

**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:** - (1981)  
**Heft:** 1773

**Artikel:** Winter sports World Championship  
**Autor:** [s.n.]  
**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-687226>

### **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:** 13.08.2025

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

# Capering down the Rhine

THE annual festival of the three guilds—known as Companies of Honour—of Kleinbasel, the part of Basle city on the right bank of the River Rhine, falls on January 13, 20 or 27, depending on which company is presiding.

The three emblematic figures of the companies, Griffin, Wild Man and Lion, meet up after the Wild Man has travelled down the Rhine on a raft. Their reunion takes place at midday and they dance and caper on the Central Rhine Bridge to the beat of drums.

★ ★ ★ ★

MARKING the Patronal Festival on January 20, two huge and richly decorated cakes are borne in solemn procession to the church and later divided up among the congregation.

★ ★ ★ ★

ON Meitlisunntig, the second Sunday in January, the girls of Meisterschwanden and Fahrwangen in the Seetal district of Aargau stage a procession in historical uniforms and a military parade before a feminine "General Staff." This is followed by a popular festival.

According to tradition the custom goes back to the Villmergen War of 1712. The



Vogel Gryff in Basle

women of both communes are said to have given vital help that led to the victory of the Protestant Bernese over the Catholic forces of Central Switzerland.

★ ★ ★ ★

ON Epiphany, January 6, Christian customs mingle with usages which are wholly archaic and reminiscent of pagan

practices.

The noisy, money-soliciting parades contrast with the procession of the three kings with their star, illuminated from the inside.

The custom is widespread except in the canton of the Valais, where nowadays it is carried on only in the Lotschental, where the white-clad kings with a small escort, including the starbearer, "gallop" through the villages on beautifully-carved hobby horses.

## Events of the month

1981	Fribourg/ Solothurn Interlaken	500th anniversaries of Cantons Fribourg and Solothurn
Jan 2		«Harderpotschete», ancient popular custom with procession
Jan 11-17	Davos	11th international pharmaceutical further-training congress
Jan 24/25	Geneva	Palais des expositions: International cat show
Jan 24/25	Wengen	51st International Lauberhorn ski races
Jan 24/25	Lenzerheide- Valbella	Lenzerheide 24-hour relay cross-country event
Jan 29	Lenzerheide- Valbella	14th Lenzerheide-Valbella public night cross-country event
Jan 29-Feb 7	Davos	11th European management symposium

## Geneva's Youth Music Festival

THE International Youth Music Festival will be taking place in Geneva from July 2 to 6.

The programme includes individual performances, parades, a concert at the United Nations European Headquarters (Palais des Nations), a live broadcast, a gala concert, and participation at school graduation festivities.

Further information or appli-

cations: Official Tourist Office,  
Case postale 440, 1200  
Geneva 11, Switzerland.

## Passion play returns

AFTER a lapse of 11 years, the Great World Theatre passion play will again be presented at the open air theatre in Einsiedeln's monastery square with two showings a week from June 15 until September 15.

## Winter sports world championship

FROM March 8 to 18, 1982, the second world championship of winter sports for the disabled will be held at the resorts of Diablerets, Gryon, Leysin, Mosses and Villars in the Alpes Vaudoises.

Events will take place in various classes of disability in Alpine, Nordic, sledge and sledge hockey.

## Much on offer at Leukerbad

THE facilities of the spa centre in Leukerbad have now been greatly extended by indoor and open air swimming pools, restaurants, rest-cure halls and covered passages to two open air swimming pools.

There is now a total of 10 indoor and seven open air swimming pools.

A special weekly all-inclusive arrangement is on offer including seven nights half board, four free entrances to the spa centre, seven days unlimited use of the Torrent aerial cableway and all ski lifts or, for langlauf, free use of the Gemmi aerial cableway.

Prices start from Sfr. 251.

Further information from:  
Official Tourist Office, 3954  
Leukerbad, Switzerland.

**Further details about any of the items reported here can be obtained from Swiss National Tourist Office, Swiss Centre, London W1V 3HG. (Tel: 01-734 1921).**