Zeitschrift: Swiss review : the magazine for the Swiss abroad
Herausgeber: Organisation of the Swiss Abroad
Band: 45 (2018)
Heft: 5

Rubrik: Images : the flying photographer

Nutzungsbedingungen
Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Siehe Rechtliche Hinweise.

Conditions d'utilisation
L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. Voir Informations légales.

Terms of use
The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. See Legal notice.

Download PDF: 28.04.2025

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, https://www.e-periodica.ch

The flying photographer

Walter Mittelholzer beside the Fokker on the Kilimanjaro flight, 15 December 1929 to 28 February 1930

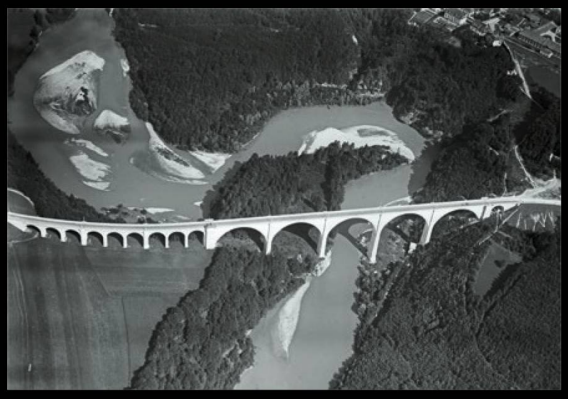
Walter Mittelholzer, son of a baker from St. Gallen, did an apprenticeship as a photographer. Then he became a military and civilian pilot and ultimately a great pioneer in aviation. Throughout his life he combined flying with photography. In 1926 he flew together with a geologist, a mechanic and the writer René Gouzy by seaplane from Zurich to Cape Town. The flight, an adventurous undertaking, took 76 days. Mittelholzer documented each leg photographically – and sent the photos while underway to newspapers and magazines in Switzerland. As co-founder of Swissair in 1931, he became a national hero.

The exhibition "The Flying Photographer" about Mittelholzer can be seen at the Swiss National Museum in Zurich until 7 October 2018. www.landesmuseum.ch. The ETH Library preserves the photographic legacy of Mittelholzer. More than 18,000 pictures are available online. http://ba.e-pics.ethz.ch

Portrait of a barber in Marrakesh, taken on the Lake Chad flight, 1930–31

The North Face of the Eiger at a height of 3,800 metres, taken in 1919; and sand dunes of the Sahara, taken in 1930.

Mittelholzer personally delivered a decommissioned Swissair plane to the emperor of Ethiopia, Haile Selassie (1934).



Road bridge in Pérolles near Fribourg, taken in 1926

The pyramids of Gizeh, taken on the Kilimanjaro flight, 1929–30