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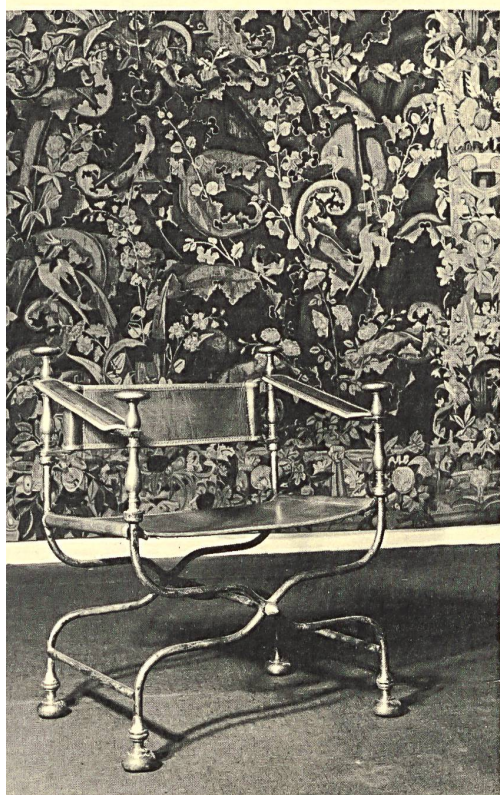
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New possibilities
for the
Swiss textile industry

Kopantiqua



2

The more progress is made in technology and automation, the more noticeable is the tendency to give apartments and houses matching elements of interior decoration, in order to provide the pleasant atmosphere and the comfort which must, naturally, be dispensed with during the daytime at work. After various waves of modern furnishing styles, the last few decades, especially since the Second World War, have seen a steadily increasing demand for furniture of the past, a demand which, owing to the growing number of enthusiasts for good antiques, has no hope of being satisfied. Prices, therefore, reach astronomical levels, and what are sold today as antiques often no longer date from the period in question but are simply more or less well-made copies which are nevertheless disposed of by astute dealers at exorbitant prices to inexperienced buyers. For this reason, it is to be welcomed that the public is now being shown antiques which, while



1

of high quality and beautiful craftsmanship, are obtainable at reasonable cost. Craftsmen's organizations and industry make identical copies of the furniture, accessories and decorative objects of bygone ages, enabling those who like traditional designs to furnish their homes in the style of an earlier century without needing a sleuth's abilities to track down the items or a king's ransom to pay for them.

In 1968, in St-Gall (Switzerland), an exhibition was organized at which, for the first time, copies of all types and of quite outstanding quality were placed on show to the trade and to the public. Although this first KOPANTIQUA encountered criticism from some quarters, it was praised in others, since only by means of such exhibitions can unskilled potential buyers learn how important it is to be on their guard against forgeries. The second KOPANTIQUA, which took place this year from May 31 to June 8, was divided, as desired, into a public exhibition and an expert's fair. In future, the exhibition will be held only once every two years, in order not to clash with the Cologne Furniture Fair.

With regard to the specific exhibits, the committee tries, first and foremost, to give priority to quality, in order to exclude goods of inferior standard. Since the items shown comprise the most diverse elements of interior decoration, domestic textiles are also included. Furnishing fabrics and curtains must be matched to the style of the furniture, which can be imitated exactly, not only in

design but also in working technique. For example, at this year's KOPANTIQUA, "Muratex" (The Swiss Net Comp. Ltd., Mönchwilten) was showing net curtains designed in various period styles.

If KOPANTIQUA succeeds in stimulating interest among a wide public for past styles of house decoration, there will also be an increase in the demand for traditional designs in curtains, wall hangings, tablecloths and furnishing fabrics, as well as trimmings. There are undoubtedly enough possibilities for the quality-conscious Swiss textile industry to take a lead in this type of manufacture. And the numerous foreign visitors to the exhibition mean that their products will be noticed not only at home, but abroad. R.H.

1. Wall hangings in ancient Gobelin technique, furniture covers and carpets belong unmistakably to the authentic furnishing style.
2. A Spanish chair copied from an original in Seville. The tapestry comes from "Art de Rambouillet".
3. Exhibition stand with "Muratex" net curtains made by the Swiss Net Comp. Ltd., Mönchwilten.

3

