

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: - (1982)

Heft: 1794

Rubrik: Woman's Observer

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looks at Geneva, the City of the Lake

ANNE GREGG, former deputy editor of *Good Housekeeping* and editor of *Woman's Journal*, is perhaps best known as a journalist-presenter on the BBC's "Holiday" programme.

However, although television has made her face familiar to millions, her writing talents have been acknowledged by

other professionals for some years.

So it came as no surprise that Roland Castro, managing director of Time Off Ltd, the London based travel company, should approach her to write an essay on the city of Geneva.

Time Off have produced a series of

illustrated essays on cities around the world in which well known writers offer a very personal view.

Anne Gregg's Geneva essay recaptures the magic of a winter visit to the city and is delightfully illustrated by Liz Reber, an Australian artist now living in Paris.

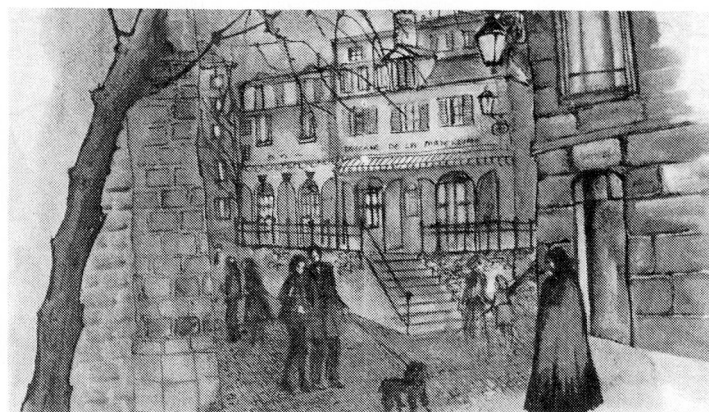
The separate yet complementary talents of these two women combine to produce an honest and endearing impression of both the place and the people.

"I must admit Geneva had never quite kindled my curiosity . . . somehow it always sounded a little antiseptic and do-gooding, what with the Red Cross, the UN et al. And then I went, I saw, and was conquered.

"Geneva is stylish, sophisticated and extremely civilised.

"It was the end of November, the streets were alight with Christmas trees and darkness was falling as we made our first foray – an ear-freezing dash to Placette, the nearest department store, to buy woolly hats. Placette is a curious cross between John Lewis and British Home Stores.

"We lurched out into the cold again gulping lungfuls of icy air, and spied a friendly cafe on the corner of the rue Cornavin.



The old town

"Everything gleamed; the glass, the brass, the tiles, the floor, the barman's teeth. Everyone smiled and said 'Bonsoir'. We smiled back.

"A watery sun and sparse snowflakes greeted us next



morning as we set off on foot along the Right Bank and out on to the Jetée des Paquis whose railings were festooned with four-inch thick icicles. From here you get a marvellous panorama of the whole city.

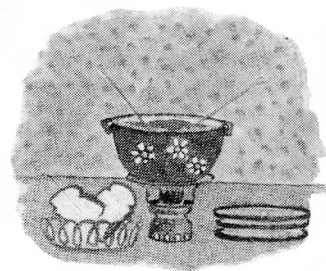
"The Pont du Mont-Blanc took us quickly to the Left

Bank and the main shopping drag, the rue du Rhône, where the overwhelming impression is of opulence and cleanliness.

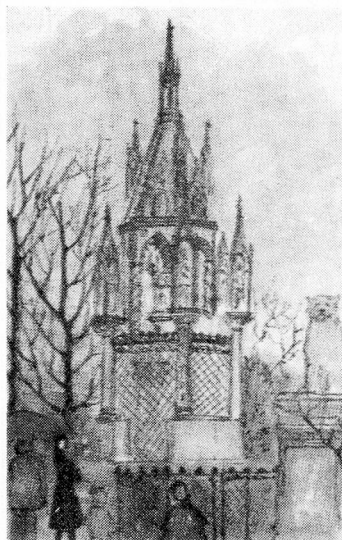
"The old town, which rises steeply on the Left Bank is, as you'd expect, a maze of cobbled streets full of glossy boutiques, antique shops, bistros and art galleries; they lead you to the cathedral that Calvin once preached in, St. Peter's, with its pleasant mix of styles dating back to the 12th century and pretty roof tiles in shades of copper, and green.

"One of our best-value meals was at a busy cafe in picturesque Place Molard where there's a flower market

● A full colour, illustrated copy of Anne Gregg's essay "The City of the Lake" is available from Time Off Limited, 2a Chester Close, Chester SW1X 7BQ.



. . . but sweet-toothed travellers will be plagued by the temptations in confectioners' windows. What an edible Disneyland of delights, especially all the chocolate crocks, some as big as a baby's potty, all crammed to overflowing with pretty, handmade marzipan vegetables."



Brunswick Memorial



Rousseau's statue