

## Extraordinary Discovery in the Château d'Allaman



### “Peace Column”

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Discovery of the “Peace Column” in 2013

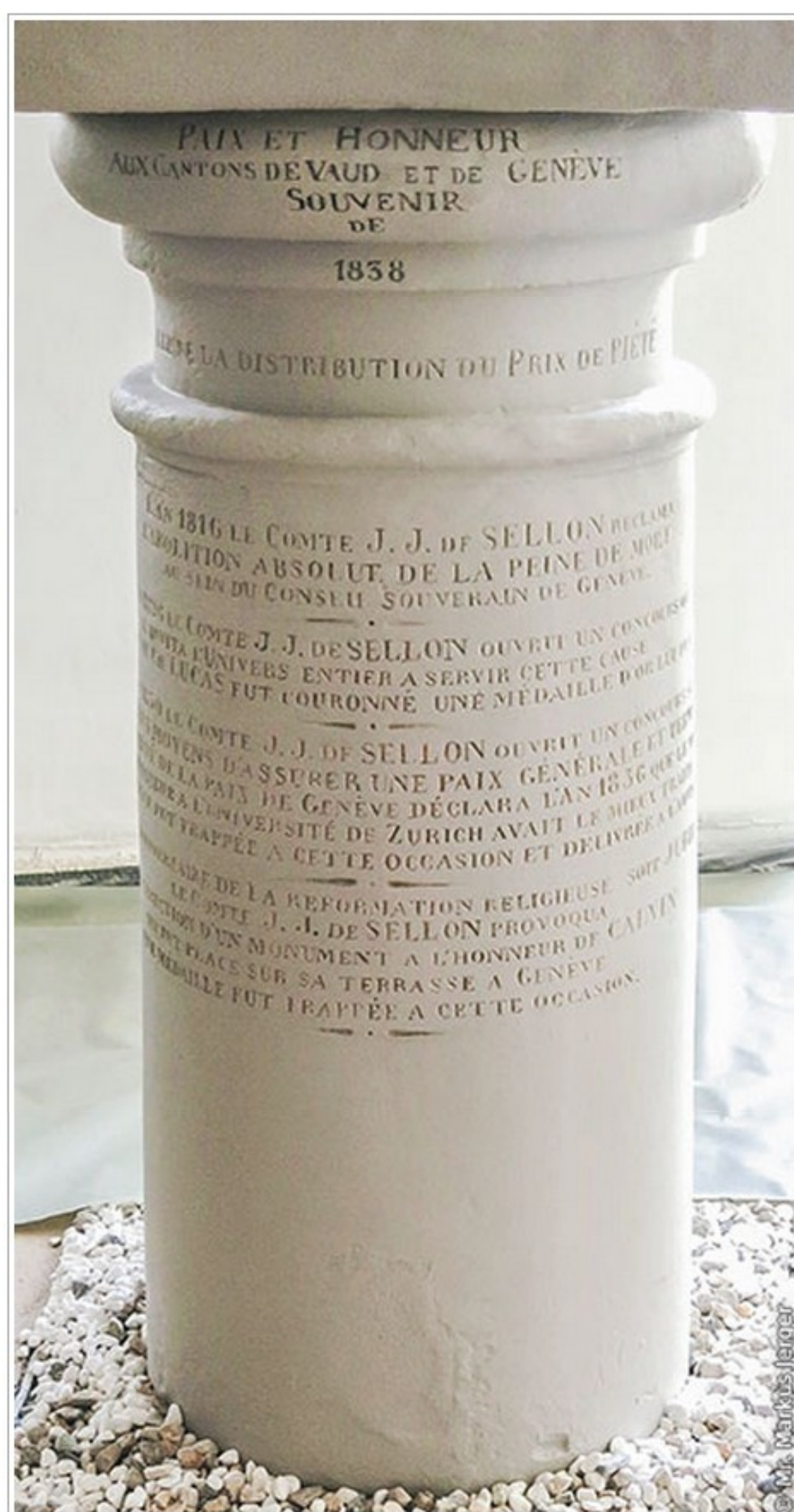
*Lost engraved stone column found commemorating “La Société de la Paix”, the World’s First Peace Society, later succeeded by the League of Nations and the United Nations.*

A commemorative column was discovered in 2013 in one of the castles on the shores of lake Geneva – Château d’Allaman. The stone column is engraved and highlights Count Jean-

Jacques de Sellon’s peace ideas, achievements and initiatives which marked the beginning of the XIX century, and which were all destined to create peace among nations, religions and cultures. Count Jean-Jacques de Sellon (1782- 1839) is the founder of the first continental European peace society. He devoted his efforts to promote peace and arbitration between nations, and was also known as an ardent opponent of the death penalty.

Château d’Allaman, sometimes called “Peace Castle”, was one of the Count de Sellon’s properties associated with his peace activities, and was one of the birthplaces of the peace actions in Geneva. In this castle the 1<sup>st</sup> Congrès of the “Société de la Paix” took place in 1830. Today, the Château d’Allaman is one of Switzerland’s most important private properties of national interest.

At the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939, the commemorative column vanished. It is only 74 years later, during the complete restoration of the Château d’Allaman that it was recovered, randomly, by pure chance! The column was literally hidden inside a wall (see photo). It was probably hidden at the outbreak of the Second World War, to ensure its preservation in the event of potential danger. If it had not been discovered during the renovation, who knows for how long this historical and architectural marvel would have remained hidden and unrevealed to us.



The peace column is not the only witness of Count de Sellon’s peace activities. Read the May and June issues of UN Special and join us for a fascinating historical journey on the discovery of the Black Marble Obelisk and the Temple of Peace!

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