

Kids' corner : 1st of August

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History of the First of August

The Swiss National Day is the national holiday of Switzerland, set on August 1st. It has been an official national holiday since 1994, although the day had been suggested for the celebration of the foundation of the Swiss Confederacy as early as 1889. The date is inspired by the date of the Federal Charter of 1291, placed in "early August" (primo incipiente mense Augusto). The document is one of several dozen pacts attested for the territory of Switzerland in the period of the mid-13th to mid-14th century. The foundation of the Old Swiss Confederacy had been mostly associated with the Bund of Brunnen of 1315, or with the Rütlichschwur, dated to 1307 by Aegidius Tschudi.

The Federal Charter of 1291 first assumed great importance in a report by the Federal Department of Home Affairs of November 21, 1889, suggesting a celebration in Bern in 1891 that would combine the city's 700th anniversary with the Confederacy's 600th anniversary.

The date of the Federal Charter came to replace the formerly more prominent, traditional date of the Rütlichschwur on 8 November 1307, especially after the 650th anniversary celebrations of 1941.

1st of August is today celebrated each year with paper lantern parades, bonfires, hanging strings of Swiss flags and fireworks.

By Adrian Blaser

Swiss National Day celebrations around the world

The largest Swiss National Day event in the USA is organized and held annually by the Swiss Benevolent Society of New York. Usually held in Manhattan, New York, the event draws thousands of Swiss, Swiss-Americans and Friends of Switzerland from around New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and Pennsylvania. This tradition goes back several decades, and was originally held at the Society's former hospice in Mount Kisco, New York, during the 1970s.

Celebrations are also held in Washington, District of Columbia by the Swiss Club of Washington D.C. on the Swiss Embassy grounds, and in the Los Angeles suburb of Whittier, in Swiss Park. The Swiss Park celebration features Swiss cultural events and games, including a crossbow competition.

In Britain it is also Yorkshire Day, celebrating the county of Yorkshire. Bettys and Taylors of Harrogate, founded in 1919 by a Swiss baker, celebrate both of these days in their six cafe-tearooms across Yorkshire.

By Adrian Blaser

Source: Wikipedia.org

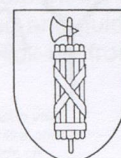
Can you colour in all the Cantonese Flags (Kantonswappen)? Check on the internet if you don't know the colours.



Zug



Zürich



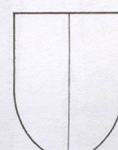
St. Gallen



Solothurn



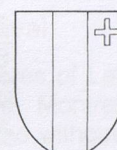
Thurgau



Tessin



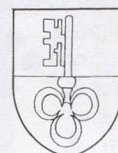
Nidwalden



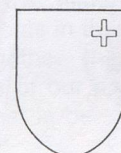
Neuenburg



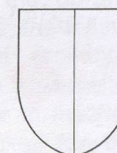
Schaffhausen



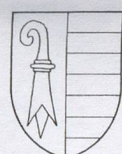
Obwalden



Schwyz



Luzern



Jura



Uri



Glarus



Genéve

Appenzell
Aargau

Graubünden



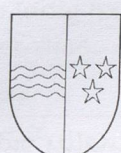
Bern



Basel Stadt

Appenzell
Ausserrhoden

Freiburg



Aargau



Basel Land



Valais



Vaud