

# Hymne à la terre

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bration has been planned at the Stockalper Palace, will continue their journey to Lausanne to attend a special celebration there. This will be followed by the first showing of the Simplon film and the inauguration of an exhibition of contemporary paintings featuring the following themes: 50 years of the Simplon Tunnel, arrival of the first train in Lausanne 100 years ago, 150 years of the Simplon Road, and 50 years of the postal motor-coach service. The Swiss festivities and the Simplon commemoration as a whole will come to a close with a banquet in the Beaulieu Theatre at Lausanne.

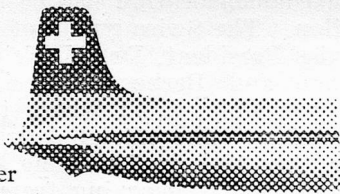
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#### 700 Anniversary of the City of Sursee.

Sursee, the quaint little town in the Canton of Lucerne, commemorates its 700th anniversary this year. A document dated 1256 and treasured in the cantonal archives of the city of Lucerne, reveals that Count Hartmann the Younger of Kyburg donated a homestead to the district and convent of St. Urban, "so that they may build a house in that very place", and on the same occasion admitted the monastery of St. Urban under his protectorate. Authentic relics at Sursee today are evidential of an urban community established under the sovereignty of the Kyburgs which lasted till 1278. The commemorative day, July 8th, will be marked by several popular festivities as well as a historic pageant. An exhibition of paintings, armour and other vestiges of Sursee's colourful history will be an added attraction.

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## NEW SWISSAIR APPOINTMENTS.

Mr. Peter R. Clark has been appointed Swissair representative for the South of England. He is succeeding Mr. John Bull who takes up a new position in the Reservations Department at Swissair's London office.

Mr. Clark was formerly Agency Superintendent for a British independent airline.

\* \* \*

Mr. José A. Bay has been appointed Swissair representative for the Spanish-speaking territory of South America. He is now in Buenos Aires to organise new Swissair offices there.

Mr. Bay was formerly General Manager of Wagon-Lits/Cook in Chile and later in Brazil; subsequently he was a manufacturer in Switzerland.

Plans are under active study to extend Swissair's present South America service to Buenos Aires and to increase it to two flights weekly.

## HYMNE A LA TERRE.

Pierre Girard.

Soil of my homeland, ever sunlight-fed  
And tilled throughout the year, a fruitful loam;  
Soil of the vineyard, soil that grows our bread,  
That throbs with life, surrounding every home.

All Heaven's breath and energy contrive  
By unseen rays to stir the hidden root  
And, mingling in your breast, create a life  
That slowly rises in each tender shoot.

Soil, you that reabsorb our flesh, our hopes,  
Our tears, desires, our triumphs and defeats  
So that from lake and plain to mountain slopes  
The morning harvest that of evening greets.

It is your strength, O soil, that gives us birth,  
Your destiny dwells mirrored in our heart;  
Your laws are ours, for everywhere on earth  
Death, love and flowering have their part.

We love you in our women's eyes that shine,  
And in the golden skin of those who toil,  
We love your gift of glowing, dreamy wine  
Soil of our fathers and our children's soil.

To you, the dead who rest and softly sleep  
Beside the church whose shadow oft is thrown,  
Now blue, now grey, as the hours onward creep,  
We promise we shall make your task our own.

This land you gave us, land so rich and fair,  
With vineyards rising steeply from the shore,  
It shall be handed to our children's care  
To guard its noble past for evermore.

Translated by J.J.F.S.

December, 1955.