

Zeitschrift: Swiss review : the magazine for the Swiss abroad
Herausgeber: Organisation of the Swiss Abroad
Band: 16 (1989)
Heft: 4

Vorwort: The price we pay
Autor: Savary, Marc

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>



Impressum

Swiss Review

Magazine for the Swiss Abroad

16th year of issue

Published quarterly in German, French, Italian, English and Spanish, in about 30 regional editions.

Printing: Berne, Paris, Lugano, New York, Johannesburg, Buenos Aires

Total circulation: 245 000

Editorial staff:

Jürg Müller, Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad, Berne
Heidi Willumat, Service for the Swiss Abroad, Department of Foreign Affairs, Berne
Marc Savary, journalist, Lausanne

Publisher, central editorial offices and advertising administration:

Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad
Alpenstrasse 26
CH-3000 Berne 16
Telephone 031 446625
Telex 912 118 asse ch
Telefax 031 4421 58
Postcheck (Swiss national giro) account: 30-6768-9

Changes of address should be notified to the Swiss diplomatic mission or consular post where you are registered.

Swiss Review

The Magazine for the Swiss Abroad
4/89
December 1989
Sfr. 3.-



It is not only the contributors to the Forum in this issue who have been expressing their views about Switzerland: the photographers of Swissair have been "looking at" Switzerland too. This aerial photograph shows Interlaken and the Lake of Brienz and - in the top right hand corner - the Schreckhorn mountain. (Photoswissair)

Editorial

The Price we pay



The Swiss passport is to be given a face-lift, but in spite of its new look, the citizens of our country will carry it with even less pride than they did before. Moreover, its attraction for a good many foreigners will diminish as well. The simple truth is that this little red passport does not represent the magic key which opens the doors of the European Community (EEC), which is almost certainly the effect of our position as the "outsiders of Europe".

All of a sudden, our white cross on its red background has become less dazzling than the twelve yellow stars on the blue background. The time is perhaps right, then, in the "Forum" of this edition to question ourselves about the image of Switzerland, an image which, in spite of everything, does not really seem to change much. Old clichés die hard. Take the Matterhorn, for example; a veritable myth in granite which for many quite simply sums up Switzerland.

Switzerland lives in the middle of "its" Alps or, more precisely, behind them, sheltered from the storms of the rest of the world. Geographically speaking, it lies at the heart of Europe, but in other respects it is far away. It is able to lay down the law to the rest of Europe as far as the use of its roads for heavy lorries is concerned, for example. And yet it remains aloof, especially when one remembers that its population voted against membership of the UN.

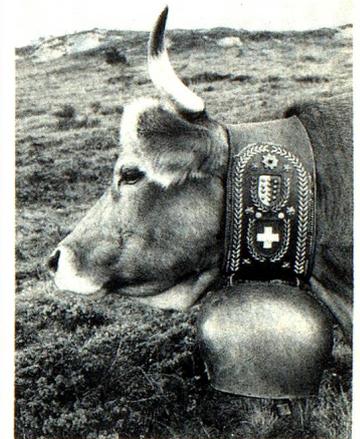
We do, however, have other reasons for questioning ourselves: Have some of the recent happenings which took Switzerland by storm tarnished the reputation of our country abroad? Is it now true to say that Switzerland has finally reached a stage where it is no longer above all suspicion? One might certainly think so at the mention of such names as Chaumet, Gelli or Kopp. Or if we think of the role of Swiss banks in the laundering of dirty money or of the ever increasing severity of our asylum policy. All this, however, is merely a small ripple on the surface of Switzerland's calm waters, or almost that. Perhaps this is because Switzerland, just to add to the clichés, is considered abroad more as a place where international conferences are held than as a country. Switzerland's image has been established more by the city of Geneva and its United Nations Building than by Berne and its national Parliament Building.

This "Forum" should, however, make us examine some home truths ourselves. Does the sometimes blatant wealth of our cities not prevent us from really enjoying our lives?, one of the points stressed in the contribution from the Brazilian journalist. And then there is our position as the "outsiders of Europe". Does it not, by its very nature, threaten to undermine the foundations of our prosperity?

We have so many questions to ask ourselves, so many issues to think about, and so many incentives to spur us on to a new dynamism. All of these are the price of Switzerland's image in the future.

Marc Savary, journalist

Contents



Forum:
Switzerland viewed from the outside **4**

Evolène - an Island of Dialect **11**

Green pages: Local News

Mosaic **13**



The Loveliest Railway **17**

French Revolution and Switzerland **19**



Congress of the Swiss Abroad **21**

Official Communications **22**