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Se desiderate liberarVi dalle fatiche e preoccupazioni quotidiane, le Alpi svizzere Vi offrono, d'inverno, codesta possibilità di stacco, chiamandoVi ad un soggiorno ritemprante nell'incanto delle loro vallate nevose, tranquille e solatie. L'offerta è davvero molteplice e varia, perchè la natura, oltre che plasmar diversamente ogni valle, ha favorito in ciascuna, attraverso la separazione, la fioritura di forme di civiltà largamente autonome ed originali. Quanta differenza corre, ad esempio, tra le sedi umane delle vallate della Svizzera orientale e quelle del Vallese! Ai cascinali sparsi, intorno al Sântis, come le greggi in un pascolo, si contrappongono, in bruna massa compatta, le dimore vallesane sorte sui terrazzi sovrastanti il Rodano adolescente o altro torrente impetuoso. Dove abbondano le foreste, tavole e travi di legno robusto sono il materiale dominante nella costruzione delle case: tipiche e notissime quelle dell'Oberland bernese, simbolo, per tanti nostri ospiti, dell'abitazione elvetica. Numerose, ma non sempre felici, sono le riproduzioni in miniatura, con o senza meccanismo musicale incorporato, di codeste case rustiche — o chalets — messe in vendita come «ricordo». In Engadina, le finestre incassate, quasi feritoie, nei muri solidissimi, così costruiti a difesa dalle inclemenze del tempo, rivelano influssi italiani. In quelle alte valli, site al confine di due aree di civiltà — la latina e la germanica — vive tuttora la parlata che ambedue le riflette: il retoromancio, quarta lingua nazionale elvetica.

OF MOUNTAINS AND MEN

Forget the everyday round for a moment and let your thoughts dwell on a snowy mountain scene in the Swiss Alps. This is a different, a separate world. Mountains are barriers: they separate valley from valley, river from river, lake from lake. Climbing skywards, they divide the lowlands from the highlands. A mountain range can separate two races, two cultures, two languages. Look at the hamlets in the Alpine valleys of East Switzerland—how different they are from those of the Valais, in the West. The farmsteads around Mount Sântis lie scattered over the pasturelands; on the terraced flanks of the Rhone valley they huddle together in dark clusters. Where timber is plentiful, as in the Bernese Oberland, the houses are of the chalet type, which even today many strangers call the typical Swiss house. No wonder! They are reminded of it everywhere in the souvenir shops where miniature chalets—not always in the best of taste—are on sale as music-boxes. In the Engadine the house windows are like loopholes pierced in the solid masonry, reminiscent of the Italian style yet perfectly adapted to Alpine conditions. And in the same region, unchanged by the passage of time, we still hear the Rhæto-Roman tongue, the Latin of the present-day locals. It is Switzerland's fourth national language. These differences and contrasts, these distinctive local features, have survived only because of the separating influence of the mountains; in the lowlands they would have merged into uniformity.

STÄTTEN DER BEGEGNUNG

Das im Solothurner Staatsbesitz stehende Schloss Waldegg bei Solothurn zu einer «Stätte der Auseinandersetzung mit den menschlichen und geistigen Fragen der Gegenwart» und zu einem «Zentrum der Begegnung mit dem künstlerischen und kulturellen Schaffen» auszugestalten, ist ein Anliegen, mit dessen Prüfung sich die Kantonsregierung gegenwärtig befasst. Als besonderes Ziel schwebt den Initianten vor, «das Wesen der solothurnischen Volksgemeinschaft neu zu erkennen und die geistige Kraft des Einzelnen für das Ganze fruchtbar werden zu lassen». Damit könnte das Schloss Waldegg die Geltung eines Kulturzentrums von europäischer Bedeutung erlangen.

Der wünschbaren Kontaktnahme zwischen den ausländischen Studierenden in Bern und ihren Schweizer Kommilitonen stand bisher das Fehlen eines

Le montagne separano le valli, ma i loro valichi aprono alle popolazioni la strada per gli scambi e le comunicazioni reciproche. Le Alpi son state abitate assai prima di altre regioni.

Le condizioni ambientali furono presto incentivo alle popolazioni locali ad unirsi per il miglior sfruttamento delle risorse naturali e per la tutela dei valichi da pericolose ingerenze straniere. Da siffatta unione è nato il primo nucleo costitutivo della Confederazione elvetica. Nell'aspetto urbano di tanti borghi e villaggi di montagna si riflette la lunga vicenda di traffici e scambi svoltisi con le piccole repubbliche cittadine della pianura, nonchè con le terre poste di qua e di là della barriera alpina.

In montagna, l'inverno favorisce gl'incontri umani: da quando, nonostante la neve e i ghiacci, la ferrovia e altri mezzi di trasporto procurano comunicazioni stabili e sicure con le alte vallate, un'intensa vita mondana e sportiva anima, anche d'inverno, i villaggi più remoti. Dovunque, le scuole di sci e i diporti all'aperto offrono ai partecipanti occasioni di mutua conoscenza. La sera, accoglienti locande (Gasthaus, Stube, Carnotzet), spesso arredate secondo usanze locali, si prestano a conversevoli veglie. Sia che praticiate uno sport, sia invece che preferiate il godimento più intimo e tranquillo di lunghe passeggiate nel silenzio incantato di foreste nevose, la Svizzera, aperta al mondo, rivolge anche a Voi il suo invito ospitale.

Yet mountains also have a unifying effect. In contrast to other high places of the world, the Alps have housed men since very ancient times. And living conditions were such that the settlers joined forces in tilling the soil and using the upland pastures for their herds. It was, in fact, this cooperation that gave birth to the Swiss Confederation. Even today, in the hospitable mountain communities of Switzerland, we can trace the results of centuries of mutual aid between rural valleys and little urban republics. One striking example is the early exchange of reciprocal traffic across well-guarded passes.

Mountains also unite, then, even when they lie beneath winter's white mantle. To an extent that would have seemed incredible not very long ago the magic attraction of Alpine winter has animated the community life of the mountain villages and thrown open the doors of remote inns that once slumbered deep in winter. There is a spirit of gregariousness abroad—ski schools create personal contacts everywhere for all who love to romp on snow and ice. The long evenings have their own charm in every mountain village, in the "carnotzets", in the pine-panelled inns with abundant good cheer, talk and merriment. Whether you go in for sport or prefer to ramble along silent paths amid snow-laden woods, you can be sure of one thing: Winter in Switzerland is pervaded by a spirit of carefree good fellowship.

geeigneten Lokales mit studentischer Atmosphäre im Wege. Mit der Unterstützung von öffentlicher und privater Seite konnte nun ein solches Lokal geschaffen werden. In der Nähe der Universität hat der Kanton den Keller eines ihm gehörenden Hauses zur Verfügung gestellt, der vom einstigen Apfelkeller zum wohnlichen Aufenthaltsraum umgestaltet wurde. Dabei haben die Studenten tüchtige Mitarbeit geleistet, und nun steht der neue, hübsche Klubraum Diskussionsabenden, Vortragsveranstaltungen und Tanzanlässen offen. — In Neuenburg soll als europäisches Novum ein «Haus der Taucher» erstehen, dem die Bedeutung eines schweizerischen Zentrums für Unterwassersport und Unterwasserübungen zugedacht ist. Urheber dieses Vorhabens ist das seit zehn Jahren bestehende «Centre d'études et de sport subaquatiques» in Neuenburg.

DES ENSEMBLES ÉTRANGERS PARCOURENT LA SUISSE

Vers la fin du mois de janvier, les Solistes de Vienne entreprennent un vaste périple suisse; leur dirigeant, Karl Engel, se produira comme soliste dans un concert pour piano de Mozart. L'ensemble donnera également une symphonie de Haydn. Du 25 au 27 janvier, ce programme sera exécuté successivement à *Berne, Bâle, Zurich, Lausanne* et *Genève*. Il sera répété à *Kreuzlingen* le 29. – Le 18 janvier, le « Collegium Musicum » de l'Orchestre philharmonique de Berlin donnera un concert de musique de chambre à *Zurich*; les instruments à vent et les violons exécuteront des œuvres rarement entendues de Johann Sebastian Bach, Friedemann Bach, Mozart, Schubert et Rossini. – Le Quatuor Loewenguth offrira un concert de musique de chambre à *Berne*, le 27 janvier. – Dans la même ville, l'Orchestre philharmonique de Bamberg se fera entendre le 30. – Notons encore que l'Orchestre et Opéra de Prague exécutera, à *Saint-Maurice*, le « Don Juan », de Mozart. – Le 19 janvier, *La Chaux-de-Fonds* accueillera le violoniste David Oistrakh et le 26 la cantatrice Tereza Berganza.

DIVERSITÉ DES EXPOSITIONS

Du 16 janvier au 12 février, le « Helmhaus » de *Zurich* présentera les œuvres d'artistes argoviens; inversement, pendant la même période, le Musée des beaux-arts d'Aarau accueillera l'exposition des artistes zurichois ouverte jusqu'à ce moment au « Helmhaus ». Echange de politesses. Du 21 janvier au 26 février, le Musée d'art et d'histoire de Fribourg offre une exposition consacrée aux « tendances actuelles »; elle groupera avant tout de jeunes peintres et sculpteurs de Suisse romande. – Au Musée de Winterthour, l'exposition des œuvres d'Adolphe Dietrich, le peintre-paysan thurgovien, sera accessible au public jusqu'au 22 janvier.

Jusqu'au 26 février, le « Kunsthaus » de *Zurich* présentera un choix de trésors artistiques de l'URSS et, dès le 7 janvier, il ouvrira une exposition consacrée à la peinture anglaise des XVIII^e et XIX^e siècles. Dès le 26 janvier, une exposition de l'Art hellénique contemporain s'ouvrira au Musée Rath, *Genève*.

L'ART GRAPHIQUE À L'HONNEUR

La Bibliothèque de l'ancien couvent de Saint-Gall, dont les salles baroques sont célèbres, présente régulièrement, au gré d'expositions alternantes, des choix de ses trésors. Elle offre actuellement – et jusqu'à fin avril – des gravures et enluminures qui évoquent « le voyage au Moyen Age ». Nul doute que ce thème charmant n'attire un nombreux public. – A *Genève*, l'exposition que le Cabinet des estampes de la promenade du Pin consacre à « La scénographie italienne au XVIII^e siècle » sera visible jusqu'à fin mars. Le Musée de La Scala de Milan, qui est encore installé dans la même maison depuis 1778, a mis à disposition une documentation iconographique unique au monde. Elle donne une idée de la vitalité et de l'éclat de la vie théâtrale au temps où la scène italienne a atteint son apogée. – Le Musée des PTT, à *Berne*, présente une exposition des portraits des Suisses célèbres qui figurent sur nos timbres-poste depuis les débuts des postes fédérales; les projets originaux et des épreuves la compléteront heureusement. De courtes biographies évoqueront la vie des personnages.

LE « THEATRUM MUNDI » EN IMAGES

L'exposition consacrée au thème « Le Théâtre du monde », organisée par le Cabinet des estampes de l'Ecole polytechnique fédérale à *Zurich*, sera visible jusqu'à mi-février. Elle évoque par de multiples bois gravés, eaux-fortes, lithographies extraites des immenses collections de cette institution, la vie artistique, quotidienne, intellectuelle et mondaine de l'Europe pendant cinq siècles. Elle rappellera que cette Europe, qui continue à se faire difficilement – et qui est en quelque sorte une construction permanente – est une réalité depuis longtemps.

1

*Ohne Nebel gibt's kein Nebelmeer.
Wo nähmen wir das Meer sonst her?
Und hüllt das Nebelmeer uns ein –
wir sollen ihm nicht böse sein.
Der Nebel steigt, der Nebel fällt,
in Licht und Glanz liegt rings die Welt.
Doch – wer das Nebelmeer sehr liebt,
kann's nur, weil's eben Nebel gibt.*

2

*Nichts sei schwerer zu ertragen,
heisst es, als im Übermass
der Genuss von schönen Tagen.
Aber, Freunde, lasst euch sagen:
wenn's um Ski und Schnee sich handelt,
bleibt die Schönheit unverwandelt,
selbst wenn vieler Tage Kette
immer, immer Sonne hätte!*

3

*Die Sonne geht von selber auf.
Die Bergbahn hat vergnügten Schnauf.
Was könnte uns erschrecken?
Ein trüber Tag? Zu wenig Schnee?
Zu viel, zu hart – Herr Jeeminee! –
und Mond- und Sonnenflecken?
Wes' Herz am rechten Flecken ist,
der grüsst den Tag als Optimist,
selbst wenn es Katzen bagelt.
Dem Griesgram aber, der nicht sieht,
wie schnell der Nebel sich verzieht,
bleibt Stirn und Welt vernagelt.
Was folgt daraus mit kühnem Schluss?
Dass man das Wetter lieben muss.*

4

*Guten Morgen! Guten Morgen!
's ist Neujahr! 's ist Neujahr!
Wird es besser, als das alte,
als das alte, alte war?
Wie es werden wird – wer weiss es?
Wie wir's machen – so wird's sein
und lädt alle, alle, alle
zu erwählten Gästen ein!*

ALBERT EHRSIMANN

I explained the story again, and the Zurich operator apparently understood me. "We'll simply notify callers that your number has been changed," she said. "Then we'll tell them what the new number is."

"That would be dandy of you," I said graciously. We then made all final arrangements and I hung up, my faith in Swiss technological progress completely restored.

The next day, I thought I would double-check. I dialled the old number. It rang... and rang... and rang. Then a tape-recorded voice said, "The number you are calling is no longer valid. Please call number such-and-such for further information."

I whipped through the dial with my newly acquired dialling proficiency. "What number are you calling?" asked another voice. I told her. "One moment, please."

I waited. Then the voice said that the number I was calling had been disconnected.

"Ha!" I shouted. "Now I have you! I am the subscriber himself, and that number has *not* been disconnected. It has been changed!" In the end, as one might suspect, the matter was straightened out, as things often are in Switzerland. I now know, for example, that my name is Eugene V. Rapperswil, that I live in Herrlstein near Winterthur, and that I have moved once every three years during my two-year stay in the country.

This really isn't fair to the telephone company, if you think of everything they have to do and the shortage of trained personnel these days. I am extremely patient and I realize that we live in a complicated and difficult age. It's just that I feel like moving to Herrliberg to see what they would do next time.

SWISS CULTURAL LIFE IN JANUARY

WINTER CUSTOMS IN TOWN AND COUNTRY

We hope the clear winter sun of the Upper Engadine will be shining when the jolly sleigh parties are held there in the fine old "Schlitteda engiadinaisa" tradition. You can witness this festive highlight of the winter season at St. Moritz on January 15, at Samedan on January 22. Drawn by horses, the jingling sleighs glide in a long column across the glittering snow, and the flaming red of the traditional Engadine costumes adds a gay touch of colour to the scene. At Urnäsch, a large village in the Appenzell district, the ancient calendar is still preserved in the form of a noisy New Year's Eve masquerade called "Silvester-Klausen" on January 13. The weekend following (January 14 and 15), the village of Baar, near Zug, where many old customs are still upheld, will be the scene of an international masquerade in which groups from Switzerland, Germany and Austria will take part. Carnival time is now almost upon us, the first to start "operations" being Lucerne, on January 8, with its ceremony of "Fetching Father Fritsch". Then, on January 31, Baden follows suit, the main Carnival event being again a masked procession on February 5. In fact, Carnival fans will find fun almost everywhere in early February—in Lucerne, in Fribourg, in Lugano, Locarno and Ascona. A week later comes the second wave of rumbustious frivolity in other towns and areas—first and foremost in Basle with its satirical masquerades on February 13 and 15, but also Bienne on February 11 and 12, Murten on February 12, when everything is given over to King Carnival. In Zurich the best masked groups are to be seen on February 11 at the traditional Maskenball and prize-giving in the rooms of the Kongresshaus, artistically and imaginatively decorated for the occasion. There is another "bal masqué" in the same fantastically adorned rooms on February 13. But we must not fail to underline the highly original and picturesque custom of "Vogel Gryff", the prelude to the famous Basle Carnival. It takes place this time on January 20, a Friday, and the day is dedicated to "Little Basle", the quarter of the city on the right bank of the Rhine. In the course of the proceedings, the three emblem figures of "Little Basle"—the Lion, the Wild Man and the Griffin—perform grotesque dances, conjuring up a legendary world to the cheering crowds that throng the street and the middle bridge across the Rhine.

FOREIGN MUSIC ENSEMBLES ON TOUR

An extensive Swiss tour is being undertaken towards the end of January by the "Viennese Soloists" whose conductor, Karl Engel, will also be the pianist in a Mozart concerto. Their Mozart programme will be preceded by a Haydn symphony. This classical programme will be repeated on five successive days, from January 23 to 27, in Berne, Basle, Zurich, Lausanne and Geneva, and again on January 29 in Kreuzlingen. The Collegium Musicum of the famous Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra will also be playing chamber music in Zurich on January 18, interpreting rarely heard works by Johann Sebastian Bach, Friedemann Bach, Mozart, Schubert and Rossini. More chamber music in Berne, where the Loewenguth Quartet is playing on January 27. Then, in the same city, the Bamberger Philharmoniker are programmed for a guest concert on January 30. Opera: A Prague ensemble will perform Mozart's "Don Juan" at Saint-Maurice.

A GALAXY OF ART EXHIBITIONS

In the Zurich Helmhaus Argovian artists will be exhibiting from January 16 to February 12, while the latest Helmhaus exhibition of Zurich artists will move to Aarau for the same period. Contemporary work will also be to the fore in Fribourg, where the exhibition "Tendances actuelles" will be on show at the Musée d'art et d'histoire from January 21 to February 26, paintings and sculptures by young West-Swiss artists will be on view. A commemorative exhibition in the Winterthur Art Museum and opening on January 22 is dedicated to the work of Thurgovian painter Adolf Dietrich, a genuine "peintre naïf". Broader historical aspects of art are opened up at the Zurich Art Gallery (Kunsthau) with the display, lasting until February 26, of art treasures from the USSR, and with the exhibition of "18th and 19th Century English Painting" commencing on January 7. At the Musée Rath in Geneva many unknown works will be on view under the heading "Art hellénique contemporain", opening on January 26.

GEMS OF GRAPHICAL ART

The Abbey Library in St. Gall, one of the loveliest Baroque interiors and well worth a visit for its beauty alone, is arranging a series of temporary exhibitions with a view to making the contents of its treasure chambers accessible to the general public. The current display bears the title "Travel in the Middle Ages" and comprises a wide selection of manuscripts and incunabula dealing with this intriguing theme. This novel show will last until the end of April. In the Cabinet des estampes, Promenade du Pin, Geneva, the exhibition "La scénographie italienne au 18^e siècle" includes a wealth of pictorial documents from the Museum of the Scala in Milan; it will be open till the end of March. The world-renowned Scala Opera House, which dates back to the year 1778, possesses authentic pictures of productions staged in the heyday of the Baroque period. Numerous modern theatrical scenic designers have drawn inspiration from the festive décors of that epoch. Contemporary works of graphic art in miniature can be admired in the new special exhibition at the GPO Museum in Berne. Its title is "Portraits of Famous Swiss on our Postage Stamps". The display of stamps issued at various times is complemented by the artists' original sketches and by printers' proofs. In addition, the subjects of the portraits are described in brief biographies, thus enhancing the informative character of the exhibition. It lasts until February 28.

"THEATRUM MUNDI" IN PICTURES

The "Theatre of the World" exhibition of the Graphical Collection of the Swiss Institute of Technology in Zurich is being prolonged to the middle of February. It illustrates life in Europe over five centuries. A fascinating array of woodcuts, copper engravings, etchings and illustrated books chosen from the Collection's vast stocks conjures up the mentality, the everyday life and the festivities of long-dead cultural epochs. The original graphical works recount it all far more vividly than mere reproductions in books.