

**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:** - (1966)  
**Heft:** 1507

**Artikel:** Swiss-British centre, Duerrenaes ch  
**Autor:** [s.n.]  
**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-696270>

### **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>**

## SWISS-BRITISH CENTRE, DÜRRENAESCH

### British Women on Swiss Holiday Study Tours

Some 700 British women who believe that travel should be study, as well as pleasure, are coming to Switzerland in groups of thirty to forty-five to learn about the country as more than a land of Alps, watches, cheese and chocolate.

Their tours have been arranged through the Swiss National Tourist Office in London and Zurich, with the pilot help of the "Pro Helvetia" foundation, and a wide variety of co-operative organisations. The first groups arrived in April; the final ones this year are scheduled to come in October.

The women are all members of Townswomen's Guilds in England. These local guilds represent part of a national network with general cultural and educational aims; organisation membership, of about 211,000, includes a cross-section of all women in the country.

The visitors come to a "home" in Switzerland — the Swiss-British Centre at Dürrenäsch housed in facilities established in 1956 for a more general purpose of accommodating Swiss living abroad and returning for holidays. The facilities now have a dual mission.

Dürrenäsch is a quiet, agricultural community of some 1,000 inhabitants set 565 metres above sea level among gently sloping hills in the Canton of Aargau. From this central location, Zurich, Basle, Berne and Lucerne are easily accessible. The community dramatically came into the news in September 1963, when a Swissair plane crashed near it. A striking stone monument to the Swiss who died aboard — forty-three farm people from the village of Humlikon — stands just at the entrance to Dürrenäsch.

Fairly typical of the British groups now making the village their temporary home was a recent unit of visitors from the Central London Federation of Townswomen's Guilds. Retired teachers, professional workers, and mothers were included in their ranks.

Mrs. Douglas McConachy, the tour organiser, explained how the guild organisation encouraged enlargement of individual interests through special sections like arts and crafts, social studies, drama, music. "We're more than just social, you know", she declared.

The visitors embarked on a whirlwind schedule to prove just this point that began with a lecture on Swiss history and government. The English guests, always lively and inquisitive, particularly peppered a Zurich lecturer on the Swiss educational system with very specific queries. They wanted to know about facilities for adult education,

about accommodations for the mentally or physically-handicapped child, about whether parent-teacher associations existed and about general problems of discipline in Swiss classrooms. In a discussion of national traditions and customs, the visitors were anxious to know what were the rights of women, by law and custom.

During a week's stay, the group visited a dairy farm, saw the *Bundeshaus* in Berne, toured the Migros headquarters in Zurich and dined, individually, with Swiss families. Sightseeing in the mountains was more than simply gaping at the Alps; one member of the group was an expert on mountain flowers and discoursed on all varieties encountered.

In all, exactly seventeen groups will come to Switzerland under the holiday-study programme in 1966 and, already, twenty groups have enrolled for similar tours next year.

Laura Pilarski.

\* \* \*

Laura Pilarski, born in Niagara Falls, N.Y., of Polish descent. Came to Europe 1960; wrote and travelled on the Continent, eventually specialising on Eastern Europe; living in Warsaw, Poland, for two years, in Switzerland since late 1963, writing about Switzerland for McGraw-Hill Magazines, New York and for North American Newspaper Alliance, New York (Feature stories). Contributed to a businessman's guide book to Europe, wrote several articles for "Weltwoche".

PRO HELVETIA Information and Press Service  
Zurich — Switzerland.

Swiss National Tourist Office  
London — Head Office Zurich.

From: Weekly Tribune, 10th June 1966.

Le Restaurant Français de la Place

SA CUISINE—SON SERVICE

**CHEZ MAURICE**

118 Seaside Road — Telephone 4894

**EASTBOURNE SUSSEX**

Propriétaire A. Bertschy F.C.F.A.

Chef de Cuisine Diplômé

Telephone: BIS 0301

TELEX 21859

Telegrams: EXPED LONDON EC2

## SPEDEX SHIPPING LTD.

INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING AND FORWARDING AGENTS

166 BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.2.

International Road Haulage, Packing, Warehousing, Forwarding, Insurance and Customs Specialists

### Regular Direct Road Trailer Groupage Service From Switzerland to U.K. and vice versa

(with our own trailers, from 100kg. upwards)

LOW PACKING CHARGES, LESS HANDLING AS NO TRANSHIPMENT ON ROUTE

Swiss agents: CARGO AG., MILITÄRSTR 109, ZÜRICH AND SPALENRING 149, BASLE