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such measures bring about. This brought the once top of the class airline into disrepute, not least with the Swiss themselves. Here in New Zealand we experienced this grim situation by Swissair no longer being associated with our Society.

Upon seeing their advertising in the program of the Swiss Abroad Congress, I requested some further information and as a result, I was contacted by Swissair through their Auckland agent. With less than three weeks to go before our proposed departure date, we were informed that a special package between Singapore Airlines and Swissair had been put together. The price was still considerably higher than one of the more competitive ones, but it also included an extra free trip to any destination within Swissair's European network.

What made me decide to accept this package? Over the past 25 years we have travelled with many good Airlines flying through Asia, and I haven't found that there is any significant overall difference between them. So I just felt it would be a good idea, and the perfect opportunity, to put Swissair's reputation (such as it was) to the test.

With the added bonus of visiting another European city, I can honestly say, without prejudice, that Swissair is on an equal footing with the others. It shows that no Airline that wants to succeed in this highly competitive industry can possibly afford to be otherwise, and they are to be congratulated.

So now, as a result of the correspondence and renewed contact that has taken place between myself and Swissair over recent times, it is pleasing to see Swissair beginning to reaffirm its association with the Swiss Society.

Heinz Leuenberger
Delegate for the Swiss Abroad.

Wisdom

It is one of life's hardest things to accept ones fellow human beings as they really are, instead of wanting them as one would like them to be!

Friedrich Glauser
Translated from German

Survey by Helen Baumer

Over the summer months an MA student at the University of Auckland, Helen Baumer, has been conducting interviews with Swiss to find out what prompted them to come here and how they have adapted to the Kiwi way of life.

Helen Baumer, who lived 17 years in Zurich herself and is Swiss by marriage, wanted to know how much of their Swiss outlook on life and their Swiss custom the immigrants had retained. She was also interested to find out about the Swiss contribution to postwar New Zealand life.

Helen says that in 1944 the number of Swiss registered at the Embassy in Wellington was 316. In October 1997 it was 5236. For a number of reasons, both figures probably underestimate the actual number of Swiss living in New Zealand. Nevertheless the rise in numbers after the Second World War has been dramatic: an increase by a factor of more than sixteen.

She has spoken to 50 individuals or couples from the Auckland, Waikato and Thames/Coromandel areas, representing not only a cross section of the six decades of the post-war period, but also a wide range of professions including academics, business people, farmers, traders, trades people, a musician and even a best-selling author. Although most of the post-war immigrants have been German-speaking, she has also interviewed a small number of French and Italian-speaking Swiss.

The results of the interviews will be analysed for her MA thesis, and a report will appear in a later edition of HELVETIA.

Helen Baumer may be known to some readers of Helvetia as a former editor of the newsletter of the New Zealand club in Switzerland (now edited by Celia Baumann).

She was also the editor of an English-language monthly in Switzerland then called Swiss Scene and now called Swiss News. She contributed articles to the business monthly SwissBusiness and worked later as English translator at the Home Office of Zurich Insurance Group. She returned to New Zealand in June 1995 with her son Tis, and hopes to work as a lecturer after completing her MA in German in mid 1998.



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