

**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:** - (1927)

**Heft:** 297

**Rubrik:** Publications

#### 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:** 13.08.2025

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

## CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor is not responsible for the opinions expressed by Correspondents and cannot publish anonymous articles, unless accompanied by the writer's name and address, as evidence of good faith.

## LA RUSSIE ET NOUS.

To the Editor of the *Swiss Observer*.  
Dear Sir.—On reading the letter of "Citoyen X" in your last issue, I could not help feeling he must have looked through a pair of highly distorted glasses at what "Un Citoyen" had to say on this subject. He sets out to correct a supposed expression of partisanship, but in doing so himself commits the error a hundredfold.

It seems incredible that, while priding himself as a follower of the latest and, naturally, only pure brand of Swiss patriotism, "Citoyen X" is so little enlightened as to have the courage—I let it go at that—to assert that the jury which acquitted Conradi made itself guilty of a grave error in the dispensing of justice. He forgets, first of all, that it was the duty of the jury to disregard every other consideration, direct or indirect, except the facts of the case, in arriving at the conclusion whether, in the circumstances, Conradi deserved punishment or not. Then he does not realise the fact that the verdict given was, no doubt, well within the law which the jury was called upon to administer.

Taking Federal legislation first, "Citoyen X" must keep in mind that Switzerland has for generations prided herself on providing a safe refuge for foreign political criminals; that in the application of that law, Conradi having been entitled to Russian nationality, by pleading to the satisfaction of the jury that he acted in his quality of a Russian and for political motives, the law directs that he should be set free, it being immaterial as to whether the crime was committed in Switzerland or outside. Nobody, undoubtedly, knows Swiss law, in this respect, better than the Bolsheviks themselves, because so many of them have sheltered under it. No apology whatever is needed in respect of the verdict.

If it is contended that Conradi should have been punished as he held also Swiss nationality, I think that even in common law he was fairly entitled to his freedom. According to "Citoyen X" one would think that the law is, or should be, that if a gang of men ruin, torture and murder members of a family, without there being the possibility of bringing the culprits to book, surviving members of that family, on meeting one of the gang, should invite him to the nearest bar and treat him to a double Scotch.

The penal codes of the French-speaking Cantons, and of the Ticino, being mainly based on Roman law, no doubt make allowance for the fact that human beings have feelings, failings, tempers and temperaments, and if an individual is driven, through criminal action of others, into such a state of mind and temper as to induce him to take revenge, the blame for the crime does not really rest with him. It is assumed that, in a rough way, he exacts the punishment which would otherwise have been meted out by a court of law. It is true that this line of thought is acted upon only in exceptional cases, but how can "Citoyen X" say the jury was wrong, and even willfully in error, in considering that this was a case where the actual blame and responsibility for the crime did not rest with the person brought to trial? The after effects of the verdict did not enter into the case at all.

If your correspondent is at a loss to find justification for the decision in this case, when discussing matters with his English friends, let him call to mind the verdict in the Mme. Fahmy Bey case, here in London. There was no doubt about her having murdered her husband by shooting and not, strictly speaking, in self-defence, yet unerringly severe as English justice is, the jury pronounced her not guilty. The verdict was hailed as a "great" one, and that because it was based on the fundamental facts of humanity.

"Citoyen X" is certainly taking a big bite when he considers that, when centralised, the penal code of Switzerland will be like a sausage machine, turning out "Bratwurst" by the yard. All the fundamental principles of justice in force in the Latin Cantons will have to be in it, if it has to become the law of the land. I am certain, however, that even if we had a most rigidly centralised penal code, there would have been plenty of room for such divergent verdicts as the one of the Conradi and that of the Riedel-Guala case. The two crimes are as different from one another as day is from night.

The majority of those who are apprehensive or criticise the action of the Federal Council would, no doubt, be only too pleased if satisfactory relations between Switzerland and Russia could be brought about, provided it is not at the price of national dignity or security, nor at the bidding of opportunists, like "Citoyen X," who would subvert the administration of justice, diplomacy and national self-respect to suit the requirements of the pockets of individual citizens. Furthermore, to go out of our way, as a nation, and create or risk internal dissension in order to favour the schemes of foreign powers, is the surest way eventually to reap trouble and contempt.

Yours faithfully, O. BRAGA.

## PUBLICATIONS.

of the "Verein für Verbreitung Guter Schriften" and "Lectures Populaires."

- 137. Erinnerungen einer Grossmutter, von E. B. ..... 5d.
- 138. Die Verlobung in St. Domingo, von Heinrich von Kleist ..... 5d.
- 138 (BE). Das Amulett, von C. F. Meyer ... 6d.
- 139. Der Schuss von der Kanzel, von C. F. Meyer ..... 5d.
- 139. Die Frühglocke—Das Ehe-Examen, von Adolf Schmittenhener ..... 5d.
- 140. Die Brücke von Rüegsau, von Walter Laedrach ..... 5d.
- 140 (Z). Balmberg-Friedli, von Josef Reinhart 5d.
- 141. Mozart auf der Reise nach Prag, von Eduard Mörike ..... 5d.
- 141 (Z). Das verlorene Lachen, von Gottfried Keller ..... 5d.
- 142. Gabrielsons Spitzn, von Grethe Auer ... 5d.
- 142 (BE). Der Fabrikbrand, von J. U. Flütsch 5d.
- 143. Der Laufen, von Emil Strauss ..... 4d.
- 143 (BE). Der Wildheuer, von Peter Bratschi 3d.
- 144 (Z). Pestalozzi, eine Selbstschau, von Walter Guyer ..... 1/1
- 144. \*Die Quelle, von Ernst Eschmann ..... 4d.
- 145. †Don Correa, von Gottfried Keller ..... 4d.
- 146. Porzellanpeter, von Anders Heyster ... 5d.
- 147. Joseph—Stephan, von Johannes Jegerlehner ..... 5d.
- 148. Basil der Bucklige, von Wilhelm Sommer 4d.
- 149. Geschichten aus der Provence, von Alphonse Daudet ..... 4d.
- 150. { Wie Joggeli eine Frau sucht, Elsi, die seltsame Magd von Jeremias Gotthelf ..... 4d.
- 151. Die Hand der Mutter, von Alfred Fankhauser ..... 5d.
- 152. Erinnerungen eines Kolonialsoldaten auf Sumatra, von Ernst Hauser ..... 4d.
- 153. Martin Birmann Lebenserinnerungen\* ... 5d.
- 1/1. Sous la Terreur, par A. de Vigny ..... 1/-
- 1/2. La Femme en gris, par H. Sudermann ... 1/-
- 1/3. L'Incendie, par Edouard Rod ..... 1/-
- 1/4. La Tulipe Noire, par Alex. Dumas ..... 1/-
- 1/5. Jeunesse de Jean Jacques Rousseau (Extraits des Confessions) ..... 1/-
- 1/6. L'Ours et l'Ange, par Jean-Jacques Porchat 1/-
- 1/7. Amour Tragique, par Ernest Zahn ..... 1/-
- 1/8. Colomba, par Prosper Mérimée ..... 1/-
- 1/9. Des Ombres qui passent, par Béatrice Harraden ..... 1/-
- 2/1. Le Légionnaire Héroïque, par B. Vallotton 6d.
- 2/2. Contes Extraordinaires, par Edgar Poe ... 6d.
- 2/3. Un Véritable Amour, par Masson-Forestier 6d.
- 2/4. La Boutique de l'Ancien, par L. Favre ... 6d.
- 2/5. Souvenirs de Captivité et d'Evasion, par Robert d'Harcourt ..... 6d.
- 2/6. Adventures d'un Suisse d'Autrefois, par Thomas Platter ..... 6d.
- 2/7. La Jeune Sibérienne, par Xavier de Maistre 6d
- 2/8. La Fontaine d'amour, par Charles Foley 6d.
- 2/9. La Batelière de Postunen, par Eugène Rambert ..... 6d.

\*Martin Birmann, der Verfasser der Lebensgeschichte des Generals Suter, ist einem älteren Geschlechte noch bekannt als allvorerhrter Armeinspektor und Ständerrat seines Heimatkantons Basel-Land. Wie er aus dürfstigen Verhältnissen dazu sich emporgearbeitet hat, das erzählen seine spannend geschriebenen Lebenserinnerungen, die nicht nur ein lebendiges Bild aus einer denkwürdigen Vergangenheit unseres Vaterlandes entwerfen, sondern auch an einem leuchtenden Beispiel zeigen, dass nicht von Geld und Gut, sondern von Wille und Herz das Glück des Menschen abhängt.

Prices include postage; in ordering, simply state number or series, remitting respective amount (preferably in 1d. stamps) to Publishers, *The Swiss Observer*, 23, Leonard Street, E.C.2.

A thing done right to-day means less trouble to-morrow.

\* \* \*

A compositor, finding himself out of work, was lucky enough to secure a job as a waiter. One of his first customers, whom he served with soup, called him back and said "Waiter, there's a button in this soup." "Very sorry, sir," replied the waiter, "printer's error—should be mutton."

## SAFETY FIRST!

THOMAS F. REX  
SWAN & HIGGINS,

Automobile Consulting Engineers,

34, LONDON WALL, E.C.4

ADVICE given on the Purchase, Insurance, Driving,

Upkeep & Maintenance of

MOTOR CARS, ETC.

Telephones: { London Wall 9324 Museum 4278

9325 Sydenham 3480

## SWISS BANK CORPORATION,

99, GRESHAM STREET, E.C.2.

and 11c, REGENT STREET, S.W.1.

Capital - - £4,800,000

Reserves - - £1,400,000

The WEST END BRANCH  
opens Savings Bank Accounts on  
which interest will be credited  
at 3½ per cent. until further notice.

Telephone: Museum 2982. Telegrams: FOYSUSS, London.

Foyer Suisse 12 to 14, Upper Bedford Place  
(Nearest Tube Station: Russell Square.) W.C.1.

Moderate Prices. 75 Beds. Central Heating.  
Public Restaurant. - - Swiss Cuisine.

Private Parties, Dinners, etc., specially catered for.  
Terms on application.

WILLY MEYER, Manager.

## SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY

Wednesday, May 11th at 8.30 sharp,  
MONTHLY MEETING.

34-35, FITZROY SQUARE, LONDON. W.1

## SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION

## Shooting Practice

AT OUR

HENDON RANGE

(opposite Welsh Harp, Hendon).

EVERY SATURDAY AND SUNDAY.

Luncheons and Teas provided for on Sundays.

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME.

## Divine Services.

EGLISE SUISSE (1762), 79, Endell St., W.C.2  
(Langue française)

Dimanche, 8 Mai, 11h.—M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme : Genève 4/9, "Suis-je le gardien de mon frère?"  
6.30.—12e Etude du Symbole : "la rémission des péchés."  
7.30.—Répétition du Chœur.

Lundi, 9 Mai, 8h.—Au Foyer : anciens catéchumènes.

Pour tous renseignements concernant actes pastoraux, etc., prière de s'adresser à M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme, 102, Hornsey Lane, N.6 (Téléphone: Mountview 1798). Heure de réception à l'Eglise: Mercredi 10.30 à 12h.

## SCHWEIZERKIRCHE

(Deutschschweizerische Gemeinde)

St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2.

Samedi, den 8. Mai, 11 Uhr morgens und 7 Uhr abends : Gottesdienst ; danach Chorprobe.

TAUFE.

Pauline Eunice SCHUERCH, Tochter des Theodor Schürch von Rohrbach (Bern) und der Henrietta Emma geb. Chapman von London—geb. am 11. März, getauft am 1. Mai.

Sprechstunden : Dienstag 12—1 Uhr in der Kirche.  
Mittwoch, 3—5 Uhr, im Foyer Suisse.  
Anfragen wegen Amtshandlungen etc., an den Pfarrer der Gemeinde C. Th. Hahn, 8, Chiswick Lane, W.4. Telefon Chiswick 4156.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Wednesday, May 11th, at 8.30 p.m.—SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY: Monthly Meeting at 34-35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.

Friday, May 13th, 8p.m. to 2 a.m.—UNION HELVETICA : Grand Ball in aid of various Hospitals at 1, Gerrard Place, W.1.

Saturday, May 28th, at 2.30 p.m.—SWISS SPORTS' at the Herne Hill Athletic Ground.

SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION.—Swiss Sports Shooting Competition at Hendon Range (opposite Welsh Harp) on SATURDAYS, 7th, 14th and 21st May ; SUNDAYS, 8th, 15th and 22nd May.

SWISS CHORAL SOCIETY.—Rehearsals every Friday evening. Every Swiss heartily invited to attend. Particulars from the Hon. Secretary, Swiss Choral Society, 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

Printed and Published for the Proprietor, P. F. BOEHRINGER, by THE FREDRICK PRINTING CO. LTD., at 23, LEONARD ST., LONDON, E.C.