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# The Swiss Observer

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Those compatriots who would like to see the text of the message from the President of the Confederation for the New Year should apply to the Swiss Embassies and Consulates

## For the New Year

Dear Swiss compatriots abroad! At the end of this year we should like to wish you most warmly a very happy 1977. Wherever you may be, be assured that your homeland does not forget you. You are the representatives of «Fifth Switzerland», and our authorities will keep a watchful eye over you.

During the whole of the past year we have tried on one hand to bring our country and on the other hand your rights nearer to you. Since the Article 45bis was accepted, making you fully acknowledged Swiss, much has already been achieved. Just now the law regarding political rights, a very delicate matter, is coming into force. As from 1<sup>st</sup> January 1977 you will be able to take part in federal plebiscites. This is, therefore, a new year present which each of you is receiving. Accept it in truly civic spirit!

Stay alert, remain tied to your homeland. As far as we are concerned, our task is clearly outlined: we want to inform you in the widest sense of the word. Dear compatriots, whether you are in difficulties or in a happy position, the Executive of the Commission of the Swiss Abroad is trying to look after your interests. It trusts in your bond with your homeland and hopes that 1977 may be a year of fulfilment for all of you.

## The Grisons — Switzerland in Miniature

### Short Biographical Notes

Andri Peer was born at his place of origin of Sent (Engadine) on 19th December 1921. He grew up in the Engadine and went to the teachers' training college in Chur. He taught at Schams and then studied Romanic philology at the universities of Zurich and Paris (doctorate in 1951). At present, he teaches French and Italian at the Cantonal *Gymnasium* in Winterthur and he is a lecturer on Rhaeto-Romanic literature and language at the University of Zurich. He is president of the Rhaeto-Romanic writers and of the PEN Centre of the Italian and Romansh-speaking parts of Switzerland. In addition he is vice-president of the National Swiss UNESCO Commission.

As poet and narrator he writes above all in his mother tongue, the *Ladin* of the Engadine (poems, stories, essays, one-act plays, radio plays). More and more, he also writes in German, specially prose and dramatic works, as well as journalistic commentaries which appear in dailies and periodicals at home and abroad. Some of his publications in German are «*Sgraffits*» (poetry in Romansh and German 1959), *Tales* (Gute Schriften Zurich 1968), «*Arosa*» (text for a picture book, RA-Publishers Rapperswil 1972), «*That afternoon at Poschiavo*» (tales, Reinhardt Basel 1974), «*Active Service*» 1939-1945 (documentary Ringier Zurich 1975).

Hunter's head  
(Photo  
Schocher)



The Grisons (Grischun in Rhaeto-Romanic, Grigioni in Italian and les Grisons in French) is the largest Swiss Canton with its 7113.5 square kilometres, for it covers a sixth of the area of the whole country. It is situated completely in Alpine territory. The main valleys widened by glacial development and heaped up alluvially, reaching right up to 1800 m, form the main settlement areas and were known at their milder levels already in prehistoric times. The numerous and polymorphic