

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 81 (2015)
Heft: [5]

Inhaltsverzeichnis

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.](#)

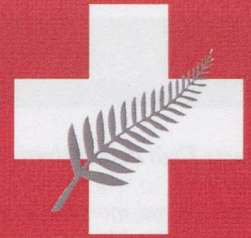
Terms of use

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>

HELVETIA



MAGAZINE OF THE SWISS SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND

OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2015

YEAR 81

Highlights

- City of Solothurn
- Swiss Federal Shooting Festival 2015
- Swiss Pension (AHV) Update

Inside

President/Editor report	2
1st August Speech	3
Solothurn in pictures	4
Solothurn Fun Tips	5
Swiss Shooting Festival	6-7
Swiss Pension (AHV) News	8
From the Swiss Embassy	9
Solothurn Film Festival	10
Verena Gorge/Cult of Saints	11
Club News	12-17
Search for New Anthem	18
Photo Gallery	19
Kids' Corner	20
Chuchichäschtl and Garden Diary	21
Swiss Society Games Results	22
Health Corner	23
Thal Nature Park	24

Solothurn: Where Hob-Nailed Boots Once Echoed



Solothurn viewed north from across the Aare River towards the Jura mountains, with the water front and Cathedral of St Ursus and Victor in the foreground.

Solothurn is a sleepy little provincial town on the Aare River, overshadowed by the Weissenstein Massif of the Jura Mountains. But don't underestimate this little backwater which packs a long and tumultuous history.

The City of Solothurn with its 17,000 inhabitants of today is the "capital" of the canton with the same name. As a strategic crossing-point on the Aare River, it has long formed an important staging post on the road along the foot of Swiss Jura mountain range.

Sparse relics dating to as early as the Stone, Bronze and Iron Ages provide proof of this early staging post. However, Solothurn really came into prominence around 15-25 AD. Salodurum, as it was then known, became a Roman road station and bridge head on the road between Aventicum (Avenches near Lake Murten) and Augusta Raurica and Vindonissa (modern Windisch) in the north.

Can't you just hear the Roman Legions stomping over the wooden bridge crossing the Aare River with their hob-nailed boots, on their way up north to fend off those terrible Barbarian tribes along the Rhine River! But by all accounts, there was a reasonably harmonious integration of the local Celtic (Helvetian) tribes of Salodurum with the new Roman administration.

Solothurn survived the post-Roman era well into medieval ages and early modern times, at times taking a central stage in the tumultuous happenings of the day. Well-to-do nobles added a series of elegant Baroque buildings, such that Solothurn is known today as the finest Baroque city in Switzerland.

Solothurn has a unique charm due to its largely unspoilt and historical old town, with its cobbled alleyways, magnificent squares, farmers' market, fountains and formidable buildings and spires. There is a lively historical scene with many uniquely themed guided tours – including one about Saints, Ladies, Whores and Witches and another about a passionate night spent by Casanova in Solothurn with one of its intriguing ladies!

In all, Solothurn is well worth a visit, hiding away all sorts of unexpected surprises. Find out more about the fascinating history of Solothurn, including its cult of saints and the magical number 11, in this Helvetia issue.

Susie Wood

"Besenwäldchen Solothurn" by Ch. Info.ch - Own work. Licensed under CC BY-SA 3.0 via Commons - <https://commons.wikimedia.org>