

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 76 (2010)
Heft: [5]

Titelseiten

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: 19.08.2025

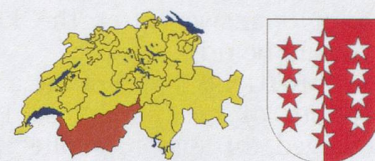
ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

HELVETIA

Magazine for the members of the Swiss Society of New Zealand Inc
Helvetia is in its 76th year

June 2010

Valais – Wallis



The Valais lies in the south-western part of Switzerland. The Rhône drains almost the entire canton and flows in the wide, glacial valley from east to west up to Martigny, then in a right angle

lais, however, speaks Walliser German.

The Romans called the area Vallis Poenina (Upper Rhône Valley). From 888 onwards the lands were part of the kingdom of Bur-

Confederation. In 1628 the Valais became a republic, the République des Sept Dizains/Republik der Sieben Zehenden under the guidance of the prince-bishop of Sion. The bishop remained in power until 1798 when Napoleon's troops invaded the Valais and declared a Revolutionary République du Valais, which was swiftly incorporated into the Helvetic Republic until 1802 when it became the separate Rhodanic Republic. In 1810 the Rhodanic Republic was annexed by Napoleonic France as the département of Simplon. Independence was restored in 1813, and in 1815 the Valais finally entered the Swiss confederation as a canton. In 1845, the Valais joined the Catholic separate league (Sonderbund) which led to what is called the Sonderbund War. 99,000 Swiss Federal troops under General Henri Dufour were faced by 79,000 Separatists, but in the end the Valais chose not to fight.

from the internet



Goms

north to its mouth in the Lake Geneva. The many side valleys vary from narrow and remote to reasonably populous.

Fifty of the Valais mountains exceed 4000m, with the highest mountain of Switzerland, the Dufourspitze, reaching to 4638m.

Only about half of the canton's 5224km² are considered productive. The canton is thinly populated. Its population is just over 300,000, including 57,000 foreigners, or about 19%.

Valais is predominantly French-speaking. The Upper Va-

gundy. In 999, King Rudolph III of Burgundy gave the lands to the Bishop of Sion, making him Count of the Valais. The count-bishops then struggled to defend their area against the dukes of Savoy, so that the medieval history of the Valais is inextricably linked with that of the diocese of Sion.

The Valais resisted the Protestant Reformation, remaining faithful to the Roman Catholic Church. On March 12, 1529, Valais became an associate member (Zugewandter Ort) of the Swiss

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Editorial/Feuilleton	2
Carolyn Lane	3
Stories of the Valais/Wallis	4-10
Children's page	11
Swiss Club News	12-15
Saffron	16