

# Winterthur 500 years in the confederation

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## RECENT APPOINTMENTS IN SWITZERLAND

The Federal Council has appointed:

Monsieur Albert Roy as Swiss Consul in Nantes as successor to Monsieur Arthur Maurer who retires.

Dr. med. J. P. Perret as Deputy Director of the Federal Health Office.

Dr. P. Devantery as Deputy Director of the Federal Office for Energy production.

Divisional Commander Roch de Diesbach as new commander of Mountain Army Corps III, in succession to the retiring Corps Commander René Dubois.

Divisional Commander Fritz Wille as new Commander of Mountain Army Corps III, in succession to the retiring Corps Commander George Zueblin.

Dr. Phil. Kaspar Wolf (Neuenkirch, Lu), as new Director of the Federal Gymnastic and Sports College at Magglingen, in place of the retiring Director Ernst Hirt.

The scientist Peter R. O. Bally of the Botanical Conservatory and Gardens of Geneva has been sent on an important mission to Ethiopia by the World Wild Life Fund; he is to study the present state and possible extension of the valuable desert plant reserves, of the *cordeauxia edulis hmsl.*, which is extremely rich in sugar and fat and of tremendous importance for the feeding of nomad populations.

Prof. Dr. Hugo Stuenzi, Director of the Veterinary Pathological Institute of Zurich University, has been elected as Vice-President of the World Federation of Veterinary Pathologists.

The former President of the Swiss Federation of Book Printers Mr. Hans Wyss has been elected President of the Administrative Council of the International Federation of Graphic Publishers.

The President of the newly founded holding company Balamundi International, the second-largest floor covering manufacturers in the world, is Mr. Jean-Jacques Kurz, President of "Turicum A.G. für Warenhauswerke" Zurich.

The new Central Secretary of the Swiss Europa Union is Mr. Edgar Michel, Berne.

The new Technical Director of the Swiss National Transmitter Beromuenster is Electro-Engineer Markus Zimmermann (Brunnadern).

The new director of the section "Information" of the *Auslandberichterstattung* of Swiss Radio and T.V. is Dr. Heiner Gautschi, until recently Swiss Broadcasting Corporation correspondent in U.S.A.

The new President of the "Schweizerische Vereinigung zum Schutze der Sparer und Rentner" is National Councillor Dr. iur. Walter Reissig, Zurich, Central Secretary of the Central Federation of Swiss House and Property Owner Associations.

In succession to the well-known ethnologist, Mrs. M. Lobsiger — Dellenbach, head of the Ethnographical Museum in Geneva, Mr. André Jeanneret has been appointed.

Pfr. Hans Schaffert has been elected Secretary for the German-speaking part and Director of the Central Office of HEKS ("Hilfserk der Evangelischen Kirchen der Schweiz").

Pater Kilian Rosenast has been appointed *Provinzober* of the R.C. Priest Community of the Pallottini in Switzerland.

A daughter of the late Federal Councillor Motta, Mother Maria Carmela, has retired as *Provinzoberin* of the Sisters of Menzingen (Zug) and is succeeded by Sister Maechtild Som, Zurich. [A.T.S.]

WINTERTHUR 500 YEARS IN THE  
CONFEDERATION

On 2nd September 1467, the Austrian town of Winterthur was pledged to Zurich for the sum of 10,000 Rhenish Florins. The quingentenary took place early in September. A couple of weeks before, Winterthur repaid the old debt to Zurich at a ceremony in the music room of the *Stadthaus* in Zurich, when the two Mayors, both called Widmer, met, and that of Winterthur presented the Zurich one with 10,000 chocolate coins as a symbolic act. With it, the invitation to the celebration was issued to the Zurich municipal authorities. Now, Winterthur's freedom is completely secured.

At this point it is of interest to recall an incident in May, when a unique "document" was deposited in the Winterthur Town Hall in the shape of a Roman stone block which probably dates back to a.d. 294, a piece of the Roman fortress in to-day's Oberwinterthur. The well-preserved inscription said that the High Emperors Gaius Aurelius Dicletianus and Marcus Aurelius Valerius Maximianus had had the fortress built at their own cost, helped by the Low Emperors Valerius Constantius and Galerius Valerius Maximianus. In charge of building operations had been provincial Governor Aurelius Proculus. In the Middle Ages, the stone which was broken into two parts, was saved from the ruins of the citadel and taken to the Bishop's town of Constance where it rested in the wall of the Blasius Chapel of the Cathedral. Thanks to the generous and understanding attitude of the Ministry of State of Baden Wuerttemberg, the Archbishop of Freiburg and of the Cathedral Wardens of Constance, the stone was repatriated to Winterthur in November 1966. It was cleaned, restored and joined up and has now found its new home where it was unveiled previous to the quingentenary celebrations. As a symbol of gratitude, the Mayor presented the *Münsterpfarramt* of Constance with 10,000 DM for the benefit of the kindergarden.

The celebrations took place in the newly erected bus depot which was transformed into a *Festhütte* for 5,000 people. Various festivities took place, a boys' shooting contest, an exhibition "Wandmalerei im alten Winterthur", concerts, carabets, theatre performances, dancing and general merry-making. The week of the "open door" followed, when most of the larger municipal offices were open to the public. The new school centre of Gutschick was also inaugurated.

Winterthur's population counts nearly 90,000, an increase of over 1,700 in a year, 31% are town citizens, 14% cantonal citizens, 36% other Swiss, 10% Italians and the rest other nationals. Every 10th inhabitant is over 65.

The Council Chambers are to be renovated, the "Baeumli" has already been rebuilt, and for the new Municipal Theatre building, a competition has been organised. The "Roemerholz" estate is to be adapted at the cost of 2½m. francs by the Confederation; it houses the valuable art collection bequeathed to the State by the late Dr. h.c. Oskar Reinhart. The projected rebuilding and extension plans for the "Werkhof" at a cost of 5.7m. were rejected by the electorate which, on the other hand granted large sums for the Old People's Home Wiesengrund, for new parking facilities, and road construction and agreed to the definite continuation of the bus service to Kloten Airport.

[A.T.S.]