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Autor: Brühlmann, Trudi

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My sincere apologies for two mistakes in the March edition of the Helvetia.

First, the photo on the title page does not show the Basler Münster; the church depicted is the Martinskirche, as a reader pointed out to us.

Here the Basler Münster:



Basler Münster

The hill on which the Münster is located today was already a building site in the late Celtic Era in the first century BC. A pre-Roman rampart was uncovered during archaeological excavations.

The Basler Münster is one of the main landmarks and tourist attractions of Basel. It adds definition to the cityscape with its red sandstone architecture and coloured roof tiles, its two slim towers and the cross-shaped intersection of the main roof. The Münster is listed as a heritage site of national significance.

Originally a Catholic cathedral and today a reformed Protestant church, it was built between 1019 and 1500 in Romanesque and Gothic styles. The late Romanesque building was destroyed by the 1356 Basel earthquake. It was then rebuilt and extended from 1421 onwards in Gothic style. The southern tower was completed in 1500.

During the iconoclasm of the Protestant Reformation, many valuable pieces of art belonging to the city of Basel and the minster were destroyed in 1528 and 1529.

In the 19th century two major restorations took place. From 1852 until 1857 the rood screen was moved and the crypt on the western side was closed. In the 20th century the main aim of renovations has been to emphasize the late Romanesque architecture and to reverse some modifications made in the 1850s. Additionally, the floor was returned to its original level in 1975 and the crypt reopened. A workshop dedicated to taking care of the increasingly deteriorating sandstone exterior was set up in 1985. Six full-time craftsmen are employed in this restoration work.

The second mistake was on page 7 of last month's Helvetia, where the caption under the photo to the left should not be "guggenmusik", but "Trommler einer Clique". A friendly reader (originally from Basel) wrote:

"Bei einer Clique geht zuerst der Tambourmajor und nachher die Tambouren (Trommler) und anschliessend die Pfeifer. Der Tambourmajor gibt jeweils das Kommando, welcher Marsch gespielt wird.

Bei der Guggemusig gibt es in der Regel einzelne Trommler,

aber nie mehrere wie auf dem Bild zu sehen ist. Die Guggemusig hat viele "Bläser", ein Schlagzeug auf Rädern und variiert in den Instrumenten. Melodien werden jedoch andere gespielt als bei den Cliques; es sind oft aktuelle Schlager und Aehnliches. Am Morgestraich gibt es nur Trommler und Pfeifer, und sie sind im "Charivari" zu sehen; d.h. jeder kann anziehen, was er will; am Nachmittag jedoch ist Einheit angesagt; d.h. jede Clique hat ein Sujet (Thema)."

Thank you very much, dear readers, for putting things right - and my apologies again! *tb*

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There will be anything from Swiss breads and pastries to fried sausages, yummy cheeses,
Swiss chocolates to traditional gingerbreads, sauerkraut to spätzli, raclettes to alphorns,
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