

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: - (1978)

Heft: 1737

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: 16.01.2026

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

Contents

| | |
|-------------------------------|----|
| The Canton of Appenzell | 2 |
| Eminent Swiss Cabaret | |
| Artists | 8 |
| Pro Juventute News | 10 |
| Official Communications | |
| — Adoption of foreign | |
| children | 11 |
| — New legitimacy law | 11 |
| — Federal Ballots | 11 |
| — The Swiss National Map | 11 |
| Communications of the | |
| Secretariat of the | |
| Swiss Abroad | |
| — Reflections on the 55th | |
| Assembly of the | |
| Swiss Abroad | 15 |
| — Skiing Camps | 16 |
| — Book Review | 17 |
| — The Swiss Army Band | |
| plays for new «echo» | |
| readers! | 17 |
| Switzerland | 19 |
| Swiss National Day Collection | |
| 1978 for the Swiss Abroad | 21 |
| Old Traditions and Folklore | |
| Festivals in Switzerland | 22 |
| Local communications | 24 |
| La Gazette Nostrana | 36 |

AVS/AI

Swiss who are still under 50 are recommended to join the voluntary AVS/AI **as soon as possible**, especially as the number of contribution years is crucial in the calculation of a full or partial pension.

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.

The Canton of Appenzell

Biographical notes

The historian, Prof. Dr. phil. Walter Schläpfer, citizen of Herisau, was born on 5th April 1914. Formerly he was active in the Commune and Cantonal Councils. He has published several works on his home Canton of Appenzell. Apart from his job as Deputy Headmaster of the Cantonal School at Trogen, he has the additional occupation as Custodian of the Cantonal Library.

In the colourful mosaic which is the Swiss Cantons, the State of Appenzell represents a particularly characteristic stone, small though it is; its area of 414 square kilometres constitutes but one percent of the total Swiss territory. But this little country offers so many special aspects which have made its inhabitants (about 60 000 which equals one per cent of the Swiss population) special favourites of its federal compatriots, even of its near neighbours abroad. It boasts attractive scenery, a turbulent history in whose course two Half-Cantons emerged on very confined space, inhabitants known for their wit and quickness of repartee, quaint state structures in many ways different from those of Appenzell's neighbours. And finally, there is the strange fact that the Canton is

completely surrounded by St. Gall. This state of affairs can only be explained by historical evidence. This will show that it is not Appenzell which is an unnatural creation, but that it is the Canton of St. Gall which was formed in 1803 only, an artificial body «out of Napoleon's hands».

It was not by any means obvious that the Appenzell people should form their own State. The land at the foot of the Saentis is not a natural unit. On the contrary, the wanderer will soon realize that this little country with its many hills and gorges shows an extremely complicated structure. The Cañon lies far away from the large communications network; it has not one single road which could be called important other than for local traffic. To such communications pioneers as the Romans, this wild land covered in thick forest was utterly unimportant. It is thus not a coincidence that Appenzell is the only Canton on whose territory no Roman finds have ever been made. The same applies to prehistoric times. In the whole of the Canton, there is only one attractive relic from primeval eras, the «Wildkirchli» cave in Inner-