

**Press Kit  
June 2017**

# **Schnaps & rösti**

**Enamelled Glass and Swiss Pottery 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> Centuries**

**Musée Ariana, 9 June 2017 - 18 February 2018**

**Press visit: Thursday 8 June at 11 am**

**Exhibition preview: Thursday 8 June at 7 pm**

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**musée  
suisse  
de la céramique  
et  
du verre**

10, Avenue de la Paix

1202 Geneva

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## Enamelled Glass and Swiss Pottery 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> Centuries

Musée Ariana, 9 June 2017 - 18 February 2018

### *Press Release*

**Geneva, June 2017.** The Musée Ariana is continuing its series of exhibitions focused on its collections. After "Italian Faience" in 2006 and "Ceramics of Islam" in 2014, "The Ariana Selects from its Storerooms III" considers the Swiss identity through a rich display of pottery and glass from Eastern Switzerland.

On the one hand, there are the dishes for the *rösti* potato cake, as well as other earthenware terrines with underglaze slip decoration, and on the other, schnapps flasks and tumblers in clear or coloured glass, enhanced with polychrome enamelling.

Although the techniques and forms differ, the iconographic motifs overlap and echo each other. Wild flowers, the bears of Bern, men and women dressed in their best finery, and heraldic coats of arms adorn this ware as elaborate as it is fresh. The designs are often complemented by religious, patriotic or gallant sayings that give us fascinating insights into people's everyday lives.

To accompany this exhibition, two major French/German bilingual publications written by recognized experts are being published by 5 Continents and will be on sale in the museum.

To coincide with this exhibition, the Heritage Interpretation Service has developed a rich programme of activities linked to Switzerland and its local traditions: a demonstration of and introduction to Swiss wrestling, known as "Schwingen" or "breeches wrestling", guided tours in French, schwyzerdütsch, German and English, ceramic and glass workshops for adults and families, a conference, a Christmas market, concerts and a yodelling workshop.

### **SWISS POTTERY**

The pottery techniques differ very little: the thrown, shaped and dried clay is generally covered with a light beige or dark brown base made of slip (liquid clay). The decoration, of slip clay coloured by the addition of metallic oxides, is applied to this base with the aid of a brush or slip trailer. It is sometimes enhanced with circular patterns, engraved or added by means of a roller. The vessel is then given a final coating of glaze before being fired in a wood-burning kiln. On removal from the kiln, the colours of the slip clays are revealed in all their intensity under a shiny transparent glaze.

Though evidence exists of pottery production in several cantons, the most important centres were in the Canton of Bern, including Abraham Marti's workshop in Blankenbourg, and the centres of Langnau, Heimberg, Bärswil and Steffisbourg.

The Musée Ariana has an important collection of nearly 200 pieces of Swiss pottery, significantly representative of the major centres of production and covering an extensive period from 1680 to the early 20th century. With the exception of a few occasional purchases, most of the items were added to our holdings through donations and legacies. Several of these donations are recent arrivals linked to this exhibition project. Among these, mention should be made of an exceptional Langnau "wedding" terrine. (Inv. AR 2016-400).

### **Abraham Marti's workshop in Blankenbourg in the Simmental Valley**

The earliest mention of Abraham Marti as the only potter working in the Simmental valley in the Bernese Oberland dates back to 1748. Between 1749 and 1789, he produced ceramic ware (mainly dishes) as well as tiles for stoves.

Abraham Marti's flat plates are easily identifiable by their designs painted on a light-coloured background. Although the plates are often distorted, especially the larger pieces, the remarkable quality of the decoration makes this ware one of the gems of Swiss pottery.

With nineteen plates and dishes, the Musée Ariana's collection of Blankenbourg ware is one of the most important in Switzerland; the large platter bearing a coat of arms is a masterpiece of the genre.

### **Daniel Herrmann and the potteries of Langnau**

From the 17<sup>th</sup> century onwards, the town of Langnau in the Emmental valley offered ideal conditions for the development of potteries. Prior to 1850, there were at least ten confirmed sites there dedicated to this craft.

Generations of potters, including the famous Herrmann family, developed skills that gave rise to the "Langnau style". Daniel Herrmann (1736-1798) introduced design elements borrowed from the faience made at the Frisching manufactory, of which he was the manager for several years. The motifs were applied to a white background with the aid of a slip trailer, then roller stamped and engraved before being coated with a slightly greenish glaze. Most of the plates also feature popular sayings.

Langnau ware was not just limited to plates and dishes; no less than 250 different utilitarian forms are known, including a significant number of terrines in a variety of shapes.

### **Heimberg and "in the Heimberg manner"**

The main pottery centres in the Canton of Berne in the late 18th century were concentrated in the Heimberg region. Around 1850, there were as many as 80 potteries in and around Heimberg, which employed journeymen, as well as women who decorated the pieces.

One of the typical features of Heimberg ware is the use of a slip trailer to apply the designs onto a brown-black slip background. The deep dishes, known as "rösti" dishes, generally have a characteristic slanting edge. It now seems certain that this type of ware was not limited to the Heimberg region, for it is known that potters in Berneck, in the Rhine valley, produced similar pieces.

As there are no marks or inscriptions enabling us to identify the potter or place of manufacture, we have to be cautious and limit ourselves to the designation "in the Heimberg manner".

### **The development of "Thun majolica" in the late 19th century**

It was apparently a ceramic merchant from Thun (Canton of Bern) who provided the impetus for a revitalisation of the forms and designs of what is commonly known as "Thun majolica". This designation is confusing: the technique employed is still that of pottery with underglaze slip decoration, and as for the production sites, they were located more in the Heimberg-Steffisburg region.

The forms inspired by Greek or Etruscan vases and the rich ornamentation, which were a regional expression of the Arts and Crafts style, proved a great success with tourists and at the world fairs, such as the one held in Paris in 1876. Among the manufactories active during this period was the one founded by Johann Wanzenried (1878-1921).

To coincide with this temporary exhibition devoted to Swiss pottery from the 17th-19th centuries, the Musée Ariana is simultaneously presenting its collection of enamelled glassware, in order to create a dialogue between these two disciplines, known in French as the "Fire Arts".

## ENAMELLED GLASS

Glassware with polychrome enamelled decoration, known as "Flühli glass", was made in Switzerland in the region of Entlebuch (Canton of Lucerne).

The Musée Ariana has in its collections more than two hundred examples of enamelled glass made in Switzerland between the first quarter of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The result of donations, bequests and purchases made at intervals from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards, these pieces are indicative of a very widespread popular taste in Central Switzerland. The enamelled designs have frequently recurring motifs, sometimes accompanied by inscriptions. These vessels (including bottles, flasks, vials and glasses) are decorated with floral, animal, symbolic and heraldic motifs and sometimes with figures, depicting religious, gallant and even bacchanalian subjects.

In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, many itinerant workshops were active in Central Europe (from the Northern Alps to Southern Germany). The arrival of the Siegwart brothers - originating from the Black Forest - in the Entlebuch district (Canton of Lucerne) in 1723 marked a turning point in the history of Swiss glass. It opened the way for the establishment of several similar firms in the region. The homogeneity of the glassware produced makes geographical attributions rather difficult. These objects are often grouped together under the generic term "Flühli glass", named after a commune located in this part of the canton.

The Musée Ariana's collection consists mainly of vessels used for serving and consuming drinks (glasses, eau de vie flacons, bottles, flasks, tankards, etc.). It also includes apothecary jars, perfume bottles and some inkwells. Lacking any real masterpieces, its particularity resides in its groups of often assorted bottles and glasses.

The production of so-called "Flühli" enamelled glass was mainly concentrated between the years 1720 and 1820. It continued until the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, when it died out, being supplanted by other fabrication and decorative techniques.

The painted inscriptions on these vessels show that they were intended for a varied clientele, including the middle classes, peasants and craftsmen. Often mould-blown, this glassware was subsequently decorated with vitrifiable colours (with a metallic oxide base), fixed to the vitreous substrate by a second firing between 540 and 600° C. Although certain painters left their maker's mark on their creations, none of them are today known by name.

Exhibition curators: Anne-Claire Schumacher, Head Curator  
Stanislas Anthonioz, Research Assistant

### Catalogues:

Andreas Heege, Andreas Kistler, Isabelle Naef Galuba

#### ***Poteries décorées de Suisse alémanique, 17<sup>e</sup>-19<sup>e</sup> siècles***

bilingual French/German, 5 Continents, Milan, 2017

85 CHF

This catalogue has benefited from the generous support of the Ceramica Stiftung and the Amaverunt Foundation.

Heinz Horat, Stanislas Anthonioz

#### ***Verre émaillé en Suisse, 18<sup>e</sup>-19<sup>e</sup> siècles***

bilingual French/German, 5 Continents, Milan, 2017

65 CHF

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Special price for the 2 volumes: 135 CHF

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# Schnaps & rösti

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Musée Ariana, 9 June 2017 - 18 February 2018

### PRACTICAL INFORMATION

#### Musée Ariana

Swiss Museum of Ceramics and Glass

10 Avenue de la Paix | 1202 Geneva

T +41(0)22 418 54 50 - F +41(0)22 418 54 51

[www.ariana-geneve.ch](http://www.ariana-geneve.ch)

Open Tuesday to Sunday 10 am – 6 pm. Closed on Mondays

Free admission

**Exhibition preview: Thursday 8 June at 7 pm**

**Press visit: Thursday 8 June at 11 am or on request: [presse.ariana@ville-ge.ch](mailto:presse.ariana@ville-ge.ch)**

#### Catalogues:

Andreas Heege, Andreas Kistler, Isabelle Naef Galuba

***Poteries décorées de Suisse alémanique, 17<sup>e</sup>-19<sup>e</sup> siècles***

bilingual French/German, 5 Continents, Milan, 2017 ISBN 978-88-7439-769-3  
85 CHF

Heinz Horat, Stanislas Anthonioz

***Verre émaillé en Suisse, 18<sup>e</sup>-19<sup>e</sup> siècles***

bilingual French/German, 5 Continents, Milan, 2017 ISBN 978-88-7439-768-6  
65 CHF

Special price for the 2 volumes: 135 CHF

#### Exhibition organisation:

Isabelle Naef Galuba, Director of the Musée Ariana

#### Exhibition curators:

Anne-Claire Schumacher, Head Curator

Stanislas Anthonioz, Research Assistant

#### Heritage Interpretation:

Hélène de Ryckel, Head of Heritage Interpretation

[adp-ariana@ville-ge.ch](mailto:adp-ariana@ville-ge.ch)

#### Press Service:

Christine Azconegui Suter, Communication Officer

T +41(0)22 418 54 55

[presse.ariana@ville-ge.ch](mailto:presse.ariana@ville-ge.ch)

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Musée Ariana, 9 June 2017 - 18 February 2018

### EVENTS

#### Guided tours

on the following Sundays

11 June, 3 September, 5 November 2017, 14 January, 18 February 2018 at 11am.

#### Demonstration and introduction to Swiss “breeches wrestling”

The museum will install the traditional sawdust ring, where you can admire and even try out for yourself the technique of Swiss breeches wrestling! Alpine horns and a demonstration of flag throwing will add to the day's entertainment.

Saturday 10 June at 11am, 12am, 2 pm, 3 pm and 4 pm

Suitable for all, free admission, in collaboration with the Department of Sport of the City of Geneva

#### Workshop “Tell me a story”

Swiss pottery tells us countless stories through their rich decorative designs and inscriptions. In this workshop, led by Charlotte Nordin, everyone can create a ceramic piece and add their own historical or “speaking” design.

Families: Sunday 18 June, 2 pm – 5 pm

Registration fee: 40 CHF per adult and 20 CHF for children aged 6 and over

Adults: Saturday 24 June, 10 am – 5 pm

Registration fee: 70 CHF per person

#### Visit for teachers

Wednesday 13 September, 2 pm – 4.30 pm. Advance booking required.

#### Brunch “Exhibition Insights”

A brunch offered by the École Hôtelière de Genève, followed by a tour of the Swiss pottery exhibition.

Sunday 1 October, 10.30 am – 1 pm

Registration fee: 30 CHF

25 people maximum

#### Conference (in French) “Poteries de suisse et d'ailleurs” (Pottery from Switzerland and Elsewhere)

Friday 13 October, 10 am – 5 pm

Booking fee (including lunch): 90 CHF, reductions 70 CHF

## Christmas Market

1 – 3 December

Friday 1 December, from 6.30 pm

Saturday 2 and Sunday 3 December 11 am – 6 pm

## Rock'n Yodel Concert

Mix of traditional sounds and contemporary music, with **the duo N'imPorte Quoi** (Koko Taylor and Sylvain Fournier) and Héloïse Heïdi Fracheboud's **trio EthnoYoutze**.

Friday 1 December, 7.30 pm

Booking fee: 45 CHF, reductions 30.- CHF

## Yodelling Workshop

Saturday 2 December

The workshop will be led by **Héloïse Heïdi Fracheboud**.

10am – noon: **Families with children** (6 – 12 years old), 60 CHF / 30 CHF

2 pm – 5 pm: **Teens and adults**, 100 CHF / 80 CHF

Booking fee. Limited number of places available (no musical skills necessary); in partnership with the Ateliers d'ethnomusicologie (Ethnomusicology workshops)

Teens and adults, 2 pm – 5 pm

Booking fee: 100 CHF / 80 CHF

Limited number of places available (no musical skills necessary); in partnership with the Ateliers d'ethnomusicologie (Ethnomusicology workshops)

## A Sunday All About Glass

Sunday 3 December

11 am, 2 pm: Guided tours on enamelled glass. Admission free.

11 am – 4.30 pm: Christmas workshop "Flute"

Suitable for all, no pre-booking required, limited number of places available, cost 15 CHF

4.45 pm: Concert by students from the recorder classes of the Conservatoire de Musique de Genève. Admission free.

## Guided tours on request in French, English, German and Swiss German

Free for schools in the Canton of Geneva

Full rate: 150 CHF

Special rate: 75 CHF for social institutions subsidized by the City of Geneva

For groups of up to 15 people

Please pre-book 15 days before the required date (with or without a guide)

## Visitor Services:

T + 41 22 418 54 54

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# Schnaps & rösti

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Musée Ariana, 09 June 2017 to 18 February 2018

## VISUALS FOR THE PRESS

- 01 **Pouring vessel**  
Winterthur, second half 17<sup>th</sup> century  
Earthenware, underglaze slip decoration  
H. 20,5 cm  
Bequest Alfred Dumont, 1894 – Inv. R 227

Collection Musée Ariana, Geneva  
Photo Mauro Magliani & Barbara Piovan



- 02 **Dish**  
Abraham Marti, Blankenbourg (Simmental, Bern),  
1758  
Earthenware, underglaze slip decoration  
D. 59 cm  
Bequest Gustave Revilliod, 1890 – Inv. AR 932

Collection Musée Ariana, Geneva  
Photo Mauro Magliani & Barbara Piovan



03

**Dish**

Abraham Marti, Blankenbourg (Simmental, Bern),  
1760-1780  
Earthenware, underglaze slip decoration  
D. 34,3 cm  
Bequest Alfred Dumont, 1894 – Inv. R 209

Collection Musée Ariana, Geneva  
Photo Mauro Magliani & Barbara Piovan



04

**Dish**

Abraham Marti, Blankenbourg (Simmental, Bern),  
1789  
Earthenware, underglaze slip decoration  
D. 34,3 cm  
Bequest Gustave Revilliod, 1890 – Inv. AR 906

Collection Musée Ariana, Geneva  
Photo Mauro Magliani & Barbara Piovan



05

**Plate**

Langnau (Bern), 1740  
Earthenware, underglaze slip decoration  
D. 27,2 cm  
Gift Museum Laufental, 2016  
Inv. AR 2016-101 (recto)

Collection Musée Ariana, Geneva  
Photo Mauro Magliani & Barbara Piovan



Idem (verso)



- 06 **Plate**  
Langnau (Bern), 1743  
Earthenware, underglaze slip decoration  
D. 30,1 cm  
Bequest Alfred Dumont, 1894 – Inv. AR R 174

Collection Musée Ariana, Geneva  
Photo Mauro Magliani & Barbara Piovan



- 07 **Plate**  
Langnau (Bern), 1779  
Earthenware, underglaze slip decoration  
D. 30 cm  
Bequest Gustave Revilliod, 1890 – Inv. AR 909

Collection Musée Ariana, Geneva  
Photo Mauro Magliani & Barbara Piovan



08

**Plate**

Langnau (Bern), 1785  
Earthenware, underglaze slip decoration  
D. 30,8 cm  
Bequest Alfred Dumont, 1894 – Inv. AR R 187

Collection Musée Ariana, Geneva  
Photo Mauro Magliani & Barbara Piovan



09

**Terrine**

Langnau (Bern), 1803  
Earthenware, underglaze slip decoration  
H. 25,8 cm  
Bequest Alfred Dumont, 1894 – Inv. R 224

Collection Musée Ariana, Geneva  
Photo Mauro Magliani & Barbara Piovan



10

**Terrine**

Langnau, 1801  
Earthenware, underglaze slip decoration  
H. 26,7 cm  
Gift Harry Heiz and Reinhard Steiner, 2016

Collection Musée Ariana, Geneva  
Photo Andreas Heege



- 11 **Sugar bowl**  
Langnau, c. 1800-1820  
Earthenware, underglaze slip decoration  
H. 18,3 cm  
Gift Hippolyte Jean Gosse, 1881 – Inv. N 503

Collection Musée Ariana, Geneva  
Photo Mauro Magliani & Barbara Piovan



- 12 **Inkstand**  
Bäriswil (Bern), 1782-1784  
Earthenware, underglaze slip decoration  
W. 17 cm  
Gift Anne-Marie and Ramsès Armanios Stehelin,  
2015 – Inv. AR 2015-365

Collection Musée Ariana, Geneva  
Photo Mauro Magliani & Barbara Piovan



- 13 **Shaving bowl**  
Bäriswil (Bern), 1808  
Earthenware, underglaze slip decoration  
D. 24 cm  
Gift Museum Laufental, 2016 – Inv. AR 2016-99

Collection Musée Ariana, Geneva  
Photo Mauro Magliani & Barbara Piovan



- 14 « Röstli » dish  
« In the Heimberg manner » (Bern), 1793  
Earthenware, underglaze slip decoration  
D. 28,4 cm  
Bequest Alfred Dumont, 1894 – Inv. R 195

Collection Musée Ariana, Geneva  
Photo Mauro Magliani & Barbara Piovan



- 15 « Röstli » dish  
« In the Heimberg manner » (Bern), 1820-1830  
Earthenware, underglaze slip decoration  
D. 28,3 cm  
Bequest Alfred Dumont, 1894 – Inv. R 212

Collection Musée Ariana, Geneva  
Photo Mauro Magliani & Barbara Piovan



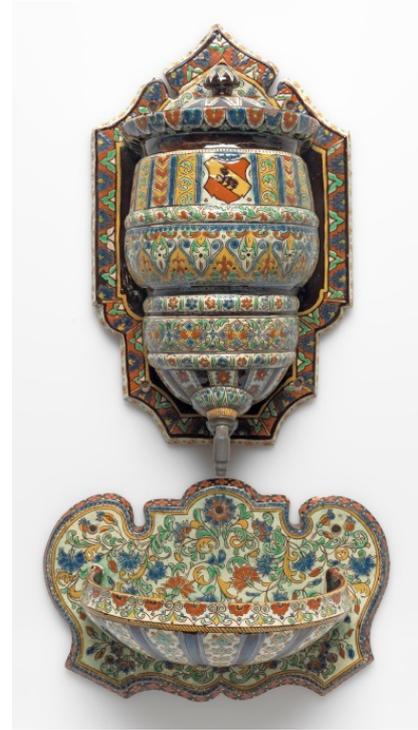
- 16 **Small terrine**  
« in the Heimberg manner » (Bern), 1840-1860  
Earthenware, underglaze slip decoration  
H. 12,5 cm  
Gift Laurent Rehous, 1934 – Inv. 14205

Collection Musée Ariana, Geneva  
Photo Mauro Magliani & Barbara Piovan



- 17 **Wall-mounted water fountain and basin**  
Heimberg region, end of 19<sup>th</sup> century  
Earthenware, underglaze slip decoration  
H. fountain 39,6 cm  
Purchase, 2016 – Inv. AR 2016-333

Collection Musée Ariana, Geneva  
Photo Mauro Magliani & Barbara Piovan



- 18 **Flacon**  
Central Switzerland (Flühli), 17<sup>th</sup> century  
Mould-blown glass, polychrome enamel painted decoration  
H. 16,3 cm – Inv. AD 1888  
Purchase, 1966  
Collection Musée Ariana, Geneva  
Photo Mauro Magliani & Barbara Piovan



- 19 **Flask**  
Central Switzerland (Flühli), circa 1759  
Mould-blown glass, polychrome enamel painted decoration  
H. 14,2 cm - Inv. 14830  
Bequest Gustave Revilliod, 1890  
  
Collection Musée Ariana, Geneva  
Photo : Mauro Magliani et Barbara Piovan



20

**Bottle and glasses**

Central Switzerland (Flühli), 18<sup>th</sup> century  
Mould-blown glass, polychrome enamel painted  
decoration H. max. 19,5 cm  
Inv. 14845 – 14846 - 14847  
Bequest Gustave Revilliod, 1890

Collection Musée Ariana, Geneva  
Photo : Mauro Magliani et Barbara Piovani



21

**Bottle**

Central Switzerland (Flühli), circa 1787  
Mould-blown glass, polychrome enamel painted  
decoration  
H. 29,7 cm  
Inv. 14856  
Bequest Gustave Revilliod, 1890

Collection Musée Ariana, Geneva  
Photo : Mauro Magliani et Barbara Piovani

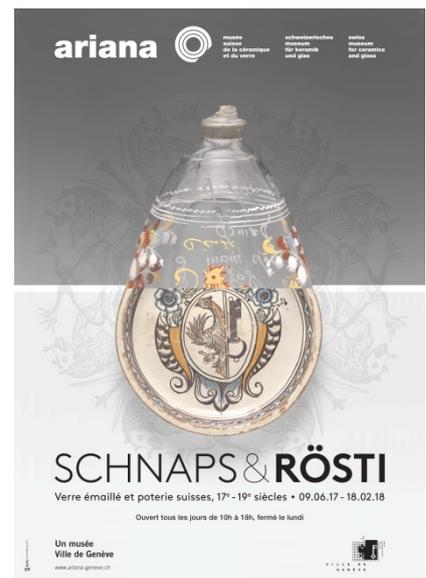


Official poster

**Schnaps & rösti – Verre et poterie suisses  
(17 - 19<sup>e</sup> siècles)**

Musée Ariana, Swiss museum for ceramics and glass  
09.06.2017 – 18.02.2018

Graphic design : Myriam Jung, SGD  
[www.dadadesign.ch](http://www.dadadesign.ch)



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With thanks,

Musée Ariana - Press Service – 10 avenue de la Paix - 1202 Geneva – [presse.ariana@ville-ge.ch](mailto:presse.ariana@ville-ge.ch)