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Appreciate their own language

Swiss Review 6/03, Dossier

Schwiizerdütsch is part of Germanic Switzerland's rich and diverse heritage that must be preserved by all means. It is, in grammatical structure and unique vocabulary, a language in own right and not just a mere dialect. It is commendable that the German Swiss finally are coming out of the closet and starting to appreciate their own language and culture.

*Daniel Guggisberg
Redondo Beach, USA*

It works in English

Swiss Review 6/03, Dossier

I am originally Bernese and married to a Frenchman (of Russian and English descent). Sadly, I missed the opportunity to teach our two sons Swiss-German - now they only know a few Swiss-German phrases. Whenever they get together with their cousins in Zurich (who are not exactly au fait with the French language), they communicate... in English! And it works.

*Terry Hugot
Albi, France*

I get along very nicely in Züridütsch

Swiss Review 6/03, Dossier

Thanks for the links to excellent related sites on the web. As an American speaking American English as my mother tongue, I have always had trouble wrapping my mouth around High German vowels. I was surprised when living in Switzerland many years ago to discover that my Midwestern American accent fitted very nicely with Swiss German dialect. Umlauts aside, the complex vowel sounds of Swiss-German dialects are not so very foreign to my native English as it happens. While no native Swiss-German speaker would mistake me for a fellow native, I get along very nicely in Züridütsch.

*Jim Shields
Westfield, IN, USA*

Controversial and subjective

Swiss Review 6/03, Focus

The enormous unease with which your editorial team regards the success of the SVP in the federal parliamentary elections, followed by the election of Messrs Blocher and Merz to

the Federal Council, is almost tangible in your commentaries. Yet it has long been predicted that voters would eventually reject outdated magic formulae. The fact that you have the nerve to head your press review "On the way to Haiderism" merely because a single Spanish newspaper used this reference is controversial and violates the principle of journalistic objectivity.

*H. Nägeli
Nagoda/Kalutara, Sri Lanka*

Much-needed online Review

Swiss Review 6/03, Internet

As editor-in-chief for publicity in our regional Tirol government and editor-in-chief of the

regional newspaper, and as husband to a Swiss wife, I always read the Swiss Review with great interest and regard it as a political and cultural link with my relatives and friends in the cantons of St. Gallen, Zurich and Thurgau. In today's world, and especially in view of your global mandate, the online version of Swiss Review is an essential communication medium and I very much look forward to using this new platform.

*Rainer Gerzabek
Innsbruck, Austria*

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