

**Zeitschrift:** Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand  
**Herausgeber:** Swiss Society of New Zealand  
**Band:** 40 (1975)  
**Heft:** [4]  
  
**Artikel:** Novelty in the transport of liquids  
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**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-945688>

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## A New Type of Boat

With conventional shaped hulls, it is not always easy to obtain a satisfactory compromise between stability, manoeuvrability, load and performance. Now there are many cases, not only in professional and commercial boating but also in amateur sailing, where it is desirable to try and reconcile these different requirements. A Lausanne (Vaud, Switzerland) engineering and construction firm has designed, produced and patented a new type of boat, the "Batosphere", offering several advantages: this extremely stable boat is symmetrical along both axes and practically impossible to capsize; in addition, it retains full and instant manoeuvrability at all speeds. This boat also offers good loading possibilities, has a large gross tonnage, and its centre of gravity can be placed very high; finally, it has a very good power/performance ratio. The special shape of the hull reduces the torsion and flexion stresses experienced in heavy swells and makes possible an optimum distribution of these strains. At the moment, there is already on the market a sailing boat for three people, the "Sferana I" and an electrically propelled boat for lifeguards, the "Sferana II". Trials with a double centre-board, convertible into a dinghy with an outboard motor, the "Bubble", have been successfully completed and this model is ready to go into production. In the field of commercial shipping, preliminary plans have been worked out for lifeboats, platforms for port work and drilling, ferries, tugs and push-boats. The Swiss firm is offering its knowhow and licences to anyone interested in becoming a partner, as well as to shipyards and operators; on request, it is prepared to study and produce production files for all new types of "Batosphere". (SODT)

## Novelty In The Transport Of Liquids

A new drum for transporting and stocking liquids, in particular distilled products or fruit juices, has been produced by a firm at Muri (Aargau, Switzerland), specialising in the manufacture of plastic packagings. It is an unbreakable container in low pressure polyethylene, which—being perfectly stable—can be palletised and stored in piles; it can be printed on by means of stencils or provided with labels. For the transport of liquids, the new drum is provided with a sealed lid, which is replaced for emptying by a different lid with a tap; being only 12 mm in external diameter, the tap can fit into the narrow-necked bottles in general use today. Thanks to a new technique, a solution has been found to the problem of emptying the tilted container, an operation that is usually quite difficult to carry out, owing to the fact that when the drum is almost empty, the pressure can only be compensated through the tap, which slows up the flow. That is why this drum has been fitted with a special valve compensating the pressure, fixed in the handle of the container. This method makes it possible therefore to fill bottles very easily and quickly with liquids stored in tanks. (SODT)