

**Zeitschrift:** Swiss review : the magazine for the Swiss abroad  
**Herausgeber:** Organisation of the Swiss Abroad  
**Band:** 7 (1980)  
**Heft:** 2

**Artikel:** The symbol of the Swiss abroad : from its beginnings to the present design  
**Autor:** Paillard, Lucien  
**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-907812>

### **Nutzungsbedingungen**

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

### **Conditions d'utilisation**

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

### **Terms of use**

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

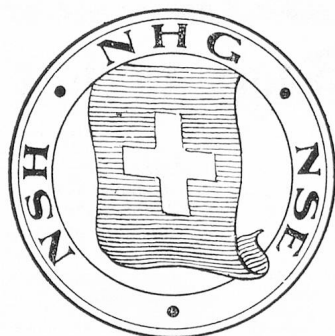
**Download PDF:** 17.04.2026

**ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>**

# The Symbol of the Swiss Abroad

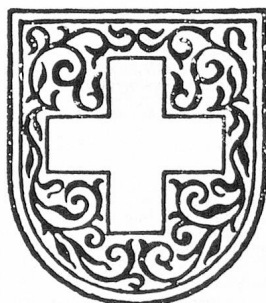
## From its beginnings to the present design

From 1916 when our Organization was founded, to 1921, we had no crest. From 1922 to 1924, a round signet was used on which the Swiss flag was framed by the German, French and Italian abbreviation of Nouvelle Société Helvétique (NHG).

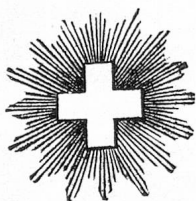


1922-1923

There was no special symbol between 1924 and 1937. One simply used the Swiss cross. During 1927 and 1928, our Organization as well as the Federal Administration used a variation which suited the Swiss abroad right to the ground: the Swiss cross sent rays into all four corners of the world, just like the sun, thus symbolizing the Swiss presence in the world.

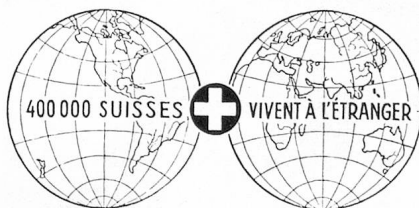


1924-1926  
1929-1937



1927-1928

The first real symbol of our Organization was created only in 1938 by the graphic artist Hans Fischer. It showed the two halves of the globe joined by the Swiss cross and carried the inscription «400 000 Swiss live abroad». The latter was dropped at the beginning of 1945, since the figure was no longer correct.

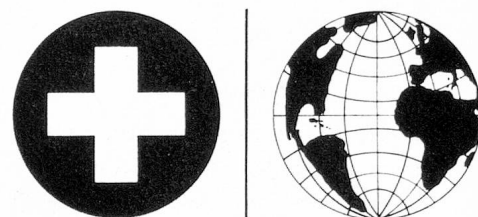


1938-1944



1945-1961

The two halves of the globe were used as symbol up to 1961. After that, they were replaced by a Swiss cross next to a simplified globe.



1962

In 1963, a new symbol was designed, a globe which had CH (Confoederatio Helvetica) on the left of the equator and the Swiss cross on the right. This crest was used for two years.



1963-1964

The present symbol of «Fifth Switzerland» was first used in 1965. The stylized globe with the Swiss cross at the level of the equator reminds one of the two halves of the globe joined by the Swiss cross first used by Hans Fischer. In 1966, the symbol was again altered, though only slightly. The Swiss cross was moved upwards a little, so that the centre of the cross is roughly where Switzerland is situated, provided one looks at the globe as showing Africa and Europe.



1965

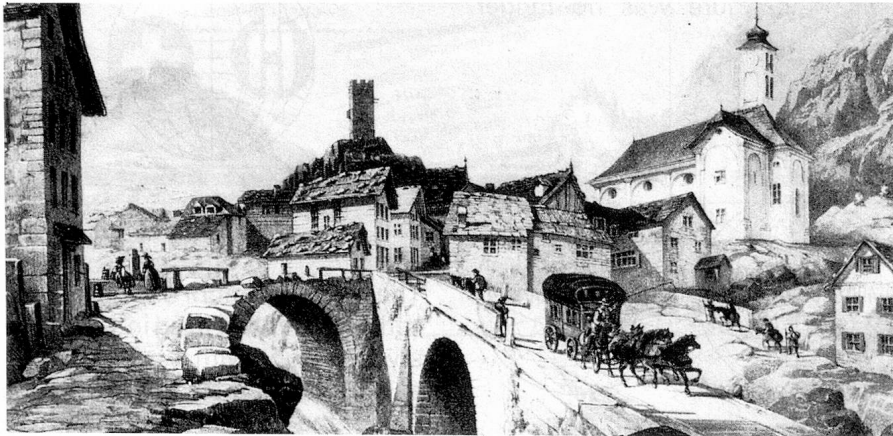


since 1966

In 1966 the Organization of the Swiss Abroad celebrated its golden jubilee, and ever since then, this symbol has been used as official crest of the Swiss abroad. It was made use of in the plebiscite campaign for the adoption of Art.45bis in the Federal Constitution and in the same year also for a special stamp issued by PTT, to the value of 20 cts.

The colour of the crest is the

## Book reviews



The mail-coach of the St-Gothard passing the village of Hospental (Photo PTT).

«Saint-Gothard - VIA HELVETICA» by Arthur Wyss, Curator of the PTT-Museum in Berne.

This richly illustrated book contains a comprehensive inventory of the salient facts in the history and the present of the Gothard, pointing up with clarity the major political and state-forming impulses which emanated from this pass and exercised a decisive influence on the evolution of the Swiss Confederation. At the same time, the book is a committed affirmation of the future of this most central of all alpine passes. With its wellnigh 300 illustrations – over 50 of them full-colour plates – this book is a fascinating treasure trove and a real joy for every connoisseur of literature concerning communications and postal history. Most of the pictures, documents, old postal cancellations and seals as well as the postage stamps come from the PTT-Museum in Berne.



brilliant blue of the high seas, the sky and distant places, thus symbolizing the distance of the Swiss abroad from their homeland.

Lucien Paillard

Here, in short, is a cultural-historical work of enduring value for all those interested in history and philately. Not least among the many charms of this book is its author's delightfully colourful writing which lends the work its unusual vitality. Mr. Wyss has succeeded brilliantly in doing justice to both rail and road in the latter part of his book. The book has been printed and bound with care and good taste and may be described without undue immodesty as a bibliophile work.

Available as required in English, French, German or Italian.

Please send your order to your library or to: Editions Ovaphil, case postale 10, 1000 Lausanne 8.

On 19th march 1980 this book was chosen as one of the most beautiful Swiss books of the year by a jury acting under the patronage of the Federal Ministry for Internal Affairs.



Der  
**Tages-Anzeiger**  
lässt Sie  
auch im Ausland  
nicht allein.

## Tages-Anzeiger

FERNAUSGABE

Ich möchte die Tages-Anzeiger-Fernausgabe jetzt abonnieren für  3,  6,  12 Monate.  
(Die ersten zwei Nummern sind gratis.)

Meine Adresse:  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Strasse: \_\_\_\_\_

Nähere Bezeichnung: \_\_\_\_\_

PLZ, Ort: \_\_\_\_\_

Land: \_\_\_\_\_ 9005

Bitte ausschneiden und einsenden an:  
Tages-Anzeiger, Vertrieb,  
Postfach, CH-8021 Zürich

Abonnementspreise der Tages-Anzeiger-Wochenausgabe für das Ausland in sFr.

	Gew. Postzustellung		
	3 Mt.	6 Mt.	12 Mt.
<b>Europa</b>			
Bundesrepublik, Italien, Oesterreich	14.—	27.—	53.—
Belgien, Frankreich, Luxemburg, Niederlande	16.—	31.—	60.—
<b>Europa</b>			
Ubrige europäische Länder sowie ganze UdSSR, Island, Grönland und Türkei	17.50	34.—	67.—

	Luftpost-Zustellung		
	3 Mt.	6 Mt.	12 Mt.
<b>Afrika</b>			
Nordafrika: Algerien, Libyen, Marokko, Tunesien,	17.50	34.—	67.—
Ubrige Länder in Afrika	20.—	39.—	77.—

	Luftpost-Zustellung		
	3 Mt.	6 Mt.	12 Mt.
<b>Amerika</b>			
USA, Kanada und Zentralamerika, Antillen, Costa Rica, Dominikanische Republik, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Kuba, Mexiko, Nicaragua, Panama	20.—	39.—	77.—

<b>Südamerika</b>	22.50	44.—	87.—
-------------------	-------	------	------

	Luftpost-Zustellung		
	3 Mt.	6 Mt.	12 Mt.
<b>Asien</b>			
Naher Osten: Libanon, Jordanien, Israel, Syrien, Aden, Jemen, Irak, Iran, Kuwait, Saudi-Arabien, Afghanistan, Bhutan, Indien, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka	20.—	39.—	77.—

Ferner Osten Ubrige asiatische Länder	22.50	44.—	87.—
--	-------	------	------

<b>Australien</b> Neuseeland, Ozeanien	31.—	60.—	119.—
---	------	------	-------