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Swiss "Historians' Day"

The road abroad

The mass emigration of Swiss in bygone days often proved profitable for the urban parishes and rural communes from which they came, as also for travel agents, shipping lines and railway companies. Recognition of this was once again confirmed at discussions at the 1989 congress to celebrate "Historians' Day".

Just as happens today in Turkey and many countries of the Third World, Switzerland experienced much emigration from the 17th to the 20th century as a result of sheer material necessity. During those centuries, wave after wave of emigration took place, from the most hard-hit and poverty-stricken rural areas. In the years that followed the World War I, the Federal Council even tried to stimulate the emigration of unemployed Swiss to overseas countries. Pains-taking investigations into the emigration of Swiss to Brazil, reported on at the "Historians' Day" discussions, showed that mass emigration was often organised to a great extent as a commercial undertaking. The financing and arrangements for travel and colonisation were effected efficiently – but the settlers themselves were often disappointed on reaching their destinations to find that they were no longer really free: contracts signed before their departure often provided for them to undertake specific duties in a prescribed location.

On the other hand, the history of emigration to Russia shows that it was not only poor persons and adventurers who went there: three quarters of the pass-



The children of Swiss cheesemaker and landowner Emil Rieder, outside the church of Maloe Wosno (Russia), around 1910. (Illustration from the book "Schweizer im Zarenreich", Zurich 1985.)

ports issued in the Canton of Berne between 1860 and 1880 were for cheesemakers and governesses, whose qualifications were thus evidently much in demand in the tsarist realm.

These and other interesting findings reported on at the 1989 "Historians' Day" are being published by Verlag Schwabe of Basle, in their series under the generic title of "Itinera".

This publication can be ordered from the Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad, Alpenstrasse 26, CH-3000 Berne 16. The price will be approximately Sfr. 40.- (inclusive of postage).

Free training for security experts

Switzerland is making yet another contribution towards the lessening of international tension. Since the end of October 1989 the first international course of training for disarmament and security experts has been available in Geneva. At the "Institut universitaire des hautes études internationales" (IUHEI), under the leadership

of Dr. Fred Tanner, not only Swiss, but also participants from neighbouring countries and from the other neutral countries of Europe are being trained for their future tasks. The Confederation is assuming the cost of this course – which is unique in the world today – in an endeavour to broaden the range of its "good offices".

Lady on a Banknote

By the middle of the nineties, new banknotes are scheduled to be put into circulation. To stress the cosmopolitan character of our country, the Swiss National Bank announces that they will bear portraits of Swiss personalities selected mainly because they have achieved fame and respect first and foremost abroad. And for the first time, a Swiss banknote will carry the portrait of a woman, namely that of Sophie Taeuber-Arp, painter and dancer and Dadaist (see our illustration). The other banknotes will probably feature portraits of architect and painter Le Corbusier, composer Arthur Honegger, sculptor and painter Alberto Giacometti, writer Charles Ferdinand Ramuz and



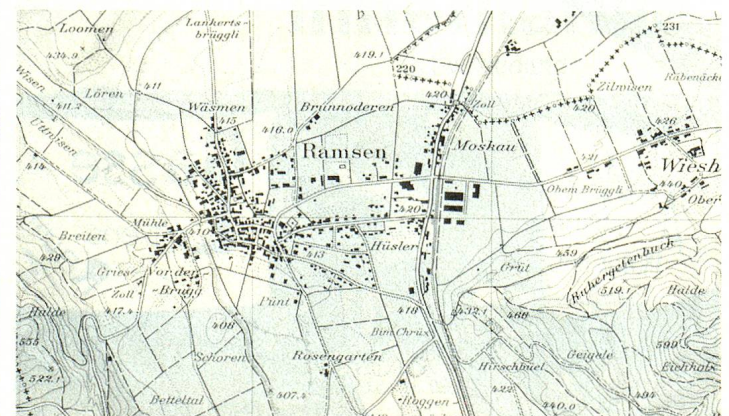
historian Jacob Burckhart. It is also planned to replace the somewhat unpopular 500 franc note by one for 200 francs. (Photo: SNB)

Moscow is in Switzerland!

Not many people are aware of it: the Soviet capital has a "sister settlement" in our country, close to the frontier between Switzerland and Germany. It is small hamlet located in the municipality of Ramsen in the Canton of Schaffhouse, and is shown on the official map of Switzerland (scale 1:25,000, page 1032, Diessenhofen) – see the section reproduced here. Apart from their name the 8-million Soviet metropolis and the little hamlet near Schaffhouse have nothing in common. The origin of the unusual name for the Swiss village lies in the wartime happenings of around 1800, when Russian troops had

camped east of Ramsen. A few years after the Russians departed, a certain Peter Neidhart built a house not far from where the railway station of today is situated. The local populations gave the house the nick-name of Petersburg ("Peter's Castle"). Soon afterwards, another farmhouse was erected nearby, and as there was already a "Petersburg", the neighbours in the hamlet decided to christen it "Moskau"! This nick-name stuck and has persisted even into our days. JM

(Reproduced by courtesy of the Federal Office for National Topography, permit of August 22, 1989)





Three new Gems on the Swiss Book Market

For deep insight

What can a cookery book, a travel guide and a dictionary of political science have in common? In an attractive yet informative manner, all three demonstrate time and time again the multifarious and sometimes surprising diversity of Switzerland and its way of life.



Heading of the chapter "March" in Marianne Kaltenbach's cookery book.

Wouldn't you like to cook a traditional Swiss luncheon or dinner now and then? If so, you ought to consult Marianne Kaltenbach's book of recipes "Ähti Schwizer Chuchi" ("Genuine Swiss Cuisine"). In this 258-page book, with more than 300 historical illustrations, you will find details of every conceivable mouth-watering dish to tickle your palate. This carefully produced book is ar-

Marianne Kaltenbach: "Ähti Schwizer Chuchi". Traditional recipes from the 26 Swiss cantons. 8th extended edition, by Hallwag Verlag, Berne, published 1989. (Language: German). Sfr. 59.-

anged in accordance with the rhythm of the seasons, and most of the recipes are old and traditional, handed down in the 26 cantons of Switzerland. This is the eighth revised edition of a work that has long been a best seller, and has now been expanded to include much additional folkloristic information and valuable details about Swiss wines.

40 one-day adventures

Plan your next holiday in Swit-

zerland a bit differently this time - make it more exciting, even thrilling. In preparing your journey, you will find a handy pocket-book with the title "40 one-day adventures in Switzerland" extremely helpful. This travel guide for excursions shows how one can combine famous, less well-known and even quite unusual destinations to form an interesting and well-rounded one-day excursion. Sightseeing in towns, rambles

"40 Tages-Abenteuer Schweiz". Combined excursions to little-known destinations by railway, ship or on foot. (Language: German). Published by Werd-Verlag, Zurich, 1989. Sfr. 26.80

through the countryside, visits to a museum or a zoo, trips by boat, railway or the cross-country post-bus service, and many more activities are suggested and described. The Verkehrsclub der Schweiz ("VCS"), known as the "green" touring association in Switzerland, is a co-publisher of the guide, as all the excursions recommended can be undertaken by means of public transport.

Political science in plain language

After culinary delights and adventurous excursions, some will be interested in getting informa-

Alfred Huber: "Staatskunde-Lexikon". 3rd revised and extended edition, 1989. (Language: German, but French edition is being prepared). Keller Verlag, Lucerne. Sfr. 15.-

tion about political matters, and the third book reviewed will make it easy for the reader. The short Dictionary of Political Science by Alfred Huber offers clear, compact and precise in-

formation in articles under 234 headings arranged in alphabetical order, with 40 coloured and easy-to-read maps and diagrams, and 150 tables. In simple language, it deals with all significant aspects of our governmental structure and the various political authorities and departments. It contains summaries of the aims and activities of various parties, associations and unions. Sufficient space is also allotted to brief statistics about Switzerland and its population, as also to European and international organisations, and to some issues of our foreign policy.

It is in any case noteworthy that Swiss relationships are consistently described with due regard to conditions in Europe and the rest of the world, so it is not surprising that the Schweizerische Lehrerzeitung writes as follows about it: "It is clearly one of the best publications ever for the diffusion of information on matters of political science to both adults and young Swiss..." JM

All these books can be ordered from: Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad, Alpenstrasse 26, CH-Berne 16. No charge for postage.

Telegrams

■ A prestigious *non-stop Swissair connection* has been started recently: the Swiss national airline now flies three times a week from Switzerland to Los Angeles, California.

■ Towards the end of 1989, some 200 children under the age of eight years were registered with the health authorities as infected with the *Aids virus*. It is reckoned with this figure doubling in the next five years.

■ With the backing of a number of major Swiss enterprises, a group of interested parties, calling itself "Swiss Television International" is endeavouring to promote the establishment of a Swiss satellite TV service of international importance.

■ The German publishing house of Langenscheidt, specialised in linguistic literature, is celebrating the 25th anniversary jubilee of its Swiss subsidiary by publishing a "Dictionary of the Rhaeto-Romanic language."

A splendid mosaic

In the course of excavation work on the site of a Gallo-Romanic villa at Vallon in the Canton of Fribourg, a magnificent mosaic came to light. This work of art covers an area of 25 square metres (about 275

square feet), and is estimated to date back to about 150 to 200 A.D. On this coloured mosaic 17 hexagonal medallions are arranged in an alveolate or honey-combed pattern. (Photo: Keystone)





Future transport scene



The "trade-mark" symbolising the Zurich S-Bahn: the modern two-tier commuter trains, here in the new station "Museumstrasse", (Photo: Keystone)

At the end of May 1990 a new chapter begins in the history of public transport in Switzerland's more extensive conurbations. The metropolitan railway system (the "S-Bahn") serving the agglomeration known as "Greater Zurich" and regarded by many as the traffic system of the future – starts its operations. With the opening of the 380 kilometres (236 miles) long S-Bahn, which in the main follows the existing network of the Swiss Federal Railways, the newly-devised Zurich Association for Integrated Traffic, of which all 34 public transport undertakings in the Canton of Zurich are members, will also start its activities. The present railway system – whose efficiency has already in the last few

years been increased by the construction of new sections of line, new tunnels, new stations and to some extent by the acquisition of new rolling stock – will be complemented by a closely-knit network of local and regional lines with a total length of 1300 kilometres (807 miles). The basic programme will offer, 19 hours every day on most of the lines in the S-Bahn network, half-hour service schedules, which will as required be augmented by relief trains at rush hours and so on. Thereby, the promoters of the S-Bahn and the Association for Integrated Traffic hope to bring about a strong wave of willingness on the part of motorists to make a switch to public transport.

Xenophobe Swiss?

"A good third of the Swiss population must be assessed as "markedly ill-disposed towards foreigners". This was the conclusion reached on the basis of an opinion poll organised by the "Swiss Society for Political and Economic Research". When directly confronted with statements regarding the theme of "Foreigners in Switzerland", a

majority of Swiss men and women admittedly claim to be in principle "well-disposed" towards foreigners, reports the above-mentioned society in connection with the opinion poll conducted on its behalf by the IMR Market Research Institute in Zurich, in the form of 500 personal interviews with householders. More than 70% of the persons questioned

shared the view that "life in Switzerland would be much more monotonous without the foreigners."

"In considering the matter in a differentiated manner" however, one finds a share of the population amounting to "a good third" who must be classified as "markedly ill-disposed towards foreigners". Thus 37% of the persons interviewed thought that foreign workers were less hardworking than Swiss, and 45% felt sympathy with political parties that spoke out clearly against "infiltration of the country by foreign elements". Three quarters of those interviewed agreed with a statement worded thus: "I have a certain amount of understanding for the irritated reactions of Swiss persons vis-à-vis foreigners."

A marvellous vintage

In western Switzerland this year's grape harvest was the best since 1982. But unlike other record harvests, that of 1989 is outstanding not only in terms of quantity, but also in respect of its quality. In the French-speaking region 150.8 millions of litres of wine were pressed, and for the whole of Switzerland the total is estimated as reaching a level of some 175 million litres. The overall result does not fall very short of that for the record harvest of 184 million litres in 1982 and is greater than the big 1983 harvest (161 million litres). That this 1989 harvest has been so far above average can be attributed to the exceptionally favourable weather conditions.

Holidays for children of Swiss abroad

Are you interested? If so, lose no time: the deadline for applications to take part is **March 31 1990**.

The "Foundation for young Swiss abroad", jointly with "Pro Juventute", is this year once again offering the following two-week holiday possibilities in Switzerland, during the period from June 25 to August 24: participation in a vacation "colony" organised for children from 10 years of age; holidays in the home of a Swiss family; holidays in a Swiss children's home.

Participation is allowed for all children in the age group 7 to 15 years who are of Swiss national-

ity or whose mother was born in Switzerland. The cost will depend on the financial circumstances of the child's parents.

Application forms and further informations can be obtained from Swiss diplomatic representations abroad (e.g., embassies and consulates), or direct from the special Office for Holidays for Children of Swiss Abroad (see address below). Applications must however be submitted through the nearest Swiss consulate.

Address: Ferienwerk für Auslandschweizerkinder, Postfach, CH-8022 Zurich, Switzerland. Telephone: 01/251 56 04.

