

**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:** - (1980)

**Heft:** 1761

**Rubrik:** Communications of the Secretariat of the Swiss abroad

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# Communications of the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad



## A warm welcome by the Ajoie to the 57th Assembly of the Swiss Abroad from 24th to 26th August 1979



The Petits chanteurs of Porrentruy (Photo Rodo)



Our President, Dr A. Weber, in conversation with President F. Lachat

Swiss from five continents – Europe was particularly well represented – gathered in this beautiful region of the new Canton for three days, in order to discuss the draft of the total revision of the Federal Constitution, the main theme of the Assembly.

Under the chairmanship of National Councillor Dr. Alfred Weber, the plenary session not only brought together the Swiss from abroad and the federal authorities, as well as personalities of the Canton of Jura and the notables of Porrentruy, but it opened a dialogue between the President of the Confederation, Federal Councillor Hans Huerlimann, and the President of the Jura Government, Mr François Lachat, which, in the long run, will be of great importance. Quite a few spoke of an «historic day» in view of the human relations which were created at an interhelvetic level during the Assembly. We may well be proud that it was the Swiss from abroad who were able to bring about a *rapprochement* which, however, will have to be put in concrete form as yet.

Gathered at Porrentruy, 400 Swiss from abroad took an active interest

in the events which began on Friday afternoon. Thursday all day and Friday morning were traditionally devoted to meetings of the Commission of the Swiss Abroad and its sub-committees.

Whilst a large number of participants went sightseeing in the attractive town, some of the confederates – true descendants of William Tell – went to Bressaucourt for a cross-bow contest. It was highly successful, and the women contestants not only equalled their male colleagues, but even surpassed them at times.

During the traditional question hour, some very interesting opinions were exchanged. Competent representatives of the Federal Administration answered questions regarding the Federal Constitution, social and sickness insurance, military matters, citizenship rights, etc. We should like to express our thanks hereby for their co-operation.

The official opening of the Assembly which should originally have been held on the lawn opposite the Castle Tower, had to be transferred into the large entrance hall of the Castle, for the weather that afternoon had been most unkind

and the rain only stopped a quarter of an hour before the official start of the Assembly. In spite of a strong and fresh wind, the sun enabled the participants at the last minute to gather on the Castle esplanade to hear the welcoming speeches. The Mayor of Porrentruy, Mr Gabriel Theubet, recalled the history of the town. The President of the Jura Government, Mr François Lachat, was quite moved that the Swiss abroad had chosen



The Mayor of Porrentruy, Mr Gabriel Theubet

the Year one of the Canton of Jura for their gathering. He reminded the audience that at the federal plebiscite of 24th September 1978

# Communications of the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad

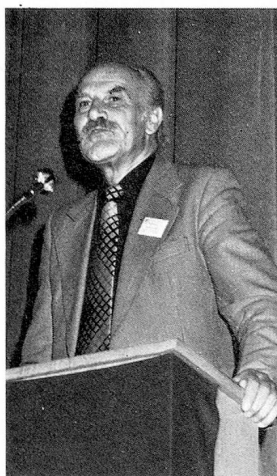


on the new Canton joining the Confederation, no fewer than 4607 Swiss abroad had made use of their voting rights. The Jura citizens abroad would enjoy political rights at cantonal level as from 1st January 1980, provided they had registered with their Commune of origin.

This extremely pleasant event at which the town's fanfares and the «Petits chanteurs de Porrentruy» performed, was followed by a reception at the Castle offered by the Commune.

Before passing to the plenary session, one should mention that the entertainment on Saturday evening at the hall at Courtemaîche went with a swing. Before dancing to the tunes of the well-known «New Rag Time» band, a tasty meal awaited the large crowd. The various folkloristic performances by the choirs «Les Baladins» and «Les Vieilles Chansons de Porrentruy», as well as a recital by the «Groupe de musique champêtre de Alle» were much appreciated, and applauded with enthusiasm. Many thanks to all who contributed towards the success of the event, especially to the Mayor of Courtemaîche, Mr Yves Monnerat, who welcomed the congressists.

After the ecumenical church service on Sunday, an excursion took place to the grottoes of Réclère, which will remain an impressive



Mr Josef Voyame



Part of the procession



Prof. Gerardo Brogginì

memory for many. The journey then went on through France and the Clos du Doubs to Ste-Ursanne. After visiting the Cloister where the Mayor, Mr Charles Moritz, addressed the company and the Canton of Jura and the Commune of Ste-Ursanne offered a much-appreciated drop of wine, the two accordionists Nicole and Jacky, well-known to many Swiss abroad, entertained their compatriots. Subsequently, lunch was served in the various restaurants of the town.

The closing ceremony of the Assembly took place in driving rain near the monument dedicated to the soldiers of the First World War on the Col des Rangiers.

## Plenary Session

This was opened by the President of the Organization of the Swiss

Abroad, National Councillor Dr. Alfred Weber who introduced the main theme:

«The Swiss abroad and the draft of the total revision of the Federal Constitution».

He was followed by Mr Gerardo Brogginì, Professor at the Catholic University of Milan, who gave a general survey of that much-discussed project. Mr Marcel Ney informed the audience about Art.45bis of the Constitution, at present in force but no longer contained in the draft. He indicated possible consequences if the Article were to be left out. It is one of the juridical bases for the Swiss abroad and at the same time represents recognition by the Swiss people of «Fifth Switzerland».

The following three speakers took part in the discussion and demand-

The Commission of the Swiss Abroad in session



During the festivities at Courtemaîche





# Communications of the Secretariate of the Swiss Abroad



ed that their requests in connection with the draft or a possible change in the Constitution be examined:

- Aspects of international law presented by Prof. Schneider, President of the University of Mainz in the German Federal Republic.

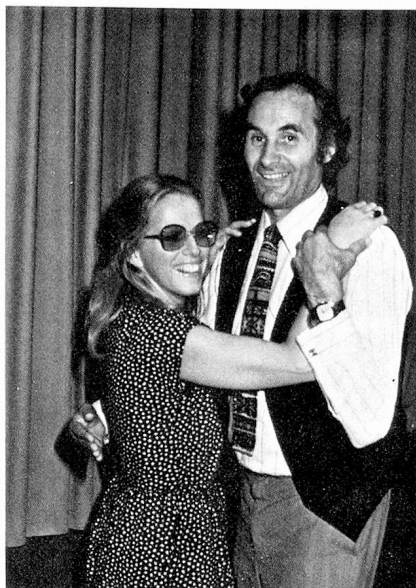
- Citizenship campaign (recognition of Swiss nationality for children born abroad to Swiss mothers and foreign fathers), a request formulated by Mrs Ilse Frei, Antwerp, Belgium, member of the Commission of the Swiss Abroad.

- Political rights of the Swiss abroad; Mr Carlo Goetz, Milan, Italy, member of the Commission of the Swiss Abroad, presented the reasons why the right to vote should be exercised by post from abroad.

They were followed by Mr Max Braendle, Professor at the University of Brisbane, Australia, member of the Commission of the Swiss Abroad, who commented on the problems regarding the revision of the Federal Constitution from the point of view of the Swiss communities overseas. Mr Jean-Louis Gilliéron, Paris, pleaded for representation in the Federal Parliament, namely in the Council of States.

A gay note was introduced by the former Swiss from USA, Mr John Bitterli. After talking about the difficulties experienced by recipients of foreign pensions paid out in Switzerland, he began to sing the favourite of the 1914–1918 war «La petite Gilberte de Courgenay» – the whole audience joining in the chorus.

An illustrated brochure including all the talks and addresses made at Porrentruy may be had from the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad, Alpenstrasse 26, 3000 Berne 16, Switzerland. The price is SFr. 10.– plus postage, until stocks are exhausted.

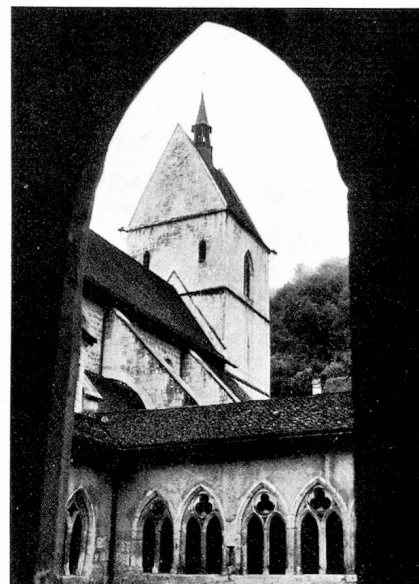


Great Britain meets Australia

The present state of the preparatory work in connection with the revision of the Federal Constitution as well as its historic development were presented in a brilliant manner by the Director of the Division of Justice, Mr Joseph Voyame, a citizen of the Canton of Jura.

Then came the turn of Mr Paul Schaffroth, Central President of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique, who brought greetings from the Society which had founded the Organization of the Swiss Abroad in 1916.

To close the deliberations, the President of the Confederation, Federal Councillor Hans Huerli-



The Cloister of Ste-Ursanne

mann, head of the Federal Department of the Interior, addressed the gathering. First, he spoke about the new Canton and was accorded great applause by the audience when he said it was «this Canton of Jura, which is also ours».

Subsequently he spoke about several problems linked to the main theme and assured his compatriots that the wishes expressed at Porrentruy would be examined closely.

The 58th Assembly of the Swiss Abroad will be held in Locarno at the end of August 1980. We are looking forward to seeing you ...

*Lucien Paillard*

The President of the Confederation, accompanied by Mr and Mrs Jean Heer and Ambassador Jimmy Martin (Photo Rodo)





# Communications of the Secretariate of the Swiss Abroad



## Citizenship Campaign

Lucien Paillard

As we announced in one of the recent issues of this publication, we are now able to give you the result of the enquiry regarding the citizenship campaign started in December 1977 and repeated in January 1979 by the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad.

### Starting-point

On 1st January 1977, a new regulation based on the Federal Law on Citizenship came into force. It is with regard to Article 44, fig. 3 of the Federal Constitution. It grants Swiss citizenship to children of Swiss mothers and foreign fathers, provided the parents were resident in Switzerland at the time of birth, and the mother was Swiss by origin.

A retroactive clause enabled children born earlier to make use of this regulation, provided they were not yet over 22 and the application was made before the end of 1978.

### Effect of the new regulation

By the end of septembre 1979, 35 000 applications were made to the Federal Department of Justice and Police. The result has greatly surpassed previous expectations.

### The position of Swiss women abroad

As long as the element of the parents' residence in Switzerland at the time of the child's birth is missing, children born abroad cannot take any advantage of the new regulation. This motivated the Organization of the Swiss Abroad to launch a first enquiry in December 1977. This has led to an avalanche of reactions from individual Swiss women abroad, but also from Swiss societies and umbrella organizations all of whom championed the rights of Swiss women abroad and their children. Some *ad hoc* groups formed by women compatriots

abroad did some excellent work for which we should like to express our thanks hereby publicly.

### Remarks which appeared in most of the letters and messages received

#### *Problem of residence*

– Some bitter complaints were raised about the requisite of residence in Switzerland of the parents; numerous children would have been able to become Swiss citizens if their parents had been resident in Switzerland at the time of birth.

#### *Discrimination*

– Article 44, fig. 3, of the Federal Constitution is considered discriminating in view of the new regulation regarding children, which came into force on 1st January 1978.

– To limit the transmission of Swiss nationality by Swiss women solely to mothers of Swiss origin seems exaggerated.

– An impressive number of concrete examples prove that many cases are on the borderline of the possibilities envisaged by the law in force as from 1st January 1978.

– The retrospective clause about the limitation to the completion of the 22nd year in order to profit of the regulation in force from 1st January 1978 disappointed many people; one would have liked a clause without time limit.

#### *Equality*

– Equality between man and woman regard to transmitting citizenship has been demanded.

– The regulation of 1st January 1978 was considered progress in the direction of equality between man and woman, but it was deemed insufficient.

– Very few answers only gave a hint that the father as foreign national was in agreement that his

child or children should also take out an additional citizenship, i.e. Swiss.

#### *Education*

– Since the bringing up of children usually falls to the mother more than to the father, it was considered justifiable that transmission of nationality should be through the mother.

– It is not at all appreciated that foreign women marrying a Swiss national should become Swiss citizens automatically, especially with regard to the children's education, since they know nothing about customs and mentality in our country.

– The wish for transmitting Swiss citizenship was often tied to the problems which children of mixed marriages have when it comes to schooling and vocational training in Switzerland, specially when this is not at private schools.

#### *Unity in the family*

– The new law no longer keeps to the principle of unity in the family. In case of frequent changes of residence by the parents, it may happen that some children have a different nationality from that of their brothers and sisters.

– In case of divorce, children are generally entrusted to the mother who will bring them up according to Swiss principles without, however, being able to pass on Swiss nationality to them automatically.

– A large number of Swiss women stress that they could have passed on Swiss citizenship to their children if they had forgone marriage and had lived with the father simply in an unmarried relationship.

#### *Personal ties with Switzerland*

– Many Swiss women abroad maintain that they keep very close

Continuation page 22

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## Schlesingers

# Communications of the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad



## Some useful addresses

Supplement to the «vade-mecum» which appeared in one of the previous issues.

### Organization of the Swiss Abroad

#### SECRETARIAT OF THE SWISS ABROAD

Alpenstrasse 26,  
3000 Berne 16  
Telephone 031 446625

Federal Department of  
Foreign Affairs  
Service for the Swiss  
Abroad, Bundeshaus,  
3003 Berne  
Telephone 031 613113

AJAS Educational Service for  
Young Swiss from Abroad  
Seefeldstrasse 8, Postfach  
8022 Zurich  
Telephone 01 327244

Solidarity Fund for Swiss Abroad  
Gutenbergstrasse 6, 3011 Berne  
Telephone 031 250494

### Benevolence and care

Pro Senectute,  
Swiss Foundation for Old Age  
Witikonstrasse 56, 8030 Zurich  
Telephone 01 553070

Pro Infirmis  
Postfach 129, Feldeggstrasse 71  
8032 Zurich  
Telephone 01 320531

International Red Cross  
Committee  
Av. de la Paix 17, 1211 Geneva  
Telephone 022 346001

### Culture

Pro Helvetia Foundation  
Hirschengraben 22, 8001 Zurich  
Telephone 01 348454

### Customs and Excise

Oberzolldirektion  
Monbijoustrasse 40, 3003 Berne  
Telephone 031 616111

### Education

University of Basle  
Kollegienhaus 4, Petersplatz 1  
4000 Basle  
Telephone 061 257373

University of Berne  
Hochschulstrasse 4, 3012 Berne  
Telephone 031 658111

University of Fribourg  
1700 Fribourg

University of Geneva  
Rue Général Dufour 24  
1211 Geneva 4  
Telephone 022 209333

University of Lausanne  
Place de la Cathédrale 4  
1005 Lausanne  
Telephone 021 220031

University of Neuchâtel  
Av. du 1<sup>er</sup> Mars 26  
2000 Neuchâtel  
Telephone 038 253851

University of Zurich  
Raemistrasse 71  
8006 Zurich  
Telephone 01 326241

Graduate Institute of Economics  
and Social Sciences  
(University of St. Gall)  
Hochschulgebaeude  
Dufourstrasse 50  
9000 St. Gall  
Telephone 071 233135

Federal Institute of Technology  
(EPFL)  
Lausanne  
Av. de Cour 33  
1007 Lausanne  
Telephone 021 471111

Federal Institute of Technology  
(ETH)  
Zurich  
Raemistrasse 101, 8092 Zurich  
Telephone 01 326211

Advisory Committee for Swiss  
Schools Abroad, see Secretariat  
of the Swiss Abroad  
Association of Swiss Private  
Schools  
Case Postale 171, 1211 Geneva  
Telephone 022 355706

Cité Internationale Universitaire  
de Paris, see Secretariat of the  
Swiss Abroad

### History

Foundation for the History of the  
Swiss Abroad  
Musée Château de Penthes  
Chemin de l'Impératrice 18,  
1292 Pregny

### Information

«echo», monthly periodical for  
Swiss abroad,  
«Review», quarterly periodical  
for all Swiss abroad  
see Secretariat of the Swiss  
Abroad

Swiss Political Correspondence  
Thunstrasse 32, 3001 Berne 1  
Telephone 031 444866

Swiss Telegraphic Agency  
Schanzenstrasse 5, 3001 Berne  
Telephone 031 225822

Swiss Radio and Television  
Corporation  
Giacomettistrasse 3,  
3000 Berne 15  
Telephone 031 439111

Swiss Radio International  
Giacomettistrasse 1, Berne 15  
Telephone 031 446644

### Labour

Federal Office of Industry, Crafts  
and Labour  
Bundesgasse 8, 3003 Berne  
Telephone 031 612111

### Military matters

Federal Military Department  
Bundeshaus, 3003 Berne  
Telephone 031 671511

Women's Auxiliary Service  
Bundeshaus, 3011 Berne  
Telephone 031 673273

### Old Age and Invalidity

Insurance (AHV/IV-AVS/AI)  
Federal Office for Social  
Insurance  
Effingerstrasse 33, 3003 Berne  
Telephone 031 619001

Swiss Compensation Office  
rue Rothschild 15, 1202 Geneva  
Telephone 022 310201

### Philately

Philatelic Service of the PTT  
Parkterrasse 10, 3012 Berne  
Telephone 031 622728

### Sickness Insurance

Concordat of the  
Swiss Sickness Insurances  
Roemerstrasse 20,  
4500 Solothurn  
Telephone 065 231531

### Sport

National Committee for  
Elite-Sport  
Postfach 12, 3000 Berne 32

### Swiss Representation

Co-ordinating Commission for  
Swiss Representation Abroad,  
Bundesgasse 18, 3003 Berne  
Telephone 031 613119

### Tourism

Swiss National Tourist Office  
Bellariastrasse 38, 8027 Zurich  
Telephone 01 2023737

REKA, Swiss Travel Cooperative  
Neuengasse 15, 3001 Berne  
Telephone 031 226633

### Trade

Swiss Office for  
Development of Trade  
Stampfenbachstrasse 85,  
8035 Zurich  
and  
rue de Bellefontaine 18,  
1001 Lausanne

Union of Swiss Chambers of  
Commerce Abroad  
c/o Sulzer Brothers,  
8400 Winterthur

### Transport

Swiss Federal Railways (SBB)  
and Postal Motor Coaches  
Hochschulstrasse 6,  
3000 Berne  
Telephone 031 601111

Automobil Club Switzerland  
(ACS)  
Laupenstrasse 2, 3001 Berne  
Telephone 031 250844

Touring Club Switzerland (TCS)  
Alfred Escherstrasse 88  
8002 Zurich  
Telephone 01 2012536

Swissair  
Hirschengraben 84, Postfach  
8058 Zurich  
Telephone 01 8121212  
and  
Gare de Cornavin (Station)  
1200 Geneva  
Telephone 022 319801

Swiss Air Rescue Service  
Dufourstrasse 43, 8008 Zurich  
Telephone 01 472230

### Youth

Pro Juventute Foundation  
Seefeldstrasse 8, 8022 Zurich  
Telephone 01 327244

## Registers

Annual State Calendar  
Set-up of the Federal  
Administration  
568 pages. SFr. 12.-.  
On sale at Federal Office for  
Printed Matters and Material  
3000 Berne

Publicus  
Swiss annuary on public life  
Collection of authorities,  
associations, etc.  
with addresses and telephone  
numbers, small format and easy  
to look up. 690 pages.  
SFr. 42.-

On sale at Schwabe & Co. AG,  
Steinentorstrasse 13  
Postfach 190, 4010 Basle



# Communications of the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad



## OAI/DI Column

In June 1978, we presented the publication of the guiding principles contained in the 9th revision of the OAI/DI, which came into force on 1st January 1979. On that occasion, we drew your attention to the adjustments in pension benefits, which are made every two years, or annually provided the cost of living index has risen in that period by more than 8%.

Since the arithmetic average of the wages and cost of living index has risen in the above-mentioned proportion, pensions will increase in the order of 4.5–5% as from 1st January 1980.

A simple full pension will amount to Fr. 550.– minimum and Fr. 1100.– maximum.

But and there is a «but», only the **full** pensions (and a few partial pensions) will be increased fully as indicated. For the other partial pensions, it will be different.

**Partial pensions** are paid out to pensioners who, in comparison with members of their age group, lack some years of contributions. A new system of calculation has been worked out for recipients of partial pensions, and thus an increase will not be paid just yet. The full pension scales now number 44 (hitherto 25). Therefore, the partial pension system now comprises 43 (hitherto 24) grades, and adjustments downwards will be necessary. (In a few cases, there will be upward adjustments.)

Consequently, recipients of partial pensions will not receive an increase. Indeed, some of them may have to await several changes in the index until their pension is increased. As an example: An insured person who has hitherto

been classified under scale 20 and receives a monthly pension of Fr. 630.–, comes under scale 25 according to the new system of calculation (out of 44), and is now entitled to a monthly pension of Fr. 597.–. But by virtue of the principle of «acquired right», he will continue to receive Fr. 630.–. If there is another adjustment of pensions of 5%, this will not be calculated on the paid-out pension of Fr. 630.–, but on the pension which would be due under the new scale, i.e. on Fr. 597.–. Five percent of this amount to Fr. 29.85, and the adjusted pension would be Fr. 626.85 (Fr. 597.– plus 29.85). Since this amount is still under the «acquired» pension, he will be paid Fr. 630.– as hitherto. He will receive an effectively higher pension only when the next adjustments are made.

Finally, there are further and long-term consequences of this new system of calculating pensions with 44 scales for all contributors.

Until recently, it did not matter if one lost up to 12% of annual contributions; one still received the full pension. Three years of non-payment of contributions out of 30, carried no adverse consequences; one still received the full pension. With 44 scales, the margin is much smaller. Whoever pays no contribution during one year, automatically drops to scale 43, or even lower according to the missing years. The pension which will one day be paid out, can melt like snow in the sunshine, and it is advisable to prevent interruptions in the payment of contributions, even if only one or two years. The consequences are all too noticeable.

### Please note

The recipients of partial pensions must not be surprised if their pension is not increased by 4.5 to 5%, but only by a lower rate or not at all.

Lucien Paillard

### News from Pro Juventute

## Holidays in Switzerland again for Swiss children abroad

On behalf of the Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad and Pro Juventute, the Holiday Scheme for Swiss Children Abroad will again organize holidays in Switzerland in summer 1980.

*Entitled to take part:* Children of Swiss nationality  
Children of other nationalities, whose mothers were originally Swiss

*Age of participants:* 7 to 15 years

*Holiday possibilities:* In Swiss families  
in our holiday camps (from the age of 10)  
in children's homes (age 7 to 10)

*Application forms and further information:* Obtainable at Swiss Embassies and Consulates where application forms have to be sent to.

*End of application:* End of March 1980

*Cost:* No child should be deprived of holidays for financial reasons. According to the parent's income, costs may be carried partially or fully by the organizers.

# Communications of the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad



## 50th Federal Shooting Contest, Lucerne



At the Allmend rifle-range (Photo LP)



Celebrating victories ...

### «Concours d'honneur» of the Swiss rifle associations abroad

The get-together of the Swiss from abroad is always one of the finest experiences at a federal shooting contest, and the one of 1979 was no exception; 247 marksmen from all continents – 21 groups in all – met in Lucerne from 14th to 16th July 1979.

Of the groupings in the official procession, that of the Swiss abroad was applauded most. Their clothes which generally represented their countries of residence – from bowler-hat to cowboy headgear, from Dutch national costumes to colourful shirts of Central Africa – drew everyone's attention.

The guests of honour at the official banquet, amongst them five Federal Councillors, were able to admire the Lucerne countryside at leisure from aboard ship which took them to the cradle of Switzerland. With typically helvetic spontaneity, not least due to liberal refreshments, they all started singing in the different national languages, the Ticinese minority clearly on top.

The serious part did not really start until Monday when the contest of honour of the Swiss rifle associa-

tions from abroad took place. The majority were equipped with borrowed carbines and assault rifles. Merrily they began firing their rounds, adjusting their weapons to which, of necessity, they had to get accustomed first.

What pleasure when the shots hit the black, promising a much coveted medal. Many did indeed wear it afterwards with great pride. Others did not fail to tell how only



The Netherlands and the United States, a pretty picture of Swiss from abroad in the official procession (Photo Hopfner)

### Placing of the groups

#### Place Group

- |    |  |
|----|--|
|    | <i>Gold laurel and stained glass panel</i>   |
| 1  | Vancouver, Swiss Canadian Rifle Club         |
|    | <i>Gold laurel and Lucerne tankard</i>       |
| 2  | Antwerp, Société Suisse de Tir               |
| 3  | Paris, Société Suisse de Tir                 |
|    | <i>Silver laurel and bronze relief</i>       |
| 4  | Calgary, Swiss Rifle Club Tell               |
| 5  | Los Angeles, Swiss Athletic Society          |
| 6  | Liechtenstein, Schweizerverein im Fürstentum |
|    | <i>Laurel and pewter tray</i>                |
| 7  | London, Swiss Rifle Association              |
| 8  | Mitchell, Swiss Rifle Club Thames-Valley     |
| 9  | Holland, Schützensektion der NHG             |
| 10 | Lyon, Tireurs Suisses                        |
| 11 | Munich, Schweizer Verein München e.V.        |
| 12 | Milan, Schützensektion des Schweizervereins  |
| 13 | Pays de Gex, Cercle Suisse                   |
| 14 | Frankfurt on Main, Schützen. Schweiz. Ges.   |
| 15 | Monrovia, Liberian Swiss Club                |
| 16 | Mexico, Club Suizo de Tiro                   |
| 17 | Brussels, Société Suisse de Tir              |
| 18 | Vienna, Schweizerische Schützengesellschaft  |
| 19 | Bogota, Club Suizo de Tiro                   |
| 20 | Durban, Swiss Club                           |
| 21 | Accra Ghana, Teshie Rangers                  |

### List of the 10 best individual results

#### Place Name

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 1  | Tochtermann Heinrich, 26, Liechtenstein |
| 2  | Schaffner Traugott, 44, London          |
| 3  | Hangartner Josef, 17, Wellington        |
| 4  | Delosme Jean, 21, Paris                 |
| 5  | Amrein Adolf, 27, Antwerp               |
| 6  | Schilter Hans, 21, Mitchell             |
| 7  | Weber Paul, 21, Milan                   |
| 8  | Greuter Fritz, 29, Barcelona            |
| 9  | Koenig Gertrud, 32, Calgary             |
| 10 | Brügger René, 35, Vancouver             |

# Communications of the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad



the «stupid dud» prevented them from winning a trophy.

Quiet reigned in the large hall at the Allmend in Lucerne until about 12.30. With the arrival of the Swiss marksmen from abroad, the atmosphere began to get lively. Several women proudly displayed one or more medals on their chests.

Before lunch was served, several couples lined up for dancing, for there was an excellent folk music band. That set the tone for the festivities which were interrupted only by speeches and later by the distribution of the prizes when nobody was forgotten.

It was a festive occasion which one would like to repeat and

which nobody will forget in a hurry, all the more because the prizes were of excellent quality. Apart from the bear skin offered by the Swiss Canadian Rifle Club of Vancouver, which went to the Swiss Society of Antwerp, the Organization of the Swiss Abroad wanted to present an engraved pewter cup to the group which had the longest journey to get to Switzerland. This was awarded to the Swiss Athletic Society of Los Angeles. The remaining groups received a pennant «Fifth Switzerland» with an inscription in honour of the participants of the 50th Federal Shooting Contest. Long live the 51st Contest!

Lucien Paillard

## Special prizes

Best woman: Mrs Koenig Gertrud, Calgary  
Best junior: Miss Hodel Margrit, 60, Surrey  
Best veteran: Mr Hangartner Josef, 17, Wellington  
Best veteran-D: Mr Strub Paul, 05, Schaan

## Skiing Camp 1980 «Les Crosets»



**First camp:**  
25th March–3rd April

**Second camp:**  
8th April–17th April

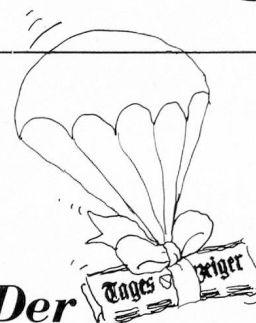
Those who dislike the cold but do not wish to do without skiing, should apply to one of the spring skiing camps for Swiss from abroad at «Les Crosets».

In the middle of the snow-covered skiing territory of «Les Crosets», a small place in the Val d'Illeiez, 1600 m above sea-level, we shall install ourselves in a well-equipped holiday chalet.

With expert leaders, we shall go skiing in groups in the sunny mountain landscape and also practise skiing technique.

In the evening, we shall spend some happy hours in one another's company.

Swiss living abroad between 15 and 25 who are interested in a spring skiing camp at «Les Crosets», should apply for an application form before 15th February 1980 from Youth Service, Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad of the NSH, Postfach, CH-3000 Berne 16, Switzerland.



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	Gew. Postzustellung		
	3 Mt.	6 Mt.	12 Mt.
<b>Europa</b>			
Bundesrepublik, Italien, Oesterreich	14.—	27.—	53.—
Belgien, Frankreich, Luxemburg, Niederlande	16.—	31.—	60.—
<b>Europa</b>			
Übrige europäische Länder sowie ganze UdSSR, Island, Grönland und Türkei	17.50	34.—	67.—

<b>Afrika</b>			
Nordafrika: Algerien, Libyen, Marokko, Tunesien, Übrige Länder in Afrika	17.50	34.—	67.—
	20.—	39.—	77.—

<b>Amerika</b>			
USA, Kanada und Zentralamerika, Antillen, Costa Rica, Dominikanische Republik, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Kuba, Mexiko, Nicaragua, Panama	20.—	39.—	77.—
<b>Südamerika</b>	22.50	44.—	87.—

<b>Asien</b>			
Naher Osten: Libanon, Jordanien, Israel, Syrien, Aden, Jemen, Irak, Iran, Kuwait, Saudi-Arabien, Afghanistan, Bhutan, Indien, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka	17.50	34.—	67.—
	20.—	39.—	77.—
<b>Ferner Osten</b>			
Übrige asiatische Länder	22.50	44.—	87.—

<b>Australien</b>			
Neuseeland, Ozeanien	31.—	60.—	119.—



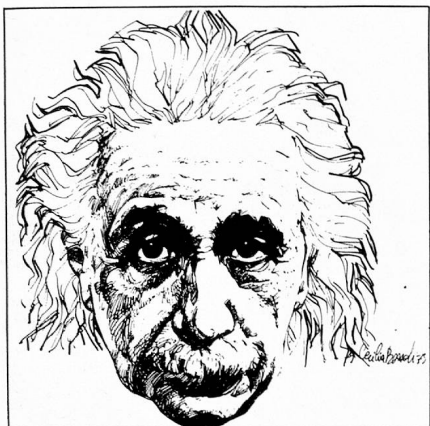
# Communications of the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad



## Two famous Swiss abroad

### Albert Einstein

He was born in Ulm in the German Federal Republic on 14th March 1879, a child of a Jewish family. He went to the *Gymnasium* in Munich before he moved to Switzerland where he received the citizenship of the town of Zurich in 1901.



In retrospect, it seems very strange that his parents and teachers considered him little talented if not even somewhat backward ... In 1902, he terminated his studies with the 'diploma of the Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich. It was in our country that he worked out his first theory of relativity and developed the basis for numerous other discoveries. Already in 1907, he advanced his hypothesis on gravitation. At the time, he was employed as an official at the Federal Office for Intellectual Property at a salary of 3500 francs *per annum*.

As an intellectual revolutionary, he upset the traditional image of the world. Admired by the specialists, he was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Geneva in 1909.

After teaching physics and mathematics in Berne and Zurich for a number of years, he was called to

Berlin as professor and scientific researcher. He was a pacifist and saw himself confronted with numerous difficulties due to the political developments, so he left Germany in 1932 in order to settle in USA. In Princeton, New Jersey, he became a member of the «Institute for Advanced Study», and he devoted himself to scientific research right up to his death on 18th April 1955.

Although he took out American nationality in 1940, he kept up his Swiss citizenship, which is evident from the records at the Swiss Consulate in Philadelphia where he had extended his registration card for five years in 1950. In 1921, he was awarded the Nobel Prize. His most ingenious discovery was the connection between substance and energy. Einstein liked using simple pictures. In order to elucidate his

theories, he made use of trains or lifts, as for instance in explaining the experience made by everyone: two trains are stationary side by side ready to depart; if one of these two trains moves off, the traveller in the stationary train has to orientate himself on a different object, such as a pole, so that he knows which of the two trains has been set in motion. Thus the laws of physics are only valid in relation to a supposed fixed object.

The consequences of this relativity are more difficult to conceive: time and space are not absolute; a ruler changes its length according to speed, a watch will lose. At the speed of light, all length would become nil, every watch would stop, and above all, substance would become indefinite, since one could not accelerate it, not even with immense energy.

*Lucien Paillard*

Einstein in 1904 as official at the Federal Office for Intellectual Property



One of the commemorative coins which are legal tender

Theory of relativity  
Realization by Kurt Wirth



# Communications of the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad



## Othmar Hermann Ammann

An American personality said of one of our compatriots appreciatively: «It is a pity that he cannot live for another hundred years, for he would certainly have constructed a bridge across the sea.»



This praise refers to a man from Schaffhausen, born a hundred years ago, on 26th March 1879, O.H. Ammann, who died in New York on 22nd September 1965.

This compatriot who was considered as the greatest builder of bridges of all times, studied at the Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich, and two years after acquiring his doctorate, he left for the United States where he remained due to the practical opportunities which offered themselves to this genius of a constructor.

First as a specialized expert, then as deputy to the responsible manager and later as principal himself, he devoted his life to the construction of bridges, in which he progressively became a respected initiator and promoter. He constructed the George-Washington Bridge, the Queensboro Bridge, the Goethals Bridge in the heart of New York and later others such as the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge, the most important of all, which spans the Hudson 300 m above and is over 4 km in length. But one has to remember that these fabulous creations which

attract one's eyes like a brilliant show, are also marvels of intelligence and calculation.

Ammann had brought the prudence of the watchmaker to the country of pioneers, and when he introduced the novel method of suspending the bridges by simple cables rather than constructing them on arches, he could do it because he knew every millimetre, resistance, weight and length and was as familiar with it all as one could be after having measured the field patiently for decades, finally loving it all to the core.

He represents the typical Swiss emigrant. To this he added a helvetic spirit born of modesty and careful ways, of seriousness and simplicity, and the need for solving problems and difficulties. Where the love of gigantic things and technical challenge flourish, the mixture is most effective:

«For half a century of extraordinary inspiration in the aesthetic and material conception of bridges.»



O. H. Ammann in front of the George Washington Bridge

In November 1964, Ammann received supreme recognition from President Johnson himself: the «National Medal of Science». Switzerland immortalized O. H. Ammann in 1979 devoting a postage stamp to him, on which, apart from his portrait, there is the picture of one of his greatest bridges.

Ammann receiving the National Medal of Science from President Johnson on 8.2.1965



# Communications of the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad



Continuation from page 6

ties with their country of origin and their family there even after marriage abroad.

– Many Swiss women abroad have very close ties with their homeland. Undoubtedly, part of these relationships is passed on automatically to their foreign children.

– It would be too complicated to mention all individual remarks and proposals which have been sent to us from over 60 countries. We have noticed, however, that there should be a solution in a slightly different form from that proposed in Switzerland, i.e. a *voluntary* possibility of acquiring Swiss citizenship should be instituted for children born abroad as quite a number of countries do not accept dual nationality. In other countries, very strict rules are adhered to regarding the distribution of tasks between husband and wife, which would hardly allow any possibility of passing on the nationality from mother to child.

## Present position

Considering the general agreement and the resolution passed by the Commission of the Swiss Abroad on 25th August 1978 (published in this paper in October 1978), the President of the Commission of the Swiss Abroad, National Councillor Alfred Weber submitted a Parliamentary Initiative to the Presidents of both Houses on 23rd March 1979, in which he requests a change in Art. 44, fig. 3 of the Federal Constitution and proposes the following wording:

«Federal legislation may decree the conditions under which a child of a Swiss mother who is a Swiss citizen by origin, may acquire Swiss nationality at birth.»

Such a regulation would allow the legislator to decide whether new norms for the acquisition of citi-

## Results in figures

Country	Individual letters all in favour of a new opening	Questionnaire			
		Swiss societies		Individual answers	
		for	against	for	against
Algeria	4				
Argentina	43	34	1		
Australia	12	1	0		
Austria	2	4	0		
Belgium	831	12		103	8
Brazil	8		1		
Cameroons	4				
Canada	50	11	0		
Chile	26	4			
Columbia	101	3			
Cyprus	15				
Denmark	1				
Egypt	4	1	1		
Ethiopia	0	1	0		
Finland	1	2	0		
France	250	41	0	350	28
Germany (East)	2				
Germany (West)	238	19	0	75	1
Great Britain	190	30		2	0
Greece	127	1	0		
Guyana	2				
Haiti	2				
India	0	1	0		
Irak	1				
Iran	2				
Ireland	2				
Israel	15	1	0		
Italy	271	7	0	18	5
Ivory Coast	1				
Japan	43	1	0	17	2
Kenya	1	1	0		
Laos	1				
Lebanon	4	2	0		
Liechtenstein	1	1	0		
Luxembourg	1				
Madagaskar	2	1	0		
Malaysia	1				
Mali	1				
Mauritius	1				
Morocco	11	0	1		
Mexico	21	1	0		
Namibia		1			
Netherlands	22	3	22	2	
New Guinea	1				
New Caledonia	1				
New Zealand	2				
Nigeria	1				
Norway	1	1	39	0	
Panama	1				
Peru	1				
Portugal	8				
Rhodesia	4				
Rumania	1				
Rwanda	1				
Salvador El	3				
Saudi Arabia	2	1	0		
Senegal		1		13	3
Singapore	5	1	0		
South Africa	22	2	0	21	0
Spain	35	6	0	296	2
Sri Lanka	3	0	1		
Sweden	3	0	1		



# Communications of the Secretariate of the Swiss Abroad



Country	Individual letters all in favour of a new opening	Questionnaire			
		Swiss societies for	against	Individual answers for	against
Switzerland	9				
Syria	2				
Thailand	2				
Trinidad and Tobago	1				
Tunesia	2				
Turkey	5	1			
United Arab Emirates	2				
United States of America	113	14	2	103	4
Upper Volta	2				
Uruguay	10	1	0		
Venezuela	4	1			
Virgin Islands	1				
Yugoslavia	15				
<b>Total</b>	<b>2566</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1059</b>	<b>65</b>

zenship and facilitated naturalization should be fixed in law. It would enable the federal legislation also to establish the limits deemed necessary in order to prevent an unnecessary increase in the number of dual nationals. This could be done for instance by introducing the right of option as already established in certain countries, which could be made use of at a certain age and which leave no doubt whatever with regard to the prevailing citizenship. This would be a limitation which lies in the interest of the Swiss abroad themselves and of their image in Switzerland. If no use is made of this right, it would mean that the other nationality is considered as the more important one, whether it came from the father or was acquired on the basis of *ius soli* in the country of residence. Every child who comes from a mixed marriage must be made aware of the consequences following a separation. The fact that many States do not allow that children of their citizens accept another nationality whilst on their territory, should not deter us from finding a more generous solution.

## Present state

A parliamentary commission was formed, of which our President, Dr. Alfred Weber, is a member.

It met for the first time on 3rd September 1979. It began by examining the entire field of questions which have recently been brought up in connection with Swiss citizenship. As soon as the Commission has presented its report to the two Chambers, we shall let you know their findings.

Lucien Paillard

## Pro Juventute 1979

Armoiries communales



Cadro (TI)



Rüte (AI)



Schwamendingen (ZH)



Perroy (VD)

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Auslandsschweizer

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