

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: - (1971)

Heft: 1610-1611

Rubrik: Welfare Office for Swiss girls

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: 02.04.2026

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

scientific career. He would like to receive from them brief biographical notes, which include present address and date of birth.

TEST YOUR SKILL IN SOLVING THE FOLLOWING ANAGRAMS OF WELL-KNOWN SWISS TOWNS

1. ANTI PERSON
2. "BLUE, ANN TURNER?"
3. BONDED ALE
4. e.g. WIGS!
5. GREEK STAND
6. "I'M IN GREEN!"
7. "RING LEW LADD"
8. SAD, TAG
9. "STORK, LES?"
10. ZIM'S TROT

ANSWERS

- | | | | |
|-----|---------------|-----|---------------|
| 10. | ZLITROW IS | 10. | SI. MORITZ |
| 9. | KLOSTERS | 9. | KLOSTERS |
| 8. | GSTAAD | 8. | GSTAAD |
| 7. | GRINDELWALD | 7. | GRINDELWALD |
| 6. | MEIRINGEN | 6. | MEIRINGEN |
| 5. | KANDERSTEG | 5. | KANDERSTEG |
| 4. | WEGGIS | 4. | WEGGIS |
| 3. | ADELBODEN | 3. | ADELBODEN |
| 2. | LAUTERBRUNNEN | 2. | LAUTERBRUNNEN |
| 1. | PONTRESINA | 1. | PONTRESINA |

(Anagrams devised by Mr. Jack Kosky)

(continued from page 6)

movements who have launched the initiatives on this subject are in effect trying to free the individual citizen from the responsibility of caring for his old days. The guaranteed comfort of Old Age was very much a question of wisdom and foresight. At least for those who could afford to practise such wisdom. For the others, there were days when children took their old parents in their care. Now this role is incumbent upon the State. But for those who are trying to improve the welfare of old people, the home of rest is just not good enough.

(PMB)



WELFARE OFFICE

for

SWISS GIRLS IN GREAT BRITAIN

(For Information, Advice or Help)

31 Conway Street, London W.1.

(Nearest Underground Station:
Warren Street)

Telephone: 01-387-3608

RECEPTION HOURS

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
2 p.m. to 5 p.m. or by appointment.



HOW DO THE BRITISH SEE THE SWISS?

by Martin Drayton

What do the British think of the Swiss? In the following article a young English journalist reports on his interviews with the "man in the street" on this topic.

For good or ill, people think of foreign countries in terms of images. And in no case is the image more predictable—or more potentially misleading—than in the case of Switzerland.

"It's a postcard country—it looks like something off a calendar". "All I can remember is mountains covered in snow and those funny little houses that look like cuckoo clocks". Ask any Englishman what he remembers about Switzerland and he will invariably come out with something of this sort.

Part of the reason is, of course, that the only motive the average Briton has for going to Switzerland is to take a holiday. He goes here expecting it to look like a postcard, and he is not disappointed. The ski resorts are, after all, postcard country nulli secundus.

But the "picture postcard" image goes deeper than that. Switzerland has been a neutral country for centuries—it has none of the outward-looking force of the politically committed countries around it. It has none of the evangelical hysteria of America, none of the long-established colonial interests of Britain. It has no propaganda drum to beat; it has never been a hotbed of insurrection or the target of invasion like many of its neighbours.

The result of this is that its image is very much a passive one. It is a setting, a place where people go to convalesce or to ski, to hold conferences or deposit their money or, if they are rich enough, to build their third houses for tax purposes. To the English at least it is a country of hosts, and what limelight it enjoys is reflected from its more important guests—it has many—and from its dramatic scenery.

It is not surprising, then, that the British Press did not devote much attention to the news that the women of what is in fact one of the oldest democracies have for the first time gained the right to vote. And the news raised correspondingly little interest among the British people.

The British are, after all, remarkably complacent about their own democratic structure, and they tend to take their own rights and freedoms for granted. Women have had the vote in this country for as long as most of its inhabitants can remember, and it comes as no great surprise to them that women are allowed to vote elsewhere.

But now that Britain is seeing the beginning of what promises to be a noisy (if ineffectual) revolt of second-generation Emily Pankhursts in the

form of the Women's Liberation Movement, they at least profess to a certain sense of triumph at the enfranchisement of the women of Switzerland.

"I think it's about time Swiss women got the vote—it's a very good thing", said one British housewife. "I think it's awful that they were given only second-class citizenship for so long".

But the same lady, who had spent some time in Switzerland on holiday, was far from flattering about their political awareness: "The mentality of the Swiss women I met seemed to be restricted to their homes and families. I didn't get the impression that they were at all interested in outside power, and I doubt that many of them will use it now they've got it".

Many people were surprised to learn that Swiss women did not have the right to vote—which is a reflection of British insularity as much as anything. But several suggested very coherent reasons for the absence of the franchise. One woman felt that the reason lay in Switzerland's neutrality: "In a neutral country which has been at peace for such a long time you wouldn't expect women to be a significant force politically. It's only when a country goes to war that it realises the potential of its female population—or that the women themselves realise it. As soon as women are obliged to work in munitions factories and do what in peacetime are regarded as men's jobs they start demanding men's rights".

The effects of Swiss neutrality—and its accompanying social stability—were touched upon by an English student who had lived in Switzerland for a short time:

"Switzerland seems to me to be a very regulated country with a very well-oiled social and political system. And in a country where you have this stability, coupled with a high standard of living and an apparently total absence of real poverty and unemployment you don't need to give women the vote. I don't think Swiss women felt the need for the right to vote because they were very comfortably installed in a well-regulated social structure".

One English woman sounded a note of warning on the subject with typical feminine insight: "It's great that they have been given the right. But once you've given it to them, you'll have the devil's own job if you want to take it away from them again".

Her opinion of the Swiss in general was unusually articulate: "They are a fairly passive race. They are very serious—I think they are very high-principled too. Their standard of living is