

# Heinrich Pestalozzi by Max Zollinger

Autor(en): **Zollinger, Max**

Objektyp: **Article**

Zeitschrift: **Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand**

Band (Jahr): **11 (1945-1946)**

Heft 4

PDF erstellt am: **24.05.2024**

Persistenter Link: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-942807>

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Corporal Edna Wenger, of Smyrna, Del., was the first American girl to whiz down the 360-foot drop, but it remained for Sergeant Clementine DeLong, of Princeton, N.J., to be the first American girl to pilot a bobsled down the course. Lieutenant Colonel Howard Faulkner, of Leavenworth, Kan., was Sergeant DeLong's brake.

One mishap marred the day. A bobsled piloted by Felix Enderich, a Swiss, failed to make a turn and overshot the ice wall. Enderich, Mary Anderson, of Indianapolis, and First Lieutenant Robert L. McCormick, of Wilkes Barre, Pa., were thrown to the icy surface of the run as the sled caromed off the wall. They suffered minor bruises.

Every five days 300 Americans on furlough are expected to visit this one-time resort of nobility and millionaires.

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#### DUTCH HONOUR FEDERAL COUNCILLOR VON STEIGER.

As a token of gratitude for the help Switzerland has extended and is still extending to Holland for her reconstruction, the Dutch Society for Reconstruction has presented Federal Councillor von Steiger with a beautiful bowl of Delft pottery bearing the following inscription in Dutch: "Year of Liberation 1945".

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#### SUBSCRIPTION TO ILLUSTRATED SWISS NEWSPAPERS.

The well known publishers of the "SCHWEIZER ILLUSTRIERTE ZEITUNG" and the "L'ILLUSTRE" in Switzerland, are inviting our Compatriots to subscribe to their papers. These publications are known the world over and chiefly depict current illustrations of important happenings. Most of you have no doubt seen the papers.

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We are not able to state the subscription-fees for these papers, but shall make enquiries for any member interested. The Secretary has been promised a number of free copies by Messrs. Verlag G. Meyer's Erben Zurich, and when these are available they may be borrowed by members for perusal.

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#### HEINRICH PESTALOZZI BY MAX ZOLLINGER.

It is my heart which has  
 made me what I am.

On January 12, 1946, Switzerland has celebrated the second centenary of the birth of one of her greatest men. The world will join with her in commemorating the great philanthropist whose name has come to stand for love as the moving force in education wherever the voice of the human heart is heard.

It was no preconceived plan of action, but trouble and want which brought Pestalozzi to his mission as an educator. Everything he created in the passion of his heart at the Neuhof, at Stans, at Burgdorf and Munchenbuchsee failed or was wrested from his hands by others. The crowning achievement of his work at Yverdon came to grief amid the unhappy dissensions of his collaborators. The last weeks of his long life were embittered by base slander of his selfless aims.

It was not his own inclination, but the feeling that he "fitted nowhere" which made him take to writing after the collapse of his institute for the education of the poor at the Neuhof. His literary work, some of which has been unpublished to this day, was born of sheer need, and his rustic novel, *Lienhard and Gertrud*, remains above all the imperishable monument to a faith in the human heart which could be shaken neither by outward hardship nor by ingratitude and humiliations of all kinds.

Pestalozzi's educational principles are founded on the conviction that man, as the creation of God, has his place in the immutable process of nature, and hence must be educated in accordance with the fundamental laws of natural development. Even education, he declares, can do nothing but "lend a hand" to nature as God's creation. Like the plant, the child first requires physical care; the mother is its first physical and spiritual nourisher, the "sanctuary of the home" the soil in which all education has its roots. It is nature, not the conclusions of rational reflection, which is the educative mission of the mother. For that reason Pestalozzi makes the humble wife of the village mason the prototype of the mother in her educational function. Yet even in his view, education is not exhausted in a loving care which would accustom the growing human being to be sustained and cared for all his life. True motherly love is "thoughtful love", and as such it sets the child on its path to the supreme goal of all education - the power to help and educate itself. Because Pestalozzi had himself learned that nobody on God's earth can help the human being unless he can help himself, it was, from his time at the Neuhof on, his central aim that even the humblest of the humble should be put in a position to help themselves and maintain themselves in their own station. Posterity rightly honours in Pestalozzi the friend of the despised and the outcast, and as the defender of the defenceless, who found, and taught others to find, the essential dignity of man in every human being, even the weak in mind and the erring. But what Pestalozzi as a social educator had in mind as the ideal of the human community was not merely the welfare state, which seeks to relieve every one of its citizens of as much moral responsibility as possible. It was rather the living community of active human beings who, each in his station, should do all that lay in his power for himself and for others.

The troubles of the revolutionary period made Pestalozzi realize that a sovereign people without political education is a child playing with fire and threatening the house with ruin every moment. But true humanity is the foundation of every healthy state, and man is only a citizen in proportion as he is a man. We have recently been the horrified witnesses of the depths of inhumanity to which nations can sink when they reverse that truth. The only thing that can preserve our world from future catastrophes of unimaginable horror is the warning which Pestalozzi gave to the peoples of Europe at a time of crisis not unlike our own:

"For a continent in a state of intellectual, moral and political degeneration, there is no salvation save by education, by the education of humanity, the formation of men".

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#### SWITZERLAND AND THE RIGHTS OF THE VICTORS. Translation from the "Journal de Genève"

As soon as victory was won, the Allies let it be known that they would take all the necessary steps to prevent the national-socialist leaders from finding a refuge in neutral countries, and their successors from being able to organise, sooner or later, a new hegemony with the help of funds which, on the eve of defeat, they were able to deposit in a safe place. Switzerland had good reason to applaud that policy. Although generous, and always ready to grant asylum to persecuted peoples, she would not help criminals to escape the punishment they deserve. While resolved to justify the confidence which foreigners have always shown in her by entrusting her with the safeguarding of their property, Switzerland was not willing to play the part of a receiver of war-loot, or to become involved in a war of revenge in which she would be amongst the first to suffer. She has said so time and time again in her press; her Government has confirmed it in a diplomatic note. She made it plain that she was ready to co-operate in plans for moral reconstruction and general security, and she is still of the same mind.