

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: - (1983)

Heft: 1803

Artikel: A time to reminisce

Autor: Grout, E. Marie-Louise

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-688834>

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: 31.07.2025

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

A TIME TO REMINISCE

FOR us, the past year will be remembered as a very good year for friendship and this verse from Richard II by William Shakespeare illustrates my feeling so well:

"I count myself in nothing else so happy
As in a soul remembering my good friends"

When I was browsing through an old book I found an edelweiss, a wild orchid and chaffinch feathers tucked away between the pages. They reminded me of my happy childhood in a sunny mountain village in distant Switzerland, of my family and friends - not only the friends I had in those days, but also the many friends we have made since and we are still making in this friendly village. What would we do without them?

As I looked at those childhood treasures, and the feathers in particular, I thought how like the wild birds we are - shedding a feather here and there, leaving a little part of ourselves behind. What do we leave? Kind words, being helpful to neighbours, to friends? Or do we leave words said in haste which we later regret? Perhaps we should resolve to be more circumspect and think twice before saying something, be more thoughtful and considerate for others. Have more courage, more common sense, and above all have the faculty to laugh at ourselves.

In a few years' time when I find that edelweiss, orchid and feathers again, I hope that the imprint I left behind, the impression I made on my friends, will be a happy one. It would be marvellous to be able to say: "I have no regrets." It is comforting to think that despite the many changes in the world around us, the fundamental values are still intact and:

"As sure the night must follow the day
As sure as no dawn can ever stay
As sure as clouds across the sky
Will always and forever fly
So surely too will small birds sing
And flowers bloom when breaks the Spring."

E. Marie-Louise Grout

