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Stamp to mark “100 years of the OSA”

Special tribute is being paid to the OSA. Swiss Post is issuing a stamp to mark the organisation’s 100th anniversary in April. The one-franc stamp was designed by Bernese artist Tom Künzli.



Fewer foreigners arriving and more leaving

More foreigners left Switzerland in 2015 than in the previous year and fewer arrived. The Federal Statistical Office indicated that this trend occurred for the second consecutive year. The net figure of 71,495 immigrants is 9.4 % below that for 2014. In total, 150,459 foreign nationals moved to Switzerland, which is 1.1% fewer than in the previous year. The number departing rose by 6.1%. Some 73,444 foreign nationals left Swiss soil last year. At the end of 2015, there were 1,993,916 foreigners living in Switzerland, 68 % of them from EU/EFTA states. Italy topped the list with 313,725, followed by Germany with 301,548 and Portugal with 268,067.

Naturalisations rise again

The number of foreign nationals becoming naturalised Swiss citizens continually fell between 2006 and 2014 – from 45,700 to 32,800. The trend changed in 2015 with the number of naturalised persons standing at 40,600. Experts believe the trend reversal compared to recent years is attributable to popular initiatives, such as the mass immigration and implementing initiatives, which have caused a mood of uncertainty amongst foreign citizens.

Correction

An error was made in the German version of February’s “Swiss Review”: The focus topic on page 9 read “Integration ist ein einseitiger Prozess” (integration is a unilateral process). This was an error: “Integration is NEVER a unilateral process”.



Pierre Graber

He is causing a stir posthumously. Pierre Graber, Federal Councillor from 1970 to 1978, passed away in 2003 at the age of 94. He is believed to have concluded a secret standstill agreement with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) in the early 1970s. Research carried out by the NZZ suggests that, after several attacks against Switzerland, the PLO agreed to refrain from terrorist activities against our nation if Federal Councillor Graber ensured that Palestinian terrorism suspects were not prosecuted. Pierre Graber did not inform the other Federal Councillors about the deal, according to the NZZ.

“A foreigner is only foreign in a foreign place.”

CARL VALENTIN (1882 TO 1948), GERMAN AUTHOR AND COMEDIAN

“An enormous wave has hit Europe. We would do well to have good solutions, and I believe the Federal Council has good solutions.”

JOHANN SCHNEIDER-AMMANN, PRESIDENT OF THE SWISS CONFEDERATION, ON THE INFLUX OF REFUGEES

“Building castles in the sky costs nothing, but their destruction is very expensive.”

FRANÇOIS MAURIAC (1885 TO 1970), FRENCH AUTHOR

“It’s an absurd situation. Our companies recruit tens of thousands of workers from abroad each year while thousands of refugees fit for work obtain welfare benefits in Switzerland. Something is wrong there!”

FEDERAL COUNCILLOR SIMONETTA SOMMARUGA

“If you commit foolish acts, they must at least succeed.”

NAPOLEON BONAPARTE (1769–1821)

“If you do not set any limits, you reach your own.”

FEDERAL COUNCILLOR DORIS LEUTHARD

“Truth and politics rarely live under the same roof.”

STEFAN ZWEIG (1881 TO 1942), AUSTRIAN AUTHOR

“If immigration soars, political decisions must be made.”

FEDERAL COUNCILLOR GUY PARMELIN

“To be doing good deeds is man’s most glorious task.”

SOPHOCLES (DIED 406 BC), GREEK POET