

# Europe's first Pestalozzi village

Autor(en): **[s.n.]**

Objektyp: **Article**

Zeitschrift: **The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK**

Band (Jahr): - **(1946)**

Heft 1050

PDF erstellt am: **27.06.2024**

Persistenter Link: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-690115>

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## EUROPE'S FIRST PESTALOZZI VILLAGE.

On Sunday, 3rd March, 1946, the Trogener "Kirch Höri" took a far-sighted decision by admitting the first "Pestalozzi village" in Europe into its boundaries, by selling the necessary land at a very low price. An already existing farmhouse will be used as the administrative centre. Round it 14 houses will be grouped this summer and another 10 will be erected next year. The whole plan has been drawn up by Architect Fischli, S.I.A., in such a way that it is fitting into the typical Appenzeller style.

Each group of sixteen children will occupy a large house with dormitories for three, a room for the supervisor and a possibility for isolation in case of sickness. A covered veranda for playing fitted with cupboards for clothes and shoes leads into the open play ground which is wind protected from the north and immediately in front of the house. The veranda is joined on the other side to a smaller house, the main room of which occupies the whole length of the building. Behind this room is the kitchen and on the floor above are some of the dormitories. Thus each camp-unit consists of two houses connected one with the other, separated from the other units, yet together. A school building also in the Appenzeller style is in the centre of the village, thus assembling the children. Each group of children will be instructed in their home programme and in their national language, but in the ideal of Pestalozzi. Foreign and Swiss teachers will work together and for the confessional side, the necessary arrangements are made according to the faith of the admitted children. In this way a unique action will result from which a strong incentive will spread over the whole globe by the children so cared for as well as from their teachers. Whether these children stay for one, two or even as many years as are necessary until they are old enough to enter an apprenticeship, in every case they will return to their homeland benefited in body and soul and have learned to live with one another. The first proposal for such a village was made by Dr. Corti, editor of the publication "Du."

At one time the importance of Trogen originated with the family Zellweger, now the inhabitants themselves have resurrected that tradition and they will never regret to have given house and home to the poorest and most forlorn young people in the world. The further the spirit of Trogen's Pestalozzi village is permeating, the richer will be the impressions gained by those who will be visiting Trogen and then return home with the firm intention to do likewise.

The merit in the first place for the achievement of the project is due to the Grand Master of Alpina, the Rev. J. Böni, who has worked tirelessly for the proposal.

On Sunday, 28th April, the day of the Landsgemeinde, the foundation stone of the Pestalozzi village was laid in the presence of Dr. Corti and Professor Bodmer, the mayor of Trogen, and a large number of Grand Officers of Alpina, when a little girl from Trogen called out aloud to the orphans of the world to come and inhabit the houses which will be erected on this beautiful spot of land. And now "good luck" Trogen.

The first children will move in in the autumn and thus will escape hunger and misery and will get well in body and mind on the sunny heights of the Appen-

zellerland. A more beautiful monument to Pestalozzi in 1946 could never have been erected. The blessing of the father of the orphans of Stans is continuing to spread without end and we are proud to know that he was one of us and a Swiss, whose love towards children knew no boundaries.

At its annual assembly on 22nd-23rd June last at Lugano, the Grand Lodge Alpina has decided to pay for a double house and furnish it throughout.

*Extract from "Alpina" translated by J.J.S.*


## OUR NEXT ISSUE.

Our next issue will, *D.V.*, be published on Friday, August 30th. We take this opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their enlarged subscription: B. Frick, A. P. Gubeli, C. O. Brullhard, P. Moll, G. Ferrari, A. F. Frickhart, H. Kirchhofer, J. B. Brutsch, W. Weber, L. G. Iles, J. Meyer, Swiss Y.M.C.A.

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