

# What is the purpose of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA)

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The Club's **39th AGM** is to be held on 1 May - an opportunity for people to take an active part in the Club - and the committee is always on the look out for new and keen members.

We sadly acknowledge that 'Renés' is now closed, but the Club will still continue with the annual fondue treat. Keep **Friday, June 16** free to join us for a **Fondue!**

The next monthly "**Stammtisch**" will be on **Tuesday, 2 May**, and **6 June**, from **7pm**, upstairs, at Club Bazaar, 15 Wakefield Ave, Sumner.

**Year 2000 Exhibition at Canterbury Museum.** Many thanks to Jolanda and Freddy Tschopp for their generous offer to lend 'treasured items' representing our Swiss Culture. Exhibition planning is well underway - there will be three exhibitions showing about 30 different cultural groups from the Canterbury region. We, the Swiss, are in the third group, which exhibits from early November to early December 2000. The theme is the celebration of cultural diversity - and should not only attract adults, but also children in school groups. For this reason, our exhibits will not only focus on traditional costumes, but will also include 'Schellen-Ursli', a character from a famous children's book.

If anyone has any item(s) to lend for the duration of the exhibition, or can contribute to live performances or demonstrations, please ring Helena Duff, ph. 332 6702. All exhibits will be behind glass or mounted, so will be completely safe. Any other suggestions as to how we can portray our country and culture are most welcome. HD

**Did you know.... ?**

Swiss wax sculptress, Marie Tussaud, died 150 years ago, on 16th April 1850. In 1835 she founded the now famous wax figure museum in London's Baker Street (now situated in Marylebone Rd.). Many of the wax figures still on display were sculpted by Madame Tussaud herself. The collection of life-size models is continuously updated.

**What is the purpose of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA)**

*Contribution by Heinz Leuenberger*

The Organization for the Swiss Abroad (OSA) is supported by some 750 associations and clubs for Swiss expatriates, and by various Swiss institutions all over the world. It was founded in 1916 by the New Helvetic Society and it is the representative organization of the Fifth Switzerland.

In 1989 it acquired its own legal personality with the status of a Foundation.

Its supreme authority is the Council of the Swiss Abroad (CSA), which is

the "Parliament of the Fifth Switzerland". The CSA comprises delegates from abroad as well as members in Switzerland, and deals with all matters concerning Swiss Abroad.

**The Services provided by the OSA comprise;**

- Representing the interest of the "Fifth Switzerland"
- Consultation and care
- Information
- Contact with Switzerland

**The Organs of the OSA;**

The top organ is the Swiss Abroad Council, often called the Parliament of the 'Fifth Switzerland'. The Council consists of elected delegates (4-year term), from abroad as well as so-called 'Inland' members. It's main

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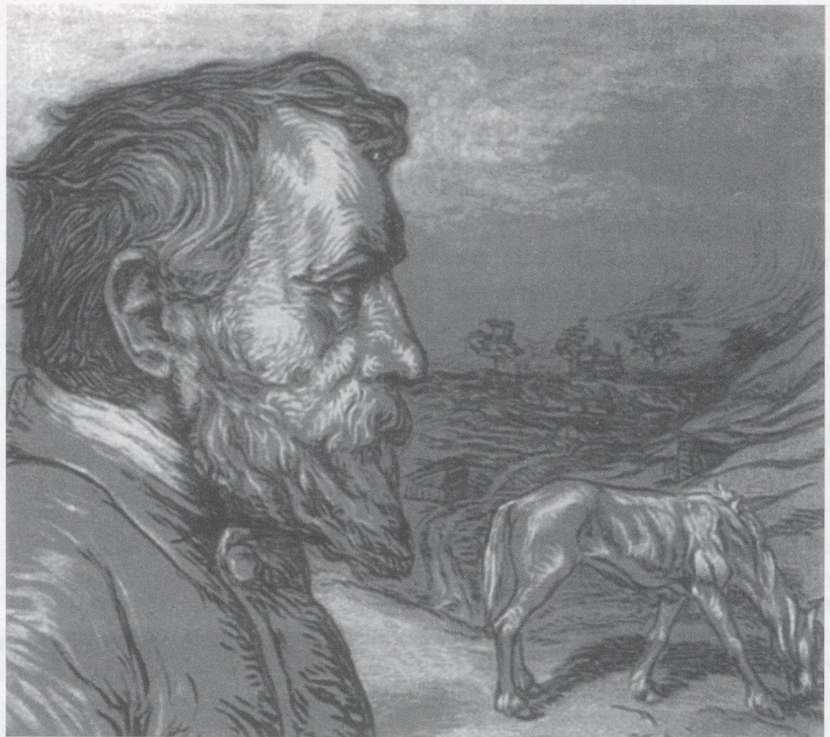
concerns are Swiss Abroad Policy questions. - The OSA President plus eight elected members from the Council's committee. It prepares all the business and represents the organisation politically as well as to the wider public.

The Secretariat represents the organisation's staff and place of business. A dedicated team of 17 people provide a very wide range of services which all Swiss Abroad can avail themselves of.

### Clarification

Recently I was requested by a member to intercede at the next Council Session (Congress) about a specific Internal Policy matter. I informed the member that Delegates have no political jurisdiction and that at this point I was unsure whether I was going to attend this year's Congress. It then transpired that the inquirer was of the erroneous understanding that Delegates, because of their title, (elected representative) are on the same gravy train as our "counterparts" in the Swiss Parliament. e.g. free travel and all expenses paid. Having come up against this mistaken belief on a number of occasions before, I feel it is time to 'put the record straight'. As far as the NZ Delegate (Deputy Delegate) are concerned, we pay our own way. At last year's AGM, following a motion from the floor, it was decided that the Society pay the Delegate's (or Deputy Delegate's) Congress registration costs. (except accommodation).

Heinz Leuenberger, Delegate.



### Turning wood to canvas ....

An exhibition of works by the Swiss 'wood-engraver'  
**Pierre-Eugène Vibert**

was held recently by the 'Musée Jenisch' in Vevey, Switzerland.

The artist, one of 6 children of a poor family of Carouge (GE), lived from 1875 to 1937. He trained as a 15-year old at the academy of art in Geneva and emigrated to Paris as a 17-year old. He soon became famous all over Europe for his engravings on wood, which he used to illustrate papers and magazines with..

The exhibition closed on April 24th 2000.

(This work is entitled <Les faméliques>, 1908)

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