

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: - (1962)
Heft: 1418

Artikel: Comptoir suisse
Autor: [s.n.]
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-693805>

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>

SHORTHAND IN ABYSSINIA**A Swiss creation**

Under a scheme of assistance by the International Labour Office, two Swiss, Gottfried Weilenmann and Werner Sidler, have evolved a shorthand system for the Amharic language based on the Stolze-Schrey method. In order to achieve this, extensive frequency counts were necessary. The hieroglyphs are extremely complicated and it is obvious that shorthand will be most useful. In Amharic consonants and vowels are not expressed by individual letters, but every consonant and the subsequent vowel form a syllable which cannot be "dissected". The Abyssinian of Amhara speaks and writes in syllables and each of the 250 syllables has a symbol. Our two compatriots were therefore faced with considerable difficulties when evolving this shorthand system. But they have achieved brilliant results, not only in working out the actual signs, but also in finding abbreviations for a very large number of prefixes and suffixes.

In the August 1962 issue the "Mitteilungen" of the Association of Former Students of the Zurich Cantonal School of Commerce (Mr. Weilenmann is a former student himself) gave a sample illustrating the new shorthand and it is immediately clear when comparing the involved Amharic writing with the much simplified shorthand what tremendous saving will be effected.

Mariann.

COMPTOIR SUISSE

The 43rd National Fair was held in Lausanne from 8th to 23rd September. The Comptoir is a general trade fair largely representative of Switzerland's manufactured products and as such a traditional autumn meeting for producers and consumers. Some 2,400 exhibitors took part, amongst them the American Office for Aeronautics and Space Research (NASA). Every year a foreign country is invited to participate as guest of honour. This year Yugoslavia had its special pavilion.

An exhibition, "Visage du Nord Vaudois", showed the beauties of the less well-known northern parts of the Canton. The Union Bank of Switzerland showed a unique exhibition of coins the value of which amounted to several million francs. The exhibits included ancient Greek gold and silver coins, relics of the old Roman Empire, Byzantine valuables and precious treasures of the Bank of Venice.

A total of 875,000 visitors attended the fair.

*Mariann.
(Based mainly on
ATS reports.)*

ODD COINCIDENCE

On 13th August a woman in Zurich gave birth to twin boys. As that very day is both the birthday of father and mother as well, the whole family will be able to wish one another "many happy returns" of the same birthday.

CITY SWISS CLUB**97th Annual Banquet and Ball with Cabaret**

in conjunction with

SWISS ECONOMIC COUNCIL

FRIDAY, 16th NOVEMBER 1962

at the

DORCHESTER HOTEL, PARK LANE, LONDON, W.1

RECEPTION 7.30 p.m. • DINNER at 8 p.m. • DANCING until 1 a.m.

Orchestra: ARTHUR SALISBURY and his Ten-Piece Band



BLACK TIE

TICKETS £2 2s. (including gratuities) obtainable from

Mr. A. Stauffer, 48a Putney Hill, London, S.W.15, or

Mr. L. F. Jobin, Messrs. Marchand & Jobin Ltd., 100 Hatton Garden, London, E.C.1

Tables for parties of 8 to 12 can be arranged in due course