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Silvesterchlausen. In recent decades, the tradition of the "Silvesterchläuse" in Urnäsch, which dates back over 200 years, has developed from going door-to-door wearing simple costumes into a much more elaborate affair. Today the "Chläuse" wear costumes and masks that require a great deal of effort to make. Silvesterchlausen is held in a similar format on two days, New Year's Eve and 13 January. When Pope Gregory XIII introduced his calendar reform, various reformed cantons refused to acknowledge this papal innovation and continued using the old calendar, which differs from the Gregorian calendar by 13 days, until the 18th century. Some popular calendars printed both systems alongside one another and the "Chläuse" appeared on both New Year's Eves. EC

