

Letter to the editor

Objektyp: **Group**

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

Band (Jahr): - **(1978)**

Heft 1744

PDF erstellt am: **15.08.2024**

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The Swiss Observer

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE SWISS COLONY IN THE U.K.

Founded in 1919 by Paul F. Boehringer

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Published Monthly at
63/67 TABERNACLE STREET
LONDON EC2 4AH
Tel: 01-253 2321

Telegrams: Paperwyse London

SUBSCRIPTION RATES (POST FREE)
UNITED KINGDOM SWITZERLAND

6 issues £1.50 Frs. 13
12 issues £2.90 Frs. 25

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I am wondering if you could please help me?

Having had friends in Switzerland since 1963 and working there myself in 1971, I would so like to write as a "Pen Friend" if possible to another Female in her 30's. Married or single, with or without a family. I am married with twin girls of 20 months.

I mostly know the Interlaken - Adelboden area and have spent many holidays in the beautiful country!

Please could you put me in touch with any such organisation, or perhaps give me an address to write too.

Thank you so much for your kind attention to the same.

Yours faithfully,
Mrs. Susan Rickett,
Flat 5, 93 St. James's Road,
Sutton, Surrey.

Sir,

I have recently been in touch with a number of folk who share my hobby-interest, the modelling of Swiss railways. Reading the publications on this subject here in Britain, I came to the conclusion that there must be a number of us with this interest, and the advertisements for Swiss items stocked by model shops seemed to bear this out. So far, the Model Railway Constructor, a magazine which gives regular cover to continental models, has published a letter from me, and already over a dozen fellow-enthusiasts have been in touch. Their enthusiasm has encouraged me to put out a brief duplicated newsletter for them, and already I have received several items for the next issue.

I write, therefore, to ask you if you would be so kind as to make mention of our project in the Swiss Observer in the hope that some of your readers may also be interested, and wish to join us.

Rev. Geraint Edwards,
19 Rubislaw Den South,
Aberdeen AB2 6BD

Over to you, readers - Editor

LETTING THOUGHTS WANDER

Dear Readers, Dear Compatriots,

At this time when we once again celebrate our National Holiday, I make no apologies for imparting a distinctly patriot flavour into this issue. I think it right that I should - if only because I consider the man who said "patriotism is the last resort of a scoundrel" was probably a scoundrel himself.

It is always difficult to set down original thoughts on this occasion and, anyway, Father Paul Bossard has done that so ably elsewhere in this issue. So let us attempt to look briefly at other people's patriotism because patriotism does exist everywhere to a greater or lesser degree.

It is all too easy to sneer at the patriotic sentiment in another country. It seems almost natural to dismiss it out of hand - "it's not real patriotism - only WE have that." Or - "what have THEY got to be patriotic about?" or - worst of all - we regard other people's patriotism as chauvinism. To do that makes a chauvinist of that very patriot.

During the last two years your editor has undertaken extensive business trips to eastern

and western Europe and the United States of America. It was in America that I detected a real resistance towards patriotism - in a country where such sentiments are normally held sacred. How very sad.

The reasons are, however, not difficult to find. During the past few years the U.S.A. has suffered some great traumas - not the least of which were humiliation in Vietnam, growing urban and racial problems and a fall in the value of the Dollar. All pretty new experiences to our American friends.

Happily, the U.S. is a resilient society and these rather negative and self-destructive feelings are once again being replaced by an upsurge of pride in the homeland's good points and achievements - of which there are many.

With this in mind can we not be even more thankful that unpleasant forces have not succeeded in undermining our proper thoughts of our homeland - be it where it may. Let us never sneer at others - they have feelings too. The same should apply to our private lives!

With best greetings on this, our day,
George Sommer.

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On the front page

August 1st in Switzerland is the day to carry on many good old traditions. This impressive military parade might well be typical of many held over the land.