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: - (1973)

Heft: 1657

Rubrik: Swiss Abbeys

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: 02.12.2025

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

for hardly more than 2.5 per cent of the gross national product.

Federalism, and ideal scarred by time

A final reference should be made to federalism. Federalism, neutrality and direct democracy not only make up the foundations of Switzerland as a State, but also as a people. The fact that, apparently against all logic, a French-speaking Swiss probably feels closer to a German-speaking compatriot than to a Frenchman is the unique consequence of the community of political beliefs and ideals shared over the centuries by two people of different language, culture, and temperament.

Although federalism would seem to be a dissociating factor, it has in fact helped to strengthen the institutional cohesion of the Swiss by preserving the individual identity of each canton, and hence their mutual respect. The ideal is still very much alive today among the grass roots, but the extension of urban living and increasing financial dependance on the Central State have nibbled at its The facts of modern life have inevitably led to a growing control of the provinces by Berne at the expense of regional governments. But Switzerland is fighting to keep its federal structure (which is reflected in every aspect of cultural life) failing which she would find herself losing her historical personality. This, of course, is probably inevitable. But the Government and the Swiss establishment intend to fight a vigorous rearguard action and defend federalism by

carefully not overstepping federal prerogatives, by giving cantons a chance to settle their differences by intercantonal agreement and by consulting them on every new important item of legislation.

Federalism, neutrality and direct democracy are political options which have been enhanced into the values without which the Swiss as a nation world begin to question their identity.

Swiss Abbeys

A WALK TO THE MADONA DEL SASSO

If you take the road leaving off to the left from opposite the central post office of Lacarno, you will soon reach the cantonal main road. To the left of it you will find the ancient Capucine Convent. It was founded in 1602, but serves today as an institution for deaf and dumb patients and as a boarding school for weak children. To the right, you will see the high wall of the enclosure of the Sainte Catherine Monastery, founded in 1616 with an Augustine Abbess. The building was completely destroyed by fire in the 16th Century.

Above this monastery, which is in at the heart of picturesque surroundings, towers a secondary school for girls built in 1894 with its beautiful garden and superb exotic plants. Starting from the the main road to the left of this establishment, a path leads up the hill to the celebrated monastery of the *Madonna del Sasso*. The ever-changing scenery and the splendid view, which is a delight to the

eye of the stroller, makes the charm of this beautiful region.

In 25 to 30 minutes, one arrives to the church. It is built 355 metres high on a rock between two wild ravines. The edifice is surrounded by an imposing colonnade. The interior is heavily decorated with ornaments and gilt objects.

Inside the chapel and to the right can be admired Bramantino's "Flight into Egypt". In the other chapel on the left the visitor is profoundly moved by the "Burial of Jesus", a masterpiece by the painter Antonio Ciseri (1821–1891) of Ronco (near Ascona), and one-time professor at the Academy of Fine Arts in

Florence.

Thousands of pilgrims, Italians mostly, come every year to kneel in front of the Madonna. Capucine Fathers officiate at the pilgrimage.

The Monastery can also be reached by the Locarno-Madona del Sasso funicular reilway.

funicular railway.

Pierre Savoie

ACME TRANSPORT CO., LTD.

The Specialists in Transports to and from The Continent

CITY WALL HOUSE 84-89 CHISWELL STREET, LONDON, E.C.1

Cables: Acmetrans London EC1. Telex: 884005 Phone: 01-606 5721

ALSO AT: LONDON AIRPORT, MANCHESTER AND HARWICH

We Operate Direct Train Ferry and Container Services