

**Zeitschrift:** Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand  
**Herausgeber:** Swiss Society of New Zealand  
**Band:** 80 (2014)  
**Heft:** [2]  
  
**Artikel:** St. Gallen and its Irish heritage  
**Autor:** [s.n.]  
**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-943932>

### **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 OF THE SWISS SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND

APRIL / MAY 2014

YEAR 80

## HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Abbey of St. Gall**
- **Meet the Böögg at the Sechseläuten**
- **Announcing Swiss Society AGM and Games in Taranaki**

## INSIDE:

St. Gallen and its heritage	1
From the Editor	2
From the President	3
Growing up in St. Gallen	4
Swiss Society AGM/ Games in Taranaki	5
Meet the Böögg	6
Rule of St. Benedict	7
Embassy news	8
ASO news	9
Auckland shooting report	10
New on-line shooting booking system	11
Kids' corner	12
Fun tips	13
Club news	14-18
Club photo gallery	19
Club news/Obituary	20
Chuchichäschtl/ Garden diary	21
AGM 2013 minutes	22-23
UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Abbey of St. Gall	24

## St. Gallen and its Irish heritage

*The City of St. Gallen finds its origin in the deeds of the Irish monk Gallus, who, around 589 AD, set out from Bangor in Wales with his teacher Columbanus and eleven other disciples to bring Christianity to Europe.*

Following the fall of the Roman Empire around 450 AD, Central Europe and England were occupied by "Barbarians" - comprising a variety of tribes - and soon descended into the Dark Ages. Ireland alone in the north managed to survive largely unaffected and preserve its Celtic traditions and fledgling Christian beliefs.

*The Chronicle of Ireland* records that in 431 AD, Pope Celestine I sent Bishop Palladius on a mission to Ireland. Together with Saint Patrick, Ireland's best known patron saint, Palladius built the foundation for a strong Irish Christian culture, resulting in the collapse of the older druid tradition. In the monastic culture that followed, important Latin and Greek learning was able to be preserved during the Early Middle Ages. In particular, the arts of manuscript illumination, metalworking and sculpture flourished. Irish monasteries became sanctuaries for many great scholars from the continent and centres of learning excellence.

The Irish monk Columbanus was one of the great missionaries to spread Christianity through Europe. He set out from Bangor Abbey in Wales around 582 with twelve disciples, including the Irish monk Gallus (550 – 646). Gallus however fell ill during his travels and Columbanus left him behind in the vicinity of Lake Constance. In search of a suitable place for a hermit cell, he walked up the valley of the River Steinach, until he fell into a bush of thorns in the Mülenenschlucht in 612. He took that and his close encounter with a bear to be signs sent to him by God and decided to build his hermitage here. Soon, he achieved fame through his powerful preaching.

One hundred years later, on a site just south of Gallus' original hermitage, an abbey was built which was to emerge as the "writing room of Europe" in the Middle Ages and one of the most important cultural centres of the Occident: The Abbey of St. Gall. The town that gradually grew up around that abbey is St. Gallen. Gallus' legacy thus lives on in the Abbey of St. Gall, which was given UNESCO World Heritage status in 1983.

Sources: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint\\_Gall](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Gall), [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abbey\\_of\\_St.\\_Gall](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abbey_of_St._Gall), <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Columbanus>



*The Abbey of St Gall and its old precinct, with views south over the Appenzell Alps, including the Säntis mountain*  
[www.st.gallen-bodensee.ch](http://www.st.gallen-bodensee.ch)