

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 19 (1955)
Heft: [4]

Artikel: "It happens only four times in a century"
Autor: [s.n.]
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-942494>

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: 05.07.2025

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

to pre-war prices. This abnormal evolution cannot but have dangerous repercussions on the branches which are directly concerned, as well as on the Swiss economy in general. This rise in prices does nothing to contribute towards a reduction in the cost of building and certain contractors have even given up using wood, as a material. The sawmills already see themselves threatened with unemployment and the timber industry has addressed a request to the Federal Council asking that something be done to remedy the situation.

"IT HAPPENS ONLY FOUR TIMES IN A CENTURY"

Vevey, Switzerland: This gay historic city and lakeside resort, conveniently reached from Geneva, Lausanne and Montreux either by rail, road or pleasure steamer, for the first time became conscious of its importance as one of Europe's wine-growing capitals in 1706 when the annual grape harvest parade spontaneously developed into an all-round celebration of Bacchus, the jovial god of the vineyards. It was Vevey's first "Fete des Vignerons," or dramatised version of grape-harvest festival originally designed for the distribution of awards to the most efficient local wine-growers. Only eleven large-scale festivals of this type have since been held here, with intervals of up to a quarter of a century in between them.

Since it was back in 1927 when natives and visitors of Vevey last danced in the streets and cheered thousands of paraders and performers of a festival play glorifying "the rhythm of the four seasons and the treasures of the cherished soil," the local celebrities concluded that it was high time to launch another artistically staged vintage and harvest thanksgiving festival in 1955.

The thorough preparations have advanced so well that the Vevey festival committee is in a position to announce practically all the details of the 1955 "Fete des Vignerons," to be held from August 1-14. In accordance with an old tradition the Festival Play which is to feature among other world-famous stars the entire ballet troupe of the Paris Opera and some 3000 singers, musicians and extras, will open in an "early-bird" premiere at 8.00 a.m. on the Swiss Independence Day, August 1st, 1955. Ten more morning, afternoon and evening performances will follow, each expected to fill the 16,000-seat amphitheatre to capacity. Historic parades and Venetian fireworks on the Lake of Geneva will be among the other lavish attractions to be offered to visitors from all over the world on an equally lavish budget of close to 333,000 Lg. It will be one of the most expensive festivals ever held in Europe—"but it only happens four times in a century," happy-go-lucky Vevey citizens explain apologetically.

Vevey 1955 Festival tickets are on sale at travel agencies throughout the United Kingdom.

Many British travel agents plan to include Vevey and its unique celebration of jovial Bacchus, or nearby Swiss cities and resorts, in their summer tours of Europe.

SWITZERLAND AND THE ENGLISH- SPEAKING NATIONS

(Continued)

Let us now briefly enumerate a few of the innumerable Swiss citizens who have lived in England and the United States and risen to eminent positions there. The list includes men and women of all professions: students (certain grants and scholarships have been open to Swiss students at Oxford and Cambridge since the sixteenth century), tutors and professors, doctors, clergymen, soldiers, financiers, businessmen. Some artists of whom Switzerland has reason to be proud—Holbein, Petitot, Fuseli, for instance—made their careers in England. The founder of the Royal Academy, G. M. Moser, was also a Swiss, while another of his countrymen, Sir Francis Bourgeois, bequeathed his magnificent collection of paintings to Dulwich College. Madame Tussaud, too, it is interesting to note, was of Swiss extraction. In the ranks of the scholars and scientists, we find such names as these: A. de Lolme, famed for his juridical writings; Sir Samuel Romilly, the reformer of laws; Sir Arnold Theiler, the famous veterinary surgeon; Sir Joseph Petavel of the National Physical Laboratory; Dr. Peter Mark Roget, author of the famous "Thesaurus." Many of the Swiss who settled in England acquired British nationality and occupied high official positions. Canada had two governors of Swiss origin in the eighteenth century, Sir Frederick Haldimand, a Vaudois, and Sir George Prevost, a Genevan; in the present century, Sir Gordon Guggisberg, also of Swiss extraction, was Governor of Nigeria and later British Guiana. Another Swiss, Sir Everard Imthun, became Governor of the Fiji Islands and High Commissioner of the Western Pacific.

In the New World, many Swiss citizens shared in the struggles of pioneering days; the famous General Sutter of Sacramento for instance, and before him, Colonel Bouquet, who crushed the Indian Rebellion of Pontiac. Then, in the world of science and research, we have men like Louis Agassiz, eminent geologist and zoologist, and professor at Harvard; Ferdinand Rudolf Hassler, mathematician and astronomer, who made the first coastal surveys of the United States; Arnold-Henri Guyot, the great geographer, one of the founders of the Smithsonian Institute; Adolf Bandelier, an authority on Indian history and languages; J. H. Kruesi, inventor, and assistant to Edison; Dr. Henry Banga, the well-known surgeon who introduced the use of antiseptics in Chicago and the Western States. Many eminent doctors of the present day are of Swiss extraction.