

# Switzerland's most distinctive antiques

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## GRISONS.

Mr. John A. Roosevelt, youngest son of the American President is staying at the "Suvrettahaus" in St. Moritz.

## VAUD.

In St. Croix died, at the age of 85, M. Edouard Baierlé, a former proprietor of the "Hotel des Rasses." The deceased played an important rôle in the development of the "Stations des Rasses."

## \* \* \*

M. Emile Gétaz, since 1896 editor and later on Director of the "Feuille d'avis de Vevey" and the "Hinkenden Boten" (Berne), has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary. M. Gétaz was one of the founders of the Press Association of the canton of Vaud, and for many years its President and Treasurer; since 1924 he is a member of the Central Committee of the Swiss Newspapers Publishing Association.

## VALAIS.

A large fire which broke out at the little village of Arbaz, almost completely destroyed the village; unfortunately the majority of the houses were not insured.

## NEWS FROM THE SWISS GRAND-PRIX

Few days before the tragic accident which befell the racing champion Delius at the German Grand-prix, the Auto-Union firm had named him as one of their chief racers in the Swiss Grand-prix. His place will now be taken by H. P. Müller, or the wellknown Italian L. Fagioli. The two great German teams will thus meet at the start on equal odds. The bolides' race at the Swiss Grand-prix will therefore take the nature of a particularly decisive contest, seeing that both firms, Mercedes-Benz and Auto-Union, can at present claim victory records of equal import. For the former, Hermann Lang has won the Grand-prix of Tripolis and the International Avus race, while Caracciola has captured for them the German Grand-prix; Auto-Union, on their part, have to their credit the Grand-prix of Belgium, won by Hasse, the Eifel race and the American Vanderbilt Cup, both by Rosemeyer. Odds stand therefore at 3 against 3. Alfa Romeo have not, so far, named their drivers for the start with their new construction. It is however assumed that the task will fall to T. Nuvolari and G. Farina. Sommer and Belmondo also manifest an interest for a start on Alfa Romeo. One certainty may however be taken for granted, namely, that, with few exceptions, Berne will see on August 22nd the entire racing elite, both in the 1.5 liter class and the Grand-prix community.

## TENNI AND VARZI AT THE PRIZE OF BERNE?

Seeing the great number of European celebrities entered for both races, the Prize of Berne (contest in the 1.5 liter class) to be run at the Swiss Grand-prix meeting, the interest of car builders has evidently been aroused in no mean degree. From Italy, it is learned that Maserati is seeking to muster a particularly powerful factory team in order to oppose an equal match to the English E.R.A. His champion will probably be Varzi, whose remarkable debut in this class is well noted. In the second place will appear for Maserati, the equally famous motor-wheel champion Omobono Tenni, who is intending to resume on the racing car in exchange for the two-wheeled vehicle. Dreyfus is being named as a third competitor for Maserati.

## SWITZERLAND'S MOST DISTINCTIVE ANTIQUES

By WALTER BUCKLER.

A recent article in *The Bazaar* described some of the old Swiss view and costume prints which are in a distinct class of their own, being, unlike any of the other eagerly collected colour prints, outline engravings beautifully coloured by hand.

The little country of Switzerland, which has pursued its own development, shut off to some extent by its mountain barriers from the fashions of other nations, has produced other distinctive kinds of art objects.

It is noted, for example, for its ancient pottery, which was entirely a peasant art in the early 18th century. Characteristic of this old pottery are the colours, such as light primrose with a very shiny brown and green, and the verses on the outside.

The nicest pieces were made as presents for birthdays and weddings and not for use. They consisted of plates, sugar bowls and cream jars, having a lovely varnish of a thick glaze. This pottery was made at Langnau in the Canton of Bern, and some potters emigrated to Pennsylvania where they continued to make a Swiss style of pottery, including the German verses, but with the portrait of Washington.

A feature of Swiss pottery, notably plates, is that they are all dated as well as decorated on the back in beautiful colours. The sugar bowls have very decorated lids, mostly with a cock

perched on them. These are very valuable and cost anything up to £20.

Pewter was made in Switzerland all over the country in the 17th and 18th centuries. It was made in nearly every canton as Switzerland is a wine-drinking country and the pewter was mostly used as wine jugs. Their form and the engravings on them are distinctive features of Swiss pewter.

The "Wadtländer" wine jugs, a speciality of the Canton of Vaud, takes the shape of a decanter with two acorns on the lid. The Bernese pewter wine jug is entirely different both in shape and form; it is like a bottle with six sides, a screw-in top, and the sides engraved with Swiss soldiers and the arms of noble families in Bern. The arms of the town and maker always appear on the spout, besides being stamped at the bottom inside.

Another product of Berne, quite different from those already described, is the so-called Bernese "Steg Kanne." This is oval in shape with a long mouthpiece supported by a man or woman's outstretched arm.

Those with the man's arm are the most prized because they are usually engraved like a knight's mailed arm. The soldier's outfit was more attractive than the dress of women in the 17th century.

These pewter jugs ranged from 2in. in height to about 3 ft. or more, and were always used for wine, every Swiss family possessing several of these for actual use. The Bernese "Steg Kanne" is nowadays rare, but that of Canton of Vaud is not so valuable, as many of them are still in existence.

The finest pewter jugs were made for Corporations, known as "Die Zünfte" for their annual dinners, and they were very proud of them. To-day the most eagerly sought-for pewter are those pieces marked with a gun, as these were given as shooting prizes and have the gun stamped usually on the lid.

In Canton Vaud pewter is still made in much the same old style, but the material is different and not so good as that of the early days. A fairly large proportion of very good Swiss pewter found its way to England, and that is why the Victoria and Albert Museum in South Kensington has one of the finest Swiss pewter collections to be seen anywhere. There are still collectors and collections of Swiss pewter in England, but the Swiss are probably the keenest collectors of their own pewter, but only of the best quality.

The stained glass produced in Switzerland is a speciality of that country and has, so far as the writer knows, been made nowhere else. Most of it came from the Cantons of Bern, Basle, and Zurich, and took the form of presents from one canton or corporation to another.

The colours and the arms are distinctive features of this old Swiss stained glass, being in bright yellow, blue and red. The best examples of this stained glass date back to the 16th century, fading out around 1700, to be followed by another art, that of engraved glass.

This was not coloured, but just cut and was produced only in the Canton of Bern. This cut glass was famous in the 18th century, and still is to-day, as there are very few collections.

The engraved glass, just as the Swiss pottery, has verse and the names and arms of those for whom it was made. Pieces of this cut glass, measuring about 8 by 10in., used to be hung with chains inside the window or put into the window as part of it. The stained glass was only used in the churches for whom the best pieces were made.

The finest collection of both stained and engraved glass is to be found in the Bernese Historical Museum and Landes Museum of Zurich. There are several noted collectors of this glass in Switzerland, one being in Basle, and the other in Bern.

Switzerland had two factories of china, one at Nyon on Lake Geneva, and the other at Zurich, both differing entirely in the colouring and material used. The Nyon china is absolutely classical and done after the style of French Sèvres, whilst the Zurich china factory looked more to the German factories, such as Höchst and Dresden.

The colouring is done in minute style as on ivory, being very well worked out in detail, mouth, eyes, ears, etc.

Both factories closed down around 1800 and there are now not many pieces of either in existence. The china of the Zurich factory is the most prized because they are so rare, consisting principally of figures. The Nyon china consisted mostly of tea or coffee sets decorated, some with flowers and the best with landscapes.

Swiss furniture was mostly made in walnut, and during the 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries walls were beautifully panelled and inlaid in different woods, a dark wood being used with a lighter wood.

Of special note are the tables of that period, as the centre was mostly slate used for easier cleansing and the borders inlaid with the arms of the different cantons, or with lions or eagles.

Other outstanding Swiss furniture were the big dining-room cupboards, which stood some 10ft. high and about the same long. These had pewter washing basins in the centre or at one side and a pewter container for water suspended close by. The Swiss wardrobes were also big, the distinguishing feature about them being their beautiful columns and panelling. Always executed in the most beautiful walnut, they were used as linen cupboards for trousseaux.

The "Galgen Stabell" is a unique piece of old Swiss furniture; the back has the shape of a gallows, finely engraved, signed and dated.

The Swiss craftsmen also produced wooden cradles engraved and inlaid, also signed and dated, the best examples coming from the Canton of Grisons. All these articles of china, pewter, furniture, etc., are highly prized by the collector in Switzerland and elsewhere.

BAZAAR.

## WANDERWEGE.

Es ist in Bern eine Section der Schweiz. Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Wanderwege gegründet worden, deren Zweck es ist die Hauptstrassen vom Fussgängerkehr zu entlasten und durch Ausbesserungen und Verbindungen der existierenden Wanderwege ein zusammenhängendes Netz von schönen Wander Routen zu schaffen. Der Pilgerweg der von der Beatushöhle bis nach Merligen führt, ist ein prächtiges Beispiel ihrer Arbeit und ihrem gemeinnützigen Bestreben. Der Weg wurde letzten Winter ausgebaut und die Section hat im Projekt, diesen Weg von der Beatushöhle bis nach Interlaken weiter zu führen, und somit dem Wanderer einen der schönsten Wege, mit prachtvoller Aussicht auf See und Gebirge, eröffnen. Wir wünschen dem Unternehmen viel Glück und Erfolg.

H. E.

## PERSONAL.

We tender our deepest sympathy to Dr. Eric Kessler, London correspondent of the Neue Zürcher Zeitung, on the death of his mother, which occurred in Winterthur.

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