

Stranger in Schaffhausen

Autor(en): **Cooley, Bob**

Objektyp: **Article**

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

Band (Jahr): - **(1966)**

Heft 1493

PDF erstellt am: **19.07.2024**

Persistenter Link: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-689733>

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.

During 1964, 17,295 Swiss emigrated, 4,013 changed their residence abroad to a third country, so that a total of 21,308 persons registered afresh abroad. Of these emigrants 62% or 13,149 were able to work, namely 9,032 or 69% men and 4,117 or 31% women. Of the newly registered there were 14,220 who returned to the homeland, 3,679 who emigrated to third countries, thus making a total of 17,899 of such returns.

The excess of emigrants has increased by 3,075 and doubled, compared with 1963. The greatest number of Swiss who returned home were from Great Britain (2,493), from France (1,860), from the West German Republic 1,623, from the U.S.A. 1,475, from Italy 1,072, and from Canada 515. Of the emigrant Swiss 11,352 went to European countries, to America 3,342, to Africa 1,316, to Asia 849 and Australia/Oceania 436.

[A.T.S.]

Translated by H.H.B.

STRANGER IN SCHAFFHAUSEN

Dear Mr. Graf,

Discovering your letter in this week's *Express* was a pleasant surprise — quite apart from the fact that it gives me a week's respite from the not always easy task of condensing my scattered impressions of Switzerland into an article!

I remain unconvinced that Schaffhausen could not afford both the best teachers *and* reasonably comfortable facilities at its Kantonsschule. With you I must deplore the American fascination with modern school buildings to the exclusion, all too often, of real concern for the quality of education which goes on in them. My lovely Spanish-style high school in California is to be torn down next year. It has reached the immense age of some 50 years — and to the California mind, such an antiquity might make an interesting museum of ancient history but certainly is not fit to live in or teach children in. No doubt it will be replaced by one of those ultra-modern steel and glass structures which, though sometimes tastefully designed, are usually sheer monstrosities resembling animal cages much more than comfortable quarters in which to explore the wide world of culture.

On the other hand I have never been of the romantic opinion that learning can only take place in dingy and ill-lighted surroundings. And being an enthusiast of distance running I have covered a good share of Schaffhausen's streets by foot, noticing in the process among other things that on almost every one of those streets one sooner or later finds an industrial building. Which suggests that, if the citizens of Schaffhausen really find their Kanton funds too limited to keep their school in good repair, the money the industry must make in one day would be more than sufficient to pay for a complete renovation. Perhaps it could be induced to contribute a day's profit to the glory of Kanton education?

With what I take to be your main point, however, I can only agree: that no foreigner can understand the Schaffhausen Kantonsschule after a one-day visit, or a new country after six weeks (or six months).

Having spent a year in France (attending a lycée and living with a family under the fine American Field Service exchange program) and a summer in Mexico, I am sharply aware of just how difficult it is to develop any genuine feeling for the spirit of a foreign country. I am always amazed when people ask me (and they often do), "Do you like Switzerland?" How can I answer that question? After seven weeks here with my still inadequate German

(and even less Schwyzerdütsch) I have only a very dim idea of what it means to be Swiss. And that which I do not understand I surely cannot allow myself to judge. The whole business of writing such a series of articles is ticklish, and I undertook it at first with reluctance. One feels rather as might an African pygmy who had never seen a white man and then was suddenly transported to the Empire State Building and told to describe it. How it functions, what it really is, he has no idea; he can only say what he sees and how he feels about that. From his description one would probably learn more about Pygmy mentality than about the Empire State Building.

And if my article about the Kanti gave the impression that I thought it "a little drab and not too much fun", I did not mean it to. I left out of the article a paragraph in which I commented that, compared to a French lycée, the Kanti seems a place of boisterous freedom and joy. To point out that there are few non-academic activities here compared with the surplus of them in American high schools was hardly a criticism. To the contrary, perhaps.

I suppose the two things which I (and perhaps most people?) have the greatest difficulty understanding in a foreign country are the spirit of the schools and relations between the sexes. Now, I am pretty sure that I shall avoid marrying a Schweizerin, or a Française, or a Mexicana. I'll take a good old American girl, thank you, who may try to wear the pants in the family but at least I shall have some vague notion as to why and what to do about it. But I think I would be very willing to send my children to the Kanti or to the Lycée de Deauville. They would certainly not learn as much about dating and sports and a thousand and one different kinds of clubs there as in an American high school. And I do not think they would learn a significantly greater number of facts. But here they would learn much better, I think, that subtle feeling for the breadth and depth of human thought which one calls "culture" and which is surely the basis of being "well-educated". My own country I am free to criticize as I am not free to criticize Switzerland, and for what it is worth I say openly that I believe our public high schools, precisely because of their failure to teach the cultural values, to be one of our greatest national weaknesses.

Which is simply to say that, even though the paint has been peeling off the walls of the Kanti for the last 20 years, I liked very much what I did see and understand of it.

Bob Cooley.

(By courtesy of "Wochen-Express,"
Schaffhausen.)

A NEW SWISS PHARMACEUTICAL UNDERTAKING IN EGYPT

At Imiriya, not far from Cairo, a new firm "Swiss Pharma S.A.", has come into being. This is a packaging centre for Swiss special pharmaceutical products, set up jointly by Ciba, Sandoz and Wander as part of the development plan for the Egyptian economy. Some ten million units of carefully selected specialities will be packed each year; at a later stage, the actual chemical process of production will also take place here. Egyptian interests are associated with Swiss Pharma, and local firms have contributed to bringing the plant into being. The special packaging machinery, however, was imported from Switzerland and other industrialized countries.

[O.S.E.C.]