



A word of explanation...

Approximate walking time: 2h30 (about 9 km)

To celebrate its 450th anniversary, the University of Geneva (UNIGE) invites you to (re)discover Geneva by taking a walk through history. From College Calvin to Place des Nations, passing by the Promenade de l'Observatoire or the former School of Medicine, follow in the footsteps of the learned men and women who have influenced the city's history and transformed our daily lives. The history walk was developed by the University of Geneva in collaboration with the City of Geneva. City authorities have been working on a Plan Piétons (Pedestrian Plan) since 1995 with the aim of revitalising walking in the urban area.

Caption

- 1 Symbolic location and beacon
- 1 Beacon
- Symbolic location
- Itinerary for the walk
- University building
- Steps
- Bus (Public Transport TPG)
- Tramway (Public Transport TPG)
- Passenger ferries (Mouettes Genevoises)
- Passenger ferries route

Practical information

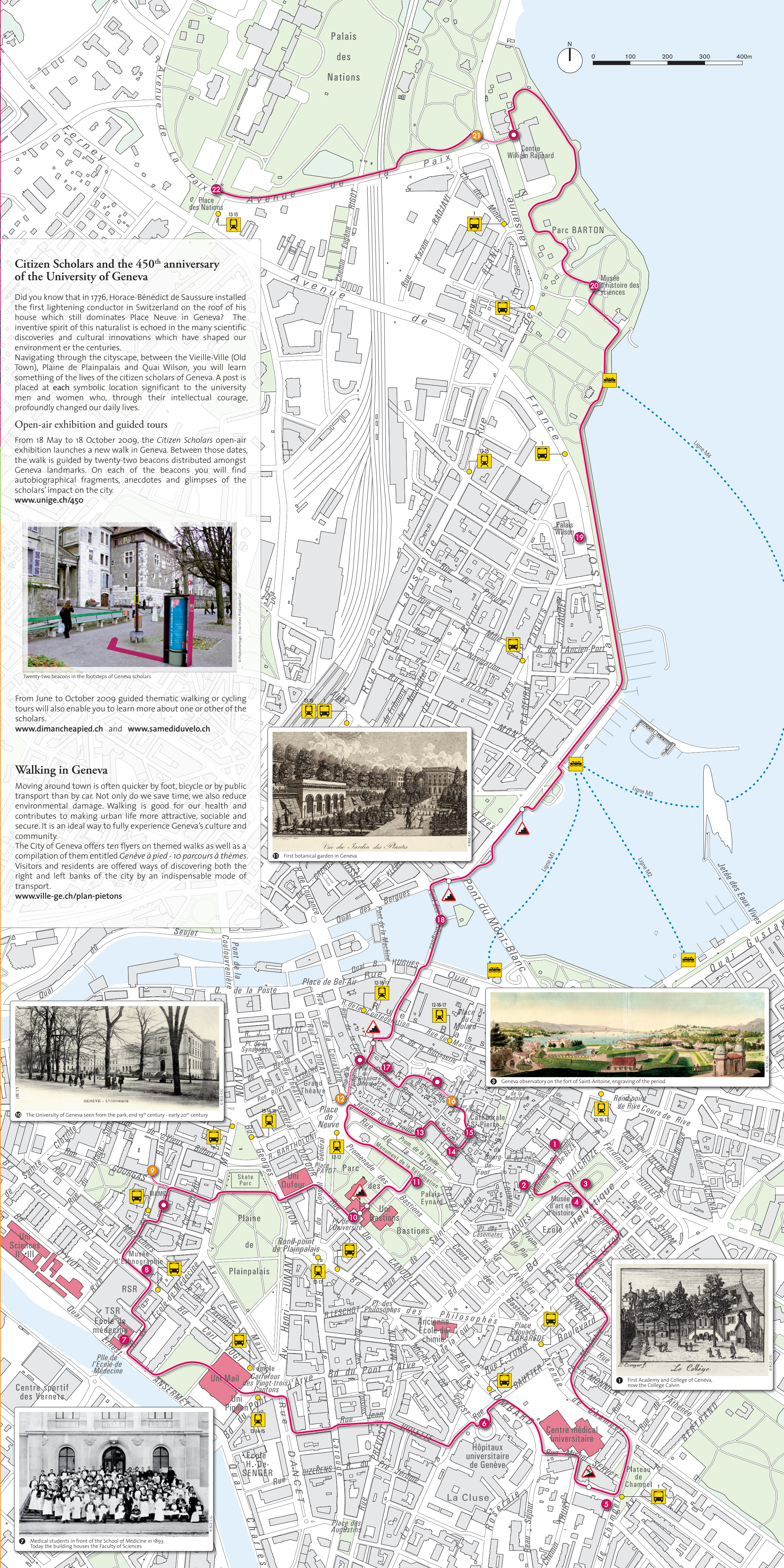
- University of Geneva**
Uni Dufour – 24, rue Général-Dufour – phone +41 (0)22 379 17 17 – www.unige.ch
- 450th anniversary of the University of Geneva**
Uni Dufour – 24, rue Général-Dufour – phone +41 (0)22 379 72 27 – www.unige.ch/450
- City of Geneva – City Information Arcade**
1, pont de la Machine – phone + 41 (0)22 311 99 70 – www.ville-ge.ch
- Museum of the History of Science**
128, rue de Lausanne, – phone +41 (0)22 418 50 60 – www.ville-ge.ch/mhs
- Info mobilité unireso (public transport)**
Phone (0)900 022 021 (CHF 119/min)
www.unireso.com ou www.tpg.ch
- Passenger ferries (Mouettes Genevoises Navigation)**
Phone +41 (0)22 732 29 44 – www.mouettesgenevoises.ch
- Taxi call centre**
Phone +41 (0)22 33 141 33 – www.taxi-phone.ch
- Genèveroule (bicycle rental)**
Phone +41 (0)22 740 13 43 – www.geneveroule.ch
- Weather forecast**
Phone 162 – www.meteosuisse.ch

Impressum

Edition
Texts
Photos

Cover illustration
Design
Printed by
Circulation

Use of texts allowed with mention of the source.
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Citizen Scholars and the 450th anniversary of the University of Geneva

Did you know that in 1776, Horace-Bénédict de Saussure installed the first lightening conductor in Switzerland on the roof of his house which still dominates Place Neuve in Geneva? The inventive spirit of this naturalist is echoed in the many scientific discoveries and cultural innovations which have shaped our environment er the centuries. Navigating through the cityscape, between the Vieille-Ville (Old Town), Plaine de Plainpalais and Quai Wilson, you will learn something of the lives of the citizen scholars of Geneva. A post is placed at each symbolic location significant to the university men and women who, through their intellectual courage, profoundly changed our daily lives.

Open-air exhibition and guided tours

From 18 May to 18 October 2009, the *Citizen Scholars* open-air exhibition launches a new walk in Geneva. Between those dates, the walk is guided by twenty-two beacons distributed amongst Geneva landmarks. On each of the beacons you will find autobiographical fragments, anecdotes and glimpses of the scholars' impact on the city.
www.unige.ch/450



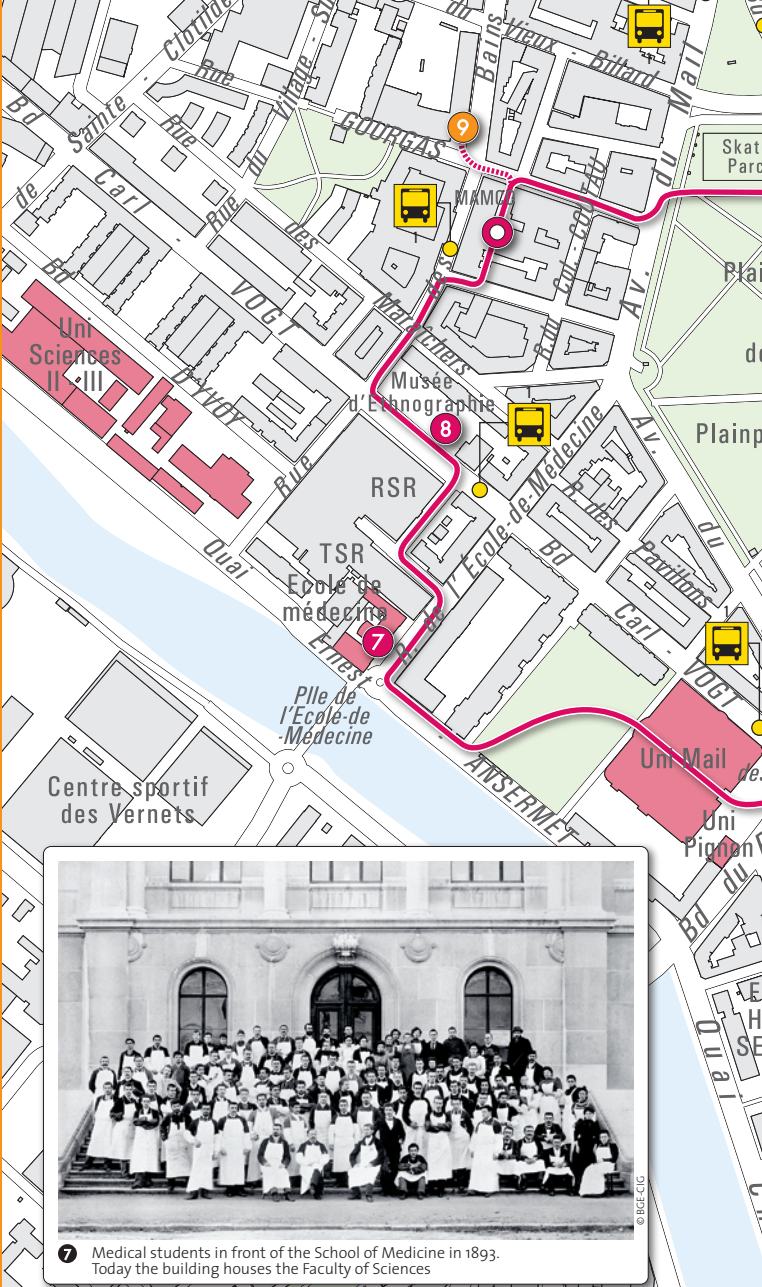
From June to October 2009 guided thematic walking or cycling tours will also enable you to learn more about one or other of the scholars.
www.dimancheapied.ch and www.samediduvelo.ch

Walking in Geneva

Moving around town is often quicker by foot, bicycle or by public transport than by car. Not only do we save time, we also reduce environmental damage. Walking is good for our health and contributes to making urban life more attractive, sociable and secure. It is an ideal way to fully experience Geneva's culture and community. The City of Geneva offers ten flyers on themed walks as well as a compilation of them entitled *Genève à pied - 10 parcours à thèmes*. Visitors and residents are offered ways of discovering both the right and left banks of the city by an indispensable mode of transport.
www.ville-ge.ch/plan-pietons



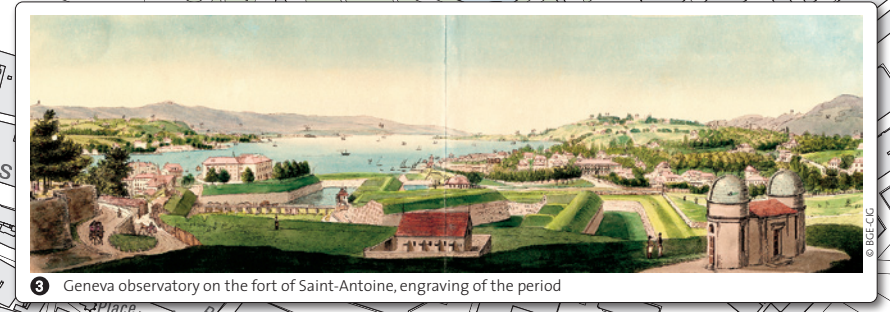
10 The University of Geneva seen from the park, end 19th century - early 20th century



7 Medical students in front of the School of Medicine in 1893. Today the building houses the Faculty of Sciences



11 First botanical garden in Geneva



9 Geneva observatory on the fort of Saint-Antoine, engraving of the period



1 First Academy and College of Geneva, now the College Calvin



1 When St Pierre of Geneva challenged St Pierre of Rome College Calvin

Born in Noyon (Picardy), the Frenchman **Jean Calvin (1509-1564)** studied law at Orleans and Bourges, then theology and letters in Paris. He had to flee from Paris after he had converted to Protestantism and had begun preaching. Stopping in Geneva he was reunited with Guillaume Farel, a French reformer, who had asked for his help. Together they initiated an ambitious project to establish Geneva as a Protestant theocracy but local political opposition put a brake on their plans and Calvin was expelled from Geneva in 1538. He went to live in Strasbourg where he married. Recalled to Geneva in 1541 he introduced a series of reforms which strongly marked the city and its customs. One reform was the imposition of the French language in Geneva institutions. Religious persecution elsewhere and Calvin's notoriety led to a massive influx of French immigrants, doubling the population of Geneva in a short time and creating social tensions. In 1536, Calvin published the first version, in Latin, of his major work: *Institution de la religion chrétienne (Institutes of the Christian Religion)*. It appeared in French in 1541. Study and discussion of biblical texts were given central importance in the work and encouraged literacy amongst all social classes. In the building which now houses the College Calvin, the reformer founded the College and the Geneva Academy (forerunner of the University of Geneva) in 1559. His disciple, the pastor and Professor of Greek, Théodore de Bèze, was the first Rector of the Academy.



2 To amuse himself, he invented the comic strip 14, promenade Saint-Antoine

A Genevois is considered to be the father of the comic strip thanks to his illustrated stories. These were organised in small frames which only made sense to the reader when text and drawing were linked and vice versa. The son of an artist and caricaturist **Rodolphe Töpffer (1799-1846)** suffered an illness which left him nearly blind. He went to Paris for treatment and studied literature while he was there. He taught Latin and Greek on his return to Geneva before opening a boarding school for boys on the Promenade Saint-Antoine. He remained closely involved with the school until the end of his life enlivening the days of his charges by organising excursions, writing plays and drawing stories for them. At the same time, he edited several classical works and wrote critical essays which brought him recognition. However, his greatest success were his seven "stories in images." His lack of confidence, however, meant that he showed them only to friends who passed them on to their friends, who eventually brought them to the attention of Goethe, the German writer and thinker, who finally ended Töpffer's hesitation. He thought that the stories were "[...] really very funny! [...] sparkling with energy and full of spirit!" The humour of Töpffer's illustrated stories endured; 70 years after the death of its author, *Les Amours de Monsieur Vieux Bois (The Loves of Mr Obadiah Oldbuck)* was made into an animated cartoon.



3 A taste for the stars Promenade de l'Observatoire

Born in Geneva, **Jacques-André Mallet (1740-1790)** studied at the Academy before going on to further studies in mathematics and the calculation of probability in Basle. Later, he took up observation of the sky under the influence of the French astronomer Lalande. In 1768 he was invited by Catherine II, Tsarina of Russia, to participate in an expedition to Lapland. The objective of the expedition was to observe the passage of Venus in front of the sun and, by so doing, improve the accuracy of the estimated distance between the sun and the earth. Unfortunately, they observed only the first phase of the event because rain disrupted their plans. The mission did however help to improve directional and navigational instruments. Mallet's report on the 18-month trip made his reputation. In Geneva Mallet founded and co-financed the first astronomical observatory built on the fort of Saint-Antoine in 1772. The fort is now remembered in the name of a promenade. Today, the University observatory is in Versoix.



4 At the scene of the crime Museum of Art and History

Archaeological research carried out by **Hippolyte-Jean Gosse (1834-1901)** in the Veyrier quarries at the foot of the Salève showed that reindeer grazed in the region in prehistoric times. From a young age, the future forensic doctor and Professor at the University of Geneva, was fascinated by archaeology and this passion never dimmed. Thus it was possible to meet Doctor Gosse at the scene of a crime, or working on excavations, but also at the Geneva Municipal Council where he held a seat for 30 years. His greatest gift to future generations lies in his strong commitment to the preservation of Geneva's heritage. Curator at several Geneva museums, Gosse originated the project to establish the Museum of Art and History (MAH) which aimed to provide a single site for the large but dispersed Geneva collections. He died some years before completion of the building and thus did not participate in its inauguration in 1910.

Gosse's life might have been very different. Associated with a certain Mr Schweppe, his grandfather spent some time concocting artificial mineral waters but abandoned the enterprise before it became a success!

Museum of Art and History: open every day except Monday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. +41 (0)22 418 26 00 | www.mah.ville-ge.ch



5 Paediatrics and obstetrics moving forward Haute école de santé – Genève

At the beginning of the 20th century, medicine was a male preserve. After much hesitation, the parents of **Marguerite Champendal (1870-1928)** eventually allowed their daughter to enter a discipline thought to be too scientific for women on the condition that she follow her career with the utmost discretion. In an effort to reduce infant and maternal mortality a revolutionary new health discipline had emerged which treated mother and baby together, known at the time as "puériculture" in French. Doctor Champendal – the first Geneva woman to become a doctor – opened a dispensary in Geneva following the model of the Parisian institutions "La Goutte de Lait" where poor mothers and babies were given pasteurised milk and advice on hygiene. Later, this pioneer and *privat-docent* at the Faculty of Medicine, opened other similar institutions. In her apartment she opened the Pouponnière which cared for sick babies. In 2004, the Haute école de santé (School for health education) replaced the Bon Secours founded in 1905 by Champendal to train the first professional nurses.



6 The surgeon who hunted butterflies Hôpitaux universitaires de Genève – HUG

Jacques-Louis Reverdin (1842-1929) trained to become a surgeon in Paris. He had just finished his studies when the Franco-German war of 1870 broke out. In charge of the Swiss ambulance during the siege of Paris he treated the wounded. He introduced many innovations while in Paris including being one of the first in the world to carry out skin grafts. In Geneva, he developed a revolutionary suture needle the "Reverdin needle". He wrote two works which influenced his contemporaries: *Grefre épidermique, expérience faite dans le service de M. le Docteur Guyon à l'Hôpital Necker* (Skin graft, experiments in the service of Doctor Guyon at the Necker Hospital) and *Leçons de chirurgie de guerre* (Lessons in war surgery). Working with his cousin Auguste, Reverdin became an international specialist in thyroid operations. He founded the first private clinic in Geneva and the *Revue médicale de la Suisse romande* (Swiss Romande medical review). In 1910, after he had become deaf, Jacques-Louis Reverdin abandoned medicine to pursue his study of butterflies, a field in which he also excelled.



7 A woman at the University! Former School of Medicine

In 1918, 360 years after its foundation by Calvin, a woman was appointed a Professor at the University of Geneva for the first time. To put this in context, women were not given the vote at federal level until 53 years later. **Lina Stern (1878-1968)** came to Geneva from Russia to study medicine. She was brilliant and joined the University Institute of Physiology at the former School of Medicine, as an Assistant. Today the building houses the Faculty of Sciences. Appointed Professor Extraordinary of biochemistry, she turned towards work in neuroscience. She and her team made major discoveries about the modes of "nutrition" of the brain. When the Russian government offered her a Chair in Moscow as well as the post of Director at a research institute, she chose to return to her country. There she earned fame and honour until the beginning of the Cold War. She then fell into disfavour and was sent to the gulag in 1949. She miraculously survived and returned to Moscow after 4 years of prison in Kazakhstan. Lina Stern was able to continue her research but she was not officially rehabilitated until 1958. In 1921, Lina Stern presented the results of her research into the exchanges between the blood, the brain and the encephalic liquid. At that time, she was one of the very few women to become a member of the Medical Society of Geneva.



8 There are no human races Ethnography Museum

An expert in prehistory and a pioneer in anthropology, **Eugène Pittard (1867-1962)** carried out archaeological excavations in France (Dordogne), the Balkans, Turkey and Albania. A brilliant scholar, known and admired throughout the world, he founded the Geneva Museum of Ethnography (MEG), the Swiss Institute of Anthropology and the Swiss Society of Americanists. Celebrated researchers worked at these institutions to learn about, understand and conserve cultural identities. Pittard left a large body of work, the most important and best-known being *Les Peuples des Balkans* (1920) (The Balkan Peoples), *Histoire des premiers hommes* (1944) (A History of the first humans) and, above all, *Les Races et l'histoire* (1924) (*Race and history – An ethnological introduction to history*). The last was read around the world and became one of the first scientific works to reject the existence of human races. History and genetics has since proved him right. The first Ethnography Museum opened its doors in 1901 in the Mon-Repos park. It quickly attracted international interest and moved to Boulevard Carl-Vogt where there was more space.

Professor at the University of Geneva between 1916 and 1949, Rector from 1940 to 1942, Pittard created the Chair of Anthropology and Prehistory, now the Department of Anthropology and Ecology.

Ethnography Museum: open every day except Monday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. +41 (0)22 418 45 50 | www.ville-ge.ch/meg



9 A switched-on father and son! Société genevoise d'instruments de physique – SIP

At the state-of-the-art laboratory installed by his father in the family home, **Auguste de la Rive (1801-1873)** met famous European scientists. Faraday, Ampère and Arago, friends of the doctor and scholar Gaspard de la Rive, often stayed with the family. It was not surprising therefore that the young de la Rive suddenly gave up his law studies to compete for the Chair of Physics at the Geneva Academy. He was particularly interested in what caused the aurora borealis and even invented a machine to reproduce it. He thought it was related to magnetic phenomena (more intense at the earth's poles) and to terrestrial electricity. With regard to the poles, he was right. But now we know that the electrical activity does not originate on our planet but in cosmic particles. Inventor of new instruments and the author of reference works, Auguste de la Rive also promoted Geneva industry. In 1862, with his colleague Marc Thury he founded the Société genevoise d'instruments de physique (SIP) which became a very successful company. Today, the Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art (MAMCO) occupies the former SIP premises. Like his father, de la Rive supported the Academy and was involved in local parliamentary politics.

MAMCO: open Tuesday to Friday from 12 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., closed on Mondays. +41 (0)22 320 61 22 www.mamco.ch



10 Thanks to this person, Geneva became a university city Place de l'Université

"...thought is to the brain what bile is to the liver and urine to the kidneys." Carl Vogt, in *Physiologische Briefe* The naturalist and doctor **Carl Vogt (1817-1895)** initiated the establishment of the Faculty of Medicine in Geneva which led the way in transforming the former Academy into the University. Vogt's project resulted in the Uni Bastions building which also housed the Natural History Museum and the Public Library before the arrival of the Faculty of Letters which occupies it today. In 1873 Geneva University was created, inspired by the Humboldt model which combined research and teaching. Carl Vogt had fled Germany because of his revolutionary democratic beliefs after which he accepted an invitation from the University of Geneva to take up the Chair of Geology. Far from giving up his political struggle, he continued to promote the ideas he believed in. A militant atheist, allowing no concessions and going as far as to ridicule his opponents, he was convinced that what characterised his epoch was "not the need to believe, but to know." UNIGE owes to Vogt, a zealous supporter of Darwin's ideas, teachings in geology, palaeontology, zoology and comparative anatomy.



11 An endemic species of Geneva: the botanist Parc des Bastions

Botany was a family affair for the Candolles. In 1818, **Augustin-Pyramus de Candolle (1778-1841)** began writing a work, *Prodromus*, which set out to describe all known plants. His son Alphonse, then his grandson Casimir, took up the work. In three generations they described 58,975 plant species thus making Geneva a capital of botany. It was Augustin-Pyramus de Candolle who first introduced the term "endemism" which refers to species native to a specific geographical area. Throughout his life Candolle travelled in search of new plant varieties and also ordered them from very distant places. He became an international authority in his discipline and contributed to the development of the young Faculty of Science of the Geneva Academy. An open and sociable personality, he offered access to his herbarium and organised meetings of scientists at his home. He established the first botanical garden in Geneva in 1817 in the present parc des Bastions. In 1904 it was moved to the shores of the lake leaving its former site for the Wall of the Reformers. Sculpted by James Pradier, Candolle's bust reminds visitors of the great botanist who planted some of the trees, now venerable two-hundred-year-olds, in the parc des Bastions.



12 A mountain scholar 2, rue de la Tertasse

An emblematic 18th century scholar, **Horace-Bénédict de Saussure (1740-1799)** began studying botany but his curiosity led him to explore the wider scientific interests of his time. Instruments he invented himself yielded significant information on the absorption of heat from the sun, on meteorology and on electricity and magnetism. This wide range of investigations made him a great intellectual of his epoch.

But another passion which drove Saussure was mountains. He climbed Mont Blanc in 1787 with Jacques Balmat, a Chamonix guide, and bearers to carry his numerous scientific instruments. His specialised mountain equipment were a pair of shoes fitted with crampons, and sunglasses. He made a number of similar trips in the Alps returning with observations and measurements of major importance for geology. At the same time, he gave courses at the Geneva Academy and was involved in local politics where he campaigned for the teaching of sciences. The first lightning conductor in Switzerland was installed on the house of Horace-Bénédict de Saussure which still overlooks the Place Neuve. The neighbours were worried that attracting lightning would cause more damage than protection.



13 An Italian who was very Genevois Tour Baudet

"[The history of Switzerland] is the development of these principles: neither total separation, nor absolute fusion." Pellegriino Rossi, extract from his *Cours d'histoire suisse* (Course on Swiss History). The first foreign professor to teach at the Geneva Academy, **Pellegrino Rossi (1787-1848)** was also the first Catholic to be admitted to the institution, the first to give a course on Swiss history and the first to open his law course to women. He was as much a man of ideas as of action and lived through some turbulent times one of which cost him his life. In 1815 he hurriedly left his native Italy following the failure of an expedition against the French to re-conquer the throne of Naples. He took refuge in Switzerland and was well-received in Geneva for his knowledge on law and history. Professor of Law at the Academy, he engaged politically at cantonal and federal level, notably drafting a project for a federal constitution. The Hôtel de Ville and its Tour Baudet (Baudet Tower) was one of the settings for Rossi's political activities. He left Geneva for France in 1833 later becoming French ambassador to Italy. In 1848, he was suddenly demoted following the revolution which overthrew Louis-Philippe. In the same year, Pope Pius IX made him head of government for the Papal States. But Rossi was assassinated before he was able to present his proposals for a new constitution to the Vatican.



14 A Cartesian in Geneva 8-10, rue de l'Hôtel-de-Ville

Born into a family of printers, **Jean-Robert Chouet (1642-1731)** grew up amongst books. Through them he was introduced to science which was to dominate his life. Formerly Professor of Philosophy at Saumur, he was quickly respected on his return to Geneva for the tact with which he defended his beliefs. A diplomat, he chose to avoid upsetting the Academy with Descartes' new ideas which he fervently supported. Nevertheless, he eventually introduced to Geneva the key principles of the famous *Discours de la méthode (Discourse on the Method)*. Accessory to his teaching on philosophy and natural science were his public demonstrations which were thought to be "very strange". He showed the behaviour of magnets and siphons and even of snake's venom. Initially elected to the Petit Conseil (Small Council) he later became mayor of Geneva. He was a visionary and used all his political influence to try and modernise the Academy which had been, up to then, essentially devoted to the training of pastors. He urged the introduction of mathematics and physics teaching. Although it took another two centuries before the institution became a true university in 1873, it was Chouet who initiated its secularisation when he was Rector (from 1679 to 1681). He lived for several years at 8-10, rue de l'Hôtel-de-Ville in the house of his friend and colleague Professor Jean-Alphonse Turrettini.



15 Through play, the child develops 5, place de la Taconnerie

Claparède criticised schools for "not knowing how to get the most from intelligence, [they waste] the intellectual capital of nations."

In 1912, **Edouard Claparède (1873-1940)** founded the Jean-Jacques Rousseau Institute at number 5, Place de la Taconnerie. This school of higher studies, which claimed that it was not "like the others", recruited well-known researchers in child education such as Jean Piaget and André Rey. Like them, Claparède was interested in child development. He studied medicine, psychology and education before working on educational reform. At the age of only 19 Claparède wrote a critique of the teaching he had experienced at the College of Geneva in which he described the town as "provincial and narrow". This text heralded his life's work in which he constantly called for schools which encouraged an interest in research and intellectual effort. For Claparède, stuffing children with knowledge achieves nothing. On the contrary, a child should be taught to think, that is, to reflect and then construct her own opinion. In this light, a game is not a waste of time but helps the child to develop. This insight is now considered obvious but was revolutionary at the time. In 1904, Edouard Claparède became Director of the Psychology Laboratory of the University where he taught until his death. The present Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences of the University of Geneva considers Claparède as one of its founding fathers.



16 Destination: the Nile 13, rue Calvin

Fascinated by ancient history, **Edouard Naville (1844-1926)** took up Egyptology, specialising in deciphering hieroglyphics. He studied in London, Rome, Bonn, Paris and Berlin. Following his first stay in Egypt he returned to Geneva with five cases of drawings and engravings. In the following years, with the help of his wife, he published many documents including, after an immense effort, the *Livre des morts (The Book of the Dead)*. While remaining active in the field supervising excavations, Naville consulted sources and documented assiduously. He tried to reconstruct the route taken by the Hebrews during the Exodus. At the Thebes necropolis he identified the chapel of the goddess Hathor protector of the dead. This passion for the past did not distance Naville from his present; he held a number of public offices including the *ad interim* presidency of the International Committee of the Red Cross. He was a Professor at the University of Geneva from 1881 to 1919. Owning an estate near Genthod, he lived in the house at 13, rue Calvin when he was in town.

Edouard Naville's extraordinary library can be visited at the Bibliothèque de Genève (Geneva Library) in the Bastions building.



17 A lunar crater bears his name Société de lecture

A scholar of his epoch and widely respected, the Genevois **Marc-Auguste Pictet (1752-1825)** counted Jefferson, Ampère, Cuvier and Watt amongst his relations. Although he began studying law in order to become a barrister, he turned to astronomy and physics under the influence of his teachers Mallet and Saussure. He was particularly interested in the measurement of time and its accurate determination which was of course useful to the local watchmaking industry. When Geneva was annexed by France in 1798, his reputation as an eminent scientist earned him an appointment to a high-level post in the Napoleonic Empire. While Professor at the Academy of Geneva he began the steps required for the establishment of a Faculty of Science located from 1818 at 11, Grand-Rue. In the same year and at the same address, the Société de lecture (Reading Society) was founded. It is now a cultural centre equipped with an exceptional library. In 1791, Marc-Auguste Pictet suggested to the Royal Society in London that a prime meridian should be established and that it should pass through Geneva. The idea was implemented – but not the proposed location!



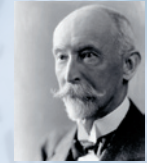
18 When military genius turns to civil engineering Pont de Bergues and the Ile Rousseau

A bridge suspended from cables, now demolished, once crossed the Saint-Antoine trench, in Geneva's Old Town. The first of its kind, this technical exploit was built in 1823 under the direction of **Guillaume-Henri Dufour (1787-1875)**, engineer in charge of urban planning at the time. Dufour also constructed the first Pont de Bergues in 1833 and renovated the Ile Rousseau. From a Geneva family, Dufour studied at the Ecole Polytechnique in Paris before embarking upon an impressive double career in engineering and in the military. The city of Geneva has Dufour to thank for some large projects such as new quays as well as several bridges and foot-bridges. He was also one of the founders of the Lyon-Geneva Railway Company and the Central Military School at Thonue. He trained Napoleon III there and later carried out diplomatic missions for him. But Dufour is above all a hero of federal Switzerland. In 1847, he ended the Sonderbund (separatist alliance) war in the space of only 25 days. At the end of the conflict a new Swiss Confederation was founded. Some years later, in 1863, with Henry Dunant and Gustave Moynier, Dufour founded the Red Cross of which he was the first president. It was Dufour who suggested the design for the Swiss federal flag, a white cross centred on a red background. With some minor modifications, it was adopted and consecrated by the Constitution in 1848.



19 A child does not comprehend the world like an adult Palais Wilson

For **Jean Piaget (1896-1980)**, who was born in Neuchâtel and studied there, intelligence is constructed, that is, it evolves as the child develops. This idea, from a man who had initially trained in natural sciences, revolutionised contemporary thought on child cognition. After Edouard Claparède had invited him to join his institute in Geneva, Piaget concentrated on the development of intelligence and the process of the construction of knowledge in children. His experiments proved that children's modes of thought are totally different from those of adults. Few Swiss scientists have achieved the scientific and popular recognition of Piaget who is considered to be one of the greatest psychologists of the 20th century. Most of his brilliant career took place at the University of Geneva where he taught from 1929 to 1971. Having hosted the Headquarters of the League of Nations (the forerunner of the UN) the Palais Wilson became the site of Piaget's first laboratory. Loving nature from an early age, and particularly molluscs, Jean Piaget wrote his first article on that subject at the age of 11. When the director of the Neuchâtel Museum died he was offered the post of curator before he had even finished secondary school!



20 Einstein's relativity in Geneva Museum of the History of Science

Following presentation of his thesis in Geneva, **Charles-Eugène Guye (1866-1942)** went to Zurich to deepen his knowledge of electrotechnics. On his return to Geneva, he conducted experiments which sealed the victory of Einstein's theory of relativity over the theory of his rival, the German Abraham. This work brought Guye international acclaim. In 1909 he suggested to the Rectorate of the University of Geneva that Einstein, who had been his pupil in Zurich, should be awarded his first title of Doctor *honoris causa*. An expert in telephone transmission, member of numerous committees, Guye was also widely admired for his teaching. The clarity and rigour of his lectures underlay his reputation as a Professor. He took part in the prestigious Solvay scientific congresses with the famous physicists Marie Curie, Planck, Bohr... The Geneva Museum of the History of Science exhibits pieces of the equipment Guye used to verify the theory of relativity.

Museum of the History of Science: open every day except Tuesday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. +41 (0)22 418 50 60 | www.ville-ge.ch/mhs



21 A diplomatic destiny Centre William Rappard – OMC

Born in New York **William Rappard (1883-1958)** trained as a historian, lawyer and economist in the most prestigious European universities and also at Harvard. His knowledge of Anglo-Saxon culture and his mastery of several languages led him to devote his life to diplomacy. He began by working for the International Labour Office where he familiarised himself with international law. In the United States he had contacts amongst people close to President Woodrow Wilson who was contemplating a body for international cooperation after the end of World War I. This body was to be the League of Nations (forerunner of the United Nations). Rappard was involved in its development, notably by arguing for the location of its headquarters in Geneva. This commitment gave him a key role in restoring the image of Switzerland amongst Americans after the end of the Second World War. In particular, he was called upon to explain the advantages and disadvantages of Swiss neutrality. William Rappard was Professor of Economic History at the University of Geneva for 44 years and Rector on two occasions. In 1927 he was one of the founders of the University Institute of Advanced International Studies. The World Trade Organisation named its headquarters the "William Rappard Centre" because it occupies the former offices of the International Labour Organization where Rappard had been an active official.



22 Philosophy: the friend of wisdom Place des Nations

"...some try to link [...] the respect for Rights to the rejection of any absolute engagement, a kind of reasonable and pragmatic neutrality. But this is to refuse to take seriously the death threats which always overshadow the implementation of Human Rights. Only an appeal to the absolute enables resistance to them." Jeanne Hersch, in *Les Droits de l'Homme d'un point de vue philosophique* (A philosophical approach to human rights) Of Polish origin, **Jeanne Hersch (1910-2000)** came from a family of Jewish intellectuals exiled in Switzerland. A bright and active person she was educated in Geneva, Heidelberg, Fribourg-en-Brisgau and Paris. Hersch was an internationally recognised philosopher who participated in many debates in which she defended freedom, the struggle against injustice and the need to reflect on human rights. She had been an assistant to Karl Jaspers and, in keeping with her time, was interested in social issues such as the situation of young people and women's status. Professor at the University of Geneva, a literary woman, she wrote, supervised or translated many works some of which were awarded international prizes. At the United Nations Organization for Education, Science and Culture (UNESCO), Jeanne Hersch was director of the Department of Philosophy and sat on the Executive Board of the organisation as the Swiss representative.



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