

**Zeitschrift:** Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand  
**Herausgeber:** Swiss Society of New Zealand  
**Band:** 74 (2008)  
**Heft:** [2]

**Artikel:** "Sausage task force" cannot help cervelat  
**Autor:** [s.n.]  
**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-943611>

#### **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:** 09.01.2026

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

## A meal of sausages that changed the world

By the beginning of the 16<sup>th</sup> century the Church had reached an all-time low. The pope was powerhungry and needed a lot of money for his extravagant life style, his prestigious building projects and for his army. The method of financing the Vatican were rather dubious, though, and as a reaction, the Augustine monk Martin Luther tried to reform the church. It did not work; the attempted reforms became the Reformation.

The Swiss Reformation had different, more political, roots. Ulrich Zwingli, born in 1484 in Wildhaus into a politically leading family, became a priest in Glarus. He was vehemently opposed to the mercenary system. In Glarus, the ruling families had become rich because of the pensions the foreign powers, mainly France, paid to the magistrate for the right to recruit conscripts. Families were large, land was scarce, and so it was common to sign up with foreign powers. Some made it home and told tall stories and bragged with their loot; the ones who didn't make it home didn't tell stories.

When Zwingli was offered a position in Zurich, the Glarus magistrate was more than happy to get rid of him and his sermons. Zwingli preached against mercenarism in Zurich, too. But the economic situation in Zurich was different. Thanks to the ruling guilds and the position of the city the trades and commerce thrived and offered work to many.

Zwingli was in contact with the leading lights of the time and also read Luther's publications (remember: Printing had just been invented and made books and the thoughts in them much more accessible). Zwingli preached what he read in the original biblical texts; he was fluent in Latin, Greek and Hebrew.

In medieval times, fast time was universally observed throughout Europe. When the printer Froschauer invited him to a meal of sausages in the fast period he accepted the invitation – in the full knowledge and understanding that it was a demonstration against the traditions of the church and church laws he didn't see supported by biblical texts. The incident was duly reported to the magistrate. The more conservative Kleine Rat leaned towards punishing Zwingli, but the Grosse Rat supported Zwingli, as many members of the Grosse Rat themselves were in opposition to the old church rules.

Zwingli offered to defend his views in a public disputation. More than six hundred people, ordinary people and priests, attended, and after many hours of hot argumentation the Grosse Rat decided that Zwingli had won and should be encouraged to go on preaching his views founded on the bible and not on church tradition. From then on, the Reformation in Zurich could not be halted. Zwingli was enough of a statesman to try and introduce changes gradually, but they still came as a shock to many, and it wasn't all plain sailing. More about this another time.

tb

## "Sausage task force" cannot help cervelat

Swiss sausage lovers face the bleak prospect of an inferior version of the iconic cervelat unless the ban of a key ingredient is lifted, Swiss meat producers warn.

An exhaustive search by a "cervelat task force" has failed to find a foolproof alternative to the Brazilian cows' intestines that encase the nation's favourite sausage. Brazilian skins are the only product versatile enough to provide a top quality gourmet experience when eating the sausage both raw and cooked. But im-



ports were banned last year in response to fears over Mad Cow Disease. The industry had pinned its hopes on scientists finding an alternative source of skins, but none of the

three identified back-up solutions – artificial collagen, Uruguayan cows' intestines and pigs' intestines – matched the same high quality. Other options, such as seaweed skin, were quickly discarded. Whereas some artificial skins tasted "mildly rancid", others were considered to have an unacceptable colour.

One immediate concern is that some manufacturers could run out of Brazilian cow intestine reserves before this summer's Euro 2008 football tournament, co-hosted by Switzerland and Austria. Other producers have enough to last the year but the patchy supply has driven the price up by 30 per cent in the past few months.

The Swiss eat 160 million cervelat sausages every year. Inside the skins is stuffed meat from 120'000 cows and 360'000 pigs, 90 per cent of which is Swiss. They make up around 30 per cent of the Swiss meat industry's sausage output.

The cervelat is eaten raw, fried or grilled.

from swissinfo

### FAERNWEH? HEIMWEH? WICHTIGI GSCHAEFTSTERMIN?

Looking for a travel consultant with over 22 years of experience in the industry that will meet your needs and with whom you can communicate in (Swiss)-German, French or English?

Looking for a travel consultant that travelled the world and can advise out of town experience knowing a lot of destinations personally?

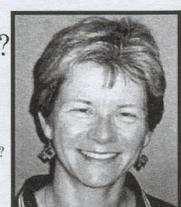
Looking for someone to organise your trip back to Switzerland or Europe to visit the 'rellies' as well as your holiday-, business-, group- and special event trips?

Try me!!

Daniela Suter

UNITED TRAVEL HAMILTON  
275 Barton Street/PO Box 19263  
HAMILTON

Ph: 07 838 1100/Tollfree: 0800 756 789  
Fax: 07 834 2032  
Email: daniela@uth.co.nz



 **United Travel**