

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: - (1979)
Heft: 1749

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: 16.12.2025

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

The Swiss Observer

Published Monthly at
63/67 TABERNACLE STREET
LONDON EC2A 4AH
Tel: 01-253 2321
Telegrams: Paperwyse London

EDITOR: George Sommer
Editor's telephone: 01-892 5920

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

Founded in 1919 by Paul F. Boehringer

HON. PRESIDENT:

HON. VICE-PRESIDENT: Gottfried Keller
Advisory Council:
F. Burri (Chairman)
B. Simon (Vice-Chairman)
O. F. Boehringer, J.P. (Hon. S.)
J. Eusebio, A. Kunz, R. M. Suess
Mrs. M. Meier, Paul A. Ramsayer

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
Postcheck Konto Basle 40—5718

Contents

Canton of Thurgau	2
The Conservation of Switzerland's Architectural Heritage	7
Official Communications	11-13
Communications of the Secre- tariat of the Swiss Abroad	15-21
Solidarity Fund	23-26
Local News	28
Competition Winners	29
Ambassador's Message	30
Padre's Message	31
Gottfried Keller Writes	32
Dai Monti e Dalle Valli	39

Front page: Castle of Hagenwil and
Pro Patria Stamp

Pro Patria Stamps 1978

in aid of institutions of and for Swiss
abroad

As was announced in the June issue
1978, the proceeds of the sale of
National Day badges on 1st August,
which go to a different Swiss project
every year, will be allotted to the
Organisation of the Swiss Abroad
this year. In addition to the sale of
badges, there is the surtax on the Pro
Patria stamps. The more of the four
stamps you purchase, the more you
support the activities of the institu-
tions which work for you.

So please buy large numbers of
these stamps with the castles, which
have been attractively created by
Anne Oertle from Winterthur.

The Canton of Thurgau

The historian *Dr. phil. Albert Schoop* is a teacher of history, political science and German at the Cantonal School of Thurgau at Frauenfeld. He is the author of several works on the more recent history of the Thurgau and Switzerland, as amongst others «The History of the Thurgau Militia», of the jubilee publication «The Canton of Thurgau from 1803-1953» in the young citizens' book «Our Thurgau», now in its fifth edition. He is the publisher of an «Economic History of the Canton of Thurgau». His monograph in two volumes «Johann Konrad Kern» deserves the special interest of the Swiss abroad (see page 4). Dr. Schoop who was Vice-President of the Foundation «Pro Helvetia», is a member of the Commission of the Swiss Abroad.

«The fertility of the ground almost surpasses the activities of the country people. Cereals, maize, hemp and flax, potatoes, poppies, artificial and natural meadows, all of it one finds together in one spot, and in addition a large number of apple and pear trees which don't hamper in the least the growth of the land crops. The trees grow in such abundance that one might be tempted to believe these fruit varieties were being grown deliberately. Without doubt, the Thurgau is a very beautiful country; it has very well-cultivated fields, attractive farm-houses; the men are tall of figure, the women handsome; moreover, the country lies on one of the most beautiful lakes of Europe.» This is what a German traveller wrote about the Thurgau in 1842, and on the whole it still holds good today. The Canton, situated on the North-Eastern border of Switzerland, belongs to the medium-sized, more quiet and little-known Cantons. Because it had some difficulties, especially in the 'sixties, to keep in step with the richer regions of the Midlands, in the three times seven fat years of Swiss economy its beautiful landscape has largely remained un-

spoilt. More and more Swiss discover the charm of the Thurgau hills and forests, and anyone looking for an ideal part for rambling holidays away from known centres, will make a note of the shore of the romantic Untersee and the large open Lake of Constance which unites three peoples.

Geography

The «Thurgi» is small, with its just over 1000 square kilometres only half as big as its Southern neighbour St. Gall. Its area not even covers a 41st part of little Switzerland. It looks almost like an equilateral triangle between Lake of Constance, Untersee and Rhine on one side and the pre-Alpine Hoernli on the other. Up above there is the Weiler Hoell; that is why the neighbours call the Thurgau people strange: they have Paradise at the lowest point in the Canton (today it is the Iron Library of Georg Fischer AG, Schaffhausen), higher up Horn, a tax haven, and right on top Hell.

The countryside itself is undramatic. Hill ranges prevail, most of them created from moraines of the prehistoric Rhine Glacier, and they run from East to West. Shady, loosely scattered woods enliven them; altogether there are over 20000 hectares of forest or one-fifth of the productive area. The river Thur which gives the Canton its name, runs through the green plain in the middle, and everywhere, in valleys and on hillsides, villages and hamlets are situated. The Thurgau is a Canton without an urban centre; its capital Frauenfeld lies on the Western border; the rising village in the geographical middle, the marketplace of Weinfelden in the Thur valley, has never considered itself