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“THE CALL OF THE WILD”

(With apologies to Jack London)

When the meadows are green
And the trees start to bloom
When the birds chirp and sing
It's the call of Spring.

It's the call of the garden
— in a terrible mess
It's the call of the taxes
That never get less
It's the call of the wife
Who wants a new hat
But why should we worry
About small things like that?

Let's lighten our hearts
And let clouds roll by
Another Spring's here
To brighten another sky . . .

JANE FIELDING.

LETTER FROM AMERICA

An exhibition of pictures by the well-known Swiss photographer, the late Werner Bischof, was opened recently in the Foyer Gallery of the Museum of Natural History, in Washington. Dr. August Lindt, the Ambassador of Switzerland, took part in the ceremony.

Werner Bischof was drawn to the attention of the American public some years ago when “LIFE” magazine carried a number of his photographic studies, and in particular those of the Far East. They made a vivid impression, as did his book on Japan.

In the present exhibit, 77 photographs, many of which were taken in the East and Far East as well as in Latin American countries which he visited towards the end of his life, illustrate the various aspects of his art. His early preoccupation with patterns and compositions of line and colour, his acute sense of beauty, his feeling for the exactly right moment in a given action are documented by pictures some of which have become famous. And another essential aspect of his work: The depth of his sympathy for the condition, the joys and miseries of his fellow men everywhere, is shown by profoundly moving images: A lonely Peruvian boy playing the flute, women prostrated by hunger in the streets of an Indian city, a Korean child prisoner of war, a procession in front of a Japanese shrine screened by snow.

Werner Bischof's brilliant career was tragically cut short by an automobile accident in the Andes, in 1954.

The exhibition was organized by the Smithsonian Institution in collaboration with the artist's widow and the Pro Helvetia Foundation of Switzerland. It is sponsored by the Ambassador of Switzerland in the United States.

Ambassador Lindt, who years ago as a journalist for Europe's leading newspapers and during the last four years as the United Nations' High Commissioner for Refugees has himself travelled extensively, opened this most unique exhibition with the following remarks:

There is one picture in this exhibition which means a great deal to me: An Indian boy marching with very big and very courageous steps along a mountain path of the Andes, playing a flute. Werner Bischof caught the atmosphere of the barren, bucolic mountain range and the loneliness of the boy whose only, but inspiring company are the old melodies of a dispossessed race. Superficially an episode, the picture has the value of an absolute symbol. It is one of Werner Bischof's last photographs — taken during his last trip, which was abruptly ended by a fatal car accident six years ago.

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