Saturday, 13th August, Fête des Vignerons Vevey, Special Day for the Swiss Abroad.
- 19th - 21st August, Assembly of the Swiss Abroad, Lausanne.

SWISS HOLIDAY GUIDE FOR THE HANDICAPPED

The Swiss Society for Aid to the Disabled has issued a holiday guide to Switzerland for the handicapped. It contains information about more than 200 hotels, guest houses, holiday homes, spa hotels and holiday apartments suitable for disabled people. Special points dealt with are suitability for wheelchairs, width of room and lift doors, diet facilities and indoor swimming pools. The brochure is obtainable from the office of Pro Infirmitas, Postfach 129, 8032 Zürich and costs Sw.Fr. 3.20.

Switzerland in Britain's cultural life

FRIDAY, 11th March - Wigmore Hall, 7.30 p.m. - Recital by *Jan Dobrzewski* (violin) and *June Pantillon* (piano), who play sonatas by Schumann, Brahms, Hindemith and Ravel.

WEDNESDAY, 20th April - St. John's Smith Square - Concert by the *Berne String Quartet*.

LATE APRIL - Scotland - Monday, 25th April - University of Manchester Theatre, 7.30 p.m. - Wednesday, 27th April, 3 p.m. and Thursday, 28th April, 7.30 p.m. - Institut français, Queensberry Place, South Kensington - Friday, 29th April - Maison française, Oxford, 8.30 p.m. - *Michel Poletti* presents *Opus 24*, a puppet show for adults (evenings), and *L'Extraordinaire Voyage*, a matinée performance for children aged 7 to 12, from his *Teatro Antonin Artaud - Piccolo Teatro di Lugano*.

WEDNESDAY, 27th April - Royal Festival Hall, 8 p.m. - *Tamas Vasary* plays Mozart's Piano Concerto in E flat with the London Mozart Players, conducted by Harry Blech.

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