

**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:** - (1975)  
**Heft:** 1713

## **Inhaltsverzeichnis**

### **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:** 27.01.2026

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

# Features

## Contents

The Swiss humorous drawings	2
Geneva: a Republic	6
Official communications:	
– The Federal Political Department asks itself some questions	9
– Political rights of the Swiss abroad	10
– Swiss Holiday Pass	10
– Notice: declaration of Swiss and Liechtenstein property, interests and claims in the German Democratic Republic	11
Communications of the Secretariat of the Swiss abroad:	
– A big day for the Swiss abroad	12
– Youth Service of the Secretariat: skiing camps	12
– Solidarity Fund of the Swiss abroad	13
– Pro Juventute: Summer holidays 1976	14
Book Review	15
Ambassador's Message	16
AHV/IV and sickness insurance	17
Woman's Year	17
Local communications	20

Compatriots who would like to read the

### New Year's

Message delivered by the President of the Swiss Confederation may apply to Embassies or Consulates.

## Swiss humorous drawings

Perhaps this heading already may cause a smile with some readers abroad, for they cannot imagine that the Swiss who have the reputation of being serious, calm and reasonable, should also have some humour or even know how to appreciate it. And yet, there is a Swiss brand of humour which – if expressed in drawings – has the advantage of being international, national and regional all at the same time, and this thanks to the various cultures and languages anchored in our country.

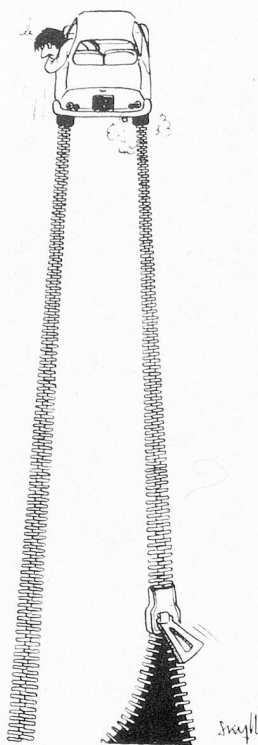
At exhibitions every year where the best artists of all continents are represented, the specialists in pictorial humour are agreed that entries from Switzerland show very personal characteristics. Not only are they of high artistic value, but they contain freshness of ideas full of originality and imagination. The numerous prizes and awards which Swiss humorists receive, testify to this.

Prof. Gianeri, famous Italian critic of humorous art, describes Swiss humorous drawings as follows: «...if, as Arsène Alexandre maintains, caricature is a mischievous, malicious animal with a thick skin and double tongue, then Swiss caricature is an animal with three tongues. It is indeed the only one which, with the ease of a computer, speaks three different languages in a drawing. It is a caricature whose roots go very deep, and with an authentic pedigree...»

### The creators of Swiss humour

This definition is flattering, yet correct; for it suffices to confirm that several Swiss drawing artists belong to the pioneers in the world history of humour. Some of them indeed became very famous abroad. Thus we owe the first real book of caricatures with the title «Hollandia Regenerata» (1798) to

David Hess (1770–1843), a book which is practically no longer to be found and which contains grim drawings devoted to the lost cause of the French counter-revolutionary reaction. But it was the Brothers Usteri (Johann Martin 1763–1827 and Paul 1770–1843) who stimulated the distribution of popular humorous drawings by their works published in German-Swiss calendars. Martin Disteli (1802–1844), unequalled creator of satirical animal caricatures, and



Drawing SKYLL.

Hieronimus Hess (1799–1850) were very famous. And who does not know the works by Rodolphe Toepffer (1799–1846) whom one considers the creator of the strip cartoon. His pictorial sequences, true comedies in drawings («Vieux-Bois», «Crépin», «Jabot», «Dr. Festus» etc.), which were highly valued at the time by Goethe and Xavier de Maistre, are equally successful today. Theophile Steinlen