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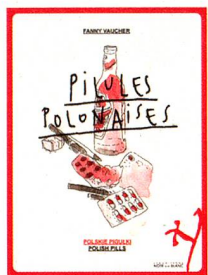
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How to become Polish?



Just like children and journalists, Fanny Vaucher, an illustrator from the French-speaking part of Switzerland has a tremendous sense of curiosity. This is the starting point of a blog, which has been turned into an illustrated book that she produced whilst settling in in Warsaw in 2012. “Why don’t the buildings have shutters? How is it that people eat ice cream in the middle of winter? Do people live behind the huge advertising hoardings that completely cover some façades in the city centre?” These are some of the questions pon-

dered upon by the artist, who lives between Switzerland and Poland.

“Les Pilules polonaises” (Polish Pills) - which enable you to become Polish - reveals the cultural, sociological and architectural reflections of Fanny Vaucher through a mixture of illustrations accompanied by text and speech bubbles. The watercolours that document Fanny’s life are reminiscent of a travel journal. The text is handwritten in French, but the text of the Polish and English translations is in block letters. What is it makes this book so worth reading? It will certainly inspire readers to want to visit



Warsaw to verify the tales of this Swiss artist with a keen sense of humour. SH

FANNY VAUCHER: “PILULES POLONAISES” (POLSKIE PIGULKI / POLISH PILLS), LES EDITIONS NOIR SUR BLANC, LAUSANNE, 2014; CHF 21.50, EURO 17. BLOG: PILULESPOLONAISES.BLOGSPOT.CH



One female party president and her six male counterparts

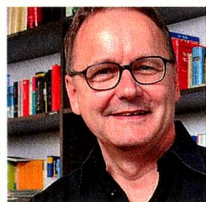
“Swiss Review” has provided plenty of good theory but perhaps slightly less emphasis on people in its reporting on the election campaign over recent months. This was the analysis at our editorial meeting in July. Here is a suggestion to make up for the lack of focus on the figures involved – the one female president and her six male counterparts from the main political parties present themselves wonderfully in front of swissinfo’s cameras. They eloquently discuss the Swiss Abroad, their significance in Switzerland and the world and their parties’ plans to put

greater emphasis on the Swiss Abroad in Swiss politics. You will find some great answers to the question: What do the Swiss Abroad mean to you? Among them: “They are a breath of fresh air for our nation.”

It is well worth noting that in addition to interviews with the party presidents, swissinfo also provides extensive background information on the political protagonists and developments in the run-up to the elections. BE

ALL OF THIS CAN BE FOUND AT WWW.SWISSINFO.CH

12.30 p.m. – the news colossus



You no longer have to sit as quiet as a mouse in front of the radio set at 12.30 p.m. to find out what is going on in the world. News has

become a mass commodity available any time and anywhere thanks to the internet, smartphones and similar devices. But for generations the broadcast time of what remains German-speaking Swiss radio’s best-known news programme was sacrosanct. In terms of audience figures, the 12.30 p.m. news was “a Matterhorn-like peak on the chart for decades”, as Kurt Witschi outlines



in his book entitled: “Die Zeit: 12.30 Uhr.” (The Time is 12.30 p.m.). Few people could provide a better insight into the development of 90 years of news on Swiss radio than the former news editor. He himself influenced news editing at Swiss radio DRS (today SRF) for over 40 years in various positions. The author is able to draw upon vast experience and provides a fascinating look

behind the scenes of the “news factory” sprinkled with anecdotes of minor and major dramas. The extensive chapter on the Second World War period and the difficulties faced under censorship are especially absorbing. Anyone who has read this eloquently written book with its wealth of factual information will listen to radio news differently afterwards. JM



KURT WITSCHI: “DIE ZEIT: 12.30 UHR. 90 JAHRE NACHRICHTEN AM SCHWEIZER RADIO”, VERLAG NEUE ZÜRCHER ZEITUNG, ZÜRICH 2015, 248 PAGES, CHF 41.90