

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 61 (1995)
Heft: [8]

Rubrik: [Impressum]

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>

EDITORIAL

So, like everyone else, you would like to be rich. But at what stage does a person really become rich? Once you become a millionaire? That word "millionaire" has a magic ring to it. But all depends of course what currency you are talking about. To own a million NZ Dollars or Swiss Francs would be great, but a million Italian Lira or Indonesian Rupees would not get you very far.

So, most of us would be quite happy with a million NZ Dollars. Surely no one would begrudge you a second million, which would make your life just that little bit more cushy and cosy. Your life would certainly be very easy, you would be able to afford all the little luxuries that everyone dreams about, but you would still have your feet on the ground, you would still be one of us.

But what about the super-rich, the billionaires? Whether they realise it or not, their super-wealth makes them lose all sense of reality. They might as well live on a different planet, because they lose all contact with the problems of ordinary life as lived by billions of people throughout the world.

For a start, can you imagine what it means to be a billionaire? Taking the low USA approach, a billion is a thousand millions or 1,000,000,000. (In the UK, a billion would be a million millions). If you placed your billion dollars in a savings account at a measly 6% interest, your yearly income from this interest alone would be 60 million dollars.

Can you imagine, earning over a million dollars a week without even touching your capital?

Compared to the average person's income, wealth of this magnitude becomes positively obscene. But the worst is that these super-rich can never get enough. Why stop at a billion, why not try to make a second billion? At that level of finance, the second billion will be much easier and faster to achieve than the first one anyway. So they go on, amassing more millions although they have no hope in the world of ever being able to spend all that money in their lifetime. If there is money to be had, they want it for themselves. It is human greed pushed to its highest degree. Money is always in short supply at the best of times and for the super-rich to grab for themselves a huge and totally disproportioned amount of the supply, leaving peanuts for the rest of us, is simply disgusting.

Would it be nice if some sort of law could be put into place which would say to the super-rich: "Hey, mate, you made enough money in your life so, for your own good, get out of the game, enjoy your life of luxury but move aside and let others have a go at making some money too".

Or how about a law that would force the super-rich to spend all their earnings. Imagine having to get rid of your income of 60 million dollars a year. Even for a billionaire who, after all, is used to handle millions, this would soon

turn into a nightmare. At the beginning, it might be great fun to spend an average of 1.2 million dollars a week on mansions, luxury yachts, jewellery and Rolls Royces, but if this sort of pressure was put onto you week after week and year after year, eventually you would run out of ideas on what to buy. This constant pressure of having to find new ways of spending your money would wear you down just as much as the pressure that most people must endure to earn enough money just to survive.

Imagine if you bought in one go 1000 pairs of shoes, most of which you would never wear anyway, at \$400.00 a pair, you would still only have spent a third of your weekly target of 1.2 million dollars. You would still have \$800,000 left to get rid of on something else. And if you do not spend these \$800,000 this week, they would be added to the 1.2 million you would have to spend the following week. This never ending nightmare would sooner or later put you off wanting not only to be a super-rich person, but from wanting to amass even larger wealth.

But wait a minute. Some of you more down to earth readers may say: if a person earns 60 million dollars a year, that person must be paying a big slice of that money in taxes (in some countries up to 80%). WRONG. At that level of earnings, you do not pay any income tax

SWISS SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND

PATRON: Mr. Ernst Thurnheer, Ambassador of Switzerland
PRESIDENT: Hans Fitzi, 12 Darwin Lane, Auckland, Phone: 524-8899
VICE-PRESIDENT: Peter Schüpbach, 30 Penfold Place, Auckland, Phone: 836-0493
SECRETARY/TREASURER: Carmen Gordon, 122A Waipuna Rd. East, Mt. Wellington, Auckland, Phone: 527-6249 (Pvt.), 366-3010 (Bus.)

DELEGATES TO THE SWISS ABROAD CONFERENCE IN SWITZERLAND

DELEGATE: Jürg Stucki, 46 The Crescent, Roseneath, Wellington
DEPUTY DELEGATE: Marie-Therese Melville-Schöpfer, P.O. Box 79-294, Royal Heights, Auckland 1230, Phone 833-4029

EDITOR: Henry Sigerist, Travelair, P.O. Box 37-335, Parnell, Auckland, Phone: 377-3285 (bus.) or 473-9011 (home), FAX 302-1099 (bus.)

CLUB REPRESENTATIVES

AUCKLAND

SECRETARY: Annegret Wolf, 14 Ruarangi Road, Mt. Albert, Phone: 846-0736

CHRISTCHURCH

SECRETARY: Jürg Hönger, 58 Hackthorne Rd. Christchurch 2, Phone: 332-6211

HAMILTON

SECRETARY: Erica Clarkin, R.D.4, Eureka, Hamilton, Phone: 824-1870

TARANAKI

SECRETARY: Doreen Schuler, Palmer Rd. P.O. Box 33, Kaponga, Phone: 764-6533

WELLINGTON

SECRETARY: Rosmarie McKinney, 150 Raroa Rd, Kelburn, Wellington. Ph: 475-3996

EMBASSY OF SWITZERLAND: Panama House, 22 Panama Street, Wellington, Phone 472-1593 or 472-1594 Fax 499-6302

HONORARY CONSUL: Peter Deutsche, P.O. Box 90-209, Auckland Mail Centre Phone/Fax 09/366-0403

SERVICE

wird bei uns GROSS geschrieben, vielleicht gerade weil wir klein (aber fein!) sind. Mit Vertrauen dürfen Sie Ihre Freunde, Verwandten und Bekannten an uns für **günstige Flugtickets** nach NEUSEELAND verweisen!

Zürich—Auckland—Zürich
 schon ab **Fr. 1890.—**

Frankfurt—Auckland—Frankfurt
 schon ab **Fr. 2240.—**

The best deal in town!

Der Spezialist für Verwandtenbesuche mit der sprichwörtlichen persönlichen Beratung!



REISEGARANTIE

**Südsee
 Australien
 Neuseeland**

**Inh. Bruno Böckli
 Ozeania Reisehaus
 5442 Fislisbach**

Quality team

**Tel. 0041 / 56 83 77 90
 Fax 0041 / 56 83 56 03**