

# Dead famous in Switzerland

Autor(en): **Bewes, Diccon**

Objekttyp: **Article**

Zeitschrift: **Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand**

Band (Jahr): **80 (2014)**

Heft [4]

PDF erstellt am: **14.09.2024**

Persistenter Link: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-943954>

## **Nutzungsbedingungen**

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Inhalten der Zeitschriften. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern.

Die auf der Plattform e-periodica veröffentlichten Dokumente stehen für nicht-kommerzielle Zwecke in Lehre und Forschung sowie für die private Nutzung frei zur Verfügung. Einzelne Dateien oder Ausdrucke aus diesem Angebot können zusammen mit diesen Nutzungsbedingungen und den korrekten Herkunftsbezeichnungen weitergegeben werden.

Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. Die systematische Speicherung von Teilen des elektronischen Angebots auf anderen Servern bedarf ebenfalls des schriftlichen Einverständnisses der Rechteinhaber.

## **Haftungsausschluss**

Alle Angaben erfolgen ohne Gewähr für Vollständigkeit oder Richtigkeit. Es wird keine Haftung übernommen für Schäden durch die Verwendung von Informationen aus diesem Online-Angebot oder durch das Fehlen von Informationen. Dies gilt auch für Inhalte Dritter, die über dieses Angebot zugänglich sind.



## Swiss Watching

### Dead famous in Switzerland

by Diccon Bewes

When it comes to Switzerland, foreign celebrities are like elephants – they come here to die. Of course, the low rates of tax and high level of privacy might have something to do with it, but it is interesting how many stars are buried here. While their graves are strewn all across the country, they are particularly concentrated along the shores of Lake Geneva; in comparison, German-speaking Switzerland is relatively free of dead celebrities. Don't ask me why. It seemingly has little to do with language as few were native French speakers. In fact many were British-born. Perhaps it's just a low-tax variation of the British love-affair with France.

The list below is my pick of some the most famous foreigners buried in Switzerland. What's interesting is that most worked in the arts, and ten were authors, from literary heavyweights James Joyce (pictured) and Thomas Mann to pulp-fiction masters Alistair MacLean and James Hadley Chase. Although all were born abroad, some were Swiss by the time they died, eg Peter Ustinov and Hermann Hesse.

And while all of them will now remain Swiss, there is one corner of Switzerland that is forever England: in tiny Corsier-sur-Vevey cemetery, three great Britons are buried, with Charlie Chaplin laid to rest next-door to James Mason and over the way from Graham Greene. So if you are into a bit of cemetery tourism (don't laugh, it's astonishingly popular), Corsier is a good place to start, before



James Joyce's grave site

setting off in search of famous graves in the rest of Switzerland.

#### Canton Geneva

Richard Burton, British actor: (d 1984)  
 Celigny  
 Alistair MacLean, British author: (d 1987)  
 Celigny  
 Jorge Luis Borges, Argentinian author: (d 1986)  
 Plainpalais Cemetery Geneva  
 Jean Calvin, French reformer: (d 1564)  
 Plainpalais Cemetery Geneva  
 Sir Humphrey Davy, British scientist: (d 1829)  
 Plainpalais Cemetery Geneva

#### Canton Vaud

David Niven, British actor: (d 1983)  
 Chateau d'Oex  
 Vladimir Nabokov, Russian author: (d 1977)  
 Clarens  
 Charlie Chaplin, British actor: (d 1977)  
 Corsier-sur-Vevey  
 Graham Greene, British author: (d 1991)  
 Corsier-sur-Vevey  
 James Mason, British actor: (d 1984)  
 Corsier-sur-Vevey  
 Coco Chanel, French designer: (d 1971)  
 Bois-de-Vaux Cemetery Lausanne  
 Pierre de Coubertin, French Olympic founder: (d 1937)  
 Bois-de-Vaux  
**Cemetery Lausanne**  
 Peter Ustinov, British actor: (d 2004)  
 Nyon  
 Henri Nestlé, German industrialist: (d 1890)  
 Territet  
 Audrey Hepburn, Belgian actress: (d 1993)  
 Tolochenaz  
 James Hadley Chase, British author: (d 1985)  
 Vevey

#### Ticino

Robert Palmer, British singer: (d 2003)  
 Lugano  
 Hermann Hesse, German author: (d 1962)  
 Montagnola  
 Erich Maria Remarque, German author: (d 1970)  
 Ronco sopra Ascona  
 Paulette Goddard, American actress: (d 1990)  
 Ronco sopra Ascona  
 Patricia Highsmith, American author: (d 1995)  
 Tegna

#### German-speaking Switzerland

Erasmus, Dutch thinker: (d 1536)  
 Basel Cathedral  
 Meret Oppenheim, German artist: (d 1985)  
 Birsfelden Cemetery Basel  
 Thomas Mann, German author: (d 1955)  
 Kilchberg Cemetery Fluntern  
 James Joyce, Irish author: (d 1941)  
 Fluntern Cemetery Zurich

Paul Klee, German artist: (d 1940)  
 Schosshalde Cemetery, Bern  
 Elias Canetti, German author: (d 1994)  
 Fluntern Cemetery Zurich  
 Elisabeth Schwarzkopf, German singer: (d 2006)  
 Zumikon Cemetery Zurich

*Diccon Bewes is a Briton living in Switzerland and has an uncanny talent to observe the intricacies of Swiss culture and character in his witty but insightful commentary. His book "Swiss Watching" ("der Schweizerversteher" in German) was published in June 2010 went on to be a Number 1 bestseller in Switzerland and a Financial Times Book of the Year. More recently, Diccon has published his new book "Slow Trains to Switzerland". Diccon has kindly allowed us to publish the occasional article written by him. Order online through [bookdepository.com](http://bookdepository.com)*

