

**Zeitschrift:** Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand  
**Herausgeber:** Swiss Society of New Zealand  
**Band:** 75 (2009)  
**Heft:** [7]  
  
**Artikel:** The canton of Uri  
**Autor:** [s.n.]  
**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-944491>

### **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:** 10.12.2025

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

# HELVETIA

Magazine for the members of the Swiss Society of New Zealand Inc  
Helvetia is in its 75th year

August/September 2009

## The Canton of Uri

Uri is located in Central Switzerland on the north side of the Alps. The canton's territory covers the valley of the Reuss River and its main tributaries between St. Gotthard Pass and Lake Lucerne. The total area of the canton is 1,077 km<sup>2</sup>. About half of this is considered productive land. Forests cover a significant part of the territory, and glaciers make up 20% of the unproductive land. The highest elevation in the canton is the Dammastock, at 3,630m, north of the Furka Pass.



Urnensee

German is the primary language spoken in Uri. The population is about 35,000, of which 3,046 (or 8.7%) are foreigners. As of 2000, 86% of the population are Roman Catholic while only 6% are Protestant.

Uri is first mentioned in 732 as belonging to the abbot of Reichenau. In 853 it was given to the nunnery at Zürich by Lois the German.

In 1243 the region had a common seal. By 1274 the powerful Rudolf of Habsburg recognized these privileges. Uri was one of the three original Swiss cantons, having signed the Letter of Alliance (Bundesbrief) in 1291. In 1386 Uri participated in the vic-

tory over the Austrians at Sempach. As a result Uri annexed the lands of Urseren in 1410.



Statue of Wilhelm Tell in Altdorf

The region resisted the reformation and remained Roman Catholic. During the Helvetic Republic Uri was part of the canton of Waldstätten. After this, in 1803 as part of the Act of Mediation, Uri re-gained its independence. All attempts to religious or constitutional reform were resisted. In 1815 Uri joined the League of Sarnen for this reason. Later on Uri was one of the members of the Sonderbund. The Sonderbund was a separatist Catholic league, but was defeated by the Swiss Confederation which led to the Swiss Federal Constitution.

The cultivated fields of the canton are located in the valley

of the Reuss River. There are pastures on the lower mountain slopes. Since most of the terrain is extremely hilly, it is not suitable for cultivation. Hydroelectric power generation is of great importance. Forestry is one of the most important sectors of agriculture. At Altdorf there are cable and rubber factories.

Tourism is an important source of income in the canton of Uri. An excellent network of roads facilitates tourism in remote areas in the mountains.

### Government

The current constitution of the canton dates back to 1888. It was revised in 1929 when the open assembly (Landsgemeinde) was abolished. Uri today comprises 20 self-administered territories; the cantonal capital is Altdorf.

*from Wikipedia*



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Editorial	2
Carolyn Lane	3
Piccard's solar power dreams take flight	4
Shortwave Radio replaced by Internet Radio	5
The Uristier	6
Club News	7-10
Times change.../Recipe	11
Commander Kim	12
Wie steht's um Ihr Schwiizertütsch?	13
Allergies thrive on too much hygiene	14
Concerns raised over disappearing species	15
The Swiss Flag	16