

**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:** - (1968)  
**Heft:** 1557

**Artikel:** Catastrophic floods  
**Autor:** [s.n.]  
**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-696032>

### **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:** 07.07.2025

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

performance in the Händel aria and the Schütz Cantata, and the Oboe-player Dennis Becher of the Bryanston School who completed the participation of the whole group of artists brought together to such happy effect in this "Musical Evening" by the initiative of Mr. Cogliatti.

Not content with offering the audience this great musical treat in their delightful home Mr. and Mrs. Cogliatti in the end also regaled those present with a delicious champagne supper much appreciated by everyone. E.

### CATASTROPHIC FLOODS

As mentioned in the last issue, torrential rain in Switzerland turned streams into rivers and floods transformed roads into streams at the week-end of 21st/22nd September. At least seven people died in the catastrophic floods, three alone in the Canton of Berne, one of the worst-hit parts. It was really only the Grisons and the Ticino which can be said to have escaped.

In the Aarau *Dammquartier*, the water was *metertief* in the roads, and cellars filled with water to the ceilings. The whole quarter was transformed into a lake, and the inhabitants were completely cut off. In Geneva, the Arve rose from 70 cubic metres a second on Saturday morning to 800 cubic metres 24 hours later, and where the river joins the Rhone, it rose from 300 to 1,300 cubic metres per second on Sunday. 15,000 square metres of the Plain-palais Exhibition Hall were under water (40cm.). The Army had to help the fire brigade, as in other parts.

Half the 1,300 inhabitants of Vernayaz in the Valais had to be evacuated. Its main road looked like a wild river in which the debris was thrown about. At Langenthal, bridges were put across the river which was the main

road. According to an old tradition, the children floated boxes with burning woodshavings on the "river". In many places turned into a Venice, tubs and all kinds of floating vessels were used as boats.

There was serious disruption of traffic, and worse accidents happened than in snow and ice.. Landslides and fallen rock blocked main and subsidiary roads and in some parts caused derailments and chaotic conditions on the railways. Bridges were torn away or damaged, e.g. over the Kander between Spiez and Wimmis and near Trient (Valais). Thousands of telephone lines were disrupted, in Zurich alone over 1,000. There were electricity cuts in many places. Firemen and other helpers were out day and night, and in Zurich it was so bad, that they had to confine their efforts for a time to public buildings, mainly at Hoengg, Schwamendingen and Affoltern.

It has since been made known that the rainfall during that week-end was the third-highest ever registered since 1864 when records were started. The damage in the Thurgau is estimated to be between two and three million francs, and in the Aargau probably as much.

This sounds almost exciting, and no doubt to those who were not affected, it sounds like adventure. But what of those afflicted? Even the townpeople forgot to enjoy the usually happy harvest time at the sight of the black grain. The farmers are often accused of asking too many subsidies. But they cannot be made responsible for the bad weather. Take the corn-growing farmers of Jegenstorf in Berne. They were unable to deliver even one single kilo of ground-worthy grain. If that does not make one compassionate . . .

(By courtesy of A.T.S., "SBB Nachrichtenblatt.")

Telegrams and Cables : TRANCOSMOS LONDON

TELEX 24777

Telephone : HOP 4433 (8 Lines)

## COSMOS FREIGHTWAYS AGENCY LIMITED.

INTERNATIONAL FREIGHT FORWARDERS

By Road, Rail, Sea and Air

1, CATHEDRAL STREET,  
LONDON BRIDGE, LONDON, S.E.1.

REGULAR GROUPAGE SERVICES WITH

### SWITZERLAND

ANGLO-SWISS CUSTOMS EXPERTS.

Agents : WELTIFURRER INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT CO. Ltd., Zurich, Basle, Buchs, Schaffhausen, Geneva, St. Gall.

ALSO AT  
LIVERPOOL, MANCHESTER  
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE,  
HULL, BRISTOL, CARDIFF,  
SWANSEA, NEWPORT, Mon.  
GLASGOW.

CONNECTED  
THROUGHOUT  
THE WORLD

OFFICIAL FREIGHT AND  
PASSENGER AGENTS FOR  
SWISSAIR AND ALL AIR LINES  
TO SWITZERLAND AND ALL  
PARTS OF THE WORLD

# English in England

## BOURNEMOUTH

Main Courses 3-9 months and  
Refresher Courses 4-9 weeks  
Commencing at the beginning of every month  
26-30 hours per week - Classes at all levels  
Basic Programme - Language Laboratory  
Optional Programme - Commerce,  
Commercial Correspondence Courses -  
Technical English - Literature

Recognized by the Ministry of Education. Official Examination  
Centre for the University of Cambridge and London Chamber  
of Commerce Examinations.

Preparatory Courses  
for the University  
of Cambridge  
Proficiency  
Examinations  
Commencing  
4 March and  
2 September 1968

Holiday Courses 2-12 weeks  
Courses begin every week  
from June to September 1968  
20 hours per week

Accommodation in single  
room with selected  
English family



## ANGLO-CONTINENTAL SCHOOL OF ENGLISH

LONDON COVENTRY  
OXFORD BELFAST

Holiday Courses at University Colleges  
Duration 3 and 4 weeks in July and August 1968  
25 hours per week - Comprehensive Optional  
Programme - Excursions. Accommodation  
in modern single room in Houses of Residence

Prospectuses available for all centres from: Anglo-Continental School of English, 29-35 Wimborne Road, Bournemouth. Telephone: 27414  
or ACSE, Swiss Centre, 10 Wardour Street, London W.1. Telephone: 01-734-4651