

Zeitschrift: Swiss review : the magazine for the Swiss abroad
Herausgeber: Organisation of the Swiss Abroad
Band: 39 (2012)
Heft: 1

Rubrik: Little gems

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Witch-hunt in the castle

The witches have returned to Chillon Castle. Not the ones from fairy tales, but the women who for centuries were rumoured to be working in cahoots with the devil to bring disaster upon the people. These women were pursued, hunted, tortured and burned to death. Switzerland was particularly industrious and especially thorough when it came to witch-hunting, with more than 3,500 witches burned at the stake between the 15th and 18th centuries. Anna Göldi from Sumiswald was one of the

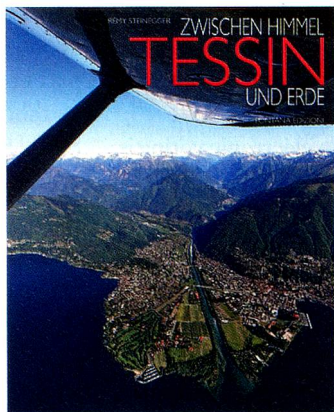


last witches in Europe to be executed. That was back in 1782 – in 2008, following many years of to-ing and fro-ing, the Glarus cantonal parliament cleared her name on the grounds that she had been subjected to an illegal trial.

The exhibition features numerous documents, which are being displayed to the public for the first time and which illustrate the role played by politicians and the Church in this inglorious chapter in Switzerland's history. Chillon Castle, with its dungeon where countless witches awaited trial and subsequent death, is an ideal venue to house such an exhibition. BE

The exhibition will run until 24 June 2012. www.chillon.ch

A bird's eye view of Ticino



the north in their thousands each year. The aerial shots provide remarkable images. The bird's-eye-view perspective highlights the coexistence of the natural environment, which has developed over a long period of time, and man-made civilisation with its rapid invasion.

The photos reveal beauty and correlations that cannot be seen at ground level by normal travellers, but also expose the brutal encroachment upon and despoliation of nature. "This book does not seek to cast blame or to gloss over the issues – it is simply a snapshot (...)" writes the photographer in the epilogue.

He is right, but it is also more than that – it is a wonderful snapshot beautifully presented with concise, insightful text. BE

"Ticino tra cielo e terra"; Fontana Edizioni, 6963 Pregassona, 264 pages, CHF 64 plus delivery costs. Order: edizioni@fontana.ch



Writings rather than photographs

It is an adventure, an anachronism that will have many people shaking their heads. But it is certainly an adventure that has started successfully. "Reportagen" is the title of a new magazine first published in Switzerland in October 2011. The name says it all really – 120 pages, no photos, no PR and no high gloss. Quite simply articles cover to cover, and what exceptional articles they are. Six authors contributed tales to the first edition that will live long in the memory. Margrit Sprecher, for example, wrote about Ireland and about how it became rich, then poor again but wiser. In "Zwischen Töten und Tanzen", Karin Wenger described her visit to the closed-off bases of the US troops in Afghanistan. Erwin Koch's article entitled "Sarah" told of 17-year-old Sarah's fight against cancer. "Reportagen" does not reflect the spirit of the times in journalism, but it is an absolute pleasure. BE



Series of lectures on "Reportagen" in collaboration with "Freitag":
16.02.2012 Hamburg with Peter Stamm
12.04.2012 Vienna with Sibylle Berg
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Subscription: www.reportagen.com/
Tel: +41 31 981 11 14, CHF 100/year.