

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 37 (1973)
Heft: [12]

Artikel: Labour shortage at the Vatican : not enough Swiss Guards
Autor: [s.n.]
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-942182>

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: 19.08.2025

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

SWISSFAB IMPORTS

are proud to represent

ENICAR

Finest Quality Swiss Watches
and also other world-famous names
PRICES RANGE FROM \$15 UPWARDS

We Shall Be Pleased to Answer
Your Mail Enquiries

Our Postal Address is
P.O. BOX 2871, AUCKLAND, 1

Labour Shortage at the Vatican

Not enough Swiss Guards

THE VATICAN is suffering from an acute labour shortage in one particular and important department: Security.

Owing to the growing difficulty of finding new recruits for the Swiss guards, the Pope is at present inadequately protected. The disbanding of the Palatine and the Noble Guards in 1970 left our compatriots at St. Peter's overburdened. While there should theoretically be a hundred Swiss *hallberdiers* in Rome, there are at present only 66. Twenty-six volunteers have strengthened this force during the summer, but the solution was only temporary. Recent wage increases, benefits and improved conditions have made the job more attractive. But to seek employment in the Vatican goes against the times. Colonel Franz Pfygger von Altishofen, 56, who assumed responsibility for the Swiss Guard last year, explains this by the decline in religious fervour, and by a greater job availability at home. Another important factor is the ban on marriage imposed on all young recruits. They must moreover show exemplary standards of morality. This may be asking a lot of many young people today. Those who are busy marshalling tourists on St. Peter's Square are nevertheless said to be quite content with their present situation.