

The 1924 federal shooting Championship at Aarau

Autor(en): [s.n.]

Objektyp: Article

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

Band (Jahr): - (1923)

Heft 117

PDF erstellt am: **02.05.2024**

Persistenter Link: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-691692>

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permitted that the Swiss drama will at last find realisation in the course of this century. It cannot be in vain that so much of the energy amongst the younger writers is bent upon the drama. You have, of course, heard of Knittel's attempt to write a Swiss drama in English. I ought also to mention that we have now a really strong dialect tragedy by an author unfortunately dead—Paul Hüller—a thing not held possible twenty years ago.

Summing up, we may probably be safe in saying that the contemporary literature of German-speaking Switzerland shows in general a status of which she need not be ashamed. Many interesting things in it undoubtedly go back to impulses received through the shock of the War. The presence in Switzerland during that time of a number of famous foreign writers must also be taken into consideration. Yet, the War is over, these people have gone back, and still the tendency towards a finer craftsmanship and a wider outlook, both movements noticed by the critics long before the War, are steadily increasing. The finest book by Siegfried Lang has only just appeared, so has the significant romantic novel by Alfred Fankhauser and the clever East Prussian novel by Hugo Marti. Bänninger imposes himself more and more every year, and Steffen makes a wider and wider appeal with his novels, which are imbued with pure and delicate feelings. As to Spitteler's influence, it must not be underestimated either. He, with his elaborate artistic conscience, his faith in himself and his final victory in spite of all handicaps of environment, shines for ever as an example to be followed. His influence on the revival of the epic is already to be noticed. Hugo Marti published last year a northern epic, "Balder," which in its prose passages very strongly denotes the influence of "Prometheus und Epimetheus."

Taking everything into account, we may, therefore, say that, whereas the first decade of the twentieth century was characterised in Swiss literature by the rise of promising writers of fiction and Spitteler's great epic, showing many realistic elements, but also—with Spitteler, Schaffner, Steffen—some romantic elements, the second decade is characterised by the comparative neglect of realism. Lyricism, mostly of a religious and romantic character, is rampant, the novel embodies psychological ingredients of a peculiar blend. Curious psycho-analytical problems are treated. The field of the satire widens. More authors tackle the "problem," as do also the rising dramatists. It must not be overlooked in this connection that Switzerland becomes the centre of the psycho-analytical school of Jung and also of the Anthroposophic movement. Ilg, Ganz, Fankhauser are clearly influenced by the first movement, Steffen, Pulver, and perhaps indirectly, Bänninger by the second.

Whether the romantic and psychological movement is a passing one, which would suggest its being in the main a war effusion, cannot be answered yet. Whatever its future, it has certainly enriched our literature. The neo-Kellerists and Heimatpoeten have had their day long enough.

The picture would not be complete if we did not also say a word as to the extension of criticism. Literary life in Switzerland was mightily fostered between 1910 and 1920 by two reviews, "Die Schweiz" and "Schweizerland," both of which are now unfortunately defunct, as a sequel to the economic crisis. Versatile litterateurs, like Korrodi and Faesi, did much to keep up the standard of literary criticism, which was previously only represented by Spitteler's friend, J. V. Widmann. What may strike the foreigner, however, is that contact with French-speaking literature is, in spite of its great importance for national reasons, comparatively neglected. Translations of French and Italian-writing Swiss authors have never been arranged on a broad scale, and other means for making the literature of the remaining part of Switzerland better known amongst the general public have not been widely employed. The fact that most writers of fiction drew the majority of their income from Germany has with the depreciation of the mark become catastrophic. The average Swiss writer is now compelled either to live in Germany or to write only for two and a half million readers instead of a hundred million. Their economic conditions are, therefore, generally speaking, disastrous. This is the reason why the Swiss writer, no less than his compatriot engaged in other professions, views further political developments and their monetary effect with anxiety.

In closing, I hope you will forgive me if I am not able to give you some neat, round conclusion. Life is movement and gives the lie to abstract formulae. My only wish is to have conveyed to you that there is plenty of life in present-day Swiss-German Literature. If you have gained that impression, your satisfaction cannot be greater than mine.

THE 1924 FEDERAL SHOOTING CHAMPIONSHIPS at AARAU.

The subjoined appeal has been addressed by the organising committee to the Legations and Consulates, as well as Swiss Rifle Societies abroad:—

La Société suisse des carabiniers célébrera en 1924 son premier centenaire. A cette occasion les tireurs de la ville d'Aarau, qui est le berceau de la Société suisse des Carabiniers, organisent le Tir fédéral. Cette réunion augmentera d'importance, d'abord du fait de ce Jubilé, et aussi parceque depuis 1910, et à cause de la guerre mondiale, aucune manifestation de ce genre n'a pu être organisée. Celle-ci doit devenir le rendez-vous de la grande famille des tireurs suisses, qui auront ainsi l'occasion de démontrer, par leur arrivée en masse, leur attachement inébranlable au drapeau fédéral et de promettre de lui vouer toutes leurs forces pour la secourir au moment du danger. Nos nationaux qui habitent à l'étranger ne doivent pas manquer à cette manifestation.

Nous ne cédon pas seulement à une impulsion personnelle, mais nous répondons aussi à un vœu général, sorti de milliers de poitrines suisses, et nous adressons une invitation amicale et confédérée aux tireurs et aux sociétés suisses de tir, comme aussi à toutes les sociétés suisses à l'étranger, et nous leur demandons de revenir dans leur patrie à l'occasion de cette fête de l'amitié confédérée, afin de se mesurer avec les autres tireurs dans le noble jeu des armes et afin de se réjouir avec eux, dans cette heure solennelle, de leur origine commune.

La ville de fête organisera, à l'intention des sociétés suisses à l'étranger, un concours de sections spécial. Elles pourront facilement y prendre part, car la participation minimale y sera entièrement libre et elle sera laissée à l'appréciation des comités respectifs. Chaque section remportera chez elle, comme prix d'honneur, un don précieux qui lui rappellera longtemps les belles heures passées au sein de la patrie.

Prière d'adresser toutes les demandes de renseignements, toutes les inscriptions et correspondances au Secrétariat de la Société suisse des Carabiniers à Olten (Suisse), A. Rauber, Obere Hardegg No. 9.

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Pour faciliter les arrangements, le Comité recommande que les participants s'annoncent au plus tôt à M. Georges Dimier, 46, Cannon Street, E.C. 4. (Téléphone: Central 1321).

Ordre du Jour.

Procès-verbal. Admissions. Démonstrations. Divers.

Trains pour Kingston: de Waterloo, Perrons 1 à 6.

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Mr. George H. Dimier, the son of Mr. Georges C. Dimier, is to be married to Miss Barbara Knott, daughter of the Rev. A. H. Knott, of St. Peter's Vicarage, on Tuesday next, September 4th, at 2.30 p.m. in the Church of St. Peter's, East Dulwich.

EGLISE SUISSE, 79, Endell St., W.C. 2.

Dimanche, 2 Sept., 11h.—M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme. 6.30.—Pfr. U. Wildbolz.
Dimanche, 16 Sept.—Jeûne Fédéral—Dank- Buss- und Bettag.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Tuesday, Sept. 11, at 7 p.m.—CITY SWISS CLUB: Monthly Meeting, preceded by a Supper, at Nuthall's Restaurant, Kingston-on-Thames.
Saturday, Sept. 15th, at 5 p.m.—SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY: Outing, with Tea and Dance, at the Royal Abercorn Hotel, Stanmore.

Printed and Published for the Proprietor, P. F. BOHRINGER, by THE FREDERICK PRINTING CO. LTD., at 21, GARLICK HILL, LONDON, E.C.4.