

**Zeitschrift:** Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand  
**Herausgeber:** Swiss Society of New Zealand  
**Band:** 76 (2010)  
**Heft:** [7]

**Artikel:** Canton of Schwyz  
**Autor:** [s.n.]  
**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-944213>

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# HELVE<sup>+</sup>RIA

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

August/September 2010

## Canton of Schwyz



The canton of Schwyz is located in central Switzerland. The river Sihl and the smaller Muota traverse the canton. About three quarters of the total area is considered productive land. Most of the land is hilly rather than mountainous, making it suitable for agriculture. Of the productive land, about 240km<sup>2</sup> are forests. Lakes take up 65km<sup>2</sup>. The highest

land from its coat of arms. The Swiss Federal Charter is on display in Schwyz.

Findings show that people were living in the area of the canton of Schwyz already 5,000 years ago. Many of these findings are concentrated in the north of the canton on Lake Zürich. Stone and bronze tools were recovered from these sites, too.

siedeln. Einsiedeln is also a centre of winter sports. The mountain railways on the Rigi are well known around the country.

The best known, worldwide product of the canton is the Swiss Army Knife, manufactured by Victorinox in Ibach just down hill from the main town of Schwyz. *from Wikipedia*



Grosser and Kleiner Mythen near Schwyz

elevation is the Bös Fulen at 2,802m. Although not as high, the summits of the Rigi massif (Kulm, 1,798m, and Scheidegg, 1,665m) are probably the most famous mountains within the borders of the canton. The area of the canton is 908km<sup>2</sup>. The population of the canton (as of 31 December 2008) is almost 150,000. About 17.2% of the population are foreigners.

Schwyz is one of the founding cantons of Switzerland; Switzerland's German name, Schweiz, is derived from the name of the canton, and the flag of Switzer-

About 1400 years ago, the Alemanni settled in the area of the canton. This influenced agriculture and the way of living of the locals. Christianity arrived in the area by the late 7th century.

Most of the canton relies on agriculture. The local breed of brown cattle is renowned. Textiles used to be of great importance in the canton but have now almost ceased to exist. There are a few large hydroelectric power plants in the canton.

Tourism is of importance in a number of regions, most notably in the centre of pilgrimage Ein-



Bundesbriefarchiv Schwyz

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