

Events recently organised in Switzerland

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EVENTS RECENTLY ORGANISED IN SWITZERLAND

It would, as usual, fill a book to report on all the events at federal and international level, which have recently taken place in Switzerland. In Geneva alone, meetings and conferences in connection with the Red Cross and UNO followed one another practically non-stop. Amongst such world gatherings were the 51st Session of the International Labour Conference attended by 1,400 delegates and the eighteen-power Disarmament Committee meeting at which Federal Councillors Celio and Spuehler explained Switzerland's favourable attitude to the non-proliferation treaty. Federal Councillor Tschudi attended the Fifth Congress of the International Meteorological Organisation, and the Council of CERN discussed highly technical questions regarding nuclear research. Federal Councillor Tschudi chaired the Ninth Meeting of European Ministers for Family Problems, at which family allowances were discussed. The 16th Congress of the International Press met on another occasion in Geneva and Engelberg at a *Sternfahrt* arranged by the Information Centre of European Railways. Another International Conference held in Geneva in May was the second "Pacem in Terris" organised by the Study Centre for Democratic Institutions in Santa Barbara in California. 1,600 delegates heard messages by U Thant, the Pope and the Ecumenical Council of Churches at this private peace conference boycotted by Russia.

Of a different nature, but also in Geneva, was the International Rose Congress combined with the 20th Rose Competition.

On Lausanne, Federal Councillor von Moos spoke to judges from all parts of the world, Fourteen countries were represented by 1,700 delegates at a meeting with the big name of "Congrès de l'Office International des Oeuvres de Formation Civique et d'Action doctrinale selon le Droit naturel et chrétien".

Montreux, always a popular venue, saw international meetings on palaeontology, regulations re electoral equipment and six weeks later on electro-domestic construction — the International Jazz Festival and the Fifth TV Symposium sound pedestrian by comparison.

In the Valais, the planners of Europe's mountain regions met, including Scotland and Greece. The Swiss representative stated that 100m. francs a year was given from public funds to help mountain farmers. An international geologists' seminar was held in the Valais, too.

Dog lovers, Lions and Rotarians, educators and writers, hotel keepers, boat constructors and furniture builders, chemists (including Nobel Prize Winner Prof. Jacques Monod), marketing experts on gas, co-operatives and 37 mayors, 400 orthodonticians (jaw specialists) and stenographers — all chose Switzerland to congregate in.

In Zurich, the World Congress for Agricultural Credits was held, and the Tenth International Milk Day took place in Berne, when competition prizes were distributed for the best drawings by 13- to 16-year-olds, showing the importance of milk. Sixteen countries were represented at a study group meeting on economic questions, arranged by the Gottlieb Duttweiler Foundation at Rueschlikon.

The Fourth International Triennial for Original Graphic Art in Colour was held at Grenchen and the Ninth

International Bach Festival in Schaffhausen. Nearby (at Neuhausen), a European Satellite Telecommunication conference took place.

Alpine countries sent officers and non-commissioned officers to an Army meeting at Andermatt, and at Buochs on the Lake of Lucerne, 15,000 visitors attended the second international costume festival — four days with the theme "Europe sings, dances and plays".

Friends of Greece and Turkey, 100 years of Jewish emancipation, 600 German tourist experts, free Italian colonies in Switzerland, princely weddings in Geneva, the Golden Jubilee of the Dutch Chamber of Commerce in Switzerland, the centenary of the birth of the Finnish Marshall Mannerheim — are amongst the events to be mentioned, not forgetting the fine exhibition (which will last till 8th October) "*Grandes Heures de l'Amitié Franco-Suisse*" at the Château de Coppet.

European Methodist Churches, Lutherans, students of theology discussing "The Christian — a Revolutionary?", the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, were amongst those who gathered with some religious aim. At Sachseln, a special commemoration was opened on Ascension Day, celebrating the 550th anniversary of the birth of *Bruder Klaus*, the quingentenary of his pilgrimage to the "Ranft" and 20th anniversary of his canonisation.

Finally, 7,500 Paris pupils spent 15 hours in Switzerland on a lightning tour, and six old Ford cars from 1928 to 1932, which had been made roadworthy by young Dutchmen, went over pass routes in Central Switzerland; their drivers were dressed in the fashion of the 'twenties.

On a national level, events covered anybody from babies, nurses, printers, pro and anti women's suffragettes to followers of the arts and the big powerful Parties and Unions, from doctors, lawyers, fashion designers and Freemasons to food experts, under-water divers and policemen, from pottery producers to university principals and experts on grass drying. Subjects covered included ironmongry, psychiatry, art, social welfare, folklore, human rights, noise abatement, mentally handicapped children, textiles and the best posters for 1966.

The first Swiss forestry school was opened at Landquart, and a road safety competition amongst schools held its final contest in Basle; the two boys each from Baden and Zurich were the winners; they took part in the international contest in Rome in May.

The 29th Federal Song Festival took place in Lucerne, and the Federal *Sängerverein* celebrated its 125th anniversary in Aarau. Zurich was host to the Fifth Harmonica Festival. Two other jubilees were celebrated, one by USEGO (60) and one by Longines Francillon (100). The Swiss *Zwei-Tage-Marsch* organised by the Federation of Swiss N.C.O's. was attended by contingents from other countries, among them a group from the London Metropolitan Police.

August bodies which held nation-wide meetings, included the Swiss "Europa Union", "Schweiz. Geisteswissenschaftliche Gesellschaft", the Swiss Institute for *Kunstwissenschaft*, the "Gotthard Bund", "Heimatschutz", "Pro Juventute" (whose annual report disclosed that the sale of stamps and cards in December 1966 resulted in a net profit of 6.3m. francs), the Office for the Development of Trade (OSEC) — and the *Club Kochender Männer*, whose membership totals over 2,000.