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SWITZERLAND IN BRITAIN'S CULTURAL LIFE

To 27th March — Hayward Gallery — Dada and Surrealism Reviewed (the Dada Movement was founded in Zürich in 1916).

27th February to mid-March — Canterbury College of Art — *Award-Winning Books and Posters from Switzerland*.

Friday, 3rd March — Royal Northern College of Music Concert Hall, Manchester, 7.30 p.m. — *Heinz Holliger* plays the Concerto for oboe and orchestra by Hummel and the Concertino for cor anglais and orchestra by Donizetti with the Orchestra of St. John's Smith Square, conducted by John Lubbock.

13th–18th March — Alhambra Theatre, Bradford — Swan Lake; 20th–25th March — Opera House, Manchester — Romeo and Juliet/Swan Lake; 27th March–1st April — Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton — Swan Lake — *Manola Asensio* dances leading roles with the London Festival Ballet.

Tuesday, 14th March, 7.30 p.m. — Tuesday, 21st March, 12.15 p.m. — Tuesday, 28th March, 7.30 p.m. — City Hall, Glasgow — *Karl Anton Rickenbacher* conducts the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra

SWISS TOURISM ABROAD IN 1976

Holidays taken by Swiss abroad increased again in 1976. After the growth of about 3.5 per cent in 1974 and 3 per cent in 1975, the number of overnight reservations abroad by Swiss tourists increased in 1976 by 4 per cent compared with the previous year.

The rate of Swiss visits in countries that keep statistics of overnight reservations grew by 1.5 per cent, while countries that only record frontier passages showed an increase of about 20 per cent.

Making allowances for the incompleteness of certain statistics, the number of overnight stays by Swiss abroad is estimated to have totalled somewhere in the neighbourhood of 28 million, i.e. roughly a million more than in 1975. Nine-tenths of the Swiss who travel abroad remained in Europe, while 3 per cent visited North America, Africa and Asia and 1 per cent other continents.

ST. MORITZ OPENS COUNTRY'S BIGGEST YOUTH HOSTEL

Switzerland's biggest and most up-to-date youth hostel opened in St. Moritz at the beginning of December. The sleeping arrangements consist mainly of four-bedded rooms with shower facilities. Also available for the young guests will be dining room and study rooms, games room, kiosk, etc. Behind the building a big grass area stretches to the edge of the woods.

SWISS EVENTS

BASLE — "POWTECH" EXHIBITION, 7th–10th MARCH, 1978

In connection with the International Powder Technology and Bulk Solids Exhibition "POWTECH", which will be held in the halls of the Swiss Industries Fair at Basle from 7th to 10th March, 1978, a special pre-Exhibition Technical Study Tour is organised from 2nd to 7th March.

Designed to be of practical value to specialists in the processing, transportation, storage and control of powders, granules and bulk solids, POWTECH is the international exhibition attended by all those who design, build, manage and maintain industrial plants.

RECYCLING 78

Recycling 78, an international exhibition of machines and processes for the recuperation of waste, will be held in Basle from 7th to 11th March, 1978. It will enable specialists from all over the world to examine, in one and the same place, the latest machinery, plant and techniques designed to solve the serious environmental problem represented by waste.

A congress will be held at the same time on the theme of the economic feasibility of industrial methods of recycling waste.

(Secretariat Recycling, Postfach, CH-4021 Basle)

NUCLEX 78

The 5th International Fair of Nuclear Industries, Nuclex 78, will be held in Basle from 3rd to 7th October, 1978. This big fair, the only one of its kind in this field, will again be accompanied by numerous technical meetings and special discussions.

The main theme chosen for this year concerns the state of development, experience and prospects of nuclear energy within the framework of the overall energy supply. Exhibitors from most countries in which nuclear industries are represented have already confirmed their participation.

(Secretariat Nuclex 78, Postfach, CH-4021 Basle)

SPIKED TYRES IN SWITZERLAND

Spiked tyres may again be used this winter until 31st March. The speed limit is 80 km/h (50 m.p.h.), and cars must show a circular plate marked "80" at the rear. Driving on motorways ("Nationalstrassen") and carriageways ("Autostrassen") is prohibited with the exception of the N.13 motorway between Thusis and Mesocco.

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Official Presentation of Award to Mr. W. A. de Vigier (Hon. C.B.E.)



Mr. W. A. de Vigier, Hon. C.B.E., and Mrs. de Vigier with his Excellency the Swiss Ambassador, Dr. E. Thalmann.

As reported in our last issue our fellow compatriot, Mr. W. A. de Vigier, Chairman of the Acrow Group of Companies was awarded an honorary C.B.E., by Her Majesty the Queen, in the New Year Honours List. We are sure our readers will be interested to read the speech given by Mr. Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry when he made the presentation on behalf of the Queen.

"Your Excellency, ladies and gentlemen. May I extend a very warm welcome to you all particularly to Mr. de Vigier, his wife, daughters and friends, on this happy occasion.

I am especially pleased to see his Excellency Dr. Ernesto Thalmann, the Swiss Ambassador.

Mr. de Vigier is a Swiss citizen, and it is a very special and auspicious event when Her Majesty the Queen awards British honours to nationals of another country, the more so when the other country is Switzerland with which we have such friendly links.

The Honour which I am shortly to present to Mr. de Vigier is a recognition of the very high esteem in which he is held in this country.

It gives me great personal pleasure to act as Her Majesty's representative on this occasion because Mr. de Vigier has rendered such outstanding service in the very important field of engineering which is of special interest to me and my Department.

During the 42 years in which Mr. de Vigier has worked in Britain he has built up a highly successful engineering business employing over 7½ thousand people in 12 major factories in the U.K., many in development areas.

Acrow Engineering is a by-word for excellence in design and high quality in

performance and the Group has made a very significant contribution to the success of the British engineering industry.

Mr. de Vigier personally introduced to Britain his company's first development — the now famous Acrow telescopic steel prop, saving many millions of pounds in timber imports for building props.

Today, Acrow manufactures a wide variety of products ranging from cranes to automated warehouses and scaffolding jacks, to oil rig structures.

The company's successes are founded on the attention given by Mr. de Vigier to research, development and marketing of new products.

Mr. de Vigier's keen interest in exports and the dedication with which he has personally promoted Acrow products and developed export markets have made an invaluable contribution to U.K. performance. The Acrow Group have gained five Queen's Awards for Export Achievement in the past ten years and Her Majesty has now recognised Mr. de Vigier's personal contribution by appointing him an honorary Commander of the Order of the British Empire.

Mr. de Vigier, in recognition of your outstanding contribution to the prosperity and exports of the British engineering industry, in accordance with the Queen's Commands and on Her Majesty's behalf, I present you with the Badge of a Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire which Her Majesty has been pleased to confer upon you.

May I congratulate you and offer my very best wishes for your continued success."

Eric Varley



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By way of comparison my Renault 16 cost £1,250 s/h at around the same time. Maintenance and running costs for the same period and mileage were £865, bringing my total investment to £2,115. This car, if sold today would fetch approximately £900. One can easily deduce from this comparison that ownership of the Bentley was in the region £2,500 to my profit and advantage, not to mention the far superior charm and comfort that a car of the Bentley's distinction offers to the discerning and caring driver.

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