

Swiss Folklore

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molteplici compiti che dobbiamo assolvere per salvaguardare l'indipendenza della patria, proteggere la libertà e i diritti dei confederati e accrescerne la prosperità generale.

Questi compiti sono sempre stati propri al nostro paese lungo tutto il corso della storia. Erano ardui nel passato, lo sono tuttora e sembra che lo saranno ancor più domani. Essi esigono in primo luogo una stretta collaborazione di tutti gli ambienti uniti da un unico impulso, quello della ricerca del bene comune; essi richiedono inoltre uno spirito aperto, atto a rendersi conto delle ripercussioni del progresso scientifico e tecnico e altresì della compenetrazione sempre più evidente delle economie, delle culture e degli sviluppi sociali.

Gli Svizzeri all'estero possono contribuire ad assolvere questi compiti grazie alla posizione che essi occupano nel paese di loro residenza e ai contatti che hanno conservato con la madre patria. Nell'epoca della compenetrazione e della collaborazione internazionale la loro esperienza, i loro desideri e i loro suggerimenti costituiscono un apporto insostituibile.

A nome del Consiglio federale Vi ringrazio della fedeltà che non cessate di testimoniare alla patria: sono felice di poterVi rivolgere gli auguri più sinceri per Voi e per le Vostre famiglie.

WILLY SPÜHLER,

Presidente della Confederazione.

Extract from the Federal Pact of 1291

In the Name of God, Amen.

It is honourable usage serving the common good that leagues and contracts which further peace and quiet, shall be confirmed by letter and seal.

Therefore, it shall be made manifest to everyone that, in view of the dangers (the evil) of the times, the men of the Land of Uri and the Valley Communes of Schwyz, as well as the men of Unterwalden, the Lower Valley, have promised allegiance to one another in order to protect themselves and their possessions and to defend their rights, to assist one another with succour, counsel and furtherance, with body and estate, with all vigour and full dedication, within the valleys and outside, against all and individuals who would use force against them or any one of them, who would cause offence or would act maliciously against body or estate.

And each Valley Commune has pledged the other, to assist it in an emergency against wilful attack and to revenge the injustice thus inflicted, even at their own cost and peril.

And they have solemnly vowed this with their hands raised in oath and without mental reservation, and thus they have renewed with this instrument the ancient League by Oath of the Confederates from the three valleys.

Nevertheless, every inhabitant who is liable for service to a master, shall be subservient according to his station and serve him as is befitting.

But we have also vowed by common decision and with one accord decreed that we recognise in our valleys no Judge nor even receive him, to whom the office has been given for money or money's worth or who is not our compatriot or a resident of the valleys.

Should strife break out amongst the Confederates, then the most experienced among them shall meet and settle the dispute justly. And whichever part scorns the arbitration, shall be opposed by the other Confederates.

Everyone has to obey the Judge of his Valley, or else he has himself to name a Judge in the Valley to whom he is legally bound. If, however, one opposes his judgment and consequently harm accrues to a Confederate, all the allies are held to compel the recalcitrant to make amends.

Should, however, war or discord have arisen among the individual Confederates, and one part of the combatants refuses to recognise the federal judgment or to make amends, it is the duty of the remaining allies to protect the other part. These decisions written and decreed for the common good, shall, God willing, last eternally. And as a record, this Federal Instrument has been drawn up at the request of the above-mentioned Valley Communes and been properly provided with the seals of the three mentioned Communes and Valleys.

Delivered in the year of our Lord 1291, at the beginning of the month of August.

SWISS FOLKLORE

The Unspunnen Festival of 1968

Not far from Interlaken, at the hamlet of Unspunnen, the first herdsmen's festival took place on 7th August 1805. A newly mown meadow, bounded on three sides by gentle slopes, constituted "a natural amphitheatre, in which around 10,000 people, without crowding one another", could watch the whole performance while remaining seated. The success of this event, which was also attended by the Zurich poet Martin Usteri, was so great that it was repeated three years later. Over 560 guests at that time found accommodation at Interlaken and in its vicinity, all arrangements being made by the painter Franz Niklaus König, a man who might be well regarded as the worthy predecessor of present-day managers of travel associations. It was König, too, who preserved for us a record of the occasion in his sketches and paintings. In 1905 awards amounting to 40 silver *Taler* went to the victors in the games, to wrestlers and shot-putters, marksmen, alphorn performers, crack flag tossers, singers both men and women. To this day, the same 184-pound granite stone it still in use in the games of Unspunnen as was used by the shot-putters of 1805. In the guest list of the second herdsmen's festival of 1808, we find the name of the brilliant Madame de Stäel, as well as the painter Madame Vigée-Lebrun, to whom we owe a charming picture of the Second Unspunnen Festival. The photos on the front page were taken at the last Unspunnen Festival.

In commemoration of these herdsmen's festivals, Interlaken is again organising, in the late summer of 1968, an Unspunnen Festival. It will be opened by a festival play by Hans Rudolf Hubler, with music by Robert Blum, which will have its première on the evening of 29th August at the Tell Festival Theatre at Interlaken. (Other performances on 30th and 31st August, as well as on 1st, 2nd, 6th, 7th, and 8th of September). On the last Sunday of August, there will be a folk dance festival assembling around 1,500 people wearing traditional folk costumes. The following Sunday (1st September) will be devoted to the Alpine competitions, divine services, a great parade (3,000 participants) and a festival production at Unspunnen. Once again, an Unspunnen *Taler* will commemorate, for participants and visitors alike, a folk festival which, as long ago, takes place on a meadow dominated by the Jungfrau, the wooded ridges above the Lutschine and also the ruins of a medieval castle.

[S.N.T.O.]