

Folk dance festival

Autor(en): **[s.n.]**

Objektyp: **Article**

Zeitschrift: **The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK**

Band (Jahr): - **(1935)**

Heft 717

PDF erstellt am: **25.09.2024**

Persistenter Link: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-693039>

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SWISS NATIONAL ARMS.

Many volumes have been written on the origin of armorial bearings and it would be filling columns to little purpose to discuss the introduction of an art that has existed in some degree in all countries whose inhabitants have emerged from barbarism to civilisation.

In all ages men have made use of figures of living creatures, trees, flowers, inanimate objects and monstrous animals, as symbolical signs to distinguish themselves in war, or denote the bravery and courage of their chief or nation.

When armies of different nations engaged in the expeditions to the Holy Land, they were obliged to adopt some symbol or ensign in order to marshal the vassals under the banners of the various leaders. The ornaments and regulations were sanctioned by the sovereigns engaged in the Crusade, and hence the origin of the present system of Heraldry which prevails in every country in Europe.

Swiss arms, most particularly those of cantons and cities, are of varied origin. They descend from or bear some analogy to the arms of ruling families who have founded them, or they are direct concessions conferred by emperors and popes as a mark of esteem or as a reward for the performance of some noble act. The origin of many can be linked with legends, spiritual patrons, notable war achievement or historical event.

What struck us in the first instance, is the extreme simplicity of our cantonal arms compared with the majority of armorial bearings of other nations. A beautiful simplicity of lines and opposition of colours distinguished the most ancient, those of the XIII Cantons, which often are formed by the arms of the chief town or of charges borrowed from it. Emblems of cantons brought into the Helvetic Republic by the Act of Mediation bear traces of revolutionary turmoil. During that period of wide-spread rising, the art of heraldry felt strongly the old rule, it fell somewhat into neglect and contempt and many armorials on monuments, paintings, and even official seals, were badly emblazoned and full of heraldic errors.

The cantonal arms which were painted in the Chamber of the Council of the States in the Federal Palace in 1860, rescued for a time Swiss heraldry from the incertitude with which it had been interwoven. Previous to this important work great controversy existed as to the correct bearings of several cantons, not only concerning modern escutcheons like those of Aargau and Thurgau, but even ancient arms like those of the Leagues of High-Rhaetia.

Exactitude is at the root of heraldry. Our national arms are worthy of respect. They are great by origin and the subsequent modifications that our national strife, political and moral, has brought them.

The recent publication of the Federal Chancery puts to precision that which was still lingering in the vast domain of fantasy. This reliable work, ably executed by the late Rudolph Münger, determines that which was still uncertain. Although there may be one or two secondary points with which we cannot entirely agree, these arms must be considered correct, and the escutcheons heading these future columns are in compliance with the official types of the Chancery.

(To be continued.) P.S.

SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

It will doubtless interest the numerous friends of this most active institution of the Swiss colony to hear that a definite step has been taken towards realising a long cherished hope. The Home for the aged and necessitous amongst our compatriots is to become a reality.

Thanks to the fund created by the great generosity of the late George Dimier, a home has been purchased freehold in the immediate vicinity of Fitzroy Square. It is hoped to accommodate there fifteen to seventeen persons and to enable them to pass their last years in the surroundings to which they have become attached.

The house is at present entirely occupied and the leases have still some time to run. The opening of the Home cannot, therefore, be foreseen for the immediate future, but the intervening period will be used in preparing the organisation of the Home. The task has already been taken in hand by a small committee whose aim it will be to make the inmates of the future Home as comfortable and happy as possible. But, as means are limited, the attention of the members of the Swiss colony is earnestly called to this most deserving scheme and they are reminded that most valuable assistance may be given by them. Furniture, such as tables, chairs, beds, linen, carpets, linoleum and household goods of all kinds will be chiefly wanted. In practically every family it occurs from time to time that some such

articles are no longer wanted and if they are sent to the.

Swiss Benevolent Society,
34, Fitzroy Square,
W.1.

they will be gratefully received.

Our compatriots, it is felt, will want to contribute in this practical way to the successful launching of the future Home and thus to add to the amenities it will be able to offer to some of the less fortunate members of the Swiss Colony. XYZ.

JOURNEE DES SUISSES A L'ETRANGER, BADEN (Argovie) 24/25th. August 1935.

The Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad, 40, Bundesgasse, Berne, has issued a very hearty invitation to ALL SWISS ABROAD to take an interest in, and be present at, the Meeting at Baden in August.

We produce the invitation as we have received it, with the recommendation that all Swiss from England who are spending their August holidays in the home country should regard it as their duty to attend the Meeting. Only by personal attendance will it be possible for them to appreciate the wonderful progress in the spiritual relations between the Swiss Abroad and the Swiss at Home, — a revelation for all those who are interested in the movement.

The London Group of the N.S.H.
A. Fred. Suter.

Nous invitons les Suisses à l'étranger et tous ceux qui s'intéressent aux problèmes, qui sont leurs et qui sont nôtres en même temps, à la Journée des Suisses à l'étranger qui se réunira au Kursaal de Baden, le dimanche 25 août.

Le développement, dans certains pays, d'un nationalisme exagéré menace de plus en plus nos colonies. La fidélité à la patrie est aujourd'hui devenue plus difficile que jamais: elle exige de milliers de nos compatriotes de gros sacrifices. Nous ne doutons pas de la fermeté de leur caractère. Mais nous craignons qu'à la longue, même ceux qui sont le plus attachés au pays, ne finissent par se laisser entamer, si la patrie n'intensifie pas ses efforts pour la sauvegarde des biens spirituels qui constituent leur raison d'être Suisses.

C'est là, comme on le voit, une question qui n'intéresse pas seulement les Suisses à l'étranger, mais en somme tous les milieux du pays. Nos autorités politiques et militaires, nos écrivains et nos artistes, nos industriels et nos commerçants, le simple particulier, tous ont un intérêt vital à ce que ce dixième de notre population qui lutte vaillamment au loin, ne se voie pas frustré du ravitaillement spirituel nécessaire au maintien de son existence. Il n'est pas indifférent, pour notre pays, de savoir si, oui ou non, nos colonies pourraient continuer à être les avant-postes de notre expansion économique et de l'expansion de notre culture. Il n'est donc pas indéfiniment non plus de savoir comment se fera l'éducation de la jeunesse suisse à l'étranger, si et dans quelle mesure nous entendons la conserver au pays.

Des représentants qualifiés des milieux suisses de l'extérieur, qui travaillent depuis des années au développement du sentiment national dans nos colonies — spécialement au sein de la jeunesse — viendront nous dire ce que la patrie pourrait faire pour les aider davantage. Des personnalités compétentes du pays, voire un représentant du Conseil fédéral, montreront ce que la Suisse a déjà fait dans ce domaine et ce qu'elle pourrait faire encore.

Le public suisse sera amené, de la sorte, à mieux comprendre que conserver nos colonies n'est pas seulement un problème d'ordre matériel, mais une question d'entraide spirituelle à laquelle chacun peut et doit collaborer.

Pour la Commission des Suisses à l'Etranger de la N.S.H. A. Lätt, président.

Pour le Secrétariat des Suisses à l'Etranger de la N.S.H. A. Briod. G. Schürch.

Programme.

Dimanche 25 août 1935 :

9h.30 Assemblée publique au Kursaal de Baden : La Défense de notre Patrimoine National à l'Etranger. Colonies Suisses et culture suisse.

13h. Dîner en commun au Kursaal de Baden. Programme récréatif organisé par le groupe N.S.H. de Baden.

OBITUARY.

The Committees of the Sick Society and Swiss Club "Schweizerbund" very much regret to announce the death of their honorary Member and late President respectively, CONRAD GENTSCH who passed away on June 16th after a very short illness at the age of 82 years.

The deceased was Secretary and President for over 40 years, and one of the Founders of the Sick Society in 1879 and of the Swiss Club in 1887.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to his relatives.

The Committees of the Sick Society, and Swiss Club ("Schweizerbund").

FOLK DANCE FESTIVAL.

London's most picturesque convention has assembled during this week, when representatives of 18 foreign countries are joining British enthusiasts in the first European International Folk-Dance Festival ever held.

More than 500 dancers and dance enthusiasts from abroad were received at Cecil Sharp House, Regent's Park by Lord Kennel of Rodd, one of the vice-presidents of the Festival, of which the Queen is patron and Viscount Halifax the president.

The Swiss contingent, numbering 32 folk-dancers, arrived last Saturday, and received a cordial welcome at Victoria Station. The "Daily Express" writes:

Strange behaviour by porters at Victoria Station, London, yesterday afternoon — passengers returning from abroad wondering if the heat was responsible.

Porters were raising their heads, opening their mouths wide, and crying to each other like banshees.

From further along the platform came the high, full-throated voice of a girl, yodelling at the top of her lungs.

It was answered by a man; then a chorus took up the queer carrying call of the mountains.

Startled passengers went over to investigate.

They found, in a circle of Swiss peasants, edelweiss tucked in soft round hats, enormous cowbells slung on yokes across their shoulders, a girl and man, greeting London with heads thrown back.

The girl is Fraulein Rioldi, champion yodeller of Switzerland. She has come over with thirty-two folk-dancers to take part in the International Folk Dance Festival which opened last Sunday afternoon with a procession in Hyde Park.

The yodelling was too much for the porters. They answered back.

The Swiss grinned and replied.

For five minutes the station resounded to a comedy of cries, while the crowd laughed and clapped.

Another train arrived, discharging a picturesque load of leather-clad Bavarians and fierce-eyed Hungarian gipsies.

The porters looked at them and took up their joyful yodelling once more.

SPORT.

Un match triangulaire international a eu lieu dimanche dernier au stade de l'Exposition à Bruxelles entre une sélection d'athlètes belges, français du Nord et suisses.

Les Suisses sont sortis les premiers dans les épreuves suivantes :

110 mètres haies, 100 mètres, 200 mètres, Lancement du javelot, Saut en hauteur, Saut en longueur, Saut à la perche, Relais suédois;

et sont en outre au deuxième rang aux 400 mètres haies, et au troisième rang au lancement du poids et du disque ainsi qu'aux 400 mètres.

Classement final :

Suisse 119 points, Belgique 110 1/2 points, France 77 1/2 points.

Le grand journal bruxellois "Le Soir" termine le compte-rendu de cette rencontre sportive comme suit :

"Du point de vue purement sportif, nos prévisions se sont réalisées. La Suisse a remporté une victoire méritée et applaudie. Le public a sportivement ovationné le team suisse vainqueur qui lui fut présenté en fin de réunion."

E.W.

"SWISSAIR" DOUBLES ITS SERVICE.

Since the 13th of this month the "Swissair" are running daily two of the Douglas D.C.2 machines on the route Zurich-Basel-London. The large number of passengers necessitated this additional service.

MONTHLY REPORT ON THE STOCK EXCHANGE OF ZURICH.

(by Leu and Co's., Bank Limited, Zurich).

Zurich, July 2nd, 1935.

During the month of June the stock-exchange business has continued to calm down, due partly to seasonal influences and partly to more settled political conditions within certain European countries. Parallel with this new situation the public interest for Swiss first class securities began to rise again and the average yield of 12 such gilt-edged bonds was slowly decreasing from its highest stand of 4.83% to 4.47%.

Freed from the immediate danger of further cabinet troubles also the French securities profited, while Italian bonds were offered on account of the difficulties this country has in East Africa. Since the beginning of June, 7% Società Meridionale di Elettricità dropped from 48 1/2% to 41%. An improvement of recent date brought them up to 45 1/2% again. German bonds found little attention as no regular interest-payments