

**Zeitschrift:** Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand  
**Herausgeber:** Swiss Society of New Zealand  
**Band:** 63 (1997)  
**Heft:** [7]  
  
**Vorwort:** Editorial  
**Autor:** Rust, Rinaldo

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## Editorial



A reflection on: 1. August celebration / my computer / William Tell / Jesus Christ.

What a combination of themes for an editorial, you'll say and you would be right. - But let me explain!

By the time you read these lines you will most likely have observed our national day celebration in one form or another. If you have recently had any contact with, or news from our "old country Switzerland", you will also have heard of problems and accusations Switzerland is dealing with at the moment. These problems and accusations seem so far away for us here in New Zealand and yet they can disturb our memories of an

earlier Switzerland in a very painful way.

Working with my computer and a catalogue of electronic book-images, recently, I came across a funny combination of images as shown above. I happened to browse within the index of "People with Christian Religion". To my astonishment and great amusement I found a familiar image of William Tell between two images of the crucified Christ. Well, the crossbow of our old folk hero William Tell and the wooden cross of Jesus Christ have a similar shape I thought forgivingly. Thinking about the mission of our legendary folk hero and comparing it with the mission of Jesus Christ, I found some startling similarities. Didn't both, William Tell and Jesus Christ bring the same message of freedom and hope, I asked myself? Weren't they both mystical figures and yet so very real? The worldly-political William Tell bringing free-

dom leading to the neutral country of our forebears, the other, Jesus Christ, bringing freedom from slavery of sin and spiritual destruction. And how successful have both of these missions been? Is Switzerland not still struggling and paying a price for a political neutral way of life? Is Switzerland and the world not still struggling with the adoption of the ideals of a true Christian life style?

I suppose we will all answer these questions in our own way, but hopefully we will never lose hope for neutral countries like Switzerland to retain their neutrality and for Christian people around the world to live up to a true Christian life-style.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The July Issue of *HELVETIA* has prompted a most welcome letter of encouragement from Mr. W.R. Simmens, Chargé d'Affaires of the Swiss Embassy in Wellington.

- However, commenting on the Wellington Swiss Club-logo, Mr. Simmens points out an unfortunate aspect of the design. The logo could indeed imply some special connection between The Embassy and the Wellington Swiss Club.

Here is an extract from Mr. Simmens's letter:

*The Swiss Embassy has no particular affiliation with the Wellington Swiss Club which could in any way be deemed to be a "special relationship" compared with that of any other Swiss Club in the country.*

A letter of thanks has been sent to Mr. Simmens for pointing out the negative implications the logo could have.

Please feel free to send any comments, constructive criticism, suggestions, etc. for inclusion in this column. Obviously we insist on your signature but your contribution may be published under a nom-de-plume.

## Society President's Report

With a great sigh of relief, I have made friends with my computer and it usually does what I ask of it, to the extent that it even printed some labels for me! Our first *HELVETIA* reached all your mailboxes on time, and about six of us managed to get

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