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VIEW FROM OUR READERS

Here is a letter received from Mr. P.R. Foy, Parish Priest of St Mary's in Tauranga. Unfortunately, it arrived too late for your March Helvetia, so it had to wait for this April issue.

"Yesterday the Parishioners of St Mary's Church in Tauranga were privileged to host a visit from the Swiss Yodelling Choir "BÄRGGLÖGGLI SCHÖTZ". They were visiting this city for cultural and leisure pursuits and came on Sunday to share in the Parish Mass. Our Parish is renowned for its participation in singing at all ceremonies, so by talking beforehand with the choirmaster, we were able to arrange for times when the Choir would sing and when the congregation were able to sing in English the music as arranged by the Liturgy committee for that Sunday celebration.

Certainly the 750 congregation were enthralled with choral efforts sometimes in German and other times in a Swiss dialect. The twenty-four strong choir were pleased with the excellent acoustics and the Parishioners and visitors were enthralled with the Choir's melodious singing, especially the "yodelling" which is so different for New Zealanders. Their contribution enhanced our Liturgy and afterwards the brass band gave items outdoors away from the Church.

All told it was a lovely morning and we were blessed by the Swiss Choir's presence. They certainly were welcome tourists.

P.R. FOY, Parish Priest

HISTORY OF THE SWISS BANK NOTES

In our February issue we printed an article on this subject which prompted the following reply from one of our readers:

Dear Mr. Sigerist

As a numismatist and collector of Swiss currency, I was interested in the item on Swiss banknotes in the February issue of Helvetia. It is perhaps misleading to say that there was no unified Swiss currency prior to 1907. National banknotes of a sort existed from 1883, when "Concordat" notes of uniform Design and Denomination in Francs were issued

by individual banks. Only prior to this date did each canton issue its own coins, in its own local Denomination. I would very much welcome more information on Swiss coins and banknotes in future issues of Helvetia.

Yours sincerely
Flemming Sorensen

Many thanks to Mr. Sorensen for putting matters right. If any readers have more information on this subject, please drop us a line (*The Editor*).

RÜTLI AND NOT GRÜTLI

Max Krieg of Warkworth pointed out to the Editor in a most friendly and good-natured way that Moritz Alemann made a "capital mistake" in his letter published in the March issue under the Auckland Swiss Club News where, at the very end of his letter, he mentioned the word "GRÜTLI" when the correct word should have been "RÜTLI".

Note from the Editor: Now to confuse everybody our dictionary mentions both words, so we are not quite sure ourselves which is supposed to be correct or whether both are correct. Can anyone throw some light on this most important issue?

WATCHES AT A PRICE

The Swiss art of watchmaking is still unsurpassed in the world. Here are six examples of the most complicated and most expensive watches put on the market recently.



800.000 SFR. "1735" from Blancpain made of platinum with perpetual calendar and moon phases plus gyrorator to compensate earth's gravity (what on earth for?).



202.000 SFR. "Pasha" from Cartier made of massive gold with perpetual calendar, moon phases and chimes



125.000 SFR. "3470" from Breguet: made of 18 carat gold with perpetual calendar and indication of operating reserve.



98.000 SFR. "Tourbillon" from Daniel Roth: made of 18 carat gold. Central part is the gyrorator to compensate earth's gravity.



74.050 SFR. "Skeleton" from Vacheron Constantin: made of 18 carat gold with perpetual calendar and skeletal face.



66.000 SFR. "Tellurium" from Ulysse Nardin: made of 18 carat gold with world map, day and night separation line and signs of the Zodiac.

Do you really need all these gadgets when all you want is to know what time it is?