

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 62 (1996)
Heft: [5]

Artikel: Billions of confetti
Autor: [s.n.]
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-944876>

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Rotorua, 6.5.96

Pia Marty, 8 Cedar Place, Rotorua

Dear Swiss Club Member,

I am a Swiss primary school teacher and since March 96 a proud resident of New Zealand. At the time being I am employed at Owhata Primary School in Rotorua where I teach a lively bunch of J1/2 pupils.

Gradually I am coming to grips with the New Zealand education system, comparing it constantly with our Swiss system. Obviously I can't help it.

The reason why I address you is the fact, that I would be very interested in teaching children according to the Swiss curriculum and still have the benefit of living in New Zealand. If there are any families with children in schooling age who intend to return to Switzerland and would like their children to be taught in German (or bilingual), able to make a smooth transition back to their classroom I'd be happy to offer my service. Should you learn of any such requests (including private tuition) stated by any of your club members, I'd be grateful if you let me know. A complete CV and references would be submitted.

In the meantime I hope that you and you Swiss club members enjoy the beauty of New Zealand as much as I do.

Thanks for your efforts.

Yours faithfully

Pia Marty

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BILLIONS OF CONFETTI

There is only one single factory in Switzerland specialised in the manufacturing of confetti. The factory is situated in Näfels (Glarus) and produces over 200 tons of confetti per year, or, in other words, some 126 billion of them. Over 20 people are employed year round to supply the Swiss market with these little bits of paper. So if you care to count your confetti, you will find that in an average bag of 100 gr, there are some 68,000 confetti give and take a few. Interesting fact: the special non-flammable paper required for confetti is imported from Hungary. Of course confetti are great fun for everyone except for the poor people in charge of the stormwater system who, after public festivities, have the unenviable job of stopping these millions of bits of paper from clogging up their drains.

700 JAHRE SCHWEIZ

Vom Arbeitsamt da komm' ich her
Und weiss jetzt: Stellen gibt's nicht mehr.
Überall, auf Stufen und Kanten, Sitzen
Asylanten mit Verwandten. Und
draussen vor verschlossenem Tor,
Stehen geduldig Schweizer davor. Und
wie ich so gehe am Bahnhof vorbei, Da
seh' ich nur Leute aus der Türkei. Sie
feilschen und füllen mit Geld ihre
Taschen, Da gucken wir dumm, wir
Schweizer, wir Flaschen. Dann fahr'
ich nach Hause mit dem Bus, Vor mir
sitzt ein Wolgadeutscher Russ, Und
wie ich weiter sitze und Zeitung lese,
Kommt noch ein geflohener Vietnam-
ese. Ich gehe nach Hause - wer steht in
der Diele? Ein wohnungssuchender
Tamile. Auch an Renten ist für mich
nicht's mehr zu holen, Denn leider: Wir
kommen ja nicht aus Polen. Drum, lieber
Herr Arbenz, sei unser Gast, Und gib
uns Schweizern, was Du noch übrig
hast. Der Ali hat Kohle, der Hassan hat
Drogen, Der Schweizer zahlt und wird
noch betrogen. Drum sei dies' Gedicht



ALPAUFZUG

As the picture shows, in this modern world the word "Alpaufzug" has now a totally new meaning. Nothing to do any more with taking a heard of cows up to the mountains for summer grazing. There is no road access to the 2000 m high Bettmeralp (Wallis). The only way to get there is on foot or by cable car. But the inhabitants still have to dispose of their household rubbish somehow. So every week the rubbish collection truck is taken to the Bettmeralp by cable car and, once loaded, taken down again the same way. Obviously a very efficient way of disposing of your rubbish as this procedure requires a minimum of handling. Very clever, but someone had to think of it.

nun endlich zu Ende, In der Hoffnung,
Herr Arbenz, es gibt eine Wende. (Con-
tribution by Emil FLEPP)



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