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SWISS FOLKLORE

To write about folkloristic traditions in Switzerland is no easy task, for there is a wealth of customs not only in every Canton, but often in different valleys and even villages. Swiss life, both political and ethnologically, is based on the Commune. There are 3,000 in the whole country, the smallest with a dozen inhabitants, the largest with 450,000.

If one were to spend a year just following popular festivals in Switzerland, one would be fully occupied for the whole twelve months. And one would not even have to include customs and shows especially "arranged" for tourists.

The Swiss National Tourist Office have recently published an illustrated colourful booklet called "Traditions and popular festivals in Switzerland" obtainable at the SNTTO, Swiss Centre, London, W.1.

The interesting thing is, as the Director of the Swiss National Tourist Office, Dr. Werner, points out in his introduction, that not one single custom has had to be dropped from the previous list made up 15 years ago. On the contrary, several customs which had been lost have actually been revived, especially in cities, a sure sign that the Swiss himself has not lost his interest in traditions, nor his local pride.

M.M.



Dance at the Big Scheidig, Bernese Oberland



Basle Carnival



The Zurich "Künstlerrmaskenball (SNTTO)