

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 13 (1948)
Heft: 12

Artikel: "Of Zurich and the lake"
Autor: [s.n.]
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-942560>

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: 17.05.2025

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

patents. Enquiries were made locally, in Switzerland and in other neutral countries. Supplies were finally obtained from the home countries, like the food parcels. But in a world in which essential goods were becoming scarce, it was most difficult always to find exactly what was required, and in sufficient quantities, too. Prostheses were asked for everywhere. The Committee purchased artificial legs and arms, or had them manufactured for the account of the home countries. The greatest demand was for artificial teeth. Owing to the camp food, caries and other dental trouble spread rapidly, with their usual bad effects on health. There were not enough dentists in the camps, nor sufficient equipment. With the help of sets of instruments and appliances furnished by National Red Cross Societies, sixty-four dental surgeries were completely fitted out in the camps of Germany. The Joint Relief Commission assisted in a collection of artificial teeth. Spectacles, too, were collected, both lenses and frames, to allow the men who had lost theirs to read and see clearly, nevertheless.

All these goods, from the simplest artificial tooth to the bottle of patent medicine, were invaluable. There were millions of prisoners, so wastage could not be permitted. It was not therefore, a matter of wholesale consignment. The goods had to be sorted, classified, and stocked, with all the care of the skilled expert, so that the right articles could be sent, and sent quickly, from Geneva to each camp, according to specific requirements.

Intellectual and spiritual needs are also covered by the Convention, but only in a general way. Men whose minds are occupied by their job, can at a pinch do without reading matter. But there are many others. No Detaining Power can be expected to find enough books to instruct, amuse and cheer so many men in so many languages. Several agencies turned their attention to this problem, and it was in close co-operation with various societies, particularly with the World Alliance of Y.M.C.A. - it is quite impossible to say how much the prisoners owed to this organization - that the Committee's Intellectual Relief Section endeavoured to meet, as far as might be, such applications. Thus, one and a half million books, up to the end of the War, had been sorted, classified, selected, frequently repaired or rebound in Geneva, and forwarded to the camps.

.....

The war was indeed total. A well-constructed and hermetically sealed "fighting zone" which engines of death alone were able to cross. Yet, day after day, by repeated and untiring efforts, the Red Cross succeeded in its 'tour de force' and managed to convey through, to the other side, thirty-six million parcels, quantities of medicaments, vast libraries - in short, life and hope.

And it all went through a tiny rent in the armoured curtain - Geneva.

|||||

! "OF ZURICH AND THE LAKE." !

|||||

When the very first people, of whom we have evidence, settled on the shores of Lake Zurich, they must have liked the place, for the residual remnants of the lake dwellers, living in wooden huts built on piles dug in on the shore, are plentiful and widespread. Later on came the hunters, nomadic tribes, the Teutonic Helvetians and Romans, who first established the citadel of Turicum (Zurich) on the top of the Lindenhof hill. More people came and stayed in the settlement on the beautiful lake. Of course, some who tried to come in and take over were enemies and these often had to move on when in the centuries of the Middle Age -

"With clarion loud and banner proud, - From Zurich on the lake,
In martial pomp and fair array, - Their onward march they make."

Then intruders and enemies were chased away and in the process the Zürchers would often conquer some more lands, villages or towns here and there, to add to their own territory. This happened to Rapperswil twice (1350 and 1458) and to Winterthur (1467) and other towns. The Zürchers were mighty proud of these conquests, but sometimes they, too, were on the giving not receiving end of the deal.

However, meanwhile the city grew in size and importance, industrially and commercially, and that urge to action is an inborn trait in the Zürchers, for on looking at the busy traffic, at the people and life in Zurich, an American writer characterized this city on the lake "the up and at them town of go-getters!"

But Zurich also has its quieter moments, and these were discovered by many artists and poets, writers and people of leisure. Like the famous goldsmith and artist that he was, Benvenuto Cellini, when visiting Zurich in 1542, already called it...."graceful and shining like a jewel and an admirable city." But it remained for the Classical German poet Friedrich Klopstock (1724 - 1803) to write that exuberant and famous "Ode to Lake Zurich" inspired by a leisurely boat trip on the lake in company of friends -

"And now the island of the AU was receiving us into the cooling shadows of the forest which crown this isle. Here sterling enjoyment came down on us in fullest measure! Goddess of Joy, you appeared yourself. You! We were thrilled by your spell...." (Transl. F.E. Ed.).

Thus Klopstock was charmed by Lake Zurich's scenery and beauty, and this spell is still there, when on a clear day this glorious landscape in brilliant sunshine and the mighty, snow-covered alpine range on the horizon can be enjoyed from the lake-front promenades of Zurich or from the hill ranges extending on both sides of the lake.

Where main street Bahnhofstrasse reaches the lake shore, the city does not end. The lake itself is like a much enlarged and extended Main Street, and the stops and corners of this 15-mile-long lake thoroughfare have these familiar names (to be pronounced with the right emphasis). On the shore to the left: Zollikon, Goldbach, Küsnacht, Erlenbach, Herrliberg, Meilen, Uetikon, Männedorf, Stäfa, Uerikon, Rapperswil. And now on the shore to the right: Wollishofen, Bendlikon, Rüschlikon, Thalwil, Oberrieden, Horgen, Au, Wädenswil, Richterswil, Ufenau, Rapperswil. - (Every boat announcer has his own familiar way of calling the stops). All these communities on the lake, the many hamlets and farmsteads are close neighbors, know and deal with each other, and naturally also compete in a friendly way against each other. And the lake is like a wide street which connects all the folks "vum See obenabe," making it one great friendly family together with the city people from Zurich.

.....
Observed in Zurich: Resting benches on the sidewalk on main street Bahnhofstrasse. - You are allowed to place your set-up baby carriage, including the baby on the front platform of the trailer street car any time. The baby carriage is charged the price of a fare. The surprising lack of traffic lights. Instead, there are those white-sleeved traffic cops, standing on small platforms at street crossings, and stiffly waving their arm and hands like robots. Any New York cop could tell them how to do it the easy but equally efficient way. Fine butcher shops on main street; imagine the same on 5th Avenue. The remarkable cleanliness of Zurich's streets, in the suburbs, as well as in the city. A poster in the Rationing Office said:

"Please watch the children." "Dogs are asked to wait outside."
"To be served, stand in line." "We are courteous to you - You be the same with us."

And officials, street car conductors, policemen, and even the bureaucrats of Zurich are really courteous.

No one, and this includes the Zuerchers, has heard the sonorous ringing of

Millionär ond Fabrikler.

Häst Du au scho en G'spane gha,
so en Herrebueb wie-n-ii,
frühner sind mer duzis gsii,
jetzt redet mer per Sie,
miin Vater ist en Fabrikler gsii,
hät g'schaffet lang ond schwär,
ond ehm siin ist Fabrikherr gsii,
en grosse Millionär,
mer beid sind Wiegechindli gsii,
gebore im gliiche Zeiche,
mir beide sind au Schlingel worde,
ufgleit zu loose Streiche,
mer händ g'spielt metenand,
ond sind metenand i d'Schuel,
ond de Lehrer setzt üüs zäme,
beid of de gliiche Stuehl,
mir sind metenand omegstreche,
öber Stei ond Steg,
ond händ veressni Chleider überchoh,
ond ii au öppe Schläg,
denn ist aber es Ziitli cho,
do trennt üüs üüsers G'schick,
er ist denn is College cho,
ond ii bloss i d'Fabrik,
das ist de grosse Wendepunkt,
do werd mer denn sortiert,
ii bi bloss en Lehrbueb gsii,
ond är hät denn studiert,
spöter bin ii denn i d'Fremdi cho,
ond er i d'Pensio,
er hät vo siim Vater g'lebt,
ond ii bloss vo miim Loh,
denn sind mer ufbote worde,
als Rekrute i's Militär,
ii als en Fabrikler bloss,
ond er als junge Millionär,
mer isch es scho liechter gange,
's Lebe i de Kaserne,
er als besser g'wöhnte,
hät's no müesse lerne,
noch Johre i de Fremdi,
do händ's mer ämole g'schrebe,
de Jung hei d'Fabrik überneh,
ond ii bi en Fabrikler blebe,
im Weltchrieg sind mer a de Grenze gsii,
er als Offizier,
ond ii, i de alte Uniform,
als en g'wöhnleche Füsilier,
er hät viel z'verteidige g'ha,
mindestes ä Millione,
ond ii, als arme Arbeitermaa,
bloss ä paar Kaffibohne,
wenn's üüs zwee im erste Jahr verwechslet hettet,
wie wär das ä Missgeschick,
denn wär ii jetzt en Millionär,
ond er müesst i d'Fabrik.

A. Moosberger.

the church bells of Zuerich without being profoundly stirred by this
spectacular and most powerful "Orchestra" of over 100 bells, as the
metallic, but harmoniously blended sounds of many bells and chimes emanate
from the towers of 32 churches, to rise and float like a thunderous
harmony of sound over the city and the land. Zurich's bells ring in

Sunday on Saturday evening from 7 - 7.15 p.m. and again they ring in perfect unison on Sunday morning 9.00 to 9.15 a.m. to call people to the church services. After listening for a while, one recognizes this or that bell, either by its high or deep tone, like that magnificent As--dur bell tone of deep sonority, emanating from the massive built tower of St. Peter's Church on the hill. Yes, the Bells of Zurich; if you ever heard their united ringing from the heights above Zurich, you will take this performance along, as your most impressive and finest remembrance of that:

"SWISS TOWN ON THE LAKE."

NOTICE TO FARMERS.

The Consulate sometimes receives requests from intending emigrants from Switzerland to supply addresses of farmers who are desirous of engaging farm hands, and at the same time providing accommodation. The Consulate would like to know who is desirous of engaging new labour and interested farmers are asked to give their names to the:

Consulate of Switzerland,
P.O. Box 386,
WELLINGTON. C.I.

FEDERAL SHOOTING FESTIVAL IN
CHUR, 1949.

The Federal Shooting Festival will be held in 1949, during the month of June and July, and it is expected that as in pre-war years a large number of competitors will take part. A Trophy Committee is already very busy collecting suitable articles for trophies, and has launched an appeal, both in Switzerland and among Swiss abroad for contributions. Groups and individuals are invited to make donations, either in cash, or actual prizes.

A special procedure is necessary when forwarding articles to Switzerland in order to avoid payment of customs duties. The Acting-Secretary of the Society, and the Consulate, will only be too pleased to give advice for the forwarding of goods.

OLD AGE AND SURVIVORS' INSURANCE.

The closing date for application to join the newly formed Old Age and Survivors' Insurance has been extended to March 31st, 1949. Those eligible and whose names are duly registered at the Consulate, are being informed by Circular. Interested compatriots who do not receive the circular before the end of this month, should communicate with the Consulate before the end of January, 1949.