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faint-hearted. Sometimes it went like a breeze but other times it was a real mental challenge and often very hectic to meet deadlines. But, in compensation, I must say that it was fun too. Not one minute during all these 5 years did I ever regret having taken on this benevolent job.

When I set out to produce the new *Helvetia*, I decided to make it a magazine that everyone could enjoy, a magazine that would foster some closer bonds amongst the Swiss in New Zealand, a magazine that the whole Swiss community here could identify with and be proud of.

For these reasons I was occasionally forced to refuse to publish certain articles and advertisements sent to me, not because I was personally against them, but purely because they did not fit into the framework nor into the aims of the magazine. Articles that could be considered as defamatory and libellous by some reader groups and comparative advertising, where one company uses advertising space to denigrate the products or services of another advertiser, have no place in a magazine like *Helvetia* and therefore I refused to publish such items.

For my firm stand on this issue I have been criticised, attacked and even abused, but I stood firm on my principles that the *Helvetia* was here to unite our small ethnic community in New Zealand and certainly not to divide it.

Over the past 5 years, several readers, concerned with the environment, wrote in to ask that the *Helvetia* should

be printed on recycled rather than on glossy paper. In response to these requests, our printer, Peter Schüpbach, advised as follows:

a) The reproduction of some of the photos made available to us (mainly those out of newspapers) was extremely difficult even on glossy paper. These photos would not have come out at all on mat paper.

b) As the *Helvetia* was always a small run, Peter usually used left-over glossy paper from other jobs. So the cost of printing on glossy paper was invariably cheaper, faster and of better quality than on recycled mat paper.

And now, before I bow out of my job, please allow me to express my thanks to all those who helped me and in fact made the continuous production of the *Helvetia* possible.

My most sincere thanks go:

- To all you readers and subscribers who accepted (understandably with a certain amount of reluctance on occasions) to pay for the higher costs involved.

- To all the advertisers whose financial support was absolutely invaluable. Because of the small circulation of the *Helvetia*, many advertisers knew they would not get immediate financial benefits from their advertisements. For many it is more like a sponsorship of the magazine rather than a revenue spinning publicity campaign and for this support we are all tremendously thankful.

- To all the staff of the Embassy of

Switzerland in Wellington who regularly supplied me with the background material without which this magazine could never have been produced in its present form.

- To all the members of the Committee of the Swiss Society who gave me their full confidence and left me to get on with the job without any interference.

- To all Secretaries and Riflemen from the various Swiss Clubs who helped me tremendously by sending in their contributions right on time for each issue. It certainly made my job a whole lot easier.

- To the two typesetters, Edi Brändli first and Fred Tobler later on for their prompt work on the final layout of each issue.

- To Peter Schüpbach for his excellent printing work.

- To those members of the Auckland Swiss Club who every month got together to fold and dispatch the magazine.

- To the Treasurer of the Swiss Society whose job it was to rake in all the money from the advertisers.

- To all those members up and down the country who supplied me with some valuable material over the years, in particular my friend Emil Flepp of Wellington. On the other hand, my sincere apologies to all those whose articles and contributions did not find their way into the magazine, mostly because of lack of space.

- And last but not least, my most sincere thanks to my wife Tineke who for 5 years was deprived of my company on most weekends, many evenings and quite a few nights when work on the magazine could not be put off because of deadlines. Above all I valued her ready acceptance that for 5 long years any form of holidays had to be put on hold since time between two publications was simply never long enough to allow for a breather or a break for a few days to get away.

To sum it all up, the production of the *Helvetia* has been extremely demanding on my free time, but it has been fun and challenging and I am very grateful to have been given the opportunity by the Swiss community of New Zealand to become the Editor of its very own magazine. All in all it has been a very rewarding experience and I sincerely wish the new Editor and his Committee as much pleasure in this job as I had myself.

To all you Swiss readers, wherever you may be in New Zealand: Thanks for your support and So Long. Henry Sigerist

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### NOTE TO SECRETARIES

Next issue of the *Helvetia* magazine: JULY 1997. All contributions must be in by 15 JUNE. From now on send them to the Editing Committee of the Hamilton Swiss Club. Many thanks for your kind cooperation.