

Regional news : UK

Objektyp: **Appendix**

Zeitschrift: **Swiss review : the magazine for the Swiss abroad**

Band (Jahr): **21 (1994)**

Heft 3

PDF erstellt am: **13.09.2024**

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'No Comment' Consulate closed

The Swiss Consular Agency in Bournemouth has closed after 27 years of attending to the consular needs of Swiss in the south of England. Now that Fritz Schilling, head of the Consulate for all of those twenty-seven years, has reached the compulsory retirement age of 65, the Swiss authorities have decided to close the consulate and concentrate consular services in London.

The Bournemouth Consulate was first opened up by the Swiss authorities in 1967, and its chief customers were the Swiss students who attended language schools in the towns of Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole. In the 1960s and 1970s such students headed for England's south coast in large numbers.

The high concentration of young and often inexperienced Swiss in the area prompted the London embassy to establish a consular outpost in Bournemouth, which, it was hoped, would deal quickly and efficiently with their problems.

Fritz Schilling was then director of a language school in Bournemouth, and was in an ideal position to act as the new Vice Consul - though his duties also included promoting Swiss commercial interests along the English south coast and reporting to the London embassy on regional issues.

The decision to cut the Consular Agency was taken on the grounds that the number of Swiss students in the Bournemouth area has declined considerably in recent years. Advances in communication technology have also - says the London embassy - resulted in a gradual decrease in the workload of the Bournemouth outpost.

More importantly, a spokesman for the London embassy assured the *Regional News-UK* that no untoward problems have arisen

since the closure of the Bournemouth consulate and that the embassy was dealing in its usual friendly and efficient fashion with the additional workload.

But while the London embassy was helpful and willing to speak to the *Regional News-UK*, Schilling refused to personally comment and declined to respond to questions put through his secretary. When asked how the local Swiss community felt about the closure, she quipped, 'I shouldn't think that they care.'

Meanwhile, the London embassy was at pains to allay any fears about the future of the two other honorary consulates in the UK, at Belfast and Edinburgh. A spokesman assured the *Regional News-UK* that there are no plans to change consular arrangements in either Northern Ireland or Scotland.



Swiss Dolls in the UK: see page seven

New Initiative for Swiss Business in UK

A new initiative has been launched to help the Swiss business community in the UK. Investors in People (IIP) is a government backed business initiative designed to assist companies improve the quality and profitability of their enterprise - and Training (UK) Ltd is an Anglo-Swiss training and consultancy business which seeks to enable companies to reach that goal. To this end Training (UK) Ltd works closely with Training and Enterprise Councils (TECs) whose responsibility it is to promote and improve the business community within the regions for which they have responsibility.

Investors in People is a nationally recognized award, achieved by businesses which recognize that successful business

performance revolves around the simple truth that getting people involved in a business is no recipe for success. Getting the right people, working with them and keeping them is a much more successful formula.

The process is a complement to businesses involved in the attaining of British Standard 5750 or ISO 5000 and companies which are improving business performance along with training their employees to achieve National Vocational Qualifications.

In promoting the benefits of the IIP initiative to business, Training (UK) Ltd helps companies work towards IIP standards. More importantly it has accessed local TECs to assist financially in the process. Typically funding support of between £3,000

and £10,000 can be accessed to help implement the process within a business. This can represent between 50% and 100% of the total cost of a project.

Training (UK) Ltd explains in greater detail to companies how advantage can be taken of this funding and it works with companies to develop an action plan for each business - the first step towards completing the IIP process. Sales, marketing, staff development and training needs are examined to provide a flexible framework for employees to improve their effectiveness and commitment to business, thus enhancing performance.

Among the companies already involved in the venture are the RAC, British Gas and several of the electricity companies, while Fife Enterprise is just one of the TECs with which Training (UK) Ltd works.



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Diary

23 July SOUTHERN (FARNBOROUGH)
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President Vreni Rudkin,
Tel. 0252 547948

30 July MANCHESTER
at Woodford Community
Hall. Details from Club
President Marianne Reuter,
Tel 0260 273681.

30 July YORKSHIRE
at Steeton Hall, Bradford.
Details from Club President
Jeffrey Long,
Tel. 0274 588 189.

31 July ABERDEEN
Details from new Club
Secretary Susanne Weir,
Tel. 0224 586018.

Obituaries

Heidi Heipt of Aberdeen Swiss Club died suddenly on 26 March. Karl Deutsche, of the Union Bank of Switzerland and formerly President of the Swiss Mercantile Society, also died recently.

Small Ads

REMEMBER the old Swiss Observer? The archives (1920-84) have one volume missing: the year 1976. Any copies of that year are welcome: Mariann Meier, 53 Priory Road, London NWG 3NE. Thanks.

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Around and About in London

by Mariann Meier

What's been going on recently in London? Let's take current affairs first and an outstanding lecture on The Brunner Effect delivered by the Genevan Professor Marguerite Wieser at the Swiss embassy. The event, organised by the cultural section of the embassy, was one of a regular series supported by the **New Helvetic Society**. The **City Swiss Club**, in conjunction with the British-Swiss Chamber of Commerce, also organises lectures. These are normally given by heads of Swiss industry: Dr Markus Isser, for example, who is president of the Swiss National Bank, recently spoke on Switzerland's monetary pol-

with the New Helvetic Society, has organised a series of lectures on various aspects of Ticinese culture and society, which have been held throughout the year. There was also an exhibition of modern Ticinese architecture at the Building Centre, organised by two Swiss architects in London, Giuseppe Broggin and Ian Giuliani, and a culinary week was held at the Swiss Centre Restaurants in Leicester Square. A jubilee celebration dinner at the Villa Carlotta Banqueting Rooms was attended by some 130 members and friends.

While the Ticinese were celebrating their 120th

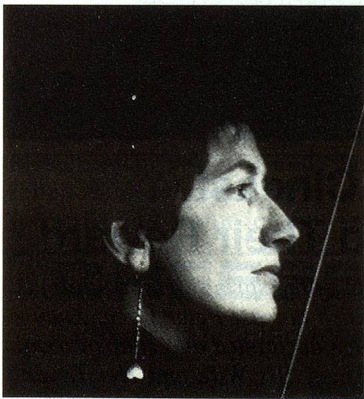
certs were organised by the embassy's cultural section with the support of the New Helvetic Society and the Swiss Church. In April the Swiss pianist Carl Ruetti gave a recital in the embassy's lecture hall. The Cambridge Voices also took part, singing some of his compositions. It was a treat of exceptional interest. Ten days later the Trio Virtuoso gave a concert at the Swiss Church with Maya Homberger and David Watkin on Baroque violin and cello and Howard Moody at the harpsichord. The concert attracted a very large audience which thoroughly enjoyed the beautiful music of the seventeenth and

ter of the late Virgillo Berti. As reported in the last issue, the death of another former president, Luigi Bozzini, was announced. He had been Chef Patissier at the Dorchester Hotel and was responsible for creating the chocolate Marmite at the annual Escalade commemoration of the **Cercle Genevois**.

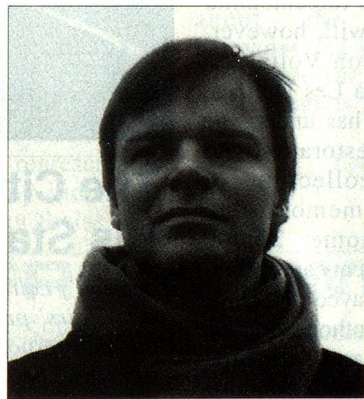
The agm and dinner of the New Helvetic Society was held at Villa Carlotta and that of the **Swiss Benevolent Society** was held in the embassy, with Felix Perret presiding. Among other matters, possible changes to the headquarters in Conway Street were discussed.

Finally, your reporter was

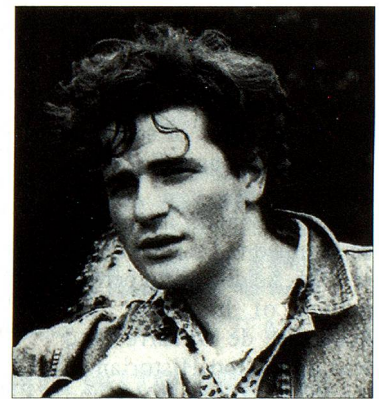
TRIO *Virtuoso*



MAYA HOMBURGER
Baroque Violin



HOWARD MOODY
Harpsichord



DAVID WATKIN
Baroque Chello

icy. But the City Swiss Club also arranges social events, most notably its annual banquet and ball held in March. For the glittering affair at Claridge's, the entertainment was provided by a smart Scots Guard Band.

London's Swiss Italian community has, meanwhile, been in festive spirits all year to mark the 120th anniversary of the **Unione Ticinese**. It too, together

anniversary, the **Frauenverein of the Swiss Church** in London was celebrating its 70th birthday. Over one hundred members and friends including the new minister of the church, Gottfried Locher, attended a luncheon.

For those interested in classical music, London's Swiss societies also have much to offer the Swiss community. Two recent con-

eighteenth centuries.

Amidst all these interesting and entertaining events, annual general meetings abound every spring in London. The Unione Ticinese's was held at the embassy, with Joe Broggin chairing the business meeting at which Peter Jacomelli was made an Honorary Vice President. A beautifully artistic framed certificate was presented to the daugh-

privileged to attend the 95th birthday party of Dr Hans W Egli, formerly chief correspondent of the *Neue Züricher Zeitung*, and also co-founder of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK (FOSSUK), Honorary vice president of the New Helvetic Society and cultural doyen of the community. He is in good spirits and greatly enjoyed the family party. Many happy returns!

What's on in Geneva?

by Heidi Reisz

The volatile, on-off relationship between the French philosopher Voltaire and the Calvinist burghers of his adopted home of Geneva has not deterred the Swiss city from planning elaborate celebrations to mark the 300th anniversary of his birth.

Despite once dismissing the tiny city state as so small that 'the whole republic would be powdered when he shook his wig', Voltaire spent the last twenty-three years of his life in and around Geneva. During this period he produced many of his great masterpieces and he was renowned for the sumptuous galas and theatrical soirees he staged at his homes in and around the city. Some of his works, including 'Candide', 'Zaire' and 'Mahomet', will be staged during the tercentennial celebrations, along with concerts and lectures illustrating the life and times of Voltaire.

Born Francois-Marie Arouet in Paris in 1694, the one-time law student adopted the name Voltaire after the success of a performance of his work 'Oedipe' in 1718. He fell, however, from grace shortly afterwards and, following a couple of spells in the Bastille, was exiled from France.

After a sojourn in London he returned to France. There, in 1745, he directed a performance of his play 'La Princesse de Navarre' and was appointed Historian to the king - Louis XV - and elected a member of the Academie Francaise.

By 1754 Voltaire had moved to the independent republic of Geneva where he bought a villa which he named Les Delices and described as 'the palace of a philosopher with the gardens of Epicurus'.

Three years later Voltaire acquired two further homes, this time just over the border in France, an estate in Ferney and the castle of Tournay at Pregny. He continued to

spend most of his time in Switzerland and in 1759 his work 'Candide' was published in Geneva.

Increasing pressure, however, from both the Calvinist church authorities and the republic's government provoked Voltaire to transfer the presentation of his plays from Les Delices to Tournay Castle. In 1763 the government officially condemned his 'Dictionnaire Philosophique Fortatif' and ordered its destruction and Voltaire took up permanent residence in Ferney. He died in Paris in 1778, aged 84, where he travelled to watch a performance of his play 'Irene'.

After the Napoleonic wars, when Geneva regained its status as an independent republic, its territory was enlarged to include Pregny. Voltaire's former home at Tournay Castle, Ferney, remained French and the town assumed the name of Ferney-Voltaire.

The centrepiece of the philosopher's tercentennial celebrations will, however, be focussed on Voltaire's Genevan villa Les Delices. The mansion has undergone substantial restoration and houses a collection of Voltaire memorabilia, including some 20,000 books, documents and manuscripts, displayed alongside some of the author's original possessions and furniture, fine paintings and sculpture. This exhibition is open from Monday to Friday between 2pm and 5 pm. Other exhibitions are being held at Maison Tavel (10am-5pm, except Mondays), the Bibliotheque Publique et Universitaire (9 am-12 noon, Monday-Saturday and 2pm-5pm, Monday-Friday) and at the Musee d'Art et d'Histoire (10am-5pm, except Sundays). For further details contact the Swiss National Tourist Office in London (Tel. 071 734 1921).



The City, the Cineast, His Stairs and Their Reward

Geneva's cultural highlight of the spring (until 31 July) is the 'Stairs' project by British cineast Peter Greenaway - the man responsible for such acclaimed and controversial films as *The Cook*, *The Thief*, *His Wife and Her Lover*. The 'Stairs' in Geneva is the first in a series of ten exhibitions to be held around the world on the subject of cinema language. The subject of the exhibition concerns the significance of location. Later exhibitions will examine the frame, audience, acting, properties, light, text, time, scale and illusion. But in Geneva, during a period of 100 days and at 100 different locations throughout the canton, the public will be confronted with the unusual challenge of climbing white wooden stairs of up to 12 metres in height. From the platforms on top the hardy will be rewarded with the intriguing experience of stupendous views, enhanced by cinematographic artistry and workmanship. For Greenaway Geneva, through its privileged and central location, represents the heart of Europe and thus is a natural and logical choice for the universal introduction of this project.

Letters

International

Sir,
The International is a consumer personal finance magazine and is distributed to 40,000 expatriates around the world excluding the United Kingdom.

We are considering launching a similar magazine in the UK for expatriates. The magazine will be free to readers and will also include lifestyle and leisure sections.

Would any readers be interested in such a magazine? Any feedback would be very useful.

Yours sincerely,
David Turner,
(Editor, The International)
Greystoke Place
Fetter Lane
London EC4A 1ND.

At Home in Bern

Sir,
Ich habe den Brief von Gladys Edmonds in Beckenham, Kent, in Swiss Review gelesen. Ich bin seit 1946 in England und habe zwei Kinder. Leider starb mein Mann in 1968. Ich bin sehr stolz dass ich in den Wahlen in der Schweiz mitmachen kann. Ich habe das Schizerduetsch nicht verloren und gehe alle Jahre in die Schweiz und wenn ich in

Bern bin fuehle ich mich dass ich ueberhaupt nicht weg war.

Herzliche Gruesse,
L U Ashford,
Oldham, Lancashire.

Calling Bilinguals

Sir,
I am a German student of psychology at the university of Leipzig. Recently I married a man from Southampton and, because of our intercultural relationship, we have asked ourselves questions about raising bilingual children.

An essential part of my diploma studies is research work and I would like to take this opportunity of exploring the matter of bilingual education further.

I would be very grateful if any readers could help me in this task. My idea is to distribute a questionnaire to those who have grown up bilingual to speak both English and German. The questionnaire will include questions relating to cultural and personal identity and with the experience of growing up to speak two languages.

At this point I need to discover whether I can find a large enough representative sample. If any individual readers or any Swiss soci-

eties are interested in assisting, please contact me. The research will, of course, remain entirely confidential.

Yours faithfully,
Birgit Gurr
Lauchstaedterstrasse 22
D-06110 Halle
Germany.

Refreshing

Sir,
How refreshing it has been to read the views of your recent correspondents Luc Nimod and J R Schwyter in the last issue of The Swiss Review. Their views may be provocative and, though I happen to be sympathetic to their opinions, many will doubtless disagree with them. But that is not my point. Both of these correspondents are addressing issues which are of significance and importance to the Swiss who live in this country. And, since you requested views on the content of the magazine, I personally hope that you will publish far more on these issues of great concern to us all and forget about the banquets, bratwurst and grey knitting which are the concern of only a minority clique.

Yours faithfully,
D Raphael,
Powys.

Regional News-UK

The editor welcomes readers' views and comments, as well as reports from Swiss clubs and societies. Letters and articles for the next issue of the Regional News-UK, to be published in October, should be forwarded to Dr David Ditchburn, Department of History, University of Aberdeen, King's College, Old Aberdeen AB9 2UB (Tel 0224 272999; Fax 0224 272203) by 15 August 1994.

Results of the readership questionnaire and travel competition published in the last issue will be announced in the next issue.

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Paul Accola's Favourite Recipe - SAFFRON RISOTTO WITH SBRINZ

Ingredients:

- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 onion chopped
- 400g (14 oz) risotto rice (vialone, carnaroli)
- 200ml (7fl oz) white wine
- 2 sachets powdered saffron
- 1 litre chicken or vegetable stock (made with stock cubes)
- 80g (3 oz) Sbrinz SWITZERLAND, grated
- 2-3 tablespoons sour cream (as desired)
- 50g (2 oz) Sbrinz SWITZERLAND
- 3 sprigs basil, cut into fine strips

1. Saute the onion gently into the olive oil until transparent, add the rice and saute until translucent.
2. Add the white wine and mix in the saffron.
3. Stirring constantly, simmer for 20 minutes, gradually adding the stock.
4. Shortly before the rice is fully cooked, blend in the Sbrinz and the sour cream.
5. Serve onto pre-warmed plates, grate the remaining Sbrinz over the top and garnish with basil.



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The Desert Swiss

by Aileen Foletti

If ever a man found fame via his adopted country it was Jean Louis Burckhardt. A native of Basel, he set off from Britain to explore and chart the 'dark Continent' in 1809. Employed by the African Association, his mission was to reach the Niger.

Louis Burckhardt was born in Lausanne on 25 November 1784, the son Rudolph, a silk-ribbon manufacturer in Basel. Their home-cum-business premises, described by Goethe as one of Basel's 'beautiful stone palaces', is now a museum.

At the age of 14 Louis's family was broken up and scattered by Napoleon's army. Louis never forgave the French and vowed only to work for a country actively opposed to France. Some years later, after university in Germany, Louis went to London in search of work. On the recommendation of his cousin Christoph, who had promised him a military or civil position in England, Louis left Switzerland at the age of 21 and never again returned.

In London the promised job never materialized and his money quickly ran out. Fortunately, however, Louis had some useful contacts including the well-travelled Henry Salt, later British consul in Cairo, and, following an introduction from his German tutor (the famous scientist Professor Blumenbach), Sir Joseph Banks, a leading member of the African Association.

The Association was in desperate need of a new employee to explore central Africa since all previous incumbents had perished en route. Louis, undaunted at the prospect, rose to the challenge and offered his



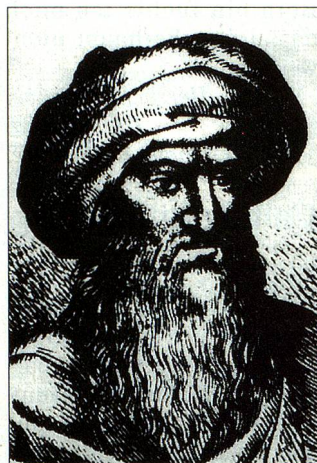
Louis Burckhardt

services to the Association in 1808.

Disguised as a poor Arab merchant, it was planned for Louis to set out from Cairo with a caravan of pilgrims returning from Mecca and heading west into Africa. He was then to make his way to the interior. If he was not heard of before 1 January 1819, it would be assumed that he was dead. Before setting out, Louis went to Cambridge to study Arabic.

In March 1809 he set sail from Cowes to Malta, where his metamorphosis began. Two months later he boarded ship for Syria as the Muslim leader Sheikh Ibrahim. He resided for a while in Aleppo where he made his first significant discovery - Hittite hieroglyphics. His transformation perfected, in language, appearance and manners, Louis left for Cairo by camel.

Along the route he heard of fabulous, mysterious buildings near Wadi Musa and strongly suspected that they might be the ruins of ancient Petra. To make a detour via Wadi Musa without arousing the suspicions of his bedouin guide, Louis had to devise a convincing ruse. He decided to sacri-



fice a goat at Aaron's tomb which he knew to be in the vicinity. Then, from a high vantage point in the rocky, desert landscape, Louis noticed a long valley which he intuitively suspected led to the lost city. 'The existence of this valley,' he wrote to Sir Joseph Banks, 'appears to have been unknown to ancient as well as modern geographers.'

On 22 August 1812 Louis entered El Siq, the steep, dark, mile long gorge beyond which 'the antiquities...begin.' Louis faced the imposing facade of the Treasury. All around him he saw fantastic tombs and templates cut into the sheer sandstone cliffs. He was the first European to behold Petra for six centuries.

Yet, the main task - the exploration of central Africa - still lay ahead. As Sheikh Ibrahim, Louis rented a small house in Cairo's Turkish quarter and waited for news of a caravan travelling west. Meanwhile, he made several forays along the Nile discovering the vast monuments of Abu Simbel buried under centuries of sand. All the time he secretly took notes and sketches which he sent back to London. Next, he made the Haj pilgrimage to

Mecca to complete his guise. The Swiss was now the perfect Moslem, a haji - and all in the cause of his British employers.

The caravan returning westward from Mecca was due in Cairo at the end of 1819. Louis was poised, ready and eagerly waiting to join it. It would be 'the final journey', he wrote to his mother. Then, quite suddenly, after surviving fevers, plague and desert blindness, he suffered another bout of dysentery. His strength rapidly ebbed away and in a matter of days, realizing that his time had run out, Louis requested Consul Henry Salt to visit him urgently.

The consul was quite shaken at the plight of his sick friend. In the tiny, candle-lit bedroom Salt wrote down the instructions of the dying Swiss explorer.

Known to all, except a few Europeans, as a Muslim, haji and sheikh, Louis told Salt, 'The Turks will take my body...it's not worth making a fuss about the place where these bones are deposited.'

Louis died just before midnight on Monday 15 October 1817. He was buried in the Turkish cemetery on the edge of Cairo. He bequeathed his papers to Cambridge University and the British Library possesses original publications of his travels. Had he lived to return to Europe and reap the rewards of his endeavours, Jean Louis Burckhardt would, no doubt, be better known than he is today. Instead his name and contribution to exploration is almost as lost in history as Petra was before that important day in August 1812.

c Aileen Foletti

Swiss Artists in Sussex

Any art lover travelling to Hove in Sussex should visit Jacqueline Real who is an outstanding painter of abstracts. Her works are abstractions from nature or expressions of the subconscious. Her aim is to create a balance between form and colour, static and dynamic forces in her paintings. At the same time she tries to express a strongly felt spiritual quality by using different shades of light. Jacqueline was born in Zurich and studied under Gusti Guldener and subsequently also in Salzburg under a student of Ferdinand Leger. She has held various exhibitions in Switzerland, England, Germany and the United States. Reference to her work can be found in a recent publication by the Gagliardi Design and Contemporary Art Gallery

which is entitled Contemporary Art. Many of Jacqueline Real's works are held in private collections in both Europe and on the other side of the Atlantic, in the United States.

Christa Hancock-Naef, who was born and educated in Zurich, is a second Swiss artist who lives and works in Sussex and she produces a rather different sort of work of art - sculpted collectors' dolls. Each one of her charming 28 inch creations is individually sculpted in stone clay. Christa stresses that she does not use moulds. Indeed the dolls' wigs are made of human hair and the little people are dressed to a very high standard. Christa takes commissions of people's children. Her dolls are to be found in England, Finland and Switzerland, but her studio



'Woman comforting a companion' by Angelica Groom and below 'Mandy' by Christa Hancock-Naef.



in West Sussex is a doll lover's paradise.

A third Swiss artist working in Sussex is Angelica Groom from Bern and she is very much an individualist. She paints and sculpts in Worthing, having been trained at Worthing Art College. Her work has been exhibited in both Switzerland and Britain and reflects her despair at the throw away society in which we all live. Determined to create aesthetically pleasing works of art out of the detrius of life, she creates three dimensional boxed images in different shades of white. Each box has two square openings, one of which is screened. Inside the box is a suspended sculptural form which projects an image

onto the screen. Viewed from the other side the box is a pure sculpture. The image on the screen constantly changes according to the amount of light and angle of light. Screened image and sculptural form compliment each other and produce some very interesting effects. [UD]

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Book Review

Soccer

Pierre Tripod & Roger Felix, 'Die Nationalmannschaft': von den Pionieren von 1905 zu den Helden von 1993/L'Equipe de Suisse': des pionniers de 1905 aux conquerants de 1993 (Lausanne: Sporama, 1994; 272pp. Illustrated. Sfr. 80.—)

This book has been published to commemorate an unusual event. For the first time in 28 years the Swiss national football team has qualified for the World Cup Finals. Ousting Scotland on the way, the Swiss team will shortly be heading for the United States where the finals will be held. But why publish this book now? Perhaps the authors are rather pessimistic about Switzerland's chances. Better celebrate – and cash-in – now before the Swiss team covers itself in ignominy in the States? Indeed, the publishers are presumably banking on a less than glorious Swiss appearance in the World Cup finals. If they do well, this book will be no doubt quickly superseded by others which will take the national team's story to a more natural conclusion. But in that event the publishers will at least be able to console themselves with the thought that they were among the first to cash-in on

the event. Still, I am personally tempted to fork out the horrendous sum of Sfr 80.— for the book. In the 1970s I bought a tea towel which proclaimed 'Sunderland FA Cup Finalists'. Sunderland defied the pundits – and the tea towel manufacturers – by winning the FA Cup. Can Switzerland do the same?

[DD]

...and Sun

Elisabeth Twerenbold-Seiler, Sonnenjahr (Baden Verlag, 1993; pp 72; ISBN 3 85545 077-3. Sfr.25.—)

The sun consoles, transforms, surrounds us with light and gives us life and joy. It was the special magic of the sun in Arosa which inspired Elisabeth Twerenbold-Seiler to investigate the cultural secrets of the sun. She looked at the sun and poetry and the sun and art. She started to paint the sun and to describe the sun and in the process she began to see the sun in a new light. Elisabeth's poems and prose are a diary of the sun, of light and of shadow. These personal experiences accompany the reader, in an unusual book, through the four seasons, giving life, energy and joy.

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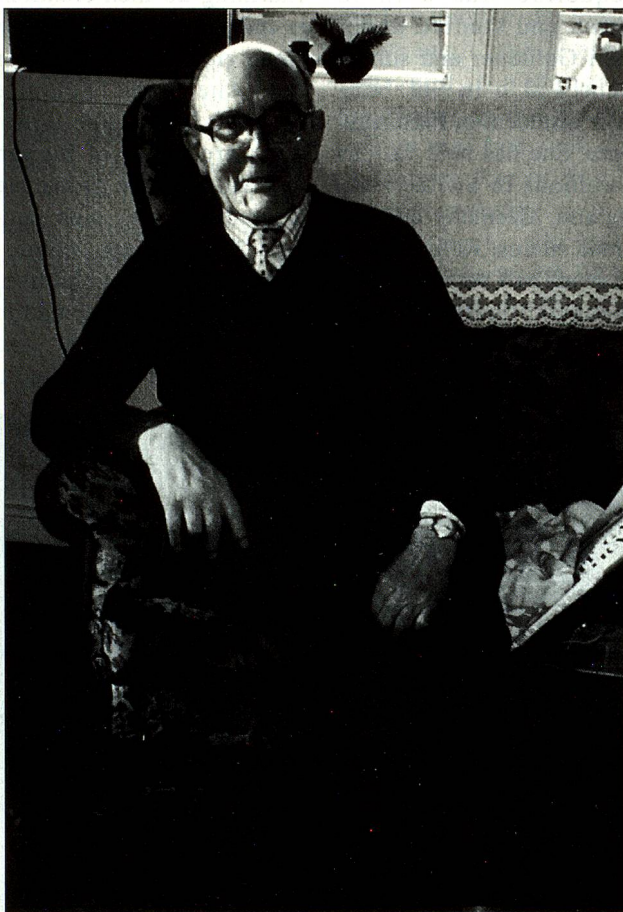
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Swiss Radio Round-Up

Looking for the latest news on Switzerland? If so, have you tried listening to Swiss Radio International? Swiss Radio International broadcasts programmes in a variety of different languages both on shortwave and on the Astra Satellite. But the English language programmes of SRI are about to receive a major boost. From June SRI plans to schedule a 24-hour, seven days a week English language channel on satellite. This new and expanded programme schedule will offer hour-long programmes of current affairs and features. For further details about how to receive the new station, contact Swiss Radio International, Giacomettistrasse 1, 3000 Bern 15, Switzerland.

Emil Schoenenberger



As reported in the last issue, Emil Schoenenberger, the grand old man of Dunfermline Swiss Club, died recently. Emil came to Dunfermline to work in the Swiss silk factories which were opened in the 1930s. After several years of loose association among the workers, Emil became a founder member of the Dunfermline Swiss Club when it was officially established in 1937.

Many of the Swiss returned home when the factories closed, but Emil and his late wife stayed, remained a stalwart of the club and in 1987 he was invited to become its Honorary President. A kind, good-natured and unassuming man, he had a rare ability to communicate as a friend with people of all ages. His death – genuinely – marks the end of an era.