

Zeitschrift: Swiss review : the magazine for the Swiss abroad
Herausgeber: Organisation of the Swiss Abroad
Band: 24 (1997)
Heft: 2

Rubrik: SSA news

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1997 Congress of the Swiss Abroad

Creative art abroad

Swiss creative artists will be at the centre of this year's Congress of the Swiss Abroad. They will be showing their work and talking about it in Lugano on August 22-24.

Switzerland's cultural presence abroad is the main subject of the 1997 Congress of the Swiss Abroad (see Swiss Review 1/97). The meeting will include a colourful range of discussions and presentations. It will concentrate not on academic lectures but on

the practical side of Swiss creative art abroad, including both its positive and negative aspects.

Art is not so much those who create it as their works. In consequence, the Congress will also show a broad selection of artistic objects.

1998: Visit Switzerland in the anniversary year

In 1998 Switzerland will celebrate the 150th anniversary year of the creation of the federal state. The Congress of the Swiss Abroad will be an integral part of the celebrations and should enable as many as possible of our compatriots abroad to visit Switzerland. Its main subject will be "Migration and Encounters", and it will be held on August 20-23 in Canton Aargau. Pencil this date in your diary now. There will be opportunities for combining participation in the Congress and staying with a Swiss family (see page 11).

The centrepiece will be an exhibition opening on the same day as the Congress, and this will be supplemented by video portraits of artists and their work.

The Friday evening is likely to be an unforgettable experience for those present. The Ticino Radio Orchestra, conducted by Swiss Abroad Niklaus Aeschbacher, will play works by other Swiss Abroad, including Raff, Honneger, Martin and Bloch. The concert will be organised jointly by the Organisation for the Swiss Abroad and the Italian-Speaking Radio and Television Agency. The latter will also produce a number of short films about Swiss Abroad artists, which will be shown between the musical pieces.

The programme also includes a banquet on the

Saturday evening and an excursion on the Sunday – it is full of events which you should not miss. Further information and registration at:

Secretariat for the
Swiss Abroad
Alpenstrasse 26
CH-3000 Berne 16

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AJAS is 35 years old

AJAS, the Association for the Training of Young Swiss Abroad, has been giving advice and assistance to our compatriots all over the world for 35 years. It provides information on education and training in Switzerland, including study at universities, both traditional and specialised, language stays combined with integration courses, practical training, accommodation possibilities, financing, etc.

The following may be obtained from AJAS:

- The AJAS prospectus (French, German, English)
- AJAS, a Guide for Young Swiss Abroad (French, German)
- A file entitled "Training in Switzerland" (French, German)
- A list of accommodation addresses.

AJAS
Alpenstrasse 26
CH-3000 Berne 16

Spring meeting of the Council for the Swiss Abroad (CSA) in Bern

Yes to AHV reform, but not in this way!

The voluntary pension scheme (AHV/IV) for Swiss Abroad is in deficit and administratively costly in its present form. The Council for the Swiss Abroad has therefore never questioned a certain need for reform, but the alternative scheme now prepared by the authorities would drastically restrict the circle of those entitled to join. Those particularly affected would be Swiss women married to foreigners and compatriots who have long lived in countries with relatively undeveloped social security schemes.

The Council is convinced that a reform is possible which will reduce the deficit of the voluntary pension scheme and will not greatly restrict the circle of those

entitled to join. In a resolution it therefore demands that more consideration be given to the legitimate interests of Swiss Abroad.

To the Council's satisfaction it has further been informed about the successful youth exchange project of

the Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad. Michael Reinhard (19) from Reconville BE spoke at the meeting about his stay with a Swiss family in South Africa. He is already looking forward to accommodating his "brother" there next winter.

With the Swiss Club Albania, the Asociatia Elvatiana Din Romania (Swiss Club in Rumania) and the Société Suisse du Haut-Doubs (France), the Council has on the other hand been able to admit new groups abroad.

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Youth exchange as a positive experience: Michael Reinhard talks about his experiences in South Africa. (Photo: ASS)

Summer camps 1997

This summer the Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad and the Youth Service of the Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad will once again be organising summer camps and holiday stays in Switzerland for Swiss Abroad aged 7 to 25. Information and registration at:

Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad
Alpenstrasse 26
CH-3000 Berne
fax 41 31 351 61 50