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Cutbacks

As a Swiss person who has spent many years abroad, I have always received "Swiss Review" and I would like to thank you for it. Over the years, I have known Swiss people who, like me, were glad to keep in touch with their homeland through "Swiss Review".

After reading "Swiss Review" in October, which discussed the possibility of reducing the number of editions of this publication or even withdrawing the paper version owing to cutbacks and the current crisis, I believe that a large number of Swiss people abroad would be willing to make an annual financial contribution to receive "Swiss Review". I for one certainly would.

I believe the best means of communication is the good old postal service.

YVONNE REY-BRASSEUR, EUPEN, BELGIUM

Forego the AHV pension to show solidarity

I read the article on AHV in the October edition with great interest.

I have lived in Spain for more than 20 years during which time I have paid the minimum voluntary AHV contribution. I am now 66 years of age and receive a modest pension of CHF 1450. I live here with my wife in our own home. We live well and can even afford a week's skiing holiday in Zermatt. We are very content with our situation.

I wonder how many millionaires there are drawing an AHV pension which makes little difference to them one way or the other. I know that millionaires have also paid a large amount into this social institution and

now want to enjoy the benefits. But why couldn't they be satisfied with their millions and show some solidarity by foregoing their AHV pension? After all, you can't take it with you to the grave. This is what I would do if I were in their position. My politics are actually right-wing, but I have a socially-oriented outlook.

ANTON BÄTTIG, IBIZA, SPAIN

Similar problems

Thank you for the very informative magazine for the Swiss Abroad. To a great degree it confirms that the problems we encounter here are very similar to those in Switzerland and Europe in general. It is very interesting to read the different views and possible solutions suggested for those problems. We can certainly all learn from each other.

CARMEN ROBINSON, RIVERSIDE, TASMANIA

Quo vadis Switzerland?

It seems easy to find billions in the budget for the army, but pensioners are left to suffer and feel ashamed of their AHV pension. I ask myself where this is leading, and who or what deserves support.

What about abolishing the army and investing the billions saved in the AHV system?

CATHERINE MOSBERGER, SANTA PONSA, SPAIN

Swiss Review in paper form

With regard to your editorial in the October edition, we wish to stress that we would like to continue receiving this very interesting publication in paper form.

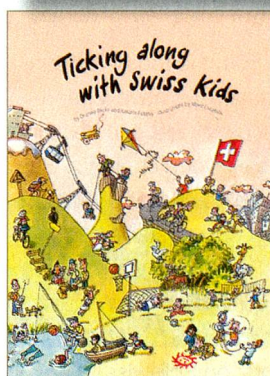
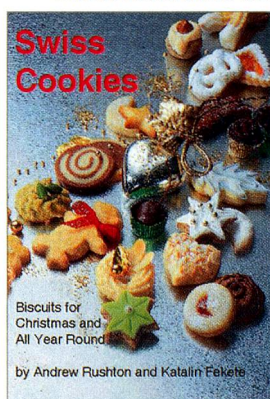
EDMUND HERRMANN, UNTERHACHING, GERMANY

Swiss Cookies and Swiss Kids

CHRISTMAS IS A TIME FOR COOKIES. The Swiss love their cookies, and not just in December at Christmas time, but all year round. They love baking their own cookies, too. Basel's Bergli publishing house, which specialises in books in English on Swiss topics, has brought out a title called Swiss Cookies. This collection of confectionery delights provides an insight into the secret of Swiss Christmas cookies and shows the reader how to magic up traditional cookies and new creations for Christmas, and indeed the whole year round, from the oven to the table in no time at all.

This new publication from Bergli Books offers a culinary experience that will make your mouth water. It also includes fascinating cultural background information about the origins of the individual delicacies. The book also contains lots of practical information, such as an ingredients dictionary, conversion tables for units of measurement and tips on baking and packaging. "Swiss Cookies" is ideal for anyone abroad who craves the confectionery of their native Switzerland and wishes to enjoy real Swiss cookies.

The children's title, "Ticking along with Swiss Kids", another new book from the Bergli publishing house, is also highly original and useful. Susy and Thomas, two English-speaking children, have moved to Switzerland where they have befriended Angela. Angela shows her new friends how people here live and what they eat, and also tells them about the languages they speak. Susy and Thomas also find out what games Swiss children play, the songs they sing and what they enjoy reading, as well as how to get by in Switzerland. The book was originally intended for readers wishing to discover more about Switzerland, its people and its culture. But it is also a very enjoyable introduction to Switzerland for the children of Swiss people abroad who are not that familiar with their former homeland and would like to learn more about it.



"Ticking along with Swiss Kids" is a book about Switzerland aimed at English-speaking children aged between 6 and 12 who would like to find out more about Switzerland. Topics range from landscapes, people and animals to language, customs and traditions. Humorous drawings complement the informative writing, making it a highly enjoyable and entertaining read. "Ticking along with Swiss Kids" contains photographs, song lyrics and notes, a theatrical play for children, maps of rivers, lakes, mountains, streets and hiking trails, a satellite image and a language game with 32 removable cards.

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