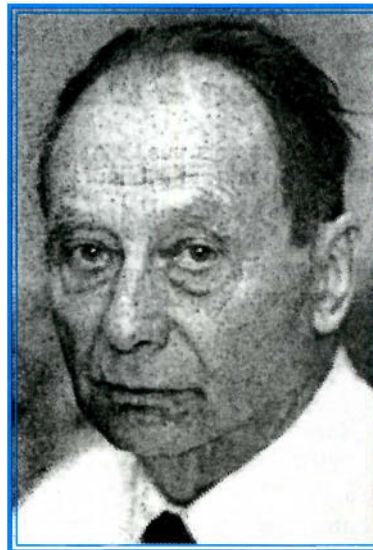


Alex Walter Diggelmann SUI
*20 August 1902 †22 November 1987

Alex Walter DIGGELMANN was the only individual in the history of the Olympic Art Competitions of the 20th Century to win every medal and award available in these events.

He was born in Unterseen, Switzerland, the son of a teacher. He attended the trade school in Berne, the Julian Academy in Paris (1926) and the Academy of Art & Book Illustration in Leipzig (1927). He then returned to Switzerland and settled in Zurich. In the latter years of his life, he granted an interview in a magazine where he was asked: "How did you come to sport-graphics in the first place?" To which he replied:

"I was still a student at Leipzig when I had the good fortune to be able to learn in the master-class of Hugo Steiner-Prag, I got an invitation from my friend Oscar Rosier in the name of the Zurich Gymnastic Club to a poster competition

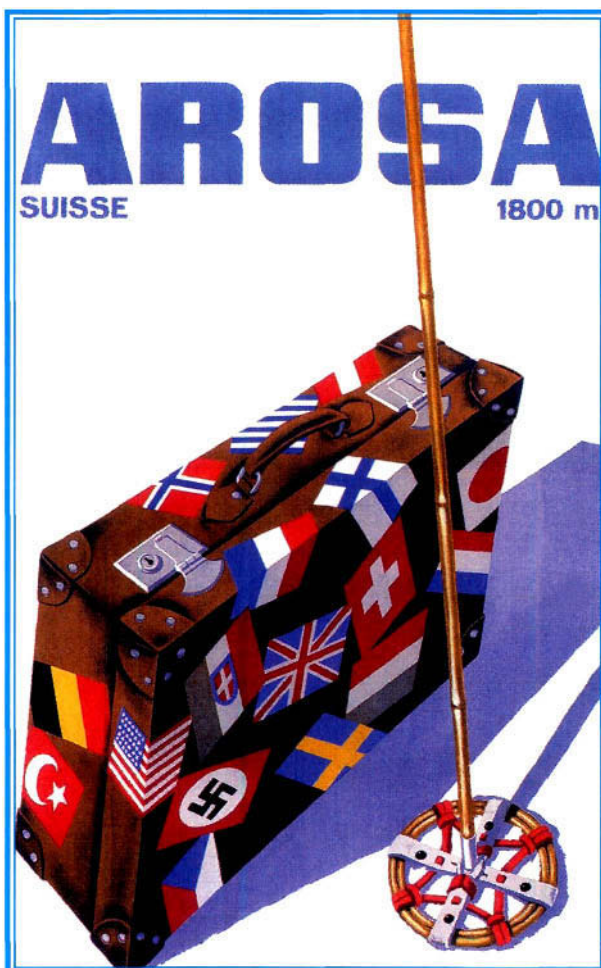


for the Swiss Gymnast Day. After my return from Leipzig it was this first printed poster that had an impact on my life and led me to Zurich, I wanted to work there as an independent apprentice which I did for eleven years as a free applied graphic artist working mostly in advertising. I drew over 200 posters on the stone that can still be seen today as original lithographs."

Then he studied for three years to obtain his qualification as an art teacher, after which he taught at the cantonal high-school in Zurich.

DIGGELMANN never called himself an artist. He was happy as a teacher and throughout his life, when he travelled he always registered as a teacher rather than an artist. He loved art and sport.

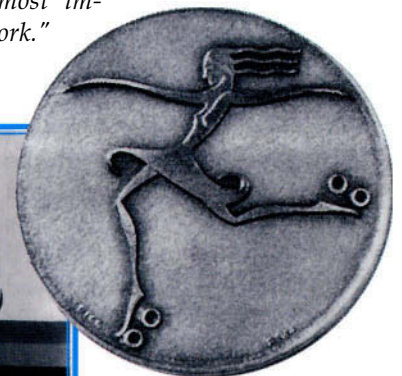
"For me, sport is joy at the beauty of the movement of the human body. Artistic work and sport itself were joined so strongly with me that this almost became the most important part of my work."
(WZ)



Arosa I - First Prize 1936



Poster for the Cycling World Championship - Silver Medal 1948



Medal for the Swiss Skating Championships Honourable Mention 1948



Poster for the Ice Hockey World Championship - Bronze Medal 1948