

Swiss cultural Life in June 1959

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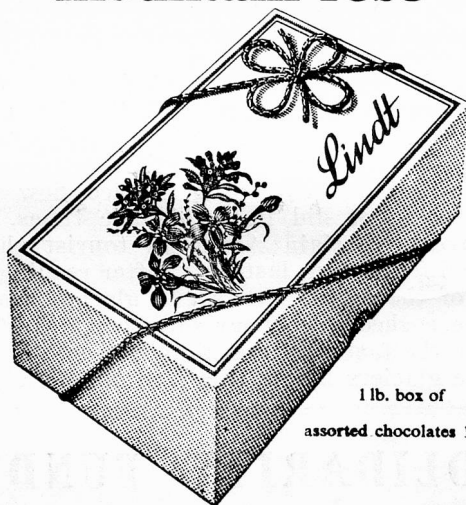
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SWISS CULTURAL LIFE IN JUNE 1959.

Summer Fêtes in Swiss Towns.

During the weekend of 27th and 28th June the *Ticino* will be gay with peasant costumes and resound to all the fun of a rustic fête. *Locarno* and *Lugano* will be the principal centres for these festivities, and at *Bellinzona* there is to be a colourful procession. — *Romanshorn* has reserved the 20th June for its nocturnal lake festival which will take place opposite the attractive gardens that front the lake of Constantine; the far-famed nocturnal lake festival of *Lucerne* will be held this year on 27th June. — Visitors from far and near will be coming to *Bienne* at the foot of Jura Hills for the light-hearted Braderie on 4th and 5th July. — The Children's festival known as the "Solemnität" to be held in *Burgdorf* on 29th June can look back on a long tradition; a children's festival is due to take place at *Herisau* in the Appenzell on the same Monday, and on 30th June there follows the children's festival of *St. Gall*. At *Moutier* the historic Moutier shooting match has been fixed for 21st and on the following day the Battle of Moutier fought in 1476 is commemorated. The Abbaye des Sciernes Picats is a historic prize-shooting festival at *Chateau d'Oex* on 7th June. At *Vevey/La-Tour-de-Peilz* the Rhone Congress and the Rhone Festival, both scheduled to take place on 21st June, will make the day a memorable one.

Travelling Exhibition of Outstanding Posters.

The excellent reputation Swiss poster art enjoys abroad is due to the collaboration of artists, art printers and their clients. The Federal Department of the Interior has selected the best posters of 1958 and awarded the designers, printers and the firms commissioning the works a diploma of honour. These posters are to be displayed in open-air exhibitions in *Berne* on 7th June, at *Aarau* from 6th to 28th, and at *Schaffhausen* from 6th to 30th, so that the public at large can enjoy the varied stylistic merits of these prize-winning advertisements.

A Wide Variety of Exhibition Themes.

Besides the commemorative exhibition for the graphic artist and painter Hans Fischer (1909-1958), the *Zurich* festival weeks also include, likewise at the Kunsthhaus, an exhibition of works by Alfred Manessier, which continues until 30th June. The exhibition to be held this year at the Ethnographical Museum of *Neuchâtel* is devoted to the theme "A quoi les enfants du monde?" The exhibition "Gymnastics in Switzerland" will be open in *Basle* (Aeschengraben 25) from 6th June onwards. At *Lausanne* the AIDA "International Food Exhibition" will be attracting crowds of visitors from 13th to 28th June.

Theatre, Music and Ballet.

Once again international theatrical companies will be performing at the Playhouse in the series entitled "Theatre in Four Languages" as part of the June Festival in *Zurich*, and at the Tonhalle there will be five festival concerts with well-known conductors and soloists. The contribution of the Museum of Applied Arts takes the form of the retrospective exhibition "60 Years of Cinematic Art and 25 Years of Swiss Films". The Netherlands State Ballet is to give a performance at *Interlaken* on 4th June, and the centenary of the

Kursaal will be celebrated on 26th and 27th with concerts by the Munich Philharmonic. In a series of recitals by famous pianists, Aldo Ciccolini and Alexander Brailowsky will be performing at *Montreux* on 4th and 12th June respectively.

Festival Opera during the Early Summer.

The ensemble of the Belgrade Opera will be taking part in the Lausanne International Festival with its orchestra, chorus and ballet. Their guest performances, which are official in character and exclusive to Switzerland, will comprise Borodin's "Prince Igor" on 3rd and 6th June and Gounod's "Faust" on 4th. On four evenings during the June festival in Zurich the Municipal Theatre will be presenting festival performances with outstanding actors of works in the tetralogy "Der Ring der Nibelungen", which was partly written in Zurich. Frank Martin's "Der Sturm" will also be performed in Zurich in June.

London Festival Ballet in Switzerland.

With a reputation firmly established by previous visits, the London Festival Ballet, one of the most successful companies of our day whose name is derived from the memorable Festival of Britain, will be undertaking a new Swiss tour. The London Festival Ballet, which includes some notable soloists, is to present three different programmes under Anton Dolin. These will be performed from 11th to 14th June in the Zurich festival and from 16th to 18th at the Théâtre de Beaulieu as part of the International Festival at *Lausanne*.

Swiss Art.

As a contribution to the Zurich June Festival the Kunsthhaus is devoting an exhibition (continuing until 28th June) to the witty and endearing works of Hans Fischer, a painter, draughtsman and commercial artist whose early death was much lamented. At the Kurtheater in *Baden* new pictures from Brazil by Walter Jonas are on show; works by Bernese painters will be exhibited at *Montreux* from 6th to 25th June. The art gallery of the Kursaal at *Heiden* in the Appenzell is beginning periodic exhibitions on 13th June.

Aspects of European Art.

On 1st June the *Berne* Museum of Fine Arts is to open its exhibition "European Art of the 19th and 20th Centuries and Klee Foundation", and the Kunsthalle at *Berne* deserves particular praise for the exhibition (commencing 13th) of works by Oskar Schlemmer, whose stimulating influence on art and stage decor during the last few decades was of great importance. At All Saints' Museum at *Schaffhausen* the grand summer exhibition "European Fauves", commencing on 4th July, affords a survey of the novel influences at work in painting during the early part of this century.

Rose week in Geneva.

The varied programme arranged for the *Semaine de la Rose* in Geneva leaves no doubt that this is an early summer fête. From 3rd to 6th the University of Geneva, which even in Calvin's day played a notable part in the intellectual life of Europe, will be celebrating its fourth centenary. The Conférence Internationale du Travail is to be held from 3rd to 25th; at the Musée de l'Athénée the Grigoni exhibition continues till 18th June.

The Glory of the Summer Garden in Zurich.

Spring, summer and autumn are the three natural phases of a garden, and the First Swiss Horticultural

Exhibition on the lake shores in Zurich is now burgeoning into all its summer glory. "G59" as it is called affords enjoyment and refreshment to every visitor, and provides the happy possessor of a garden with many a tip for his own beds and borders.

It decks the bay at Zurich with the floral splendours of early summer and its highly original overhead cableway, spanning the waters of the lake, keeps up a busy traffic between the two shores.



All the Joys for Girls and Boys

Switzerland holds a magic charm for children and for the young in heart, and you who know this so well should tell your friends over here about it. Tell them of the mountains, the snow, woods, chalets, cowbells, fairy tale towns and villages, of the kindly people who love and understand children, making it a land of enchantment for children as well as a playground for grown-ups. On Railways, Steamers and Alpine Coaches children travel free up to six years of age and at half rate up to sixteen. Hotels usually reduce pension terms for children up to twelve. For about £30 your TRAVEL AGENT can arrange a 12-day all-in holiday including the fare from London. Further information concerning holidays in Switzerland is available from the Swiss National Tourist Office, 458 Strand, London, W.C.2.

Switzerland

Technical innovation in the field of textiles.

Seven years have elapsed since the firm of Sulzer Brothers, of Winterthur, first produced a new kind of weaving machine. In this machine, the very large shuttle belonging to the traditional type of looms and containing a bobbin, has been replaced by a shuttle of very reduced proportions which draws the thread, furnished by a bobbin placed on the outside. This weaving machine, the manufacture of which has required some revolutionary solutions and great precision in its execution, is remarkable for its rapidity, the silent way in which it runs, a total lack of vibration and a reduction in the cost of fabrics production. No fewer than two thousand of these machines are already being used in fifteen countries. Owing to the results achieved, it has now proved possible for the inventor to perfect a weaving-machine which, if so desired, can use four different colours for the weft, and can be utilised for weaving cotton and wool, in colours. The Sulzer 4-colour weaving machine was shown to the trade press in Switzerland, on the occasion of the celebration by the firm of the one hundred and twenty-fifth anniversary of its existence.

A new Swiss textile fibre.

The Swiss Viscose Company has announced the launching, which is to take place very shortly, of a new artificial textile fibre. The fibre has cellulose for its basic component and has been invented and perfected in Switzerland. It will be used in the form of staple, that is to say, it will be spun like cotton and wool, and not as a continuous fibre, as in the case of silk. This new fibre — which has not yet been given a name — possesses some interesting characteristics, in particular that of being very strong and, also, of not

shrinking in the wash. It can be used just as it is, for purposes of manufacture, or mixed with other fibres, natural or artificial.

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