

# Watchmakers of Switzerland

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**DR. HANS PETER ZSCHOKKE †**

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Dr. Hans Peter Zschokke, a former president of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique in Switzerland and of the Commission of the Swiss Abroad. He died on Berne Station on 26th January, having arrived from Basle to attend a meeting of the Solidarity Fund of the Swiss Abroad.

He was born on 7th July 1899 and spent his brilliant career as legal expert with J. R. Geigy AG (1925 to 1964). He was particularly concerned with international trust law on which subject he published a number of articles. He was a member of the committee of experts dealing with federal trust legislation.

In addition, he served on the Basle Chamber of Commerce and presided the Basle *Volkswirtschaftsbund* from 1958 to 1966. He was on the board of the Central Federation of Swiss Employers' Organisations, of Swissair and on Federal Commission for Atomic Energy.

His activities in the New Helvetic Society and the Organisation for the Swiss Abroad remain unforgettable. Before he became the latter's President, he had been at the head of the N.S.H. during the difficult years from 1935 to 1940. We Swiss who live outside our country owe this great man a debt of gratitude for his loyal devotion to our cause.

Hans Peter Zschokke was a lawyer, but not in the sense of the formal application of the letter; he put ethic obligation first. He was free from prejudice and always ready to examine any problem on its own merit.

He was keenly interested in history and loved the sea. His wit and sense of humour of the true Basler, as well as his great modesty made him a delightful companion. He was a born *raconteur*, and nobody who has ever heard him reminisce will forget his tales which were not only fascinating but reflected the great personality he was.

**A NEW EDITION OF A 17th CENTURY MAP**

Three centuries after the famous map of the Canton of Zurich by Conrad Gyger first appeared in 1667, a new edition has just been published by the "Verlag für Bibliophile Drucke" Josef Stocker at Dietikon. The authorities of the Canton, the Municipalities of Zurich and Winterthur and the Foundation "Pro Helvetia" contributed to the success of the work which took 2½ years to reproduce.

The cantonal map of 1667 was presented to the Council of Zurich a year later and acknowledged as unprecedented achievement. Now, three centuries later, a few days after the new *facsimile* reproduction, a copy was presented each to the newly elected President of the National National Council, Dr. H. Conzett, and the Federal President for 1968, Federal Councillor Dr. W. Spuehler at the official reception in their honour.

The new edition is practically sold out already. It consists of 56 sheets, and it is the first time that its reproduction has been tried. The other edition of the same work, a coloured composition, was issued for the first time in *facsimile* in 1944. Both originals belong to the Canton of Zurich, the work in 56 sheets is in the State Archives, the composite map at the House of Rechberg.

The preface and accompanying text to the new edition was written by the greatest expert on bibliographic science, Prof. Dr. Eduard Imhof.

[A.T.S.]

**MOTORISTS' CALL SERVICE RUN BY THE SWISS POST OFFICE**

Almost 14 years ago the Swiss Post Office decided to introduce a car radio call service for motorists. At the beginning of 1958, thanks to the combined efforts of the Swiss Post Office and industry, the scheme was far enough advanced for car call service to be started north of the Alps. As from this year this service will be available to motorists throughout Switzerland. Naturally it is not a system enabling motorists to telephone while driving, but one allowing any telephone subscriber in Switzerland, through a special exchange, to let a driver know by means of a signal clearly visible in his car that he is wanted on the phone. The driver then stops at the nearest public call box where he dials a special code number and is immediately put in touch with the person calling him. At present some 3,000 subscribers are connected to the Swiss automobile call service. They are divided into the following categories of occupations: tradesmen, representatives, reporters, etc., 40%; builders and transport concerns 23%; public departments (police, public utilities, etc.) 17%; maintenance departments 10%; doctors and veterinary surgeons 5%; taxi drivers 5%. ¾ of all receivers are installed in private cars and light vans, the remainder in lorries of over 1.5 tons. Every day an average of 1,500 calls is put through.

[O.S.E.C.]

**SLOT-MACHINE BANK SERVICE FOR ABSENT-MINDED BUSINESSMEN IN ZURICH**

The first bank in Switzerland to introduce a money slot-machine, intended to come to the rescue of absent-minded businessmen who have forgotten to check the contents of their wallets before the banks close, the Union Bank of Switzerland has installed one of these slot-machines at the entrance to its head office in Zurich. In order to get money from this machine — provided of course one is a client of this bank — all one has to do is insert a special client's card into the slot-machine to receive a sum of 200 francs allowing one to manage until the banks open again.

[O.S.E.C.]

**WATCHMAKERS OF SWITZERLAND AFTER-SALES SERVICE ABROAD**

Swiss Watchmaking circles plan to create a Swiss holding company, to be known as Watchmakers of Switzerland Repair Organisation Co. Ltd. (WOSRO), for the purpose of promoting new collective repair centres abroad by assisting Swiss or foreign firms organising repairs and the overhaul of Swiss watches outside Switzerland. The first project of this new holding company — formed of the Swiss Watchmaking Federation which will hold the majority of the shares, and various other watchmaking organisations — is to start up the WOSRO Iran Co. Ltd. branch, which is already assured of the interest and backing of some twenty Swiss manufacturers, and which will organise a collective repair centre in Teheran. The promoters of WOSRO hope that they will then be able to set up other branches in several other markets.

[O.S.E.C.]