

**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:** - (1935)

**Heft:** 714

**Artikel:** Agyssinia

**Autor:** Keller, G.

**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-692502>

#### **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:** 13.02.2026

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

## ABYSSINIA.

(A Swiss film in London).

I had the opportunity of attending a press premiere of a film on Abyssinia shot by the Praesens Film Company of Switzerland who were flown to Abyssinia by our famous fellow-countryman Walter Mittelholzer.

The film gives an extremely interesting description of that country and its people and civilization which is now very much in the news. It will be seen at the *Rialto* Cinema beginning on Monday.

Walter Mittelholzer, together with some representatives of the Praesens-Company, set out with complete equipment of camera, sound-recording instruments and aeroplane. Their way led over Athens, but as an after-thought, they made a break back to Palestine to look at the immense work of Jewish colonisation under British administration going on in that country. They then returned up the Nile to the absolute outer edge of British rule under the mountains near Kassala.

From there they set off on the last big hop to Addis Ababa. When they arrived they were received as the guests of the Emperor himself, and by his authority they were able to obtain a pictorial record of things and customs which no-one has ever photographed before and which very few Europeans have ever seen; among other things, the tremendous work of modernising the Abyssinian Army which is now going on, under European instructors.

The country is bigger than Great Britain and France put together, and the Abyssinians proper are the ruling people — incidentally, they are Christians.

The people of Abyssinia live even now in exactly the same state as they did a thousand years ago, and when the expedition set out into the wild and more distant parts of that enormous country, not even the Emperor's authority could protect them, and for days on end they wandered, surrounded by wild and murderous tribes, buying their safety with little presents and the interest they aroused. They refused all escort for they feared that if the tribes saw them coming with soldiers, they would either flee or attack. In any case, they would never have the opportunity of photographing the reality of native life in the distant and primitive villages.

So they came to the Italian-Abyssinian frontier, where the line is not exactly determined and where the tribes don't pay much attention to law and order anyway. They made a pictorial record of the strange wedding dances among the Itu tribe, where after a wedding, lasting days, each woman, in addition to her husband, receives in turn the five lovers allowed her by law. They learned of the rites among the Arussi, which are practised to cure a sick man. A black kid is slaughtered so that the blood spurts out over the ailing man's body and covers him in gore, while the entrails of the beast are thrown in the river as a sacrifice to the devil which has possessed the man.

After three months hard trekking, they emerged again from these utterly primitive and barren lands, where life is so cheap and where the fearful poverty of the country forces a man to kill his neighbour sometimes only for the sake of existence.

The film completed, it was flown back to Switzerland, developed and edited and from there rushed to London. It is undoubtedly the most authentic and most topical picture of Abyssinia in existence to-day.

G. KELLER.

Drink delicious Ovaltine  
at every meal—for Health!

Tell your English Friends  
to visit

Switzerland

and to buy their Tickets  
from

The Swiss Federal Railways,  
Carlton House, 11b, Regent St., S.W.1

Special Reduction on Fares in Switzerland  
(30%) from June 15th until October 31st.

## ANNOUNCING THE OPENING OF AN

## EXHIBITION AND SALE

of beautiful Stained glass belonging to four centuries, consisting mostly of English panels from York Minster, All Saints York, Canterbury, Oxford, Ketton, Salisbury, etc., etc. French glass from Rouen, Evreux, Chartres, Saint Denis, Beauvais, etc., etc., also Flemish, Italian Hungarian and Swiss glass.

ALFRED WERCK,

Artist and Expert in Stained glass, Mardley Hill, Welwyn (Herts) (formerly Appraiser at the American Art Galleries, Madison Avenue, and 57th Street, New York City). Situated on the Great North Road, (Route No. 1) 26 miles from London, and at Castle Rapperswil (Switzerland).

The Exhibition is open from Monday, June 3rd to and inclusive Saturday, July 27th, 1935. Sundays and Holidays included.

## How to get there:

Take Green Line Bus to Mardley Hill (Top) Welwyn from Kings Cross (Baldock Line, every hour).

or Green Line Bus to Mardley Hill (Top) Welwyn from Polytechnic (Regent Street) or Baker Street (Dorking-Hitchin Line) every hour. (One hour's beautiful run — 3/6 return).

Come and see the Royal procession!

A Masterpiece.

## HOTELS UNDER SWISS MANAGEMENT

THE PLAZA HOTEL,  
St. Martin's Street,  
LEICESTER SQUARE, W.C.2.  
Phone Whitehall 9641.

Telegrams: Heartwest, London.

100 rooms. Fully licensed. Your enquiry and your visit under the personal direction of J. Jenny, Managing Director.

"I NEVER MIND TRYING ANYTHING ONCE," you hear people say. And once they have tried the Plaza they will, like Oliver Twist, "want more." Because (1) it is a marvellously central spot, one minute from anywhere, so that you need never take a taxi; (2) the bed-rooms are the most modern of any London hotel; (3) the inclusive terms are exceptionally moderate — single room, 10s. 6d., double room, from 19s. per night, inclusive of breakfast and bath

DEVON. — DARTMOOR HOTEL, BOVEY TRACEY. Close to sea and moors. Continental and English cuisine. II. and c. in bedroom. Moderate inclusive terms for Easter. Prop., Jacques Dub.

ST. PETER PORT, GUERNSEY, C.I. Hotel de Normandie. May to September, from £4 : 4 : 0 — £5 : 5 : 0 per week. 30 bedrooms, large grounds, fully licensed. Proprietors, Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Isler.

## MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS

Not exceeding 3 lines:—Per insertion 2/6; three insertions 5/- Postage extra on replies addressed c/o Swiss Observer.

BOARD RESIDENCE. Direct Line City and West-end. 1 min. bus Chalk Farm. Continental cooking. Large garden. Piano. Phone. Sunny rooms, some with running water. Moderate Terms. Enquire: H. Simmen, 17, Fellows Road, N.W.3. (Tel. Primrose 3181).

JEUNE FILLE de la Suisse française, présentant bien, active et intelligente, cherche place pour s'occuper de 1 ou 2 enfants, éventuellement aiderait au ménage, petit gage demandé si occasion d'apprendre l'anglais, pour renseignements écrire à Box H.B., c/o Swiss Observer, 23, Leonard Street, E.C.2.

## SITUATION WANTED.

ANGLO-SWISS, university man, seeks morning or part-time post. Travel publicity, hotel. Fluent French. Geography honours. Secretarial and commercial experience. Own car.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Tuesday, July 2nd, at 7.30 sharp — City Swiss Club — Réunion d'été — at Brent Bridge Hotel, Hendon.

Wednesday, July 3rd, at 7.30 p.m. — Société de Secours Mutuals — Monthly Meeting — at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

## SWISS BANK CORPORATION,

(A Company limited by Shares incorporated in Switzerland)

99, GRESHAM STREET, E.C.2.

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

Capital Paid up £6,400,000

Reserves - - £1,560,000

Deposits - - £39,000,000

All Descriptions of Banking and Foreign Exchange Business Transacted

: : Correspondents in all : :  
: : parts of the World. : :

## W. WETTER

Wine Importer.

67, GRAFTON STREET, FITZROY SQ., W.1

## BOTTLED IN SWITZERLAND.

	Per Doz.	24/2	Dozalys	Per Doz.
Clos du Mont Valais	55-	61-	Dole Red	59-
Fendant	55-	61-	Valais de Sion	60-
White Neuchâtel	53-	59-		
Red Neuchâtel	57-	—		

As supplied to the Swiss Clubs, Swiss Hotels and Restaurants, and the Catering Dept. of the London Zoological Society, Regents Park & Whipsnade.

Nett Cash. Carriage paid for London.

COUNTRY ORDERS MUST BE PREPAID.

ALL ORDERS EXECUTED IMMEDIATELY.

## GOOD TAILORING —

— always scores.

Better fit, better cloth and better workmanship mean better value for your money.

Suits from 3½ Gns. to 8 Gns., but you get value for every penny you pay. Mr. Pritchett is well-known to the Swiss Colony. Ask to see him. A SPECIAL DEPARTMENT FOR HOTEL UNIFORMS. Compare our prices.

W. PRITCHETT  
183 & 184, TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD, W.1.

2 mins. from Swiss Mercantile School.

## Divine Services.

## EGLISE SUISSE (1762),

(Langue française).

79, ENDELL STREET, SHAFTESBURY AVENUE, W.C.2.

(Near New Oxford Street).

Dimanche 30 Juin 11h. — "Il a été tenté comme nous" Hebr. IV v 15. M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme.

7h. — M. le pasteur Emery.

Dimanche 7 Juillet — Service spécial de Clôture de l'Ecole du dimanche et Ste. Cène.

## BAPTEME.

Eric Max Roethlisberger de Langnau (Berne) né le 27 Juillet 1934, fils de Otto et d'Hélène Lucie née Lassueur — le 20 Juin 1935.

## SCHWEIZERKIRCHE

(Deutschsprachige Gemeinde).

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

(near General Post Office.)

Sonntag, den 30. Juni 1935.

11 Uhr morgens Gottesdienst und Sonntagsschule.

7 Uhr abend Gottesdienst.

Die Abend Gottesdienste fallen während der Monate Juli und August aus.

Printed for the Proprietors, by THE FREDERICK PRINTING CO. LTD., at 23, Leonard Street, London, E.C.2.