

Zeitschrift: Swiss review : the magazine for the Swiss abroad
Herausgeber: Organisation of the Swiss Abroad
Band: 10 (1983)
Heft: 3

Inhaltsverzeichnis

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: 18.04.2026

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

Contents

The Walsers – an Intrinsically Swiss People	3
Civics and Politics	7
Official Communications	11
Local News	12-16
Communications of the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad	17
Our Worldchampion	20

Are you 50 this year?

You can join the voluntary AVS/AI not later than one year after your 50th birthday. This is **your last chance!** For further information please write to your Swiss representation.

Consulting and representation of interests in Switzerland in matters of

Business Real Estate Inheritance

from a management, finance, contract, company law and tax point of view.

Treuhand Sven Müller

lic. ès sc. comm.

Phone (055) 42 21 21
Telex 87 50 89 sven ch
Telegram TLX875089

Birkenrain 4
CH-8634 Hombrechtikon-Zürich

The Walsers – an Intrinsically Swiss People

Already as a schoolboy on summer holidays and again later – during the war years – as student on rambles and bicycle tours, it was again and again certain of our high-Alpine valley landscapes which held a special attraction for me. For one, there was the region around the upper course of the Rhone with its various side valleys like the Turtmantal, at that time still accessible on foot, the Loetschental wrapped in legends and the Binntal rich in crystals; then there was the Urserntal in Uri, the Rheinwald in the Grisons, the Sa-fiental as much unknown as it was beautiful, Avers-Cresta high up in the mountains, the round hollow of Arosa, the surroundings of Davos and the idyllic villages of Furna and Valzeina in the Praetigau. I felt similar sensations south of the Alps, at Simplon village, hedged in by wide meadows, and at Bosco-Gurin and right up – twice round the corner – in the Maggia valley.

It was the same everywhere which fascinated me: the old farmhouses which, regardless of their simplicity, radiated an almost patrician pride, and in these houses the utensils and implements in daily use, which bore witness to long tradition and culture. The inhabitants themselves embodied in all their expressions a convincing attachment to the mostly poor soil and they struck one by their deeply anchored love of freedom.

In my own neighbourhood right up to the highest valleys in the Bernese Oberland, I found something similar only in the lonely village of Isenfluh high up above Lauterbrunnen, which fascinated me more than the «o so much more beautiful» and sunnier Wengen on the mountain terrace opposite.

What was the common connection in these districts? For a long time I did not know. It could not be in the seclusion alone. It is true that places like Heiligkreuz in the Binntal or Juf above Avers were still widely unknown. In the two Vispa valleys with Zermatt and Saas Fee, tourism had established itself for some time, and in the Urserntal and in Rheinwald near Splügen, long lines of motor vehicles from all countries of Europe were at times to be found in summer. It could not be the denominations either. The valleys mentioned were partly Catholic, partly Protestant, even though their church buildings, small though they were, bore witness to a deep testimony of faith by their impressive position in the magnificent mountain world – much more so than many large cathedrals in the low-lying country.

It was only at the beginning of the 'fifties when I found an explanation for my predilection, and that abroad of all places! It was in the Kleine Walsertal, the Small Waldensian Valley, the strange hybrid behind Oberstdorf in Southern Bavaria which, though belonging to Austrian sovereignty, is attached to Germany economically. There I found a small but very instructive museum which housed geographic tables on the distribution of the Walsers, that German-speaking breed from the upper Rhone Valley, which began to settle in the surrounding regions at the turn of the 13th and up to the 14th century, a kind of belated Mass Migration on a small scale and that in the heart of Europe. This advance led the Walsers to the Canton of Uri and from there to the Grisons, to the Oberland of St. Gall, to Liechten-