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ment; en fait, ce n'est alors que le masseur qui au fond s'entraîne, et non la victime passive qu'il travaille.

Pour Noël, offre-toi des peaux de phoque plutôt qu'un abonnement général aux remontées mécaniques de ton lieu de villégiature: la peau de phoque, la meilleure prévention des accidents à ski.

Depuis toujours, le goût du risque, dans son sens le plus large, est ancré en nous, comme le goût de la lutte et de l'aventure. Malheureusement, la vie moderne nous offre une vie sans danger: nous sommes si bien protégés de toutes parts et tout est si bien

organisé. Or, chez les hommes doués de vitalité, le besoin atavique de lutte est resté un besoin psychologique profond. Que mes exhortations ne fassent pas de toi un désagréable pédant de l'hygiène ou un fanatique névrosé de la santé qui sacrifierait tout plaisir de la vie. La peur de l'accident crée l'accident. La crainte précède la chute... «Peu importe si mon sang coule! Mon cœur connaît sa couleur. Ne te fie pas à celui qui n'a ni honneur ni cicatrice.» (Georg Thürer, «Mein blauer Kalender», Zurich 1941.) Bonne montée, bonne descente, sans bris de ski ni de jambe!

SWISS CULTURAL EVENTS DURING FEBRUARY

THE SHROVETIDE PROCESSION IN BASLE, A UNIQUE OCCASION

Not everyone could be expected to sacrifice a good night's sleep and rise at an unearthly hour for the start of the traditional Shrovetide celebrations in *Basle* at the crack of dawn on Monday, February 24. But the afternoon processions on February 24 and 26 are scheduled for a more reasonable hour and are well worth seeing even for those living some distance from *Basle*. It is really quite amazing how such a spectacular procession lasting some four hours can be given an entirely new character and conception every year. One stands spellbound by the roadside somewhere along the prescribed route through the city centre and one is sure to see everything, for each group continues up to the point where it joined the procession so that the huge display is equally impressive for all the spectators. The exchanges between the masked revellers in the procession and the crowds of onlookers are extremely spirited. Bunches of mimosa are thrown from many of the floats into the throngs lining the streets and oranges are hurled up to the highest windows and balconies of the adjoining buildings. One band follows another while the richness of the costumes, the gaily coloured lanterns (which are described on leaflets distributed around) and the imaginative ideas for the "subjects" with their bizarre decorations leave spectators lost in admiration. In the *Basle* procession last year the programme listed 6 "boys' groups", 25 "young brigades" and no less than 31 "drum and bugle bands" in addition to which there were also 13 "old brigades". New themes were continually being introduced and 26 uniformed "fife and drum bands" as well as other carnival groups, masqueraders, floats and many bands all marched past. Will things be any less spectacular in the two forthcoming processions (February 24 and 26)? We don't think so.

DOUBLE RATION OF CARNIVALS IN FEBRUARY

This year, however, the latter half of the month has to withstand a double dose. Only a few of the highlights can be mentioned here. In the *Ticino* from February 15 to 18 there will be festivities in the towns of *Bellinzona*, *Lugano*, *Locarno* (February 25) and *Ascona*, culminating in the general Risotto feast. At the same time the traditional carnival spirit will reign in *Lucerne* and festivities will also be the order of the day in *Solothurn*, the spa town of *Baden*, *Brunnen* and in many other places.

Shortly afterwards, other areas will hold their days and nights of celebrations. In *Zurich* the glittering Masked Arts Balls at the Congress House will be held on February 22 and 24 amidst rich decorations and with many masked groups. Finally, in *Basle*, the dawn of February 24 will herald the grand processions while the lantern exhibition will be held on February 25.

CONTEMPORARY SWISS ARTISTS

The Museum of Art in *Winterthur* is to pay attention to the art of Western Switzerland by a collective exhibition devoted to "Twenty Neuchâtel Painters" on show until February 23 and to offer much unknown and characteristic work. In the Thunerhof in *Thoune* an exhibition of works by two distinguished Bernese artists born during the first decade of this century is to be held from February 22 to March 30. The painter Alexander Müllegg and the sculptor Marcel Perincioli have produced many public works but the exhibition in *Thoune* will portray their more intimate side. The Museum of Art in *Berne* is to commemorate the Bernese Oberland artist Hans Fischer ("fis"), who died in 1958 at the age of only 49, with a collective exhibition of his highly imaginative and humorous graphical works. This is to continue until March 2.

DUTCH-SWISS EXCHANGE OF ART

The annual "Zurich Artists at the Helmhaus" exhibition which provided a survey of recent artistic work at the end of 1968 in *Zurich* is to be honoured by a trip to Holland where it will be shown in its entirety at The Hague. At the same time artists from this Dutch city will be represented at the Helmhaus in *Zurich* in a collective exhibition to continue until February 16. While the *Zurich* exhibition of paintings, graphic art, sculptures, and wall-hangings organised by Max Bill this time is entirely devoted to non-figurative art, considerable interest may be expected for the show by painters and sculptors from the Dutch art city to learn where their emphasis is placed. In any event it will be an exhibition of contemporary art in which a number of talented artists will display their most recent work and hence indicate their attitude to the current problems in art.

AMERICAN AND BRITISH ART IN ZURICH

The creative urge emanating from American art in recent decades has often found expression at the *Zurich* Art Gallery. From the wealth of its collection the Museum of Modern Art in New York has now selected works for an exhibition entitled "The Art of the Real". It can be seen at the *Zurich* Art Gallery until February 16. The choice of works produced during the past two decades (1948 to 1968) is intended to portray that school of contemporary American art which endeavours to raise space and reality to a comprehensible level by means of independent expression of colour and form.

From the Anglo-Saxon domain comes the exhibition "New British Drawing, Gouaches and Collages" to *Zurich*. Thanks to the good offices of the British Council it can be seen until February 23 in the graphical collection of the Federal Institute of Technology where British art has often been displayed before.

INTERNATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITIONS

The "Second World Photographic Exhibition" with its inexhaustible theme devoted to "The Woman" has moved from *Zurich* to *Berne* where it will be on show until March 9 in the Art Gallery in Helvetiaplatz. A second important event is also to be held in *Berne* at the same time. The international exhibition "Europa Photo 68" will display pictures from many lands in the School Museum between February 21 and March 2.

SWISS TOURS BY FOREIGN ORCHESTRAS

At the present time there is a veritable competition taking place between native symphony orchestras, providing the basis of the musical life of our cities with their concert cycles, and large foreign ensembles undertaking extensive Swiss concert tours. Following guest concerts by the Orchestre national de Paris (from February 5 to 8 in *Berne*, *Lausanne*, *Zurich* and *Geneva*) there are to be five important concerts in the second half of the month given by the Berlin Radio Symphony Orchestra. Under the baton of Lorin Maazel, works to be heard include the third symphony of Anton Bruckner and the concert for orchestra by Béla Bartók to be performed on February 17 in *St. Gall* and on following evenings in *Lausanne*, *Zurich*, *Berne* and *Basle*. Shortly afterwards the Czech Philharmonic under Karel Ancerl is to perform works by Smetana, Britten and Beethoven in *Zurich*, *Berne*, *Basle*, *Geneva* and *Lausanne* during the week from March 5 to 9. This orchestra will also give further concerts in *Bienne* on March 10 and in *Fribourg* on March 11.