

Switzerland

Autor(en): **J.J.F.S.**

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to 3,476 yards. The airport is situated at Cointrin, along the French border, and no extension could be made without encroaching upon French territory. An agreement has been signed in Paris between the Swiss and French representatives providing for an exchange of territory covering a total area of 103 acres.

Because of the geographical situation, the Cointrin runways are set up in one direction only — namely, south-west to north-east, as at the end of Lake Geneva there are only two main currents of wind, south-west and north-east.

Reports received from Switzerland estimate that 34,000 of Geneva's rose trees were killed during the severe weather earlier this year. It is feared that the traditional rose week celebrations held in June may have to be cancelled, according to the Horticultural Association in Lausanne. Damage to plants is believed to be six million Swiss francs, about £490,000.

A total of 15,377 students, of whom 4,047 were foreigners, attended Swiss universities in 1955.

The Federal Polytechnic Institution in Zurich headed the list with 2,646 students, followed by the universities of Zurich with 2,594 and Geneva with 2,310.

Of the foreign students, 1,020 came from North America, mostly from the United States.

More than two million Swiss watches are believed to have been smuggled into Brazil in 1953 and 1954, according to a spokesman for the Brazilian trade office in Berne. The discovery was made by comparing official Swiss and Brazilian trade statistics. In 1953,

Switzerland exported 941,085 watches to Brazil and 1,210,297 in 1954; but, according to Brazilian statistics, only 23,051 watches were imported in 1953 and 48,309 in 1954.

SWITZERLAND.

In Europe's mosaic a precious stone
Is set, a land of beauty, small in size,
By nature fashioned like a paradise,
Where mighty mountains rear their silvery throne.

Within its borders slaves were never known,
Its people, blessed with leaders strong and wise,
Hold liberty a nation's richest prize
And have, indeed, secured it as their own.

Here, social mankind's destiny and fate
Are mirrored in a free community
Which lacks the bond of common tongue or creed,
Yet thrives, contented, as one happy breed,
Industrious, peaceful and in harmony,
A micocosm of the perfect State.

J.J.F.S.

SWISS STAMPS AID NATIONAL COLLECTION.

Five special stamps with an extra charge for the benefit of the 1956 Swiss National Day Collection will be issued again on June 1st.

In accordance with the chief object of this year's collection the 5c. stamp pays tribute to the work of the Swiss woman in the domestic circle. The four other values terminate the "Lakes and Watercourses" series begun in 1952.

As stipulated, 90 per cent of the net proceeds from the extra charge will go to the National Day Collection, which this year is intended for the women in the service of the people. The remaining 10 per cent will be used in equal parts for the Swiss National Library in Berne and for the founding of an Academy of Arts and Letters in Switzerland.

The 5c. depicts symbols of feminine work and will be in one colour only, greenish blue. It will be rotary line-engraved by the Stamp Printing Office of PTT, Berne. The remaining four, depicting lakes and watercourses, will be in two colours, rotogravure process by Courvoisier S.A. Switzerland.

In compliance with numerous requests the National Day Committee for the Canton of Berne will issue a special envelope. In the lower left hand corner this year's National Day badge will be depicted.



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