

Berne has a very active artists' colony which shows its work either in groups or individually in the numerous private and public galleries in Switzerland. This group includes sculptors, graphists, and painters who work in all styles and media. The quality of graphic art has always been high in Switzerland and opportunities for working in this medium are unlimited. The Berne Museum of Fine Arts (Kunstmuseum) has the most extensive collection of Paul Klee available today and is very obliging about making it available to serious students.

As Berne is in a German-speaking canton, most of the reference material in the libraries is in German. English or French documents do exist but German is essential for research projects.

The National Library of Switzerland has a large collection of books about Switzerland by Swiss authors or on subjects pertaining to the country. It is housed in a modern building with comfortable well-lit reading and reference rooms. There are over one million volumes on Switzerland or related topics, many in French, some in English. The library has the most up-to-date cataloguing systems available and the staff is very helpful in tracing reference works and, through a system of inter-library loans, will locate and borrow the book if it is to be found in a library anywhere in Switzerland. Since the UN library in Geneva lends books through inter-library loans, a vast selection of books in English and French thus becomes available to a researcher working in Berne.

In the Berne Cantonal and University Library most of the books are in German but basic text and research books are available in the original which, in many modern disciplines such as sociology, economics, etc., means English.

A documentation centre on Canada was recently created in Soleure, 40 kilometres from Berne. It receives a yearly supply of books in English and French.

Courses in cooking and handicrafts are given both by the Migros School and the Cantonal Volkshochschule but are in German and frequently, a dialect. The teachers usually speak some French or English and, if the class is not too large, one can follow the course. However, a knowledge of German, at least written German, is almost essential in order to participate in these classes.

For anyone who knows German well, the whole range of university disciplines is open at the University of Berne. Good courses on French literature, modern and classical, are given in French, as are similar courses in English literature in English. These are the only courses not given in German. However, university credit courses can be taken in French in a variety of disciplines at the University of Fribourg, a half-hour drive from Berne. A number of diplomats' spouses have found it possible to attend courses in Fribourg although it may be difficult to adjust one's schedule. It must be remembered that school children in Switzerland return home for lunch.

## Geneva

Approximate number of spouses working as locally engaged staff: 2