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# The Swiss Observer

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**24th September 1978  
Federal Ballot**

**Creation of the  
Canton of Jura**

On page 18 you will find all the information regarding the **56th Assembly** which will take place at Einsiedeln.



## Canton of Lucerne:

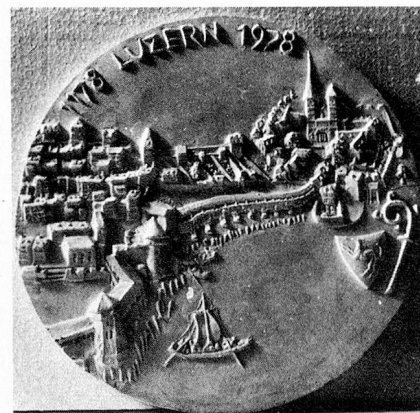
### Biographical notes

Roger Manzardo was born in 1931 and has lived in Lucerne since 1945. He is in charge of public relations, press and information of «800 Jahre Stadt Luzern». He works in publicity, propaganda and journalism. After 14 years as editor of «Vaterland», Lucerne, he is editor-in-chief of the periodical «Aero-Revue» and head of public relations of the Aero-Club in Switzerland.

### Its Capital in jubilee mood

The most important date in the foundation history of the town of Lucerne will be remembered this year. A charter dated 18th April 1178 testifies to the appointment by Abbot Konrad von Eschenbach of the Murbach Monastery in the Alsace of a lay priest chosen by his brother, Provost Ulrich von Eschenbach, and elected by the Convention of the Benedictine Monastery at the Hof in Lucerne. Also 800 years ago, two brothers of the noble Lucerne family von Eschenbach established the right of holding a market, the Municipal Tribunal and the *Marktmass* (a liquid measure of approximately 35 litres). In addition, they appointed two new officials, the *Schultheiss* (mayor) as Municipal Judge and the *Ammann* (magistrate) to supervise the market. The settlement at the mouth of the Reuss as it leaves the Lake of Lucerne has always held a dominating geographical position. Due to its political importance, it played a significant part over long periods in the historic development of Central Switzerland and the Confederation.

By the beginning of the 15th century, Lucerne had been elevated to the rank of a Free Imperial City, and the territory of the Municipal State of Lucerne was nearly as big as that of the subsequently formed Canton. The present boundaries were given to the Canton in the Mediation constitution of 1803.



Commemorative medal

### *There is no such thing as a typical Lucerner*

Formation and development of the Canton of Lucerne were influenced significantly by the activities and the radiation of the City of Lucerne. Now as then, the town is the dominating centre of Canton and region. And yet – there is no such thing as a typical Lucerner. The author, professor and theologian Josef Vital Kopp who died in 1966, characterized this phenomenon in the following manner: «The people of Lucerne, like of old Athens, are so to speak an *agora* in which many spiritual and cultural streams overlap. The Lucerner speaks five languages; he appears as unity only when he holds his tongue. Even the most sensitive ear will be unable to differentiate between the nuances in the dialect of Southern Aargau and of those along our Northern boundaries. The sounds from an Entlebuch throat are closer to the Emmental than to the neighbouring Hinterland. The people of Weggis and Vitznau speak the idiom of the adjacent Kuessnacht, and the Schongau dialect is the same as that of the Freiamt.»

An old Alemannic fishing settlement is considered to be the origin of the Canton consisting of five districts: Lucerne, Hochdorf, Sursee, Willisau and Entlebuch. The settlement was called «Luciaria» which means pike basket-trap.