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DER WANDERER UND DAS FLUGZEUG

*Ich träume, daß ich reise.
Die Nesteln sind geschnürt.
Die Schustersrappengleise
hat tröstlich Tau berührt.
Und Tau netzt kühl die Stirne.
Der Himmel glänzt wie Glas,
und Apfel oder Birne,
sie fallen dumpf ins Gras.*

*Wie aber wird sich's wenden,
sind Traum und Trost verblaßt?
Da hat mit heißen Händen
der Wind mich angefaßt.
Bläst flugs mir um die Ohren
und lacht mir ins Gesicht:
jetzt donnern die Motoren,
jetzt bläst das Posthorn nicht!*

*Bin ich vielleicht erschrocken?
Kroch ich ins Mäuseloch?
Ich mach mich auf die Socken –
denn sie bewegt sich doch,
die Erde, und muß wandern
im Sternenschub der Zeit
von diesem Raum zu andern
bis in die Ewigkeit!*

*So zähl ich nun die Batzen,
veracht nicht Stab noch Schub,
flieg doch den höchsten Spatzen-
und Lerchennestern zu.
Die Erde laß ich's fühlen:
der Himmel trägt uns gut,
darin auf Wolkenstühlen
das Flugzeug reist und ruht.*

*Die Städte kommen, gehen.
Flußläufe, Lichternetz.
Eisgipfel, Wüsten, Seen,
Wald, Meer und Fallgesetz.
Der Himmel hat nicht Hügel.
Die Erde ist kein Grab.
Ich liebe Wind und Flügel –
und Nestel, Schub und Stab.*

ALBERT EHRLSMANN

Honouring Jean-Jacques Rousseau

During midsummer a great many exhibitions commemorating the 250th anniversary of the birth of Jean-Jacques Rousseau, the great Genevan philosopher and writer, will still be open. These exhibitions have been going on since June and recall Rousseau's times, the discovery of Switzerland's beauties and her Alps and also travel and walking in the early days of tourism. They display a wealth of illustrated and documentary material, which can be seen principally in Berne but also in Geneva, Neuchâtel, Sierre, Thun (Schadau Park), Aarau and St.Gall. In addition pastoral works or concerts will be presented on St.Peter's Isle, in the Lake of Bienne, as part of the Rousseau Year celebrations every Sunday in August.

Variety of folklore

Summer visitors from Saas-Fee can see beautiful Valaisan traditional costumes at the procession to the "Hohe Stiege" on August 15. Since Switzerland shares the shores of the Lake Constance with her neighbours Germany and Austria, the old town of Arbon with its attractively laid-out lakeside is just the place for the International Lake Constance Costume Festival. To be held on August 25 and 26, this colourful event will bring together national costumes from many regions. A spectacle with a character all of its own is the national Horse fair, combined with trotting races, on August 11 and 12 at Saignelégier, a centre of the Jura horse breeders. No need to earmark any particular day to see the "son et lumière" event "Sion à la lumière de ses étoiles"—it is presented every evening during summer.

Country fêtes aplenty

The August calendar lists a wealth of midsummer fêtes and Alpine Sunday events along with other rural celebrations at or not far from resorts. Holiday-makers interested in seeing one—and it's an experience not to be missed—might care to note the following dates and places: Grindelwald, August 5 and 12; Wengen, August 26; Kandersteg, August 5; the Emme Valley, August 5 and 12; Leukerbad, August 5 and Lenk, in the Simmental, August 12. Other opportunities for joining local folk in their gay rural festivals are offered at Les Diablerets on the 19th, Villars-Chesières on the 4th and 5th, 11th and 12th, Champéry on the 18th, Château-d'Oex on the 12th and 26th, Leysin on the 19th and Tavannes on the 18th and 19th.

Musical pleasures at the resorts

High-altitude resorts and other holiday centres are keen rivals in presenting festival musical events. In the Upper Engadine, the 22nd summer concert season offers a programme continuing until August 18 and spread over a number of well-known resorts. In Canton Grisons, Klosters in the Prättigau also announces an arts festival with exhibitions and music, while Engelberg also plans a varied programme. At Interlaken the Mozart week (August 3 to 7) will be followed by a gala performance given by the Vienna State Opera Ballet (August 17) and a concert by the popular Vienna Boy's Choir on August 19. At St-Prex on the Lake of Geneva and on the Chaumont near Neuchâtel the summer music courses will be combined with special concerts for a wider audience. From August 12 to 26 at Gstaad and Saanen Yehudi Menuhin will give the sixth series of festival concerts in which choir and orchestras will participate. The Ticino is a region which is not only famous for folk songs popular throughout Switzerland but also has a thriving musical life to offer visitors. The Masterplayers Society has organised an annual programme covering several holiday centres. August brings a chamber music evening (on the 8th) and a Bach concert (on the 31st) at Morcote to be followed by two Bach evenings at the same place on September 1 and 2 and a further Bach event, also presented by the Maestri di Lugano, at Brissago.

Theatre—light and serious

In his "William Tell" Schiller recounted an illustrious piece of Swiss history in poetic form. Further performances, in a new production, of the classic drama of a nation's struggle for freedom, will be given in the imposing Tell Theatre at Altdorf, a district steeped in history, up into September. In the wooded Rugenpark near Interlaken there will also be another seven performances of the impressive open-air production of "William Tell" during August. Shakespeare's "Midsummer Night's Dream", the perfect entertainment for warm summer evenings, will be performed regularly in the Kannenfeld Park at Basle from August 14 on. Baden's Kurtheater occasionally enhances its summer season with performances in the park in front of the theatre itself. A pleasant evening is guaranteed in the old quarter of Zurich where, in the Trittligasse, the amusing "Neue Zürcher Ballade" is presented when the weather is fine. This production has a special flavour of cabaret—a Swiss speciality—and is much appreciated by neighbours who watch from their windows as well as by the al fresco audience down below.

Ankunft in Genf ►
an Bord der «Schweiz»
«La Suisse» entre
dans le port de Genève
Arrivo a Ginevra
a bordo della «Svizzera»
Arrival in Geneva
on board the "Switzerland"
Photo Blanchard



