

Letting thoughts wander

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I am wondering if you could please
help me?

Having had friends in Switzerland
since 1963 and working there myself in
1971, I would so like to write as a "Pen
Friend" if possible to another Female in
her 30's. Married or single, with or
without a family. I am married with
twin girls of 20 months.

I mostly know the Interlaken -
Adelboden area and have spent many
holidays in the beautiful country!

Please could you put me in touch
with any such organisation, or perhaps
give me an address to write too.

Thank you so much for your kind
attention to the same.

Yours faithfully,
Mrs. Susan Rickett,
Flat 5, 93 St. James's Road,
Sutton, Surrey.

Sir,

I have recently been in touch with a
number of folk who share my hobby-
interest, the modelling of Swiss railways.
Reading the publications on this subject
here in Britain, I came to the conclusion
that there must be a number of us with
this interest, and the advertisements for
Swiss items stocked by model shops
seemed to bear this out. So far, the Model
Railway Constructor, a magazine which
gives regular cover to continental models,
has published a letter from me, and
already over a dozen fellow-enthusiasts
have been in touch. Their enthusiasm has
encouraged me to put out a brief
duplicated newsletter for them, and
already I have received several items for
the next issue.

I write, therefore, to ask you if you
would be so kind as to make mention of
our project in the Swiss Observer in the
hope that some of your readers may also
be interested, and wish to join us.

Rev. Geraint Edwards,
19 Rubislaw Den South,
Aberdeen AB2 6BD

Over to you, readers - Editor

LETTING THOUGHTS WANDER

Dear Readers, Dear Compatriots,

At this time when we once again celebrate
our National Holiday, I make no apologies for
imparting a distinctly patriot flavour into this
issue. I think it right that I should - if only
because I consider the man who said
"patriotism is the last resort of a scoundrel"
was probably a scoundrel himself.

It is always difficult to set down original
thoughts on this occasion and, anyway, Father
Paul Bossard has done that so ably elsewhere in
this issue. So let us attempt to look briefly at
other people's patriotism because patriotism
does exist everywhere to a greater or lesser
degree.

It is all too easy to sneer at the patriotic
sentiment in another country. It seems almost
natural to dismiss it out of hand - "it's not real
patriotism - only WE have that." Or - "what
have THEY got to be patriotic about?" or -
worst of all - we regard other people's
patriotism as chauvinism. To do that makes a
chauvinist of that very patriot.

During the last two years your editor has
undertaken extensive business trips to eastern

and western Europe and the United States of
America. It was in America that I detected a
real resistance towards patriotism - in a
country where such sentiments are normally
held sacred. How very sad.

The reasons are, however, not difficult to
find. During the past few years the U.S.A. has
suffered some great traumas - not the least of
which were humiliation in Vietnam, growing
urban and racial problems and a fall in the value
of the Dollar. All pretty new experiences to our
American friends.

Happily, the U.S. is a resilient society and
these rather negative and self-destructive
feelings are once again being replaced by an
upsurge of pride in the homeland's good points
and achievements - of which there are many.

With this in mind can we not be even more
thankful that unpleasant forces have not
succeeded in undermining our proper thoughts
of our homeland - be it where it may. Let us
never sneer at others - they have feelings too.
The same should apply to our private lives!

With best greetings on this, our day,
George Sommer.

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On the front page

August 1st in Switzerland is the day to
carry on many good old traditions. This
impressive military parade might well be
typical of many held over the land.