

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

Artikel: Klausjagen
Autor: Brühlmann, Trudi
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-944376>

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

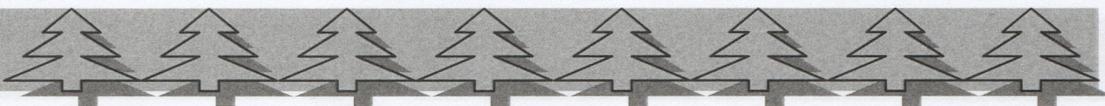
L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées 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: 08.01.2026

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



Klausjagen

On December 5, the eve of St. Nicholas Day, the village of Küssnacht, on the shores of Lake Lucerne, glows in the light of some two hundred enormous, transparent bishops' mitres which have been artfully designed, cut out of



Klausjagen

cardboard, put together, and lit by a candle from within.

This Iffele, or headdress, is worn by the men and more recently women as well. They accompany St. Nicholas on his way through the village. The streets echo with the sound of heavy bells worn by strong men around their necks, horn blowing, and especially the triad rhythm of a brass band accompanying the chant of "Mänz, Mänz, Bodefridimänz".



Headdress or Iffele

Clemens (Mänz) Ulrich tried unsuccessfully in the 1920s to convert the wild chasing of St. Nicholas by village youths into something more civilized. His successors had better luck in 1928 when they

founded an association to maintain and preserve the Klausjagen custom.

In its earlier and even current form, the custom reflects ancient cultic origins which are only superficially hidden by the appearance

of St. Nicholas in his bishop's robes.

The Whipcrackers, whose noise proclaims the arrival of the procession, apparently share these same origins.



Hornblowers

I spent a few years in Meggen (LU), and from November onwards, the boys of the village were practising their Geislechlopfe. I must say, a shudder runs up and down your spine when you hear it, on a dark, foggy November night. It sounds like a very old custom, from pre-Christian times, when our forbears feared the long, dark nights and were looking to protect themselves from the spirits of the dead.

tb

Shop atmosphere

There are many intriguing initiatives to help shoppers part with their money by the manipulation of 'atmospherics', from the colours, smells and lighting in the store to its layout and the playing of music. The use of the aroma of coffee and freshly baked bread to lure customers goes back to at least the 18th century, while the use of fresh herbs is even older. Today, many large stores pump the smell of fresh bread from the ovens to the entrance of the store to attract customers and set stomachs rumbling.

In the weeks running up to Christmas, the scent of cloves, cinnamon, brandy and other 'Christmassy' smells may also waft through the aisles. For Christmas 1995, a big chainstore used a system developed by BOC Gases to release a puff of mulled wine dissolved in carbon dioxide, each quarter of an hour. A panel of staff had decided that mulled wine created the right ambience to put customers in a suitably festive mood.

Swinging Hams

A truck driver caught veering across motorway lanes told police he couldn't help driving erratically – because of 18 tonnes of hanging hams in the back of his lorry had started swinging rhythmically. He was allowed to drive on once his hams had settled.

