Fine example of Swiss art

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Objekttyp: **Article**

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

Band (Jahr): **- (1939)**

Heft 910

PDF erstellt am: **19.03.2024**

Persistenter Link: https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-691161

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FINE EXAMPLE OF SWISS ART



"PARC NATIONAL" MARQUETRY BY HENRI PERROUD, CLARENS.

There is a good deal of truth in the saying that the Swiss are born wood-workers. Just look at our picture — not a water-colour but the reproduction of a coloured landscape entirely made of wood. It is a sound and wholesome example of the revival of modern arts and crafts in Switzerland where, indeed, there has never been any lack of talent. From this reproduction, the reader will see what is meant by no lack of talent.

The execution of a work of art can be brought about either by coyping nature accurately and conscientiously, or by creating something new altogether. The first way is the right one for average talent, the second is for the genius. There is a profusion of creative power, a bold, manly conception in this work which is deserving of admiration.

At a time when everything must be charmingly commercial and charmingly cheap, and when the strict honesty of craftsmanship is swallowed up by the industrialism of jerry workers, it is gratifying to meet an artist inspired by independence and honestly conscious of his art.

Henri Perroud, a carpenter by trade, is equalling in marquetry the richest triumph of the art once produced in France and Italy, where workers in wood found great delight in skilful elaboration of intricate designs.

It was about twenty years ago, when effecting repairs to pieces of inlaid furniture in a museum, that he saw the possibilities of this branch of art. From that day he made inlaid pictures in his own way, striving to equal the excellent craftsmanship of the past, in keeping with the spirit of his own age. For this he uses all kinds of wood — ⅛ inch thick — mahogany, rose-wood, walnut, African oak, maple, and other coloured woods blazing with harmonious tints, or gleaming with the sober reticence of ebony to the purest white of American sycamore.

His choice of subject and his method of design and execution impart to his productions a quality that is truly Swiss in precision. His works are generally characterised by excellent composition, good knowledge of perspective, strength in the outlines, and propriety of expression.

The following, chosen among over forty of his pictures, may be cited as best examples of his art.

Several views of "Fribourg," his native town, full of depth and power, are earnest interpretations of nature. "Ligne du Gothard," rich in abundance of finely executed details; "Broc et le Moléson," "Château de Chillon," "Viviers," all original in conception, and carried out with the most careful elaboration, "Caporal Schneider," of the French Foreign Legion, full of expression, easy and natural in its attitude, is an excellent specimen of his skill in portraiture.

Above all, Henri Perroud possesses a thorough knowledge of his craft to gratify tastes in which astonishing skill, patience, and love of art are not unequally intermingled. He has been honest in his effort, and has certainly earned the right to encouragement and a place in the ranks of our national artists.

Pierre Savoie.

(*Continued from Page One.*)

nouveaux garages pour les autos de l'armée, de magasins d'approvisionnements, d'explosifs, de matières premières, etc., d'arsenaux et de magasins de munitions, de l'agrandissement de la caserne de Bière, devenue insuffisante, d'un nouveau pavillon avec infirmerie à la Luziensteig, de bâtiments à Thoune, d'installations spéciales pour l'emmagasinage d'appareils délicats, de la défense antiaérienne des nouveaux établissements militaires.

Assurément, la note à payer semblera lourde, d'autant plus, on le sait bien, que ce ne sera pas la dernière. Mais qui veut la fin veut les moyens. L'expérience montre que pour jouir d'une relative sécurité et pour être en mesure de sauvegarder notre indépendance, nous devons rendre le plus difficile possible toute entreprise de violence dirigée contre nous. A une époque où la parole donnée ne vaut plus rien, où les traités sont méprisés et où le brigandage exercé contre un petit pays inoffensif est devenu un principe de droit, toutes nos forces doivent tendre vers la défense nationale. Au reste, cette vérité n'est plus contestée par personne.

Quant à la couverture des dépenses mentionnées ci-dessus, le Conseil fédéral fera à ce sujet des propositions, en liaison avec le projet de réorganisation des finances. Le message indique nettement que le "sacrifice en faveur de la défense nationale," dont il a déjà été question précédemment, mais dont la formule prête encore à discussion, retient l'attention des autorités comme la solution la plus pratique. Nous aurons l'occasion d'y revenir.

Léon Savary.
(Tribune de Genève.)

DIE FRAGE DES EWIGEN.

In dieser Nacht hatte ich folgendes Gesicht: Der Ewige sass auf dem Richterstuhl und liess die Grossen der Menschheit an sich vorüberschreiten.

Zu Moses sagte der Richter: "Was hast du deinem Volk gegeben?" — "Das Gesetz." — "Was hat es daraus gemacht?" — "Die Sünde."

Dann fragte der Richter Karl den Grossen: "Was hast du deinem Volk gegeben? — "Den Altar." — "Was hat es daraus gemacht?" — "Den Scheiterhaufen."

Dann fragte er Napoleon: "Was hast du deinem Volk gegeben?" — "Den Ruhm." — "Was hat es daraus gemacht?" — "Die Schmach."

So fragte der Richter viele, und jeder führte Klage darüber, dass seine Gabe entwürdigt worden sei.

Endlich fragte der Ewige auch seinen Eingeborenen: "Mein lieber Sohn, was hast du den Menschen gebracht?" — "Den Frieden" — "Was haben sie daraus gemacht?" Christus antwortete nicht. Mit durchstochenen Händen verbarg er sein Gesicht — und weinte.

Peter Rosegger.

TO OUR READERS.

The Editor of the Swiss Observer would be greatly obliged if readers would supply him with addresses of likely subscribers, so that specimen copies could be posted to them.

If such addresses supplied should be already included on our mailing list, no extra copies would be sent.

OPPORTUNITY

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