

Zeitschrift: Swiss textiles [English edition]
Herausgeber: Swiss office for the development of trade
Band: - (1960)
Heft: 4: a

Artikel: The textile training school in Zurich
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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-798736>

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The Textile Training School in Zurich



At the Zurich Textile Vocational School;
partial view of the weaving hall

We thought it would be of interest to readers to devote a few lines to an old and highly reputed textile training school in Zurich, on the occasion of the traditional annual exhibition of students' work, which was held during the month of July this year.

This event as well as the general activities of the school is all the more important in view of the shortage of skilled manpower and executive staff from which the Swiss textile industry is at present suffering. The students' work, exhibited in thematic order, represented the various branches of instruction: production planning, costing, knowledge of weaves, preparation of patterns, etc. To these basic notions should be added the apprenticeship in scientific methods of analysis which the modern specialist must be familiar with in this era of chemical fibres. The analysis of fabrics by unweaving, the basis of any real knowledge of weaves, also receives particular emphasis.

It is gratifying to see that the highly developed Swiss textile machinery industry continues to provide loyal support for the Zurich Textile Training School by continually placing at its disposal the most recent types of machinery. Consequently the collection of textile machines possessed by the Zurich school is famed far beyond the frontiers of Switzerland. During the first half of 1960, the school received gifts of equipment valued at over S. Fr. 100,000 (U.S. \$ 23,300) from firms such as Benninger Ltd., at Uzwil, Jakob Jaeggli & Co., at

Winterthur, Ruti Engineering Works, at Ruti, and Schärer Engineering Works, at Erlenbach.

The fabrics woven in the course of instruction were a prominent feature of the exhibition. They represented the practical realization of all the subjects covered in the theoretical courses on equipment, weaves and weaving technique. According to competent judges, the fabrics on display could have been included in any collection of the latest fabrics, which shows that the fashion side of designing has not been neglected.

Among the more attractive exhibits, let us also mention the work of the designing class.

Such as it was, this exhibition of practical and theoretical work, completed by the interesting machinery section, was well designed to arouse the enthusiasm of the young and to inspire them with a vocation for textiles.

Finally, let us add that the opening of the exhibition gave the School Committee an opportunity of taking public leave of the Director, Mr. Johannes Itten, who — having reached the retiring age — was leaving after 15 years of unceasing activity. Among other achievements, he had been responsible for the creation of the designing class. The new director, Mr. Hans Keller, is a well-known textile engineer and weaving expert, who worked for a considerable time in the practical field before taking up a post as instructor at the St. Gall School of Hosiery and Knitwear.