

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 60 (1994)
Heft: [5]

Rubrik: News from the Embassy

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NEWS FROM THE EMBASSY

NEW UNFORGEABLE IDENTITY CARD

WRITTEN IN FIVE LANGUAGES

The new unforgeable identity card will be issued in the four national languages and in English. The Federal Council has adopted the ordinance relating to the Swiss identity card and it will come into force on 1 July 1994. The experimental phase will be put into place in German-speaking Switzerland on 1 July 1994 in the towns of Adliswil, Berne and Zofingen, and will be followed from 1 September 1994 in French-speaking Switzerland in the towns of Délémont and Lausanne.

The conception and presentation of the new plastic document, secure from forgeries, the format of which corresponds to that of a credit card, has received an extremely positive welcome during the consultative procedure. Some reservations remaining concern questions of detail, such as the language used for the inscriptions or the protection of information. Maintaining the "Einheimischenausweis" which enables holders to obtain tickets at a reduced price, has equally been requested.

With relation to the problem of the languages, the Federal Council has, for the sake of internal politics, decided that the inscription appearing on the new card will be printed in the four national languages, but also in English, in order to guarantee acceptance abroad. The central seizure of information by the Federal Office of the Police (OFP) is aimed at preventing one person from delivering several cards and of accelerating the procedure for replacement cards, notably abroad. There is no connection between their system of information data and other banks of information or services. The Federal departmental head for the protection of information has approved this measure. The "Einheimischenausweis" which until now has been combined, will be issued independently of the identity card, and will be from now on delivered under the autonomous cantonal attestation form of domicile indicating the relevant district.

Staggered Replacement of the Present Identity Card.

The replacement of the current brown/beige identity card will be carried out at staggered intervals. The new document will firstly be delivered to citizens whose current card falls due or who are not yet holders of an identity card. The new identity card will have to be requested personally from the relevant register, on presentation of an authorisation of domicile or, in the case of falling due, the old card together with a black and white or coloured photograph. The price of the new card must be paid at the time of the request: it is 35 SFR for adults and 25 SFR for children up to 15 years of age. The document will

be sent within 3 days, by registered mail, to the holder's home. As soon as the trial phase is finished in the towns mentioned above, the card will be introduced to the various cantons in a specific order.

INVITATION

In conjunction with the Werner Bischof Photographic Exhibition from Switzerland which will be touring New Zealand over the next year or so, Dr. Peter GERDES, Sydney-based correspondent for Australia, New Zealand and Oceania for the "Neue Zürcher Zeitung" as well as being Associate Professor of Media Studies at the University of New South Wales, will give a talk at the Dowse Art Museum, Laings Road, Lower Hutt, on Friday 5 August at 7.30 pm

The talk will be on the life of Werner Bischof, an explanation of what photo-journalism is/was and a short description of the exhibition. He will also be showing "Wochenschaubeiträge" - the old black and white newsreels filmed from the time of the Second World War and just after.

The exhibition schedule for the various galleries around the country is as follows:

Dowse Art Museum, Lower Hutt: 2 July - 4 September 1994

Sarjeant Art Gallery, Wanganui: 12 September - late Nov./early Dec.

Manawatu Art Gallery, Palmerston North: December 1994 - January 1995

Robert McDougall Art Gallery, Christchurch: February - March 1995

Aigantighe Art Gallery, Timaru: June - July 1995

Rotorua Bath House Gallery: August - September 1995

Unfortunately, due to a lack of response from Auckland Galleries, the exhibition will not be shown there.

FREE LISTINGS

Since it was started some 2 years ago, our Classified Advertisements column has not exactly been a roaring success. Apart from some regular and a few occasional advertisers, the column has largely been ignored. Most likely the small circulation of the Helvetia is a major contributing factor to this lack of interest or perhaps it is just that Swiss people feel that \$1.50 or \$3.00 an issue is too much to spend to advertise their wares and services to their fellow Swiss people.

In view of this, we thought of taking a new tack. How about compiling a list, a sort of "Who's Who" or mini "Yellow page" of Swiss people who sell goods or services to the public?

There must be dozens and dozens of them from architects to shop keepers, moteliers, importers, restaurateurs, butchers, patissiers, cheese makers, manufacturers, watchmakers plus many, many more.

If you own or manage a business that deals directly (or even indirectly) with the public, why not come forth and tell your fellow compatriots who you are, what you offer and where you can be found. Fill in the coupon below and send it back to the Editor (sorry, you will have to pay for the postage) and once or twice a year we will publish FREE OF CHARGE a list of people who want to participate in this programme.

Each entry will be kept to a minimum with no advertising slogans or bold lettering; it will be a simple listing. If you wish to put more emphasis on your company or your activities, then you may use the magazine's Classified or Display advertising space at our normal advertising rates.

We trust that our offer of a free listing in the Helvetia will attract a lot of entries. We will see...

COUPON

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