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Communications of the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad



APPEAL

to all Swiss abroad, men and women, regarding citizenship campaign

In December 1976, we drew the attention of our readers to the changes in the law as from 1st January 1978, which enable children of Swiss mothers and foreign fathers to acquire their mother's nationality as well as that of their father, provided that

- a) they were born in Switzerland,*
- b) their mother is of Swiss origin,*
- c) the parents resided legally in Switzerland at the birth of the child.*

A retrospective clause which expires on 31st December 1978, allows children already born to make use of this opportunity, provided they have not yet passed their 22nd year.

We have received a number of reactions from Swiss circles abroad, which indicate in most cases that these decisions are considered as discrimination. The Commission of the Swiss Abroad discussed this problem at its ordinary meeting on the occasion of the 56th Assembly of the Swiss Abroad at Einsiedeln. It accepted a resolution which was published in the «Review» of September 1978. This resolution which provides for a change in the Constitutional Article 44, par. 3, has been submitted to all Swiss societies and clubs abroad for comment. In case their answers are positive, a Parliamentary Initiative will be launched.

The decision of each and every Swiss organisation is of representative importance, for it will supply the elements necessary to decide for or against a change in the law, as well as the knowledge of similar laws, both indispensable.

The discussion in the societies should naturally be open to all Swiss, non-members, too, and we hope above all that Swiss women who are interested in this question, will take part.

Please make contact without hesitation with the Swiss club(s) or society(ies) in your neighbourhood. You will find their addresses in these pages. Should they not be published, your Consulate or Embassy will be pleased to give you information.

The opinions of the Swiss institutions on this problem so important for «Fifth Switzerland» must be sent to us by the end of March 1979. Please get in touch immediately with your local organization. The experience of everyone is valuable.

Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad

Book reviews

Modern Switzerland, a recent publication of 531 pages, clothbound, richly illustrated, which can be ordered for US \$ 23.00 from the publisher Sposse, Inc. (Society for the Advancement of Science and Scholarship), 835 Page Mill Road, Palo Alto, California 94304, USA, and for Switzerland from Hans Huber Bookseller, P.O.Box, CH-3000 Bern 9. The work contains 26 articles on the various aspects of Swiss life and institutions by expert authors. In his preface the former Federal Councillor Willy Spühler said: «I feel that this book fills a gap and that it will not only communicate knowledge, but also foster understanding.» It may be of interest to many Swiss abroad!

L.B.

(Continuation, see page 21)

Swiss Broadcasting Corporation

Since the 5th November 1978, the above mentioned Service will have the following name:

in French:

Radio Suisse Internationale

in German:

Schweizer Radio International

in Italian:

Radio Svizzera Internazionale

in English:

Swiss Radio International

in Spanish:

Radio Svizzera Internazionale

The address is still the same:

Giacomettistrasse 1

CH-3000 Berne 15

Pro Juventute

Holidays in Switzerland for Swiss children living abroad

Summer 1979

Holiday possibilities:

in Swiss families

in children's homes

in camps

Eligible for participation:

children of Swiss nationality

children of foreign nationality

children of foreign nationality whose mother is Swiss by descent

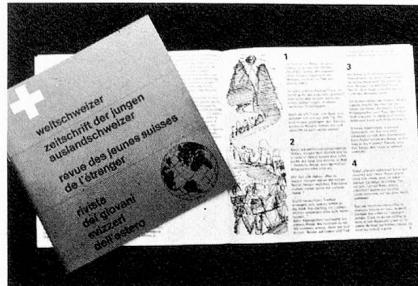
Age: 7-15 years

Latest application date:

15th March 1979

Further information: from embassies and consulates.

Communications of the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad



«Weltschweizer»

In the camps organised by the Youth Service of the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad, it has been found again and again that singing played an important part in getting to know one another, and that suddenly the wish for a sing-song would come up. Quite often the young participants of a camp know the tunes, yet they are not aware of

the texts, or they know them only partially. Due to the fact that they speak different languages, additional problems arise. Camp life can be much enriched by happy sing-songs, and therefore we have issued a small collection of well-known Swiss and also some foreign folksongs. The booklet contains texts in German, Swiss, Italian, French, Romansh and English. This booklet might also be of interest in your club entertainment or in your family get-togethers. Format 10.5x10.5 cm. 36 pages. 156 song texts (no music). Price: 2 Swiss francs per copy. Published by the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad, Alpenstrasse 26, 3000 Berne 16. Switzerland.

Skiing camps

All young Swiss from abroad, aged between 15 and 25, who like skiing, have a chance to come with us. Beginners and advanced skiers may take part in one of our two spring skiing camps which will be run at Les Crosets, Val d'Illiez, Valais. This beautiful region at an altitude of 1600m offers excellent possibilities for teaching, training and skiing on *pistes*. The camps are taking place at the following dates:

1st camp: from 20th March to 29th March 1979

2nd camp: from 30th March to 8th April 1979

We should be glad to have you with us. Please ask for information and application forms from the Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad, Youth Service, Alpenstrasse 26, 3000 Berne 16, Switzerland.



50. Eidg. Schützenfest

Tir fédéral Lucerne

The 50th Federal Shooting Festival will take place in Lucerne from 7th to 22nd July 1979.

On 16th July 1979

the Honorary Shooting Contest for Swiss Abroad will take place. The 36 officially acknowledged

Tiro federale Lucerna

Swiss shooting associations abroad have received all relevant information on this event. In addition, we should like to invite most warmly all marksmen amongst the Swiss communities abroad who are interested, to take part as individual competitors.

Luzern, 7.-22. Juli 1979

Fiesta federal da tir Lucerna

Apart from the above-mentioned special day, you will have an opportunity to take part on the official day with procession on 14th July and on the mystery trip on 15th July, accompanied by your wife or your husband. It goes without saying that the women amongst the Swiss abroad are welcome very warmly, especially the markswomen among them. All those interested should send the form attached below to the following address not later than 15th January 1979:

50. Eidgenössisches Schützenfest
Ehrenschiessen der Auslandschweizer
z.Hd. Herrn Werner Baenziger
Fluhmattstrasse 28
6004 **Lucerne**, Switzerland

Name and first name:

Exact address:

Date:

Signature:

(Please write in block letters)



Communications of the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad



An original Christmas present for the whole family:

Joining the Solidarity Fund

for Swiss Abroad

Interesting information in the June issue 1978 of this paper

Introduction and application forms for the **Solidarity Fund for Swiss Abroad in stable currency.**

Saving and insuring against loss of livelihood due to political events.

Solidarity Fund for Swiss Abroad

Gutenbergstrasse 6, 3011 **Berne**, Switzerland

Schweiz
Suisse
Svizzera

Pro Juventute 1978

Gemeindewappen
Armoiries communales
Stemmi di Comuni



Aarburg (AG)



Gruyères (FR)



Castasegna (GR)



Wangen a. d. A. (BE)

Entwürfe
Dessins
Disegni

Gastone Cambin
Breganzona

Format
Format
Formato

Ausgabetag
Jour d'émission
Giorno d'emissione

28.11.1978

Henri Dunant

The name of this Genevois is closely tied to the International Committee of the Red Cross, whose founder he was. In his work «Un souvenir de Solferino» one can read the following appeal: Would it not be desirable that the leaders of martial art, who belong to many nations, should convene a conference in order to lay down some principles in a binding agreement, which, once recognized and accepted, would form the foundation stone of relief organisations in the united countries of Europe?

Jean Henri Dunant was born in Geneva on 8th May 1828, son of a very charitable family. He was enterprising and sensitive. Already as a child, he was deeply affected at the thought of his neighbours' suffering, and in the penitentiary colony of Toulon, where his parents consoled the prisoners, he declared – at the age of 6 – «Once I have grown up, I shall write a book to defend them.»

He was full of great ideas, a missionary who wanted to improve the fate of his fellow-creatures. He

was, however, not in a position to realize all this on his own.

At the age of 21, he organized the «Réunions du jeudi» in order to pursue the spreading of the Gospel and social welfare. These reunions in turn became the «Union chrétien de jeunes gens». He was motivated by this need of general awareness, and he managed to lay the cornerstone of an international organization. Later he left this again in order to devote himself to another idea. As a commercially trained administrator of a bank, he invested considerable sums in Algeria. In order to obtain the guarantee for this undertaking from Emperor Napoléon III, he went to Italy in 1859, where the French were at war with the Austrians. On his way, he reached the town of Castiglione one day after the battle of Solferino which claimed over 40 000 casualties.

Witnessing this terrible spectacle, he had only one thought, to save the injured without regard to their nationalities and to prevent the repetition of such a massacre. He used all his strength to realize this ideal, and in 1863 a Committee for the Rescue of the War Wounded was created which then led to the diplomatic conference of Geneva. With that, the basis of the Red Cross was established, and its

Communications of the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad



symbol of neutral and international protection became a red cross on white background.

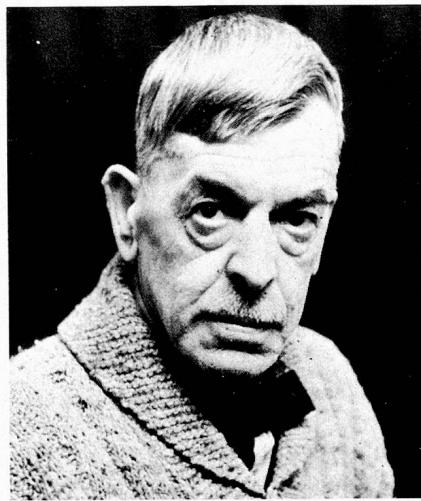
His business which was relegated to secondary importance and was badly neglected, caused a scandal and the bankruptcy of the Société du Crédit Genevois. In order not to incriminate the IKRK, he resigned. At the age of 39, he found himself in

great misery, for his whole fortune was mortgaged, and the many ideas which occupied him, such as a world library and the return of the Jews to Palestine, could no longer be realized. Driven away from Geneva, he travelled throughout Europe and did not return to Switzerland until 1887 when he begged to be admitted to the

hospital at Heiden in the Canton of Appenzell. He was alone and unrecognized by anyone, although his creation, the Red Cross, already counted 23 national committees at that time. In 1895, he was discovered by a St. Gall journalist. Immediately he was inundated by awards and distinctions, such as a Prize of the Federal Council, the Prize of Moscow and above all, in 1901, the first Nobel Prize for Peace. He never left Heiden any more and died there at the age of 82 on 30th October 1910.

On reading his last will, it was revealed that he had never used the prize moneys for himself, but had distributed them all to philanthropic organizations and had made a considerable legacy in favour of the Commune of Heiden, which enabled it to create a «free bed», always for the poorest patient of the Commune. *Lucien Paillard*

C. F. Ramuz



One hundred years ago, on 24th September 1878, Charles Ferdinand Ramuz was born, one of the greatest novelists our country has ever known. Through his father he originated from the «Gros de Vaud», mainly an agricultural area,

and through his mother from the wine-growing district of Lavaux, extending above the lake through which the Rhone flows, a typically *Romand* and Southern river which was decisive for Ramuz's aesthetics. The author died at Pully on the shore of Lake Léman on 24th May 1947. There he owned his house «La Muette» which is now the Ramuz Museum.

His death so soon after the war and the beautiful «Pages d'un neutre» had shown why he had chosen the peaceful domain. This left painful feelings with many of his admirers that this independent spirit and fastidious soul, this witness and protector of the highest values had left them as «orphans», as it were. The world events, the confusion of peoples and ideas let us – above all us Swiss – forget this irreparable loss at the time. Times had changed

suddenly, so that one rejected Ramuz's work, especially his novels, as witnesses of yesterday's world, before the great catastrophe; one even treated them as legends. It is true that the war-ravaged countries had to look after their immediate needs, and the Swiss were pleased to be able to cross the frontiers again.... In short, Ramuz's work lost its impressiveness under such circumstances. It was looked upon a little like a beautiful landscape which glides by, reflected in the back-mirror. Undoubtedly, one will one day return there, in fact, one has already returned. Time for reflection, tranquility, introspection will again become a need for every one of us. Reading Ramuz will bring us abstractions and a kind of youth which will no longer reject natural lyric and which will rediscover the

Communications of the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad

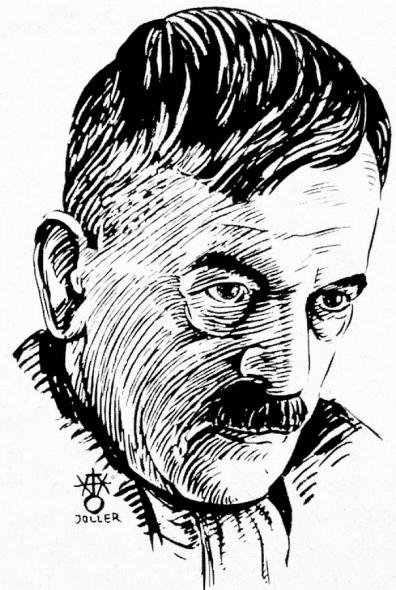


timeless values of Ramuz's themes. It is true, too, that the farmers as depicted by Ramuz, have disappeared, above all their way of life and manner of livelihood. The farmers are no longer as poor as the novelist described them, seemingly – for have there been really such fundamental changes? It is true that one does not think so dramatically any more of his fate, in such a metaphysical, if not religious manner. The basic reflection has disappeared and has been replaced by the pleasure of immediate consumption. Much ado about everything and nothing obliterates tranquility, enlightens solitude, dispels unrest and uneasiness. There is a general pain in one's heart, very much in contrast to the personalities created by Ramuz, presented in the world of difficulties of daily life and the tragic aspect of their existence. The great touristic stream has flooded the country, spoilt men's morals, trivialized the language and scattered local customs into the whole world. Man is disturbed in his very being. In contrast, Ramuz's heroes are people who feel the sense of their own solitude and inability to communicate. They are more worried than joyful. They search for the meaning of life and the meaning of death. One can easily see that this hardly meets the requirements of the present way of life.

Yet, nothing would be more erroneous than the assertion that Ramuz's work is out of date, an expression whose absurdity is hurtful. And it would be stupid not to realize that at no time has a

novelist gone as far in the invention of people as he did, that means in the description of human beings who have nothing to do with *bourgeoisie* or with ambition. This is above all a poor society, which often stands outside any attainment of happiness. It was depicted by the author in freedom and without any other means of expression than speech, with many vagaries in love and endowing them with that degrading feeling of guilt. He well knew how to make it resemble a kind of recognition, including original sin, though Ramuz never mentioned it:

His work comprises novel-like adventure stories and short stories. The literary geography, or if one prefers the term of scenery, though one can hardly talk of scenery in Ramuz's work, for the surroundings are like a person to him, and go no further than the Vaudois, Valais and Savoy Alps. It is true that Paris played a significant part not only in «Aimé Pache, peintre vaudois», but also in the formation of the artist himself. He lived there during 12 years before the war of 1914. As he often liked to confirm: Paris made a Vaudois of me. The whole subsequent development grew from this convincing statement. He considered it, right and proper to return to his place of origin, in order to express in clear language, impressively, slowly and in his own way reality and diversity. Later he understood that something artistic had found its way into his work there, and he asked himself sometimes whether he had been right to behave as he had done.



Nothing of that in the short stories. *Besoin de Grandeur*, *Taille de l'Homme*, *Une Main*, *Découverte du Monde*, *Questions* ... *Raison d'Être et Chant de Notre Rhône*, are pure, lyrical prose. Ramuz always rejected abstract notions and distorted expressions, convinced that these disturb the meaning rather than improve it. He dealt with themes which occupied mankind. Very early on, he warned us of all dictators of the Left and the Right, of the seductions which were the decoy in order to paralyse mankind all the more easily. This part of Ramuz's work will always be topical, because it declines to adjust to fashion. Thus the work is of duration and carries in itself its stability. It is to be hoped that free and thinking people will understand to recognize in this once more the immortal truth.

Georges Borgeaud



Day of issue 14.9.1978

SNAI – Safety at work
in machine engineering
in chemical industries
in building industries

Design Beat Mäder, Zimmerwald

Communications of the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad



On the 200th anniversary of Rousseau's death 28th June 1712–2nd July 1778

Universities and scientific associations in France (Paris and Nice), England (Oxford and Cambridge) and in Switzerland (Geneva and Neuchâtel) commemorated the 200th anniversary of the death of two great writers of the 18th century, Voltaire and Rousseau, by organizing numerous events, conferences, discussions, exhibitions, excursions to places lived in or visited by the two authors. Specialists from many different countries present the findings of their defined studies on certain themes to the public. This enables us to arrive at a truer evaluation of the range of thought of the two philosophers and to appraise the effect on our society confused by the miracles achieved by science and technology and the perspectives which arise from it.

But let us leave this aside. Our task is to recall the associations which tied our small country to Jean-Jacques Rousseau and to state our reasons why we honour his memory on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of his death on 2nd July 1778 at Ermenonville where he had been enjoying the hospitality of the Marquess of Girardin for a few months only.

The Citizen of Geneva lived among us. It was with us, at Môtiers in the Val-de-Travers that he found refuge during 3 years and 2 months, from 10th July 1762 to 9th September 1765. His stay there left lively memories.

It is true that it was not from choice that he became our guest, but he was compelled by events. In the course of May 1762, two works from his pen were published in Paris «Le Contrat social» and «Emile ou Traité d'éducation». The two books caused a scandal. The former amongst the people at court and the bourgeoisie, the

latter aroused indignation amongst the clergy and the devout, specially by the confessions of faith of the Savoyard vicar, part of the book «Emile». The Paris Court of Justice met on 9th June and, after the charges had been preferred by the Royal Prosecutor, the said books were condemned to be torn and burnt in the public square, and the author's arrest was ordered. The consternation amongst Jean-Jacques's friends was great. The Marshal of Luxembourg showed himself most alarmed and begged Rousseau to go into hiding or to escape. Out of consideration towards his protectress, the Marchioness of Créqui, he decided not to give himself up. After he had sorted part of his papers in great haste, he started out in the afternoon of 9th June, intending to go to Switzerland, the «Country of Liberty». It was with these words that he greated our land on crossing the frontier. He had an idea that his native town would show no greater spiritual tolerance than the Paris Court of Justice. For this reason he abandoned his first idea to go to Geneva and he set out in the direction of Yverdon where he knew his old friend Daniel Roguin

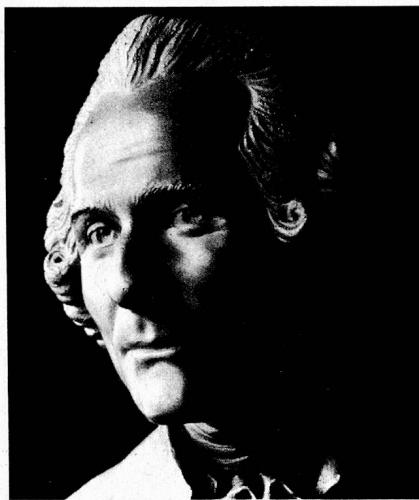
would extend a warm welcome to him. There he would be able to get to know the country and the surroundings in peace and quiet, and in that he would find the necessary tranquility. He had forgotten that the small town was a Bernese bailiwick. And once again he had to suffer a fresh blow. Since the Government of Yverdon was even more intransigent than Paris and Geneva and not willing to support the introduction and the sale of the works in question, it prohibited the author's stay in the region, and that was done in the harshest terms.

Thanks to a happy coincidence, the niece of Daniel Roguin, Mrs Boy de la Tour from Lyons, was on a visit to her uncle. Immediately, she offered Jean-Jacques her little house she owned at Môtiers in the Val-de-Travers. This was most embarrassing to him. But the Geneva writer had no option. He accepted the offer immediately and left his friends at Yverdon on 9th July, in order to proceed on foot to Môtiers, accompanied by Colonel Augustin Roguin. He arrived there on 10th July, according to an entry in a thick note-book which has been preserved by the Municipal Library of Neuchâtel.

«Môtier-Travers»

«Begin my board and lodging at Mr Girardier's on 10th July 1762 at 6 écus *blancs* a month and at the wig-maker's on the same day at 2 new écus a year.»

In order not to have to face again the same experience as he had had with the gentlemen of Berne, he made haste to settle matters with the authorities. On the day of arrival, he solicited the protection of Governor George Keith, known as «Mylord Maréchal». George Keith, Count and Marshal of



Communications of the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad



Scotland, born 1686, entered the service of Frederick II of Prussia and became his Ambassador in Paris (1751-54) and Governor of Neuchâtel which was at that time in Prussian hands (1754-68).

«Vitam impendere vero»

«Mylord,

As a poor author exiled from his homeland, France, and from the Canton of Berne, because I said what I found right and proper, I have come here to beg for asylum in the states of the King ... Sir, I have deserved no mercy from you, nor do I ask for it. But since I am oppressed it would be noble of you and His Majesty not to refuse me warmth, bread and water of which one wants to deprive me everywhere. I believe I had to declare you my refuge and my name too well known through my misfortunes. You may seal my fate - I am in your hands. But if you, too, order me to leave, I could not obey you for I would not know where to go to. Accept, Mylord, the expression of my deepest respect.»

The Governor replied with benevolence already on the 12th.

Colombier, this 12th of July 1762
«Sir,

I am writing to the King in order to get his orders regarding your asylum in this country. In the meantime, go on living without worry. I should be happy to give you pleasure and to render service, for I admire your spirit and respect your attitude.

«Marshal of Scotland»
«Should you like to come here, it would give me great pleasure. I would send a horse or sedan-chair for you, and you could stay with us unhesitatingly as long as you would wish to. You would find in me an old man bordering on a recluse, possibly spoilt somewhat by dealings with the police-like barbarians.»

Jean-Jacques who wanted to live

in peace with the pastor and his parishioners, approached him to express his wish to take part in Holy Communion. While he was taking these steps, he engaged in lively correspondence with his many friends. On 20th August, he had the joy of seeing his friend Thérèse Levasseur again. She was born in 1721 in Orleans, was his companion for many years and later became his wife.

Previously, Mrs de la Tour had thought it necessary to have some more seating accommodation for the Citizen, and had sent two arm-chairs and 12 straw-seated chairs. So now Jean-Jacques was established in the Val-de-Travers. It seemed that his stay there would progress under most favourable auspices. His affairs were in order with the civil and religious authorities. In Mylord Maréchal he had found a well-disposed old protector, a wise man of great experience in life and an original to whom he felt attracted, and he sensed that this was mutual. He already found a friend in the person of Mrs Marianne-Françoise De Luze-Warney, a relative of the Roguins, whom he had probably met at Yverdon. That charming woman was married to Jean-Jacques De Luze, manufacturer of painted materials, who showed himself as devoted a friend as his wife. Rousseau met notable personalities of the place, the lord of the manor, Frédéric Martinet, and the Attorney General, Charles-Guillaume d'Ivernois.

His simple manner gained him the respect and sympathy of the inhabitants of Môtiers, of whom some let him know that they had read la «Nouvelle Héloïse». Thus reassured, the Citizen decided to wear the Armenian outfit he had had made in Paris some time before leaving France. (Armenian costume: long tunic, belt, fur hat). This novel attire was accepted by the population without comment or gibe.

It seemed that all things seemed nicely settled in the best of worlds, if only the sensitive Citizen had not had to suffer the attacks by his enemies or the unjust, even spiteful criticisms. He felt obliged to take up his pen once again, quarrelled with the venerable clergy and was defended by his friends with too much passion and clumsiness. He felt he was forced to leave our country in order to escape so-called persecution.

Claire Rosselet

Former Director of the Municipal Library of Neuchâtel

Book reviews (Continuation)

«Volkstümliche Handwerke in der Schweiz» - «Arts et traditions populaires en Suisse»

Text and pictures of this book enable the reader to acquaint himself with popular art and craft traditions in Switzerland. The book is composed of seven different chapters: Diversity of Switzerland, rustic painting, wood carving, glass and pottery, traditions and popular festivals, hand-made toys and national costumes, wrought iron and metal work and textiles. These various parts are followed by the authors' original ingenious ideas about manual work which can be carried out by the whole family. 144 pages illustrated by coloured photos. Obtainable in German or French. Format 20x27 cm. Price SFr. 29.90. Published by Ringier & Co AG, Book Department, 4801 Zofingen, Switzerland.

«Suisse»

This book on Switzerland by Louis-Albert Zbinden makes easy and entertaining reading. It gives an objective and realistic picture of the country. The author starts from the origins of Switzerland and then talks in the subsequent chapters of its history, its people and its customs; its economy without forgetting its culture and the varied and interesting aspects of its tourism. 190 pages with black-and-white photos. French text. Format 12x18 cm. Series: Petite Planète. Publishing company du Seuil, 27, rue Jacob, Paris 6.

Please note: all books mentioned here may be ordered through the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad.