

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: - (1976)
Heft: 1714

Rubrik: Letters to the editor

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The Swiss Observer

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE SWISS COLONY IN THE U.K.

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Editor's telephone: 01-892 5920

Published Monthly at
63/67 TABERNACLE STREET
LONDON EC2A 4AH

Tel: 01-253 2321

Telegrams: Paperwyse London

SUBSCRIPTION RATES (POST FREE)
UNITED KINGDOM SWITZERLAND
and elsewhere
6 issues £1.50 Frs. 13—or £1.60
12 issues £2.90 Frs. 25—or £3.10
Swiss subscriptions may be paid into
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sir,

I, by and large, enjoy reading the
Swiss Observer, however, I would
appreciate it, if the emphasis would be a
little less on business and money and a
little more on Culture (Swiss Culture), for
example I have just seen an excellent film
at the NFT by a Swiss (Konfrontation).

Also, in a recent issue, I found it
rather depressing to read (a) how many
foreigners (with money) live in
Switzerland, (b) with what pride one
talks about the building of yet more
"Autobahnen", when it is a disaster how
this small country is being ruined by
roads and cars, (c) the lack of mentioning
the problem of "Arbeitslosigkeit der
Schweizer", quite a problem in
Switzerland, especially as it is hitting the
apprentices and school-leavers now.

E. Tober, Mrs.,
134 Woodwarde Road,
London, SE22.

Sir,

I saw in the December number of
the Swiss Observer an advertisement by
the Swiss Welfare Office for Young
People, requiring a Social worker, with a
good knowledge of German, French and
English.

Am I to take it that we Ticinesi are
considered such third class citizens of the
Confederation of Elvetica, that no
provision need be made for our young
people in need of help in a strange
country?

We may be only one Canton, but
we are Swiss for all that, and should be
treated with equal respect and
consideration as all the other Cantons.

This biased slant has struck me time
and again, especially when I have been to
my home village, where the arrogance of
some of the visitors from other parts of
Switzerland have been to say the least
insulting.

Yole Rossi Bowman,
7 Hodford Road,
London NW11 8NL.

CAPTION FOR THE FRONT PAGE

Langlauf — cross-country ski-ing —
is an import from Scandinavia
which is proving increasingly
popular in Switzerland. Ski-ing
conditions in our various resorts are
reported to be good so perhaps
some of us will go and join those
lucky folk in the picture.

Miss Rossi Bowman was obviously
touched on a raw spot by the
advertisement she is complaining about.
May I assure her that the policy of this
publication is to treat all the Swiss
National languages as equal. May she be
comforted by the fact that we carry a
regular column in Italian?

WGS

CORRECTIONS AND APOLOGIES

We wish to apologise for a number
of errors that appeared in the report on
Mr. Charles Glauser's talk at the Nouvelle
Société Helvétique on "The Work of a
Consul". The audience was, of course,
not an "invited one" but consisted of
members and friends of the Society
whose President (not Secretary) Mrs.
Mariann Meier welcomed Mr. Porret (not
Borret) one of the founder members of
the NSH in 1916 (not 1926).

* * *

On page 28 of the Christmas issue
of the Swiss Observer, we published a
contribution by Uli Stefan "Christmas
has a Message". Inadvertently, his name
was left out, and we apologise to the Rev.
Stefan for this omission.

* * *

Furthermore, we have been asked
by Dr. Alfred Aebi whose article on Swiss
Defence appeared in the September and
October issues, to add the following
passage which had been left out, in error;
page 27 of the November issue; the text
should read as follows, otherwise the
whole meaning of that paragraph is
distorted.

"On the minus side:

- The original raison d'être of Swiss
neutrality — the elimination of
great power rivalry over a
strategically important area — has
lost most of its significance today.
- The nature of the East West
conflict with Switzerland being a
member of the Western community
of nations with all its implications