

Books reviews

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Book reviews

«Le cinéma suisse»

The birth of a new Swiss film after 1968 was not accident, but the result of a conscious effort.

Freddy Buach gives a complete picture of the Swiss film. He studies the works, he reproduces the people and the problems. He establishes a basic filmography and creates a first balanced appraisal which is remarkable.

French text. Collection «Poche Suisse», published by l'Age d'Homme SA, Lausanne. 364 pages. Price SFr. 15.-.

«Plaisirs gastronomie magazine, Guide suisse 1979»

This guide contains the most complete list possible of all Swiss restaurants, as well as one of restaurants all over the world.

There is also a small selection of confectioners in the guide. This difficult, yet complete choice is of great use to visitors to an unknown region.

French text. 235 pages. Price SFr. 19.50. Published by Guide gastronomie magazine, 2013 Colombier. Retailer by Payot.

«La Gardienne» by André Monnier

When the hero of a novel is a poacher as well as a doubtful speculator, and when the woman chosen by destiny is a gamekeeper duly sworn in, it is sufficient to make a novel like «La Gardienne» really spicy.

Well-defined personalities, poetic material artfully presented by a man who loves the land and all who live on it.

French text, 260 pages. Price 15 Swiss Francs. Editions Mon Village SA, 1099 Vulbens.

CH 78 – Journal suisse de l'année, The Year in Switzerland, by José Ribeaud

CH 78 presents the big events which marked national life in the course of the year. News items follow one another and recall the important moments of the year in the fields of politics, economics, information, social life, folklore, agriculture, sport and culture. The photos are supplemented by captions. One chapter is devoted to the Jura. Bound volume with a 20x22 cm format, 256 pages, 216 photos, maps and charts. Price 40 Swiss Francs. Published by André Eiselé, 1008 Prilly/Lausanne.

«Necker ou la faillite de la vertu»

Jacques Necker remains one of the most curious figures of the French eighteenth century, which counts so many of them. The quality of his character, as much as the value of his works, equally misunderstood, make him one of the personalities most worthy of a biography.

The work by Ghislain de Diesbach comprises 12 chapters and contains 375 pages. Librairie Académique, Paris, price 28.50 Swiss Francs. French text.

«Ceux qui ne devraient pas mourir» (Those who should not die)

This poignant testimony is published by Editions Robert Laffont, Paris and Opera Mundi, in the collection «Vécu». Raymond Courvoisier who has worked for 40 years in the service of the International Red Cross, presents the efforts of this organization since the Spanish Civil War and up to the Palestinian refugees. It is a book everyone must read. It is an impassioned work, fully realizing human suffering in all its forms, especially hunger. In French, 282 pages, 155x239 mm, and the recommended price is SFr 25.—.

«Folklore Schweiz» Festivities and customs of Swiss folklore

Customs are nowhere more diverse and original than in Switzerland. Mutual protection of local characteristics was the basis of the foundation of the Swiss Confederation 700 years ago. Every valley and almost every Commune today maintains its own customs.

Thousands of smaller and larger usages appear in today's federal calendar of festivals.

This new beautiful picture book shows a comprehensive and well-balanced cross-section from the helvetic tradition of custom and festival. Michael Wolgensinger, world-renowned photographer, and Walter Baumann, knowledgeable and witty author, compiled this volume in two years of hard work. What we have now is a first-class book of reference, which will take a firm place in the cultural library of Switzerland.

Customs, festivals and costumes. 240 pages in German with 352 coloured pictures, 120 pages of text. Supplement in French/English. Format 23x27.5 cm. SFr. 88.—. Orell Fuessli Verlag, Nueschelerstrasse 22, 8001 Zurich, Switzerland.

«Guide pratique de votre résidence secondaire en Suisse» (Practical guide to your second home in Switzerland)

This work by Alain Piollé is in French and gives useful advice on what one ought to know before and after purchasing. It covers «Lex Furgler», mortgages, estate duties and rights etc. In addition, this book of 90 pages, in paperback, contains a number of tables and diagrams as well as some most impor-

tant statistics. This guide in French is obtainable from: Val Promotion SA, Comp-toir d'investissements immobiliers, avenue du Midi 10, case postale 193, 1950 Sion, Switzerland.

«Das liebe Brot», The Dear Bread, Ferdinand Rothbart

The German Bread Museum in Ulm owns a series of hand-coloured engravings from the middle of the last century. The artist from Southern Germany, Ferdinand Rothbart, has called this collection of pictures «The Dear Bread». In fine lines and delicate tints, he described the process of making bread from the time of sowing to the moment mother distributes the bread to the children.

The poems accompanying each of the pictures are mostly those by poets who lived roughly at the same time as Ferdinand Rothbart (1823–1899). What the latter portrayed in his pictures, was expressed in picturesque language by Conrad-Ferdinand Meyer, Theodor Storm and others.

The adult reader will enjoy above all the artistic value and the power of expression in word and picture. The children, on the other hand, will be absorbed in the many details of the pictures and let their imagination take over. Nowadays when the making of bread can hardly be followed, parents and teachers will appreciate the attractive book by which they can bring the making and importance of bread close to the children. German text with illustrations by Ferdinand Rothbart. 28 pages with engravings in 11 colours. Price 19 Swiss Francs. Published by AT Verlag, Aarau.

Karl Löönd Swiss in America

Successes and failures in the New World 328 pages with 98 pages of pictures. SFr. 35.—.

This book contains 25 biographical reports based on hundreds of original documents, interviews, books and reports on Swiss who have helped to create the face of the United States and who are better known there today than they are in their old country. The «From washer-upper to millionaire» stories which have the advantage of being properly researched and true, are one aspect of the book. The other aspires to show the Swiss contribution to science and philosophy, to the cultural and religious life of the United States. The book gives an excellent synopsis of the history of Swiss emigration to America. Karl Löönd comes to the conclusion that all emigrants always carry a bit of homeland in their hearts. This homeland far away is not without influence on its children, whether famous or nameless and without success, and their fate is a fascinating image of the homeland itself.