Zeitschrift: Helvetia: magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand

Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand

Band: 35 (1972)

Heft: [12]

Artikel: Broadcasting an anniversary for Switzerland

Autor: Trevor, John

DOI: https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-942199

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. Mehr erfahren

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. En savoir plus

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. Find out more

Download PDF: 04.01.2026

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, https://www.e-periodica.ch



A Christmas Message from the Committee of the Swiss Society

The Committee of the Swiss Society wish to extend to all their members and friends the Season's Greetings.

Christmas is traditionally a time for exchanging gifts with family and friends; a time when people the world over wish for "Peace on earth and goodwill to all men". We trust that Christmas will be for everyone the best ever yet, and that the New Year 1973 will bring with it a new-found happiness and peace for which the world has long awaited.

A. K. Binder, President.



BROADCASTING AN ANNIVERSARY FOR SWITZERLAND

(By John Trevor)

BROADCASTING in Switzerland is just fifty years old. From early beginnings which received little official encouragement, it has grown into a responsible service covering the country with radio and television programmes and also broadcasting to the world on shortwaves. There are special problems to be overcome, because of the country's varied racial, linguistic and cultural composition, and there is a particular obligation to further national unity and understanding.

To the city of Lausanne goes the honour of building Switzer-land's first transmitter. In February 1822 the municipality gave permission for it to be constructed on the Champ-de-l'Air airfield, mainly to serve the needs of air navigation and communications. It was run by Radio Suisse, the telecommunications company which is also fifty years old this year.

This transmitter was only the third in Europe. It broadcasts on long waves only and to make the transmissions a little more interesting for the pilots, light music and newscasts were broadcast as well.

No Further

Little by little, local transmitters started in several parts of Switzerland. In those pioneering days the Swiss Government was not interested in the new-fangled communication media. It gave no support, financial or otherwise, and on at least one occasion voiced active opposition.

This was at the end of 1922 when a physicist in Zurich, Dr Gustav Eichhorn, started up an Institute of Broadcasting and sought a permit for public demonstrations of radio reception.

He got a stiff refusal from the Swiss Posts, Telegraph and Telephones undertaking, which a little earlier had been given the

exclusive right to build and operate radio installations.

"Accept this official statement from me", wrote a disapproving PTT official, "that we shall not allow radio to develop any further in Switzerland. Your Institute is therefore completely purposeless". Despite this official damper, there were already nearly one thousand radio receiving licence holders at the end of 1923.

Radio co-operatives were formed in different parts of the country — like the one in Zurich, where in August 1924 the first Swiss transmitter exclusively for broadcasting purposes was opened.

Similar developments in other countries meant that broadcasting had to be regulated internationally and first steps towards this were taken at a conference in Geneva in 1924 — long before Switzerland's own local stations began to get together.

The Swiss stations began loose co-operation in 1926 when they formed the Swiss Broadcasting Union. Two years later proposals were made to build national transmitters for the various language regions of Switzerland. At last in 1931, when the number of licence holders was over 100,000, the various local co-operatives and societies formed the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation.

National Interests

Under the licence granted by the Government, the technical operation of the transmitters was the job of the PTT, while the studio societies were to build and run the studios themselves. The Corporation and the studios were responsible for the programme services for which certain guidelines were laid down.

The radio was to further cultural, spiritual, moral, religious and artistic values. Objectivity was to be the rule, and the need for rapid information and satisfactory entertainment was to be filled. The programmes were pledged to serve the interests of the nation and — an important point in a land with diverse cultures and languages — to strengthen national unity and harmony, as well as contributing to international understanding.

Now that the national audiences were being catered for, the interests of another section had to be considered — the many thousands of Swiss citizens living abroad, the "Auslandschweizer"

of whom the homeland is proud and whom it calls "The Fifth Switzerland", regarding them as an extension of the four national cultures, German, French, Italian and Romansch.

Experimental broadcasts began as long ago as 1935 from Pragins, West Switzerland. The transmitting centre at Schwarzenburg was opened in 1939. The shortwave service, now known as the European and Overseas Service, has made big strides in recent years, and broadcasts in several languages.

Round the Clock

Aiming at strengthening the links between Swiss living abroad and the mother country and also at presenting Switzerland's image to the world, the service broadcasts round the clock.

But the biggest post-war development for the Swiss Broad-casting Corporation has been television. The introduction of television was bound up with considerable opposition from existing media and there were also some surprising miscalculations. It was thought that the Swiss would not take easily to this new form of entertainment, and there were also dire forecasts that television would be a health hazard and would have a bad effect on family life.

The first experimental TV broadcasts started in July 1953. At the same time the Swiss were active internationally and it was Swiss initiative that led to the Eurovision organisation being

SYLVANA WINES

Turangi



All Roads Lead to Turangi

► Highway No. 1

■

— Speciality Table Wines —

Proprietor:

MAX A. MULLER TURANGI TOWN CENTRE created. The first Eurovision transmission was from West Switzerland in 1954, when the Narcissus festival at Montreux was featured.

Wrong Estimates

This made a big impression abroad and at home, too, and contrary to expectations, the Swiss took to TV. When the service officially started in 1958, there were about 31,000 licences in force. Estimates were that in ten years time there would be around a quarter of a million. In fact the figure was nearly 900,000 and it has since grown to nearly 1,500,000, which is almost blanket coverage. Colour TV has also made its appearance and there are now more than 150,000 licences for colour reception.

-From Swissair Gazette

SPORTS RESULTS FROM SWITZERLAND

Neue Spannung dank Niederlagen von GC und Basel

Leader Basel verlor in Sitten 1:2, und die Grasshoppers unterlagen in Winterthur 1:3. Die Spitzengruppe rückte deshalb wieder näher zusammen. Vier Klubs weisen jetzt nur noch zwei Punkte Rückstand auf Basel auf. Nur Unentschieden für Neuenburg-Xamax und Chenois in der Nationalliga B.

Fussball-Resultate

Nationalliga A:

Meisterschaft Nationalliga A:		
La Chaux-de-Fonds - Lausanne	0:4	(0:0)
Winterthur - Grasshoppers 3:1	(2:0))
Young Boys - Chiasso 3:2 (3:1)		

Meisterschaft Nationalliga B: Etoile Carouge - Chenois 1:1 (1:0) Young Fellows - Martigny 1:1 (0:1) Mendrisiostar - Aarau 2:0 (0:0) a. T. Lugano - Freiburg 1:1 (0:1)
) Servette-Grenchen 2:0 (1:0)
Sitten - Basel 2:1 (0:0)
Zurich - St. Gallen 5:3 (3:0)

Biel - Bellinzona 2:0 (1:0) Bruhl - Wettingen 3:2 (1:0) Buochs - Luzern 0:1 (0:1) Vevey - N'burg-Xamax 0:0

Die Ranglisten

1 a ti Ullating a	LA .												
1. Basel		1 8	3	3	28:20	19	8. Lausanne	14	5	4	5	26:19	14
2. Winterthur	14	1 6	5	3	26:14	17	9. Young Boys	14	6	2	6	20:18	14
3. G'hoppers	14	1 7	3	4	21:20	17	10. La ChdFds.	14	4	5	5	19:25	13
4. Sitten	14	1 7	3	4	21:20	17	11. Chiasso	14	5	2	7	12:23	12
5. Lugano	14	1 6	5	3	15:15	17	12. Freiburg	14	2	5	7	13:21	9
6. Servette	1	4 7	2	5	22-15	16	13. St. Gallen	14	3	2	9	17:30	8
7. Zurich	1	4 7	2	5	22-17	16	14. Grenchen	14	2	3	9	9:25	7
Nationalliga B:													
1. NXamax	14	10	2	2	45:17	22	8. Wettingen	14	4	5	5	14:22	13
2. Biel	14	9	2	3	30:18	20	9. Vevey	14	5	2	7	27:24	12
3. Chenois	14	8	3	3	27:15	19	10. Et. Carouge	14	4	4	6	19:27	12
4. Luzern	14	7	4	3	28:15	18	11. Bellinzona	14	3	5	6	12:16	11
5. Y. Fellows	14	6	3	5	20:20	15	12. Bruhl	14	3	5	6	18:26	11
6. Mend'star	14	5	5	4	15:20	15	13. Aarau	14	2	4	8	12:23	8
7. Martigny	14	6	3	5	15:23	14	14. Buochs	14	1	4	9	18:34	6
- 0													