

**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:** - (1951)  
**Heft:** 1168  
  
**Artikel:** The Swiss seen by a Swiss... "Kantonenligeist"  
**Autor:** [s.n.]  
**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-694933>

### **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:** 16.09.2025

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

each have special sections giving details of distances and fares and means of transport.

\* \* \*

Art masterpieces from some of Europe's leading museums are on show at the All Saints' Museum, Schaffhausen, until October 28th. The exhibition, which opened in July, is a delight to art lovers, and contains works by Jan van Eyck, Altdorfer, Cranach, Memling, Dürer, Konrad Witz, Holbein, Brueghel, Fra Angelico, Mantegna, Titien, Raphael, Rogier van der Weyden and Botticelli. The paintings have been loaned by the Kaiser Friedrich Museum, Berlin, the "Mauritshuis", the Hague, the "Kunsthistorisches Museum", Vienna, and the Pinacoteca di Brera, Milan.

\* \* \*

More visitors than ever before have been visiting Switzerland's historic Castle of Chillon — famous throughout the English-speaking world as the scene of Lord Byron's poem "The Prisoner of Chillon". During August visitors totalled an average of a thousand a day. The Castle of Chillon is at Territet near Montreux, on the shores of the Lake of Geneva.

### OUR NEXT ISSUE.

Our next issue will be published on Friday, October 26th, 1951. We take the opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their kind and helpful donations over and above their subscription: W. Kilchenmann, W. Flory, J. H. Speich, Anonymous, Miss E. F. Irvine, Mrs. F. Schreck.

## ***Danger!***

## ***Ladies at work!***

Mind your pockets! For when you see the display provided by the Ladies' Section of the UNIONE TICINESE for their

### **GRAND CHRISTMAS BAZAAR**

**on Saturday, 24th November, 2.30-8.00 p.m.**

— AT SWISS HOUSE, —

you will not be able to resist the urge to buy.

ENTRANCE FREE

The Bazaar will be opened by  
Mrs. GUIDO LEPORI.

*Special attractions will be :-*

Novelties from the Ticino  
Hand-knitted goods for all  
Food Stall  
Lucky dip, Side-shows, etc.

*Teas will also be served*

**MAKE A NOTE OF THE DATE NOW!**

## **THE SWISS SEEN BY A SWISS . . . "KANTÖENLIGEIST."**

To start off this short essay on a subject with which we are all very well acquainted, admittedly or not, I can think of nothing better than a short conversation I overheard one day in a tramcar of Switzerland's capital. A local trader, who was obviously a great admirer of our national hero of the wheel, said: "Gäll Du, der Kübler het ne wieder mal zeigt was d'Schwyzzer chöi". Replied his friend: "Goppel ja, de Färdi ischt halt en Zürcher!" This reply, which is by no means only typical of an inhabitant of the Canton of Zurich, seems to set the whole problem and to answer it at the same time.

"Kantönligeist," if an adequate description can be given at all, is a harmless and friendly competition between Cantons, an urge to shine in front of one's neighbour who has the misfortune to be born in another part of the country, and lastly the satisfaction of being a little different by either dialect, tradition or outlook. It is a never-ending source of amusement for the many and a cause of extreme annoyance to the few.

It may lead to heated arguments, but never does it result in public disorder or civil war. "Kantönligeist" is on no account to be taken seriously, for if it were, a "Bunter Abend" on Saturday night or a "Quart d'heur Vaudois" would be impossible to listen to without switching the programme off. Newspapers don't help matters, either. The majority of jokes contained in the space reserved for this purpose are sure to have some connection with the subject under discussion.

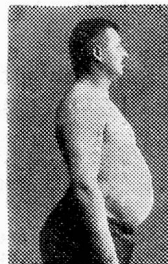
Talking of jokes, who doesn't know the little tale according to which a crocodile, sent as a gift from the Basel Zoo to the one in Zurich, died of anger and frustration within the hour of its delivery, having realized that the biggest mouth was no longer his. Well, it is quite obvious what the story is referring to, but do the people concerned mind? Not a bit! On the contrary, they hit back.

And what about the eternal state of war between the honorable cities of Geneva, Lausanne and Neuchâtel, each trying to convince the others that the French spoken by its inhabitants is purest? Nobody feels in the least offended, one just nods, smiles, and keeps believing in one's own point of view.

All these examples are but an imperfect illustration of what "Kantönligeist" means and will always mean to the Swiss: it is a part of his national character without which he wouldn't prove a worthy son of Wilhelm Tell.

*Helveticus.*

## **YOU CAN BE SLIM AND SUPREME FIT WITHIN 3 MONTHS WITHOUT DIETING**



Before

A Complete Physical Rejuvenation for Men and Women of  
**ALL AGES**

Why not have an interview  
with Mr. Abplanalp?  
or write for particulars to:

**ARTHUR  
ABPLANALP  
168, REGENT STREET,  
LONDON, W.1. Tel. 2726**



After

(Established at this address since 1921)