

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: - (1950)
Heft: 1149

Artikel: Christmas reflections
Autor: [s.n.]
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-695304>

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: 16.01.2026

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

CHRISTMAS REFLECTIONS.

Living, as we are, in a world beset with fears and misgivings, harassed by economic problems and distracted by conflicting ideologies, it is with a sense of relief that we welcome the coming Christmas interlude. It will give us an opportunity to lay aside for a while the cares and preoccupations of our daily lives and to take part, once more, in the traditional festivities which are being observed throughout the Christian world at this time of the year.

The Christmas festival has an interesting history. The merry-making, the giving of presents and the very date on which we celebrate the birthday of Christ, all these can be traced back to the pre-Christian era. The ancient Romans observed December 25th as the Solar festival—the winter solstice—which probably explains why that date was fixed for Christmas by the early Church fathers who often adapted a pagan feast to Christian usage. From the 4th century onward the date of Christmas has remained unchanged though the Armenian Church to this day celebrate it on January 6th, the feast of Epiphany.

Under the Puritan Commonwealth, in 1644, it was forbidden to observe Christmas day by any festivities and December 25th was ordered, by law, to be a market day.

The meaning of the Christmas message was not always put into practice. Obscurantism and religious intolerance have often, in the past, made a mockery of it. Dark and evil things have been done in the name of Him whose teaching postulated neighbourly love, forgiveness and humility. But gradually, through the centuries, enlightenment has dawned on the nations whose people profess the Christian faith. To-day, no one, not even the agnostic, will deny that Christian thought has exerted — and does so still — a beneficial influence on mankind and that, without it, the world would be a far worse place to live in.

Christmas is essentially a festival for the family. To enjoy it to the full it ought to be celebrated in one's home, in the congenial companionship of those who are near and dear to us, with such good cheer as we may afford or is available to us. And if the household

includes children, our enjoyment will be all the greater for their enthusiasm and merriment.

There are few among us who, on seeing a brightly lit Christmas tree or hearing the moving strains of "Silent Night, Holy Night" are not transported back to the days of their childhood. They then remember, not without nostalgia, the time when Christmas was something we eagerly looked forward to, and our young minds accepted the beautiful story of Bethlehem and the message of the angels with a rapture and an unquestioning faith which in our maturer and more sophisticated years we find it difficult to recapture. These are precious memories, and blessed are they whose hearts respond and vibrate to their appeal.

Let us therefore steep ourselves in the Christmas atmosphere and rejoice in the knowledge that we are privileged to be associated with countries permeated by Christian traditions. For both in our beloved homeland and in the great community whose hospitality we enjoy, and in which so many of us have found a second home, the Christian spirit is still alive and the Christmas message of "Goodwill on Earth" has not lost its meaning.

To all our readers the Editor extends warmest greetings and very best wishes for a Happy Christmas.

The Editor.

INSURANCE SERVICE

The members of the SWISS COLONY in this country can obtain free expert advice on any insurance matters.

Please phone or write for particulars to:—

**ANGLO-SWISS INSURANCE
AND REINSURANCE AGENCY LTD.,
29 & 30, HIGH HOLBORN, LONDON, W.C.1
Tel.: CHAncery 8 5 5 4 (5 Lines)**

For your traffic
to, from or via the United Kingdom

Head Office :
ALLTRANSPORT BUILDING,
LITTLE TRINITY LANE,
LONDON - E.C.4.



Telegrams :
Alltrans, Cannon, London.
Telephone :
CENtral 5200 (20 Lines)

Foreign Correspondence in French, German and Italian in all Departments.