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Bread to fend off harm

A LOAF of bread, symbol of friendship and prosperity, changes hands. A farmer, whose hard work helped to produce it, hands it over to a young man of the village — an Easter Monday tradition in many parts of the Valais.

At Ferden in the Loetschental, they not only distribute bread but also wine and goatmilk cheese. This is honouring a bequest that goes back to the Middle Ages, and was originally endowed to avert any possible harm from the three alps that tower above the village.

Pleasure in processions

PROCESSIONS are among the most ardent and sincere aspects of life among the people of the southernmost Swiss canton, the Ticino. And never more so than at Easter time.

Yet the southern character of the Ticinesi means that even the most solemn Passion scenes, as presented in such places as Locarno, Bignasco, Ronco or Mendrisio, not only fill spectators with reverence for the meaning of what is being enacted, but also with innocent

pleasure at the beauty and colour of the procession itself.

The two well-known Mendrisio processions, on the evenings of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, are basically different in character.

Dramatic

The first day may be regarded as an example of the most primitive dramatic art. Christ's journey to Calvary is re-enacted in exaggerated fashion and the procession, with its baroque

undertones, includes the various characters of the Passion story, some of them in glittering attire and trappings, others in modest simple dress.

The second procession, however, is strongly liturgical. The moving play-acting of the previous day gives way to a dignified procession of the clergy. Luminous banners which hang across the streets or are carried along in the procession give it additional character.

THE third International Triennial Exhibition of Photography will be held in the Museum of Art and History at Fribourg from June 11 to October 15.

The exhibition is under the patronage of the canton and city of Fribourg and features photographs from professionals from all over the world.

Information and tickets from the Official Tourist Office, 1700 Fribourg, Switzerland.

Special packages

LOCAL tourist offices of the Lake of Geneva Region are offering holidays in hotels of all categories. A weekend in Geneva is available from Sfr. 42 a person, including a one-day ticket for free use of public transport.

Special tennis packages, including free lessons in windsurfing, water ski-ing and sailing, can be booked through the Montreux Tourist Office from Sfr. 348.- a week. Also available are skiing packages at St. Croix, Vallée de Joux, Château-d'Oex, Les Diablerets, Leysin and Villars.

A detailed brochure on all packages is available from the Swiss National Tourist Office.

Berne a la carte

SWITZERLAND'S federal capital is again offering a special package valid throughout the year with prices starting from Sfr. 82 for two nights and Sfr. 108 for three nights.

The arrangements include bed and breakfast, a city sight-seeing tour, a 24-hour ticket for the municipal transport system, and documentation.

A detailed leaflet is available from the Swiss National Tourist Office.

Switzerland by Europabus

"EUROPABUS", the motor coach system of the European railways, is organising escorted motor coach tours in Switzerland with departures from Zurich and Geneva.

The tours last between two and a half and six days. Prices start from Sfr. 350, including half board.

Reservations can be made through any Swissair office.