

**Zeitschrift:** Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand  
**Herausgeber:** Swiss Society of New Zealand  
**Band:** 34 (1971)  
**Heft:** [12]  
  
**Rubrik:** Hedy's corner

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## GROUP TRAVEL 1972

The Society has finalised the Group Travel itinerary for next year as follows.—

**Wednesday, 19th July:** Depart Auckland 11.59 p.m. on U.T.A. French Airlines Flight UT 566A (DC-8). Arrive Papeete 6.50 a.m.

Thursday 20th: Papeete, day at leisure. Depart Quantas Boeing 707 11.25 p.m. Arrive Mexico City 1.10 p.m.

Saturday 22nd to Wednesday 26th: Five days in Mexico City.

Thursday 27th: Depart DC-8 Aeronaves de Mexico 9.15 a.m. Tranship for New York/Zurich Swissair Flight SR 101 (DC-8).

Arrive New York 3.40 p.m. Depart New York 9.30 p.m.

Friday 28th: Zurich Kloten. Arrive 10.55 a.m.

**Tuesday, 12th September:** Zurich, Swissair DC-8. Depart 12.50 p.m.

Wednesday 13th: Hong Kong. Arrive 4.15 p.m.

Thursday 14th to Saturday 16th: Hong Kong, 3 days at leisure.

Saturday 16th: Hong Kong, Pan American Flight PA 812. Depart 9 p.m.

Sunday 17th: Sydney. Arrive 10.45 a.m. Depart for N.Z. (Auckland) by Air New Zealand Flight TE 556A (DC-8) 5.15 p.m. Arrive Auckland 10 p.m.

This itinerary gives ample time for pleasure in Tahiti, five days in Mexico and three days in Hong Kong.

Cost of trip per adult (based on a group of 15) NZ\$1021 (not included are hotel meals, sightseeing personal expenses).

● **Please write now to our Secretary for pamphlets and further information.**

## HEDY'S CORNER

DEAR CHILDREN, in Switzerland one tells the boys and girls a lovely story as to how the Christmas tree came into being. Of necessity — owing to limited space — I must tell it to you in as few words as possible:

Once upon a time there was a conifer tree, but it did not like its needle-like leaves. So it said: "I wish I had golden leaves". Next morning it woke up and lo and behold it was covered with golden leaves! But a man came along, carrying a bag, and as he saw the golden leaves he plucked them all off the tree and took them away in his bag.

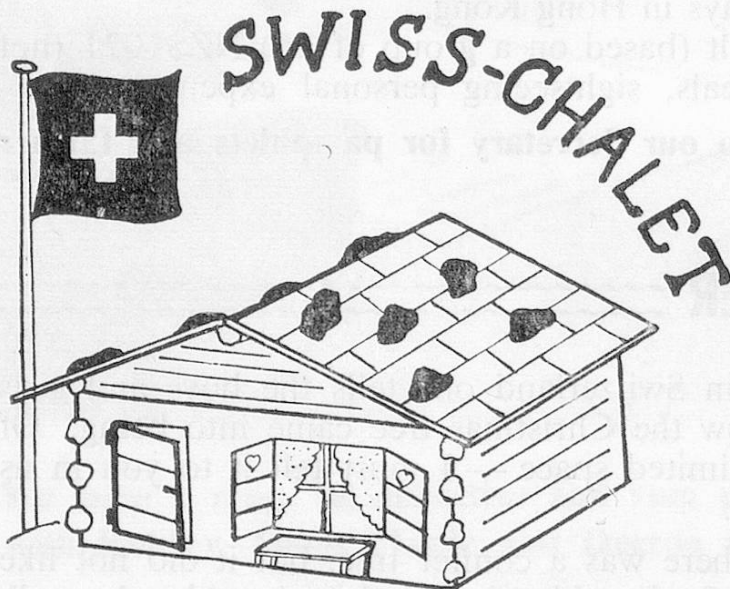
"Oh dear me", said the conifer tree, "I wish I had leaves of glass". And again when waking up the next morning it had leaves of glass, and they glittered in the sunlight. But suddenly a strong

wind started to blow and it blew all the glass leaves on to the ground where they broke into pieces.

"Oh dear", said the tree, "I wish I had green leaves like other trees. No man will put them in his bag and no wind will shake them off". Next morning there were green leaves on the conifer tree. But . . . along came a goat and saw these fresh, green leaves and as the tree was small the goat could reach all the tender leaves and ate the whole lot!

Again the tree stood there all sad and bare. And it said: "Never again shall I want leaves, if only I could have my prickly needles again!" And very sadly did it go to sleep. Next morning, to its great joy, it was covered with the loveliest green needles and no man picked them, no wind shook them to the ground and no goat ate them. And in winter time its needle coat was still green when the other trees were all bare. And it so happened that when Santa Claus walked through the forest and saw the evergreen tree, he said to himself: "This tree would make a beautiful Christmas tree". He took it along with him, covered it with glittering adornments, hung gifts on to its branches, put lovely candles on to its branches and brought it into the home of some good and obedient children on Christmas Day.

And this is the story of how the Christmas tree came about.—  
Taken from a free translation of the poet Rückert.



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