

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK
Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom
Band: - (1922)
Heft: 58

Artikel: Henley Royal Regatta
Autor: [s.n.]
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-689852>

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: 20.02.2026

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

The persistent drought at the beginning of 1921 had reduced the Swiss lakes to an unprecedentedly low level, which enabled scientists to establish new theories in the history of the culture of the neolithic lake-dwellers. The results of these recent investigations are recorded in *Nature* (July 1st) by Prof. Eugène Pittard, of the Geneva University. Nothing new has been revealed; it is, however, now definitely established that Geneva is one of the most ancient cities of the world, since man has lived on this site continuously since the neolithic period. It is also conclusively proven that our neolithic forefathers showed a preference for certain of the domestic animals; the species of which they ate most abundantly were the ox and the pig. Civilization in this direction does not seem to have made very great strides.

HENLEY ROYAL REGATTA.

On this occasion also the Swiss colours were not favoured with success at the first time of asking, and we shall probably have to become a little more modest, for, after all, this is the country where most of to-day's sports first saw the light, and the sporting scions of Great Britain still know how to hold their own at home.

Although the "Grasshopper" Rowing Club has a record of successes at home and abroad of which they can justly be proud, the "strange waters" of Father Thames must have proved too formidable to fathom successfully in so short a time. When, in addition, the health of three members of the crew broke down, necessitating the substitution of reserve men who were not equal to the strenuous task which faced them, the outlook became as bad as the weather which prevailed during Henley Week.

Particularly for the Grand Challenge Cup were the chances of the Grasshoppers' "eight" destroyed, for two men had to enter the boat under conditions which could bring but failure, and, although the Swiss crew took the lead at the start against the Thames Rowing Club, they were easily beaten by the latter in the first heat.

Hopes now only centred in the "fours" for the Stewards' Cup, and, indeed, they received a fillip when on Friday the "Grasshoppers" severely drubbed the "Leander" four, who were considered the pick of the competitive crews for the event.

So easily did our compatriots gain the victory in this heat that it was difficult to see how they could get beaten in the final by the Eton Vikings on Saturday. But, as usual in racing, the unexpected happened, and the Swiss crew was unfortunately deprived of taking home the Stewards' Cup which had seemed well within an easy reach.

"An Old Blue" reports the progress of this race in the "Daily Telegraph" as follows:—

"Both crews got away fast, rowing 41½ strokes in the first minute. Along Temple Island the Swiss led slightly, and were about a canvas in front at the quarter-mile. It was a fine race, both keeping at a fast rate, but above Remenham the Swiss could not stand the pace, and the Vikings shot away at Fawley, which was reached in 3 min. 54 sec. They had a lead of three-quarters of a length at the third signal box, and were right away at the mile. The Swiss tried a spurt above and hit the piles, but went on again. They were beaten easily."

With regard to the effectiveness and power of the style of rowing, as introduced by the "Grasshoppers" at Henley, opinions of experts differ widely. The one convincing test would have been success, and that was certainly not made easy through the misfortune which incapacitated three regular members of the Swiss crew, who were every time instrumental in gaining victories at home and in foreign waters. This quite apart from the inclement weather, which not only interfered with the training, but also with the races.

However, "Qui s'excuse—s'accuse," and there is one redeeming feature in the defeat which is that our oarsmen have not lost courage, but, on the contrary, hope to return on the next occasion, expecting to go one better, having admittedly learnt much during their first visit to Henley, which, they hope, will bear fruit in future contests on the tricky Thames course.

In referring to the Swiss crew's style of rowing, Max Pemberton writes in the "Referee":—

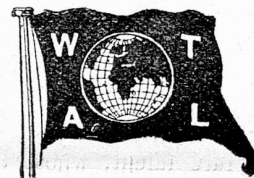
"If the new lawn tennis be more thrilling to watch than the old—which I doubt—the new rowing as witnessed at Henley this week is certainly staggering in the eyes of the ancients. We have seen lusty men picking up their boats anyhow, scrambling into them like children at a school-treat, and rowing away with hardly more swing of the body than a telegraph post in a thunderstorm. Yet their blades were a marvel of exactitude, and their arms shot out like a boxer's left, and soon he who had come to mock remained to pray—that they would crack before the post was reached. For their boats obviously travelled at a prodigious speed, and every disciple of orthodoxy upon the bank was ready to ask himself, 'Can this thing be?'"

I am not presuming to contend for a moment that British style is overdone or that it has any superior when a four-mile course is to be rowed; but I have often wondered if we could not learn something from heterodoxy when Henley is the business, and if our very long backward swing is all we think it to be."

RESTAURANT FÉDÉRAL,

8, Charlotte Street, Tottenham Court Rd., London, W.1.

High-Class Continental & English Cuisine. AFTERNOON TEAS.



World Transport Agency, Ltd.

21, Great Tower Street, LONDON, E.C. 3.

BRANCHES:

LIVERPOOL	MANCHESTER
Drury Buildings, Water Street.	29, Princess Street.
PARIS	ANTWERP
Transports Mondiaux.	41, Canal des Recollets.
16, rue Cail.	BALE
	31, Hochstrasse.

EXPERTS IN SHIPPING, FORWARDING, INSURANCE AND CUSTOMS CLEARANCE.

Up-to-Date Organisation. Connected Everywhere.

Make our Warehouses in England and Abroad

your
RECEIVING AND DISTRIBUTING CENTRES
and

Our World-wide Organisation

your
EXPORT & IMPORT FREIGHT DEPARTMENT.

Write for Schedule of Freight Rates and
Sailing List to Chief Continental & Oversea Ports.