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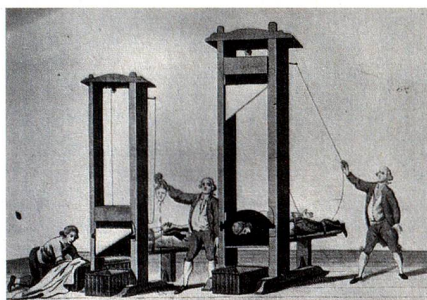
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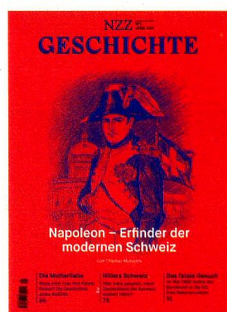
About us and our past

Can we learn from history? How important is knowledge about our history, past, forefathers and heroes? These questions are being discussed intensively in Switzerland at the moment. "We are living in times with a thirst for history. The past jumps out at us from all corners." These words are found in the introduction of the latest publication from the NZZ publishing house – it is entitled "NZZ Geschichte" (NZZ History), and the name says it all. The main topic in the first edition, which was published in mid-April, is "Napoleon, the founder of modern Switzerland". The very readable article on history written by Thomas Maissen is complemented by two features on Swiss women closely involved in Napoleon's life – Germaine de Staël and the colonel's wife Regula Engel. "The salubrious bloodbath" is the title of a discussion on

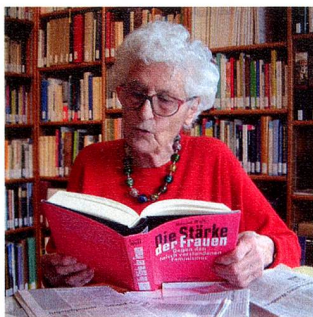


Marignano between the conservative, right-wing editor-in-chief of the "Basler Zeitung", Markus Somm, and historian André Hollenstein. In the item "5 minutes for historical insight", readers find out all about the "machine for humane execution", the guillotine. The magazine is well designed and written for general readers with an interest in history rather than for historians.

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■ "NZZ Geschichte", Verlag NZZ, Zurich; 122 pages; published quarterly; single issue CHF 18, annual subscription CHF 58, abroad EUR 77.



The path to political equality

She adopts a new perspective and a new approach and succeeds wonderfully. The historian Franziska Rogger tackles the history and commitment of Swiss women to political equality. The long, arduous path, the obstacles and the stalling tactics deployed by men are much lamented in this field. Franziska Rogger leaves this aside. In her book "Gebt den Schweizerinnen ihre Geschichte!" (Give Swiss women their history!), she presents the battle for women's suffrage as a path made up of many small victories – a difficult and sometimes gruelling journey. She reveals how much imagination, fighting spirit, persuasive effort and solidarity across divisions of background and party political affil-



iation were involved in the long struggle. In the second part of her book, Rogger focuses in-depth on the life of Marthe Gosteli, the now 98-year-old founder of the archive on the history of the Swiss women's movement. From long interviews with probably Switzerland's most significant feminist, a kind of Gosteli family history emerges where the father was involved in politics but the women also had a great deal to say. The book reads well because Franziska Rogger is a good storyteller and because she deliberately avoids the jargon and style of historians.

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■ Franziska Rogger, "Gebt den Schweizerinnen ihre Geschichte!"; Verlag NZZ libro, Zurich, 2015; 396 pages; CHF 48 www.nzz-libro.ch



The story of an exile in Geneva told in a cartoon strip

With "Wonderland", Italian-Swiss illustrator Tom Tirabosco brings us a tender but powerful cartoon this spring. This autobiographical account depicts Tirabosco's life moving from Rome to Geneva. The eternal city sees the destinies of Jacqueline, a Swiss tourist, and Antonio, a hotel worker passionate about bel canto, entwine. Tom was born in 1966 and his brother Michel two years later. But he arrived in the world without hands and with a crippled leg. They had to move to Switzerland to meet his special needs. A third child completed the family.

"Wonderland" recounts Tom's hopes and fears in black and white. The boy, who grew up in a working class environment in the Geneva outskirts, finds himself stuck between a quick-tempered and macho but loving father



and a brother who is suffering but has a burning desire to live. How was he to find his place in this environment, with a mother who also had a rebellious streak?

Illustration is the path Tom took to escape, inspired by his love of small animals and oceans. Indeed the pollution of the world plunges the illustrator into despair. There is nevertheless no shortage of humour in this comic strip.

This work by Tirabosco can also be read as the story of the children of generation X. www.atrabile.org

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■ Tom Tirabosco "Wonderland"; éditions Atrabile, Geneva; 136 pages; CHF 25.50. EUR 22.