

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:	- (1969)
Heft:	1574
Rubrik:	The "Swiss Observer" 30 years ago

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: 28.01.2026

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

THE "SWISS OBSERVER"

30 YEARS AGO

On 1st July 1939, we read that the Assembly of the Swiss Abroad had been held at the Federal Shooting Contest in Lucerne. The Government had accepted Parliament's proposal to control Swiss newspapers' funds, though it was considered difficult to check the 523 dailies. The "Neue Zürcher Zeitung" and the "Bund" had been prohibited in Italy. From the "Tribune de Genève", an article on the Battle of Laupen was reprinted, and a long appreciation of a Russian film on Peter the Great appeared — what had that to do with Switzerland or the Swiss? There was also a little notice in German about a new idea on making windows airtight.

Results of the "Tir Fédéral" appeared in the following issue, and, under a photo of the flag of the London Swiss Rifle Team, we heard that London had finished in 6th place. A photo appeared of the sculptress Mrs. Bingguely-Lejeune whose bust of the Rt. Hon. The Viscount Nuffield also appeared in picture in that issue, following a successful exhibition. "Lessons of the Swiss National Exhibition in Zurich" and news of the Lucerne Music Festival appeared together with an appeal to compatriots to attend the First of August Celebration to be held in London *for the first time* officially. A lot of football news completed the issue.

On 15th July, we learned that Switzerland had finished third in the

International Shooting Competition held in Lucerne, and that she had become World Champion in the International Army Rifle and Pistol Shooting Competition. The newly constructed short wave station of Schwarzenburg had been gutted by fire. 10,000 refugees, mostly Jewish, were in Switzerland during the summer of 1939, 3,000 of whom without means of subsistence. The Zurich Rowing Club had won the Stewards' Challenge Cup at the Henley Regatta. A long article was reprinted from "The Listener", in which Prof. W. Rappard, Geneva, described the "Swiss Political Tradition".

The next issue carried the announcement that the new Swiss Minister in London would be Monsieur Walter Thurnheer, in succession to Monsieur Paravicini who had been in London for a quarter of a century. Seven Swiss Nazis and one German had been sentenced to imprisonment in Zurich (espionage). The Lord Mayor of London had paid a visit to the Swiss National Exhibition.

The last issue in July 1939 described various new measures Switzerland had been and was taking with regard to her defence in order to safeguard her neutrality in a time of increasing tension. 23 British architects were on a tour of Switzerland. A Swiss Himalayan expedition had succeeded for the first time to ascend the Dunagari (7,060 metres). The well-known Swissair pilot and author Walter Ackermann had been killed in an air crash near Constance. More copious "Notes and Gleanings" by Kyburg filled a good part of the

paper, comments on newspaper reports, mixed with the writer's own opinions.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We wish to thank the following subscribers for sending donations in addition to their subscriptions and/or for taking out or renewing gift subscriptions for friends or old-age pensioners:

Mrs. F. K. Bechtel, Mrs. K. Carden, Mrs. R. Hions (Binningen BL), Mrs. F. Jones, Mrs. M. Maeder, Mrs. E. L. Tschanen, Monsieur l'Ambassadeur A. Daeniker (Berne), Monsieur F. Muheim and Messrs. V. L. Bataillard, P. Bucher, A. Dreux (Basle), H. Knoll, A. Kunzler, W. Leuenberger (Zurich), P. H. Milliquet, E. Pfeiffer, J. Mueller, R. Privat, E. Ritzmann (Arlesheim BL), S. Sandor (Rome), E. Schaerer, M. Schneebeli, J. A. Sennhauser, A. W. Sommer, W. Wagner, L. O. R. Wildi.

We are most grateful for their kind and welcome support.

THEY CELEBRATE . . .

. . . their 56th wedding anniversary on 27th July: Mr. and Mrs. F. Delaloye, and their birthdays: on 1st August Mr. J. Regamey (78), on 2nd August Mr. V. Bataillard (88), on 4th August Mr. B. Truninger, Zurich, (62), on 6th August Mrs. A. Schmid and Dr. H. Rast (78). Congratulations and best wishes, as well as to all other readers who will be having birthdays and anniversaries within the next two weeks.

Swiss National Day Celebration and Gala Dance

Friday, 1 AUGUST, at 18.30

(Doors open at 17.45)

WIMBLEDON TOWN HALL, WIMBLEDON

Next door to Wimbledon Station

PROGRAMME

The programme, as usual, includes items of a patriotic nature.

The main address will be given by

H.E. The Swiss Ambassador, Monsieur René Keller.

Two colour sound films will be shown.

The members of the **Corale Ticinese** will give a performance of their traditional Ticinesi songs.

The well-known entertainer **Urs Böschenstein** of Radio Zurich will delight the audience with popular Swiss folk songs.

DANCING

REFRESHMENTS

LICENSED BAR

TICKETS at 5/- available at the door.

SEE YOU AT WIMBLEDON ON 1 AUGUST