

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 79 (2013)
Heft: [5]

Inhaltsverzeichnis

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: 17.04.2026

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

HELVETIA



MAGAZINE OF THE SWISS SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND

OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2013

YEAR 79

HIGHLIGHTS:

- **New Zealand-Swiss life histories:**
Sandra Clair
- **Swiss watchmaking**
- **New Swiss King of Wrestling crowned**

INSIDE:

Message from the Editor	2
Swiss-New Zealand life histories	3
Swiss watch making	4
ASO report	5
Swiss King of Wrestling announced	6
From the Embassy	7-8
Louis Chevrolet	9
Le Corbusier	10
Kids' corner	11
Col-des-Roches/Doubs River/La Brévine	12
Fun tips	13
Club news	14-18
Photo gallery	19
Club news	20
Chuchichäschtl/Garden diary	21
Health corner	22
Swiss news	23
UNESCO World Heritage Sites: La Chaux-de-Fonds/Le Locle	24

Switzerland's Watch Valley

Like mountains, cheese, chocolate and banking, watchmaking has long been synonymous with Switzerland. For centuries, Switzerland has been renowned for its quality timepieces. The Swiss watchmaking industry is concentrated in western Switzerland, in the arch formed by the Jura mountains (arc jurassien) between Geneva in the south to Basel in the north.

Swiss tourism authorities have quirkily named the region Watch Valley in an allegory to Silicon Valley in California, although it looks as if the name may not have "stuck" all that well - the valley may be too mountainous! Watch Valley is not only the heartland of the Swiss watchmaking industry, but also one of country's most scenic regions along the western fringes of Switzerland.

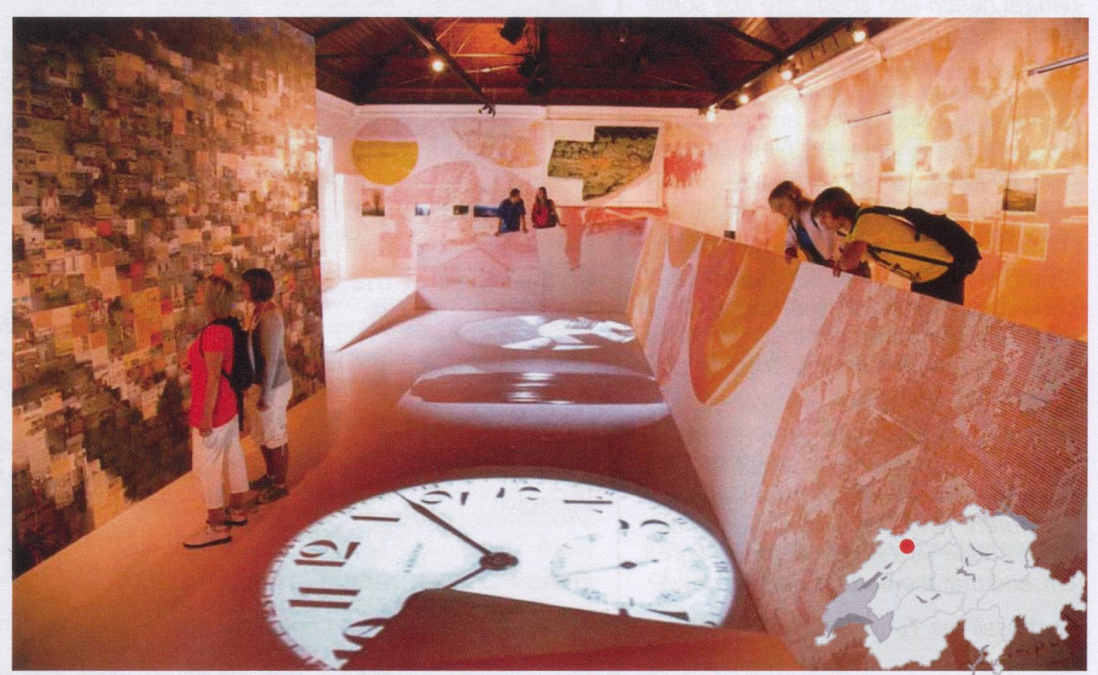
About midway in Watch Valley, the towns of La Chaux-de-Fonds and Le Locle form a local watchmaking hub. Here, some of the world's most renowned watches originate and continue being made. Pierre Jaquet-Droz, celebrated Swiss watchmaker and mechanic from the 18th century was born here, known for his elaborate watches and

mechanical, human-like devices - the origins of modern robots. The local company Girard -Perregaux initiated the first ever major commercial production of a wristwatch in 1880, ordered by German Kaiser Wilhelm I for his German naval officers.

La Chaux-de-Fonds and Le Locle are famed for more than their watches. They have jointly received recognition from UNESCO for their exceptional universal urban planning approach adopted during the re-building of both towns in the 19th century, following extensive fires. This created formerly unknown industrial-scale and social development opportunities where traditional farming had been limited by the high altitude and porous limestone. It resulted in strong population growth and industrial manufacturing towns that are still well preserved and active today.

La Chaux-de-Fonds also lays claim to famous sons such as Le Corbusier, Blaise Cendrars and Louis Chevrolet.

Sources: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/La_Chaux-de-Fonds, http://www.swissworld.org/en/switzerland/swiss_specials/swiss_watches/watch_valley/



Espace de l'urbanisme horloger - la Chaux-de-Fonds
©Tourisme neuchâtelois