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Book reviews

All the books reviewed below can be ordered either from the publishing house mentioned or from the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad, Alpenstrasse 26, CH-3016 Bern, Switzerland.

Swiss wine-growing – Swiss wine

Niklaus Flüeler (publisher), Ex libris Publishing Company, Hermetschloostrasse 77, 8048 Zürich. Price Sfr. 48.–, 320 pages in German. Bound.

With this book, the Ex libris Publishing Company has produced an extensive and representative illustrated volume on Swiss viticulture and Swiss wines. With 400 colour photos, some 20 scientific tables, graphic charts and 14 maps, the book affords an excellent survey of the historic significance

of wine in Switzerland, of the most popular kinds of wine and the most important wine-growing districts of the country. A glossary explains the most familiar technical terms. The book is a must for any fancier of Swiss wines.

Albert Anker

Hans A. Lüthy/Sandor Kuthy, Orell Füssli Verlag, Nüscherstr. 22, 8001 Zurich, 152 pages with 42 illustrations in colour and 146 illustrations in black-and-white. German text. Sfr. 59.–.

To celebrate the 150th birthday of Albert Anker, probably Switzerland's most popular artist, the Orell Füssli publishing house edits a marvellously illustrated anthology of Anker's work. The first part of the book written by Hans A. Lüthy is dedicated to Anker's genre-paintings seen in their historical context. The second part, written by Sandor Kuthy, curator of the Berne Art Museum, recounts Anker's life and depicts the variety of his themes.

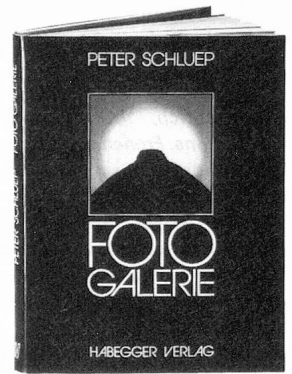


Photo Gallery

Peter Schlupe, Habegger Publishing Company, 4552 Derendingen-Solothurn. 152 pages, bound. Price Sfr. 28.–. German text.

The book presents 18 photographers from four countries with series of their work. With it, it shows a cross-section of photographic creation across the board, from life models to landscapes and right through to technology. Yet the publisher does not confine himself to a sequence of pictures; he introduces the individual photographers and their techniques by way of short texts.

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Outside: Side-lights on modern Swiss art

Fritz Billeter, ABC Verlag, Rüdigerstr. 12, 8045 Zürich, 180 pages with numerous illustrations. French and German text, Sfr. 78. The authors of this richly illustrated work did not intend to depict mainstream Swiss modern art, but throw a light on some eighteen so-called «outsiders». They argue that only by including these outsiders one can give a fair picture of modern Swiss art.

Ticino: Valleys and Villages

Edmond van Hoorick, 1981, published by Huber & Co., 8500 Frauenfeld. 164 pages

illustrated by many colour photos. German text. Bound. Price Sfr. 59.-.

The Photographer, Edmond van Hoorick, presents the result of eight years in the Ticino in a volume of impressive pictures. He has been successful in combining the familiar with the unknown, and he has done this so that both the expert and the simply curious will look at the book with benefit. But it is not only because of the photos that the book will be an asset. Dieter Bachmann and Hans Schmid have managed to produce an excellent and expert insight into the beauties of the Ticino, and also into the problems of the Canton.

Armée Suisse

Peter Marti, Editions 24 heures, 39 avenue de la gare, 1001 Lausanne, 360 pages with numerous illustrations, partly in colour. Price Sfr. 14.-.

At last we are able to introduce the French version of Peter Marti's work on the Swiss Army. The book originated in the wish of the troops and the cadres for more accurate information about our militia army. The pocket-sized volume of 360 pages supplies all necessary information, not only regarding arms and equipment, but also the infrastructure of the army and the rights and duties of the soldier. (Continued on page 23)

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Book reviews

(Continued from page 18)

Poster Calendar of Swiss Landscapes 1982, AT Verlag, 5001 Aarau. Price Sfr. 21.-.

This is an ideal gift for the Swiss abroad – a calendar of large format. The excellent pictures do not only give an insight into the diversity of the Swiss landscape, but they are particularly suitable for hanging up.

Diary Pages by Felix Hoffmann, from the years 1955–1975

Published by AT Verlag, 5001 Aarau; 141 pages, bound, normal edition at Sfr. 142.-, luxury edition at Sfr. 250.-, with an introduction by Felix Buser.

On the occasion of the seventieth birthday of Felix Hoffmann, the AT Verlag presents a selection of the diary pages which had come to light only after Hoffman's death. In his diaries, Felix Hoffmann accounts for everything which occupied him during the last twenty years of his life. Thus a picture results which may be unsystematic, but none the less impressive. The charm of the book lies not least in the relaxed manner of this dialogue with himself, all the more as Felix Hoffmann submits himself to strict discipline in this representative task.

The Secret Empire: How Switzerland Became Rich

Lorenz Stucki, 7th revised edition, 1981 Verlag Huber & Co., 8500 Frauenfeld. 355 pages, bound Sfr. 34.-. In German

Lorenz Stucki's well known book «The Secret empire. How Switzerland became rich» has appeared again in print, after being out of print for quite some time. In a very readable style Lorenz Stucki shows how Switzerland, a country poor by nature, developed into one of the world's richest and most industrialized countries. L. Stucki does not forget the great contribution of the Swiss Abroad.

Pipe the Farmhand

by A. L. Chappuis, Verlag Mon Village AG, 1099 Vulliens. 222 pages, bound Sfr. 22.50. In German and French.

The book is a free recount of the well-known film «Les Petites Fugues» by Yves Yersin and Claude Muret. It tells the story of the somewhat eccentric but sympathetic farmhand whose simple life is drastically changed by the payment of his old age pension. Pipe

begins to discover his surroundings and to change his way of life. A humorous but probing novel.

Swissair: The Portrait of an Astonishing Air Company

Lorenz Stucki, Verlag Huber & Co., 8500 Frauenfeld, 240 pages, bound with numerous illustrations in black-and-white, Sfr. 32.-. French version published by Editions 24 heures, 39 avenue de la gare, 1001 Lausanne; Italian version published by Casagrande Edizioni S.A., Via del Bramantino, 6501 Bellinzona.

Written in an interesting and flowing style, the book tells the story of Swissair from its beginnings to the present. The book is not, however, limited to a recounting of historical facts, but describes plastically the functioning of Swissair, its world-wide renown and its efforts to maintain this prestige. Moreover the interested reader is informed about the different career possibilities with Swissair.

Gonzague de Reynold

Maurice Zermatten, Tribune Editions, Case Postale 434, 1211 Geneva. 254 pages, bound. Price Sfr. 45.-. French text.

This book fills a gap. Nobody else would have been more qualified to write the biography of the notable Swiss historian, author and philosopher, Gonzague de Reynold, than Maurice Zermatten, pupil and friend of de Reynold's. With great sensitivity, Zermatten describes de Reynold's ties with Fribourg, his integration in European family tradition, his Catholic conservative and his Swiss federalistic thinking.

Zermatten's biography is divided into four parts, in which the life, the work and the person of Gonzague de Reynold, as well as his place as a writer (this part is rather too short) are treated.

History of the Swiss in Foreign Services

Jean-René Bory, published by Delachaux & Nestlé S.A., 39 Route d'Oron, 1000 Lausanne 21, Sfr. 130.-. With a preface by Federal Councillor Georges-André Chevallaz. Obtainable in French and German.

With this beautifully illustrated book, the Romand historian Jean-René Bory presents the first volume of the planned collection «Switzerland's Role in the Shaping of Europe». This work will delight the expert as much as the purely curious, for Bory has succeeded in combining accuracy of information with clarity of presentation. The extremely well-chosen picture tables are of special interest and enable the reader to follow the history in an easy and unusual manner.

The Swiss in foreign services is one of the most exciting chapters in Swiss history. Ups and downs, military valour and unbridled licentiousness are tied up in a rather unusual



way. It is the merit of the author to have made this fascinating period accessible to the wider public.

Das Freiamt und die Freiamter

Hans Weber and Peter Schmid, AT Verlag, 5001 Aarau, 152 pages with 134 illustrations, partly in colour. German text. Bound. Price Sfr. 48.-.

The book, beautifully illustrated, does not aspire to be a geographic work. It gives fleeting pictures, impressions and snapshots which should induce the visitor to discover the Freiamt, unknown region between the Bernese Aargau and Central Switzerland. The different parts of the Freiamt are presented in word and picture, the agricultural Muri, the industrial Wohlen and the residential Bremgarten. The familiar is next to the unknown, the nearly forgotten next to new things.

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