

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK
Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom
Band: - (1973)
Heft: 1652

Artikel: Events in Berne
Autor: [s.n.]
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-686378>

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EVENTS IN BERNE

Its Bright to Eat in Berne at Night

Berne, is a home of international cuisine. Speciality restaurants in the federal capital serve Spanish muscle dishes, Chinese noodles in piquant sauces, fresh salmon from northern water, steaming pizzas, gigantic steaks from the Far West—everyone can get the food from home in Berne. But it is not obligatory. Berne has its own original and centuries-old cuisine. Would you like to try some Bernese specialities?

Take two pounds of cooked potatoes, a good lump of fat, an equal dollop of butter and a pinch of salt. That is all. The potatoes are roughly flaked, seasoned with salt and fried till they have a golden brown crust. The result: rösti. They are eaten with a Bratwurst (sausage), an emincé (chopped meat in sauce), or just by themselves as rösti.

Do you know what a Gnagi is? You eat it with steaming sauerkraut and a glass of beer. A Gnagi is boiled pig's knuckles—magnificent!

The Bernese national dish is legendary: Berner Platte—on fresh or dehydrated long beans (depending on the time of year), sauerkraut or sour cab-

bage, you will find piled a complete cross-section from a well-stocked butcher's shop: bacon, Siedfleisch (boiling meats), smoked rib, thick slices of juicy tongue sausage (Zungenwurst) and Vienna Würstchen (small sausages).

As a dessert for the insatiable a méringue is in order: a monument to artfully twisted threads of whipped cream resting on two strangely fragile domes made of nothing more than sugar and egg whites baked into this delicacy. Substantial and nourishing at the same time.

Berne and its Museums

Berne's several museums belong without doubt among the major attractions of the federal capital, and this winter they are preparing again for numerous visitors as evenings draw in. The *Naturhistorische (Natural History) Museum* is known throughout the world for its comprehensive exhibition of African, Northern and especially native Swiss mammals and birds. Bernese history, Swiss artefacts and mem-

entos of travels and adventures in far off lands are to be found in the *Berne Historisches (History) Museum*. Records of the old city and Republic of Berne, which militarily became of continental importance for some time, finds its climax in the 15th century Burgunderbeute (Booty) which is here displayed, having fallen into the hands of the Bernese after the victory of the Confederation over Charles the Bold of Burgundy. The affiliated museum in *Schloss (Castle) Oberhofen* on the Lake of Thun is putting on special displays of urban and rural domestic interior decoration in regularly changing exhibitions. The collection of the *Berne Kunstmuseum (Art Museum)* covers Bernese and Swiss art from the Middle Ages to the Renaissance, and European works from the 14th to 16th, and 19th to 20th centuries. Since 1952 the museum has administered the Paul Klee Foundation, which includes a large part of the estate left by Klee and has made the museum a place of pilgrimage for lovers of modern art. The *Kunsthalle* offers above all a series of exhibitions of modern art from Switzerland and abroad: its displays of avantgarde production in painting, sculpture and graphic art have facilitated new contact with the general public, aroused discussion and promoted a wider understanding of art. The history of Alpine research, the development of mountains. At least once a year, the true Bernese or anyone who hopes to become one, will eat what cannot be found anywhere else in the whole world: onion tart at "Zibelemärit" (Onion market), Berne's own festival in November.



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Philatelic Exhibition at Berne

An exhibition in honour of "60 Years of Pro Juventute Stamps" began on 6th December in Berne at the PTT Museum (Helvetiaplatz) which will no doubt be of interest not only to philatelists but also to the public. It will last until 4th February, 1973 and exhibit artistic and philatelic documents from 1912 to 1972. Posters, drawings, original sketches and printing drafts will also be included, beginning with first attempts at stamps with a Swiss German text right to the rose sketches for the 1972 Jubilee stamps. Opening times: 9-12 a.m. and 2-5 p.m. Closed on Monday mornings.

English Avant-garde artists in Berne's Kunsthalle

From 20th January, till 25th February, 1973, Berne's Kunsthalle will be putting on a joint exhibition of seven English artists who have never been brought together before and show a wide range of diverging tendencies of English art. The painter Tess Jaray is represented by her "colour field paintings", while Rose Finn-Kelley plans to raise a 10 x 15 yard flag on a 120ft. high pole on the Gurten. John Latham intends to mount a machine he calls the "Big Breather" in the entrance hall of the Kunsthalle. The machine transforms into sound the energy projections of high and low tide and the attractive

power of the moon in symbolic fashion every eight hours. Bob Law specialises in large black and white pictures (5 x 7 yards), while Allan Charlton—at 25 the youngest to take part in this unusual exhibition—will display his "minimal paintings", grey canvasses with geometric holes. Tom Phillips uses book pages, chalking on certain words to make new sentences and poems, while the rest of the page is brightly overpainted. Noel Forster paints his works on 50 yard long silk rolls two foot wide: in their full length they take up several exhibition rooms. Berne and its Kunsthalle seem to be preparing for an exciting and controversial artistic event.

The Romantic Brienzer-Rothorn steam locomotive to remain in service

Thanks to 2,000 shareholders, the Brienzer-Rothorn train will continue operating as the last mountain train running on steam. In all, 6,504 shares were brought even though it was advised in the prospectus that no profits were to be expected. As the Brienzer-Rothorn enterprise explained: "This is more out of sympathy for the old and Romantic steam engine era."

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NEWS FROM THE COLONY

SCHWEIZERBUND

The Schweizerbund's bi-annual gatherings are a welcome opportunity of knowing new places to go out and enlarging one's experience of places of gastronomic interest. Most of the recent Schweizerbund events have taken place in different inns and restaurants, often outside London. In December, it took place at the Edgwarebury Country Club, Elstree. Despite the clear indications supplied in the invitation form, it was not easy to find in the fog and the rain that prevailed over London on the night of 15th December. The first ever license endorsement that was inflicted on your Editor on the way (for driving at 45 mph) made this function begin for him under bad auspices. But the congenial company and the truly excellent food that was abundantly served to us for only £1.50 helped to forget this episode. About twenty-five members and guests were present and this could be considered as a very good attendance because several regular members were unable to come. In particular, the Club's President, Mr. Virgil Berti, was laid up with flu and Mr. Jurg Schmid officiated in his place.

Dinner was served in a vast wood panelled hall with timbers and oak furniture that lent this venue an atmosphere of country gentry that was reminiscent of all that is worthy and sturdy in English civilisation.

Mr. Schmid told us that it was Mrs. Delaloye's birthday and we accordingly sang a glorious Happy Birthday. He offered Mr. and Mrs. Fernand Delaloye a big creamy cake which they immediately proceeded to share out to the whole table. Mr. Delaloye also received a box of twisted cigars which he also generously shared out. Earlier, he had been invited to say a few words, which he did with characteristic dry humour amid the mirth and giggles of the attendance. Soon we began to sing, according to the wont of the Club, from the SNTD leaflets supplied to us by the President's deputy. We sang three or four Swiss songs, among which the inevitable La Haut sur La Montagne and Fa Mal i Pe, before we somehow fell short of inspiration. To revive us, a volunteer guest with a baritone voice offered to sing Roselein auf der Heide. This young Cambridge student delivered a fine performance with a crystalline voice and everyone forgave

him for not knowing every verse of Goethe's poem. He then sang "Roses of Picardy" and was immediately accompanied by a chorus of members familiar with this romantic serenade. With a good meal and some remaining traces of liquor in their blood, members separated for the long drive home through a misty night.

SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL DINNER

The most sporting Swiss dinner of the year was held as usual at the Gledower Hotel, and was greatly favoured by the cuisine of Mrs. Milani. This year's Dinner was noted for its particularly strong attendance of young people. They have flocked to the Club in recent years and are ensuring the survival of its regular activities.

Owing to a cold, or a sore throat, or both, our President Marcel Bucherer asked Mr. Peter Fischer to deputise for him and deliver the customary address. Mr. Fischer welcomed the guests from the Surrey Rifle Association with which the Swiss Rifle Association has maintained close links for a number