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# HELVEZIA

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

February 2010

## Graubünden - Grigioni - Grischun



Graubünden is the largest and easternmost canton of Switzerland. The canton borders on Italy, Austria and Liechtenstein. The name Graubünden translates as the "Grey Leagues," referring to the canton's origin in three local alliances. Graubünden's capital is Chur.

lished in 1436 by the people of Ten Jurisdictions (Zehngerichtebund) in the former Toggenburg countship, as the dynasty of Toggenburg had become extinct.

The first step towards the canton of Graubünden was when the league of the Ten Jurisdictions allied with the League of God's

Forests cover about a fifth. The canton is almost entirely mountainous, comprising the beginnings of the Rhine and Inn rivers.

Many of the mountain ranges feature extensive glaciers, such as at the Adula, the Albula, the Silvretta, the Bernina, the Bregaglia and the Rätikon ranges. The mountain ranges in the central area are very deep, some of which are considered the deepest valleys in Europe.

*from the internet*



Bergün/Bravuogn

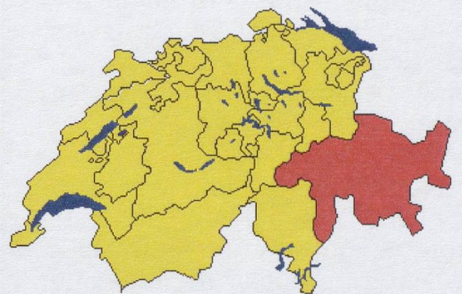
Most of Graubünden was once part of a Roman province called Raetia which was established in 15 BC. The current capital of Graubünden, Chur, was known as Curia in Roman times.

In 1367 the League of God's House (Gotteshausbund) was founded to resist the rising power of the Bishop of Chur. This was followed by the establishment of the Grey League (Grauer Bund), sometimes called Oberbund, in 1395 in the Upper Rhine valley. The name Grey League is derived from the home-spun grey clothes worn by the people. A third league was estab-

House in 1450. In 1471 the two leagues allied with the Grey League. In 1497 and 1498 the Leagues allied with the Old Swiss Confederation after the Habsburgs acquired the possessions of the extinct Toggenburg dynasty in 1496. This loose association was converted into a proper Bundesbrief in 1524.

In 1798, the lands of the canton of Graubünden became part of the Helvetic Republic as the Canton of Raetia. With the Act of Mediation Graubünden became a canton in 1803.

Only about a third of Graubünden is productive land.



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