

**Zeitschrift:** Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand  
**Herausgeber:** Swiss Society of New Zealand  
**Band:** 76 (2010)  
**Heft:** [10]

## **Inhaltsverzeichnis**

### **Nutzungsbedingungen**

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften. 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. [Siehe Rechtliche Hinweise.](#)

### **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. [Voir Informations légales.](#)

### **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. [See Legal notice.](#)

**Download PDF:** 21.12.2024

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



## The Three Kings

In Christian tradition, the Magi, also referred to as the (Three) Wise Men, (Three) Kings, or Kings from the East, are a group of distinguished foreigners who are said to have visited Jesus after his birth, bearing gifts of gold,

gifts led to a widespread assumption that they were three as well. Their identification as kings in later Christian writings is linked to Old Testament prophecies, which describe the Messiah being worshipped by kings.

of Matthew, the Magi found Jesus by following his star, which thus traditionally became known as the Star of Bethlehem. Various theories have been presented as to the nature of this star.

On finding Jesus, the kings gave him three symbolic gifts: gold, frankincense and myrrh. Warned in a dream that Judean king Herod intended to kill the child, they decided to return home by a different route. This prompted Herod to resort to killing all the young children in Bethlehem, an act called the Massacre of the Innocents, in an attempt to eliminate a rival heir to his throne. Jesus and his family had, however, escaped to Egypt beforehand.

After the visit the Magi leave by returning another way so as to avoid Herod, and do not reappear in the gospel. *from the internet*



The adoration of the magi by Botticelli

myrrh and frankincense. They are regular figures in traditional accounts of the nativity and in celebrations of Christmas.

The Gospel of Matthew, the only one of the four Gospels to mention the Magi, states that they came "from the east". Although the account does not tell how many they were, the three

The phrase 'from the east' is the only information Matthew provides about the region from which they came. Traditionally the view developed that they were Babylonians or Persians or Jews from Yemen, as the kings of Yemen then were Jews. The majority belief was they were from Babylon. According to the Gospel

INSIDE THIS ISSUE	
Editorial	2
Carolyn Lane	3
Christmas	4-7
Swiss Club News	8-9
Children's Page	10
Swiss Club News	11-14
Swiss News	15-19
Tannenbaum	20