

Swiss costumes

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SWISS COSTUMES.

Ancient costumes are experiencing a remarkable revival in Switzerland, for it has been realized that they cover one of the most interesting branches of the history of national and rural culture. Here, there, and everywhere, the "Society for the Revival of Peasant Dress and Folk Songs," founded in 1926, encourages costumed festivals and fêtes, with costumed groups, and when one considers that each of the twenty-one Swiss cantons features not only one, but several distinctive costumes, one can readily imagine what a gorgeous display of colours and styles a general gathering affords.

Switzerland's foremost specialist in the history of Swiss costumes is Dr. Julie Heierli, of Zurich, who, according to Mr. Ed. Briner, another authority on this subject, arranged the collection of old costumes in the Swiss National Museum over thirty years ago. Dr. Heierli's beautifully illustrated work on Swiss costumes, published in a series of volumes a few years ago, is regarded as an outstanding national contribution.

It has been established that the everyday dress of the peasantry in the earliest days of the Swiss Republic was both plain and practical. For the men it consisted of short knickers and an overblouse of linen or heavy brown wool. For the women it was a full skirt and long overblouse of similar fabrics.

During the Burgundian and Milanese campaigns, which brought formidable wealth into the country, foreign fashions and more elaborate clothing became popular with the townspeople. The peasants, in turn, grew tired of their garb. Spanish dress became quite the rage in Switzerland in the 17th century, its features being sombre bell-shaped skirts, silver ornaments and striking headgear.

In the 18th century prosperity was enjoyed by everybody, and richer clothing became consequently the vogue all over. The patricians now discarded the rather stiff Spanish styles for the graceful, colourful garments favoured by the French aristocracy. In due course, the peasantry followed suit. However, in their case the old style of patrician dress was later retained and simply re-arranged according to the particular requirements of a region.

The Bernese costume is probably one of the most familiar. It consists of a full black skirt, a stiffly starched white chemisette, over which is worn a tight-fitting black velvet bodice, a silk band apron of a lovely shade, a black cap set in horsehair lace work, white stockings and black single-strap shoes. Silver filigree ornaments and silver chains complete the attire.

Skirts show a distinct fullness in all costumes, but colour combinations depend on the region involved. Blouses or fitted bodices, too, vary in style, and in the canton of Fribourg, for instance, bib aprons replace the band variety. Quite remarkable is also the great diversity in headgear, which is invariably charming.

Among the men distinctive costumes are in evidence in the Alpine regions. Thus the holiday attire of an Appenzel dairyman is a very gay affair. It includes a white shirt with a herd of cows embroidered on the breast, short yellow breeches, red waistcoat with silver buttons, suspenders ornamented with brass work, a huge watch and chain, flower-trimmed hat, silver-buckled shoes, and a solitary earring, shaped like a cream-ladle.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Monday, February 19th, 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. — Société Culinare Suisse, Grand Ball, at Union Helvetia Club, 1, Gerrard Place, W.1.

Wednesday, February 21st, at 8 p.m. (Supper at 7 p.m.) Swiss Mercantile Society Ltd. — Annual General Meeting at "Swiss House," 34/35, Fitzroy Square, W.

Saturday, February 24th, at 2 and 4 o'clock p.m. — Nouvelle Société Helvétique — "A Travers la Suisse" Film Show, at King George's Hall, Caroline Street, Tottenham Court Road, W.C.1.

Tuesday and Thursday, February 27th and March 1st, at 5.30 p.m. — University of London. — A course of two lectures will be given at University College, London (Gower Street, W.C.1), by Professor Dr. L. Ruzicka, Professor of Organic Chemistry in the Technical High School, Zurich.

Monday, March 5th, from 8.30 p.m. to 2 a.m. — Bal Masqué. — Union Helvetia Club, 1, Gerrard Place, W.1. (Tickets 2/6.)

Wednesday, March 7th, at 7.30 p.m. — Société de Secours Mutuels, Monthly Meeting, at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

Saturday, March 17th — Swiss Club Birmingham — Annual Dinner and Ball — at the Midland Hotel, Birmingham. (Reception 6h.30; Dinner 7 o'clock).

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Dimanche, le 18 février, 11 h. — "La porte étroite," Luc xiii., 24. M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme.

6 h. 30. — M. R. Desaulles.

SERVICE FUNEBRE.

George O'DELL, de Londres, décédé dans sa 52e année, le 7 février, 1934 — le 13 février, 1934.

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Sonntag, den 18. Februar 1934.

11 Uhr vorm. Gottesdienst und Sonntagsschule.

7 Uhr abends, Gottesdienst.

8 Uhr, Chorpöbe.

Anfragen wegen Religions-bezw. Confirmandenstunden und Amtshandlungen sind erbeten an den Pfarrer der Gemeinde: C. Th. Hahn, 43, Priory Road, Bedford Park, W.4 (Telephon: Chiswick 4156). Sprechstunden: Dienstag 12-2 Uhr in der Kirche; Mittwoch 5-6 Uhr im "Foyer Suisse."

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