

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: 1763

Rubrik: Letters to the editor

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: 14.12.2025

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

The Swiss Observer

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

Founded in 1919 by Paul F. Boehringer

HON. PRESIDENT:
Gottfried Keller

EDITOR
Marianne Hill-Moser

Advisory Council
F. Burri (Chairman)
B. Simon (Vice-Chairman)
O. F. Boehringer, J.P. (Hon. Sec.)
J. Eusebio, A. Kunz
P. Schweizer
R. M. Suess

Published Monthly at
63/67 TABERNACLE STREET
LONDON EC2 4AH

Tel: 01-253 2321

Telegrams: Paperwyse London

SUBSCRIPTION RATES (POST FREE)

UNITED KINGDOM	SWITZERLAND and elsewhere
6 issues £2.92	Frs. 13 £3.02
12 issues £5.30	Frs. 25 £5.50

Swiss subscriptions may be paid into
Postcheck Konto Basle 40-5718

SWISS CHURCHES

SERVICES EN FRANCAIS: à l'Eglise
Suisse, 79 Endell Street, W.C.2,
tous les dimanches à 11h15 et
19h00.

PASTEUR: Frank Orna-Ornstein, 7
Park View Road, London N.3.
Tel: 01-346 5281.

SERVICES IN GERMAN: at Eglise
Suisse, 79 Endell Street, W.C.2,
every Sunday at 10.00 a.m.
Sunday school takes place on
the first and third Sunday in the
month for children of all age
groups. Children assemble in
the church with their parents who
attend the normal Service. Ser-
vices also at John Southworth
Centre, 48 Great Peter Street,
SW1P 2HA, every Sunday at
6.30 p.m.

MINISTER: Pfarrer Urs Steiner, 1
Womersley Road, London N8
9AE, Tel. 01-340 9740.

SWISS CATHOLIC MISSION, 48
Great Peter Street, London
SW1P 2HA. Resident Chaplain:
Paul Bossard, Te.: 01-222
2895. Ecumenical Chapel of St.
John: Services in English and
German: Saturday Evening: 5
to 7 p.m. Meditation Service
with Holy Mass. Sundays:
11.30 (English), 6.30 p.m.
(German) Ecumenical Service.
Monday-Friday: 1 p.m. Lunch
hour Mass.

regards future Swiss legislation, it is
by no means certain that the country
would adopt an eventual proposal to
amend the Constitution to the effect
that all Swiss mothers' children
automatically become Swiss.

The same considerations apply,
by the way, in the purely Swiss
context of acquiring Cantonal and
Communal citizenship. The Gov-
ernment has just published a
whitepaper on a new marriage law
based on the principle of equal rights
and obligations for both partners; it
felt nevertheless unable to confuse
the clear-cut present situation of one
citizenship per family (the father's)
for reasons of equality (which may
appear in this case as rather formal).
That is how the Government feels
about it, but the Swiss voters will
have the last word. So, the question
remains still wide open.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

After reading the November 1979 issue of the SWISS OBSERVER I have deduced that, if all those years ago had I not legalised my union with an Englishman, my children would be illegitimate but would be Swiss citizens. How sad.

Any Swiss wanting to return to Switzerland seem also to be faced with formidable difficulties which I find intimidating. Is this deliberate policy?

I find it increasingly difficult to accept the exclusion of my very able family from any Swiss rights. How can I engender in them any interest in my so-called 'heritage'?

Perhaps you could emphasise the difficulties which women in my situation face, particularly when younger. Perhaps the SWISS OBSERVER could help a little to decrease the alienation.

Mrs. A. S. F.

Dear Mrs. F.,

Thank you for your letter with regard to the question of citizenship of children born by Swiss mothers married to foreigners.

It appears that the rights of a Swiss woman are severely curtailed once she decides to marry a foreigner and to leave the native soil.

I put your particular plea to the legal adviser of the Swiss Embassy in London and would like to pass on his considerations on the subject, hoping that they may help all of us who are in the same boat to understand the reasons for this legislation as it stands at present a little better. I also hope that it might help you in particular to know that you are by no means struggling on in isolation.

The wide interest the citizenship question finds was clearly illustrated by the vast amount of letters the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad received last year on this subject (around 2500).

The Swiss authorities are quite aware of the somehow paradoxical situation created by the ruling that children born out of wedlock by Swiss mothers (at home or abroad) become Swiss citizens, whereas they acquire only their father's foreign nationality, if born by a married Swiss woman. Formerly, an illegitimate child lost its Swiss nationality when its Swiss mother subsequently married the foreign father — a loss which may seem even harder to bear than the fact of never having acquired Swiss citizenship at all. But as we are now moving towards an era of more equality between the sexes, those instances of discrimination against Swiss mothers (as regards the citizenship of their children), which were not prescribed by the Constitution, have been abolished recently. The only case where this was not possible, because the Constitution clearly rules it out, is when children of a married Swiss mother and a foreign father are born abroad — obviously a situation frequently occurring.

As much as the desire of Swiss mothers (married abroad) to see Swiss citizenship bestowed upon their children can be understood, it must not be forgotten that dual nationality is not in all respects a desirable condition. It has advantages as well as drawbacks, and Governments generally tolerate it at best, intent to treat it as the exception rather than the rule. As

On this month's front cover:

H.E. Ambassador Claude Caillat on his way to Buckingham Palace to present his Letters of Credence from the Swiss Federation to the Queen.