

Zeitschrift: Swiss review : the magazine for the Swiss abroad
Herausgeber: Organisation of the Swiss Abroad
Band: 43 (2016)
Heft: 1

Rubrik: Mailbag

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Mailbag

A new relationship with the wolf

We need to follow the Italian example of a new relationship between man and animals, especially the wolf. We need a new kind of pastoralism, with protective measures, shelters, and new ways of organising herds in order to do away with fears inherited from our ancestors and with the destruction of predators that are needed to maintain ecological balance and biodiversity. This is a great challenge, and it will take years to do what has to be done. Switzerland can do likewise, but what it really must not do is follow the French in their destructive and insane killing of everything that lives.

ELENA LACROIX JAEGGY, FRANCE

No restrictions on wild animals!

Switzerland is giving back to the animals what it has taken away over the last few centuries. It is understandable that farmers are unhappy about the losses caused by predators. Consequently, it is also right for the community to compensate for these losses. However, it is not coherent to immediately call for limits on predator populations when cars kill many times more wild animals, without calls for car travel to also be curbed. However, the discussion with wildlife biologist Reinhard Schnidrig showed that the Federal Office for the Environment has a very sensible leader on board. I would be interested to hear from him how many farm animals are killed by predators and how many wild animals are killed on the roads each year.

KLAUS NATTERER, GERMANY

Protection takes top priority

I read the comments about the wild animals with great interest as we too, here in Australia, have red hot debates about our assemblage of Australian carnivores. These of course have changed through time as a result of evolution, extinction and species introductions. Ecosystems are still in a state of flux as they adjust to the relatively recent arrival of foxes and cats, suppression of dingoes and many anthropogenic influences. Many of Australia's carnivores have suffered dramatic range declines, and many are threatened with extinction. Their intrinsic value alone makes them a priority for conservation. However, the persistence of other species, and of ecological processes, may also depend on predator conservation. The impacts of humans and introduced species are still playing out on the Australian landscape, and many carnivores are



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threatened with extinction. The shape of things to come will depend largely on the wildlife management practices of today. To maintain or restore the functioning ecosystems, wildlife managers must consider the ecological importance of predators.

JLEEB303, AUSTRALIA

Abolition of dual citizenship?

I read with great alarm in the last issue of *Swiss Review* that the idea of abolishing dual citizenship for Swiss people living abroad is being pursued in SVP circles. I worked for a heavily export-dependent major Swiss company in several host countries for a number of decades, and I became a citizen of one of these countries. My home country derived genuine economic benefits from my indirect representation of Swiss interests abroad. Because of my secondary residence in Switzerland, I also pay taxes, including direct federal tax. I find myself asking what Messrs Reimann, Brunner et al. find so repellent that they want to do away with dual citizenship for Swiss people living in other countries. What have these gentlemen tangibly done to promote Swiss exports or to generate inbound tourism, which is increasingly important for Switzerland? And I also find myself asking what I and my Swiss colleagues resident abroad have done to these parochial politicians to make them want to deny us our dual citizenship. In my view that would be a clumsy and unnecessary step towards further shutting off Switzerland from the rest of the world.

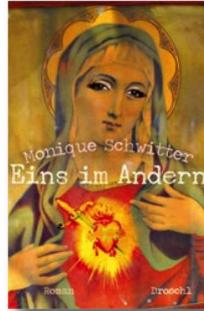
MARCEL F. KOHLER, USA

Under general suspicion

I read with amazement the article in the November issue in which some parliamentarians were seriously calling for the abolition of dual citizenship. At the same time, this suggestion is linked to a general suspicion about where dual citizens' loyalties lie in relation to Switzerland as an employer. I am shocked by this line of thought and wonder whether, by logical extension, the Swiss Guard in the Vatican should also be abolished? What about the loyalties of these Swiss men when they have an Argentinian as their boss? I urge all parliamentarians calling for the abolition of dual citizenship to take a long hard look at the wider world before attempting such a move in Switzerland. I regard this proposal as verging on obscene, and once again it reveals the double standards practised by some senior Swiss figures.

THOMAS ORT, GERMANY

A woman and her lovers



MONIQUE SCHWITTER:
"EINS IM ANDERN";
LITERATURVERLAG
DROSCHL, 2015;
232 PAGES; CHF 27.90;
AROUND 19 EUROS

"How many love affairs does one have? Oh, grandmother, what does love mean? How can it come and go?" The first person narrator ponders such questions in the novel "Eins im Andern" in which she recounts her relationships with men. There are twelve, like the number of apostles in the Bible. She starts off with her first love whose name she googles only to discover that he committed suicide. This triggers a significant chain of events for the narrator who is married and lives with her husband and two small children in Hamburg. She faces up to her past but also has to deal with her marital crisis. Will she overcome the crisis after escaping to her old home in Switzerland and manage to come to terms with the death of her brother at a young age? Will she find answers to her questions?

The author Monique Schwitter reveals much about herself here. The novel is based on autobiographical experiences but is enriched with fictional male characters and tales. The author is very inventive and plays with surreal elements, such as imaginary Morse code sounds and a flying penguin. There are many literary influences – which Schwitter, as a trained author and director, is able to draw upon to the full. The narrative levels switch between past and present and overlap one another. However, the scenes are only loosely in order and are not very interwoven. The novel depicts the life of a modern woman in her early forties and her search for the meaning of love and her coming to terms with loss. The first and final chapters are very convincing but the others seem very contrived and barely rounded. The narrative language often slips into banality.

Monique Schwitter, born in Zurich in 1972, today lives and works in Hamburg as a freelance writer. She was awarded the Swiss Book Prize for "Eins im Andern" in November 2015. Each year a jury of experts presents the award to the best newly published piece of prose or essay by a Swiss author at the international literature festival in Basel. The prize was established in 2008 by Literatur Basel and the Swiss association of booksellers and publishers. The prize-winning author has had short stories, a play and several novels published. The collection "Goldfischgedächtnis" (Mémoire de poisson rouge) has also been translated into French.

RUTH VON GUNTEN