

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 74 (2008)
Heft: [7]

Artikel: The Teufelsbrücke in the Schöllenen Schlucht
Autor: Brühlmann, Trudi
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-943680>

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](#)

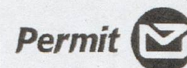
Download PDF: 12.08.2025

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

Sender:

The Secretary of the Swiss Society of New Zealand Inc
Trudi Brühlmann
401 Marine Drive
Mahina Bay
Eastbourne
Lower Hutt 5013

New Zealand
Permit No. 93966



HELVE^{CH}IA

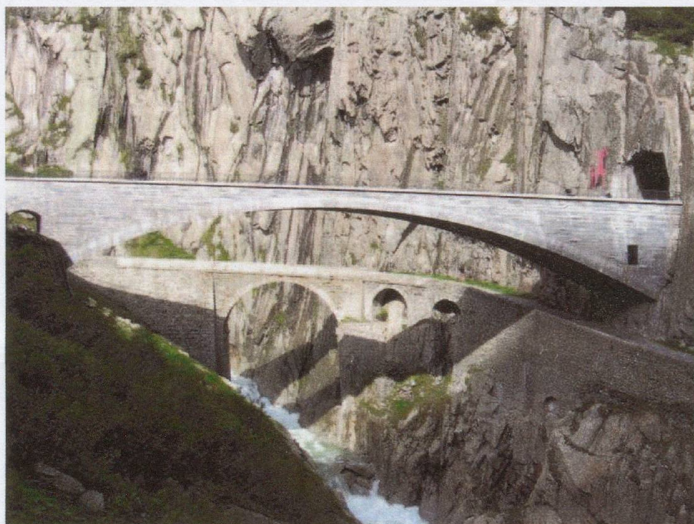
Magazine for Members of the Swiss Society of New Zealand Inc

BEAUTIFUL SWITZERLAND



The Teufelsbrücke in the Schöllenen Schlucht

Though the pass that is now known as Gotthard was locally known in antiquity, it was not generally used until the early 13th century, because it involved fording the turbulent Schöllenen, swollen with snowmelt during the early summer, in the narrow, steep-sided Schöllenen Gorge, below Andermatt.

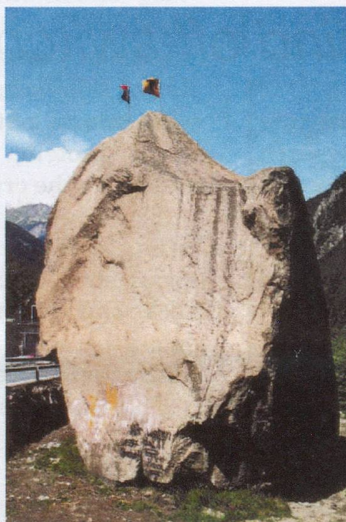


The Teufelsbrücke in the Schöllenen Schlucht

Seasonal deaths resulting from drowning reached a peak in April-May of most years, according to the oral histories of the nearby villages. The bridge that was built under such challenging conditions was one of the many bridges attributed, in folktales all over Europe, to the devil.

The Reuss was so difficult to ford that a Swiss herdsman, so the legend goes, wished the devil would make a bridge. The devil appeared, but required that the first soul to cross the bridge be given to him. The good people of Uri agreed, and the bridge was built overnight. But what now? Who would be the first to cross this bridge? The bridge was there in all its glory, but nobody set foot on it until the herdsman's daughter came up with a brilliant though somewhat deceitful

idea. She suggested that they could drive a goat across the bridge, ahead of them, fooling their adversary. Angered by this sham the devil grabbed the goat and descended with it to hell. He was back in an instant and went to get a huge rock to smash the bridge with. But an devout old woman held her cross high up against him so that he lost all strength and



The Teufelsstein in Göschenen



The Teufel and the goat

dropped the rock where he stood. The rock is still there, and in 1977 300'000 Swiss francs were spent to move the 220 ton rock by 127 meters in order to make room for the new Gotthard road tunnel.

Popular belief has it that the moving of the stone was the cause of an increased number of accidents on kilometer 16 on the St. Gotthard road tunnel – does this not remind you of the taniwha to whom a number of road accidents is attributed in the Waikato? *tb*

