

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 73 (2007)
Heft: [10]

Inhaltsverzeichnis

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

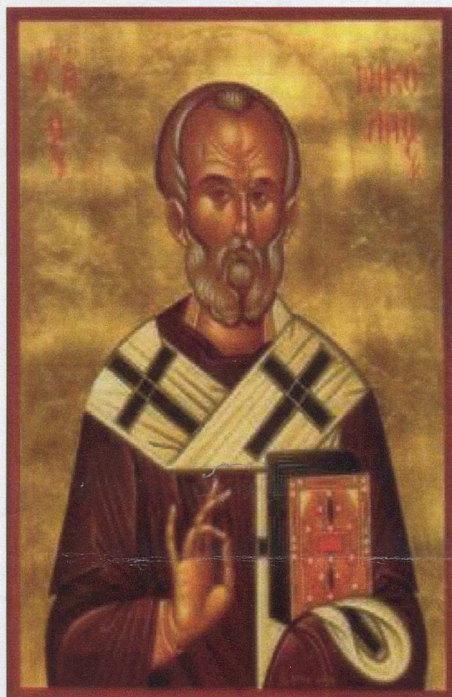
The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 09.08.2025

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

Saint Nicholas, Man and Myth

The story of Nicholas is told in many books in as many different ways – typical of a myth that has been over 1600 years in the making. All sources seem to agree that Nicholas died on 6 December, though the exact year of his death, in early or mid 4th century, is less clear.



His parents left the young man well off. Nicholas was a devout Christian and attended the local church every day. Following the death of the Bishop of Myra (modern Antalya) a committee was guided to appoint as the next bishop the first person to enter this church on the following day. The first person to arrive was Nicholas, and so he became the new bishop.

Many of the legends that surround Bishop Nicholas centre

around his miraculous deeds and charitable acts, the latter with the common element that Nicholas gave away his riches in secret.

The story that was to associate Nicholas with Christmas concerned an impoverished nobleman in Myra who could not afford the dowries needed for the marriages of his three daughters. Nicholas, on hearing of the family's problem, is said to have provided a bag of gold to pay for the eldest daughter's wedding. As was his practice, he did it secretly, by tossing the bag through an open window at night.

The procedure was successfully repeated for the middle daughter, but a problem arose as the youngest daughter required her dowry in the winter when the window was firmly shut at night. Nicholas solved this problem by quietly climbing on to the roof of the house and dropping the bag of gold down the chimney. Some say it landed in a stocking that was hung up to dry by the fire, others say that it landed in a shoe.

Nicholas was buried in Myra and within 200 years of his death he was revered widely. When he was made a Catholic saint, his feast day was celebrated on 6th December.

He is one of the most loved of the minor saints and he quickly became patron saint of children and sailors.

After Myra and the area around it had fallen to the Muslims, the remains of Nicholas were removed from Myra and taken for safe keeping to Bari in Italy, where his supposed relics still lie.

Merry Christmas



to all the members
of the Swiss Society of NZ Inc
from the Helvetia team

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Editorial/President's word	2
Bodensee Afterthoughts	3
Club News	4-6
Hodler climbs to new heights	6
Children's page	7
Oh Tannenbaum	8
Klausjagen	9
Let the flu come/Book review/Poem	10
Cinema in remote villages	11
OECD calls for farming reform	12
Paragliding in Switzerland	13
Federer hometown refuses to take centre court/Recipe	14
25 years of traditional fine meats/Another recipe	15
Poinsettia	16