

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: - (1960)
Heft: 1358

Artikel: Castles of Switzerland
Autor: Schoop, John C.
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-687826>

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: 04.02.2026

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

RONCO s/ASCONA — E' morto la mattina di giovedì, 11 febbraio, improvvisamente, alla vigilia del suo 80° compleanno, Gottardo Madonna, segretario della Deputazione ticinese alle Camere federali. Da qualche tempo la sua salute era scossa ed aveva accettato con filosofia e non senza qualche umorismo le sue forzate peregrinazioni da medico e farmacista. Gottardo Madonna studiò diritto a Losanna. Entrò poi al servizio della Confederazione e per ben 7 lustri fu capo della cancelleria federale di lingua italiana.

LOCARNO — Nelle prime ore del pomeriggio di venerdì, 12 febbraio, si diffondeva in città la notizia della morte avvenuta in servizio patrio del 1° Ten. Armando Mazzoni di Pietro. Il giovane pilota 28ne, istruttore presso le squadriglie di sorveglianza del nostro esercito aveva preso posto nella mattinata a bordo di un velivolo monomotore militare AT-16 con il giovane pilota Ullmann per un volo di ricognizione meteorologico. Tutto sembrava normale a bordo ed il velivolo stava sorvolando il Toggenburgo ad un'altezza di circa 500m. dal suolo quando improvvisamente perdeva quota schiantandosi al suolo. Sia il nostro consittadino sia il suo compagno trovavano la morte istantanea. Le cause della disgrazia non sono ancora note.

BELLINZONA — E' giunta ai familiari la triste notizia del decesso del bellinbonese col. Walter Carmine spentosi a 68 anni in una clinica militare di Washington. L'Estinto, emigrato giovanissimo negli Stati Uniti prima ancora dello scoppio della prima guerra mondiale, abbracciava la carriera militare. Partecipò alla campagna messicana contro il banditismo. Durante la seconda guerra mondiale prese parte, con il grado di Aiutante Generale, delle truppe americane alle avanzate in Cina e in India.

Poncione di Vespero.

CASTLES OF SWITZERLAND

By JOHN C. SCHOOP

Unspunnen

There is little left of this castle at the foot of the Grosse Rugen in the vicinity of Interlaken. Yet, the ruins and their environment are so picturesque that they became a principal factor in the development of Interlaken as a tourist centre. But we are running ahead of our story.

The barony was known as Unspunnon and Unspunnum, which name survives in the local idiom's denomination of "Unspunnen." It has been conjectured that once upon a time the manors of Unspunnen and Rotenfluh, with Balm Castle, were united, but already in 1252 the documents refer only to a "domina de Rötenufluo," which, it appears, belonged to Wediswil (Waedenswil). Furthermore, a daughter of Conrad von Wediswil married Rudolph von Weissenburg, sieur of Rotenfluh 1298, and these barons sold to the abbey of Interlaken "the old manor and old court, of yore at Rotenfluh, but now belonging to Weissenau (Wissenowe)" 1334, and it was to become an imperial fee.

Baron Burkhardt von Thun († after 1237) and his wife Lukardis are the earliest recorded owners of Unspunnen. Their only daughter, Ita von Unspunnen, married baron Rudolph von Wadiswil before 1224. She became abbess of Frauental 1271, died 1290. Their held in high esteem by Rudolph von Habsburg. Without male heir, Unspunnen went to Berchtold von Eschenbach when he married a daughter of Konrad's.

Walter IV von Eschenbach was compelled to dispose of Oberhofen und Unspunnen to the sons of King Albrecht 1306, who mortgaged these places to several creditors: Count Otto von Strassberg 1315; the sieurs of Weissenburg 1316; to Interlaken and Johann von Haliwil 1342; then the counts of Kiburg.

Baron Johann von Weissenburg had the title to Unspunnen 1332, when the people of the Hasli revolted against him unsuccessfully. He defeated them and took fifty prisoners, who were held on Unspunnen until 1334, when Berne besieged the place and effected their surrender.

When the counts of Kiburg were mortgagees of Unspunnen 1376, the respective titles went to Peter von Gouwenstein and Werner von Velschen. In 1397, Berne bought up all liens, coming into possession of Unspunnen, Saxeten, Mülinen, Grenchen, Wilderswil, Isenfluh, Tedlingen (Därligen), and properties in Grindelwald and Lauterbrunnen. Only one year later Berne disposed of all this except Oberhofen as a fief to its burghers Ludwig von Seftigen und Niklaus von Scharnachtal. Their descendants retained this domain until 1479 and 1515 respectively, Berne obtaining the titles. Unspunnen was the home of a Bernese castellan and administrator for an unspecified time. The premises were neglected and left to decay until 1880, when some restoration was undertaken.

Schultheis N.F. von Muelinen became the initiator of alpine festivals on the meadows in front of ruins, first produced 1805 and 1808, attracting many celebrities from abroad, and most enthusiastically applauded by Mmes de Staël and Vigée-Lebrun, spreading their fame.

Amerikanische Schweizer Zeitung.



Shoes by



THE LONDON SHOE CO. LTD. *of Switzerland*

116/7 New Bond St. W.1: 260 Regent St. W.1: 21/22 Sloane St. S.W.1

SCHWEIZERBUND
(SWISS CLUB)
74 Charlotte St., London, W.1

**SPECIALITIES FOR YOUR ENJOYMENT
IN THE NEAR FUTURE**

ESCALOPE CORDON BLEU—PICCATA A'LA TICINESE

FONDUE

ENTRECOTE CAFE DE PARIS—SAUERKRAUT GARNI

A LA CARTE

Under the Management of
M. & Mme. F. Vuistiner (Chef de Cuisine)

For Banquets up to 150 persons or any special arrangements,
e.g. Theatre Parties, Weddings, etc., please telephone Museum 0036