

# This and that

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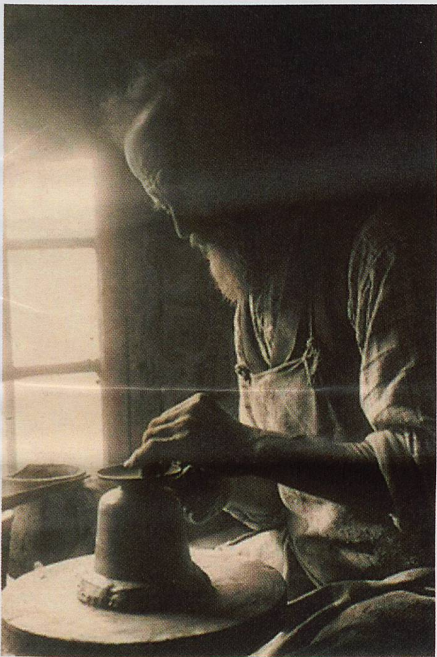
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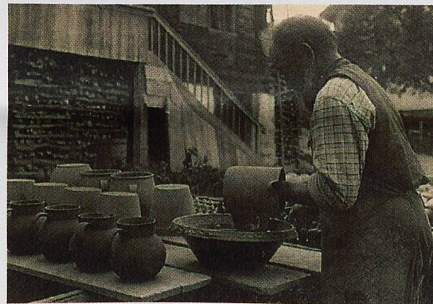
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## This and That

### Bauernkeramik



The region of Thun-Heimberg-Langnau is well known throughout Europe for hand-made ceramics featuring rich slip decoration. The producers, mostly family businesses, use traditional techniques to create both small batches and unique pieces. For a long time, pottery was practiced on small farms to produce goods for own use, and this led to the term "Bauernkeramik", meaning farmer or peasant-style ceramics. In the early eighteenth century five pottery centres established themselves in the canton of Bern, each with its own trademark features: in Langnau, Heimberg and Albligen, ceramic goods were slip decorated while in Simmental and Bärswil they were made from white-glazed pottery. Demand for peasant-style ceramics soared with tourism in the nineteenth century. In the trade's heyday around the turn of the twentieth century, many manufacturers presented decorative ceramics, exhibition pieces and Thun Majolica at fairs in Paris and



London. However, in spite of training programmes run to recruit new talent, today the craft is at risk of becoming a dying art. A new consumer society and cheap imports by wholesalers have made economic conditions tough for the potters. The situation has been exacerbated by the Confederation's decision to amalgamate the professions "potter" and "ceramics painter" into "ceramist"

[www.lebendige-traditionen.ch](http://www.lebendige-traditionen.ch)



## Château-D'oex - Fun And Festivals

26 January 2019 – 3 February 2019

The Swiss hot air balloon capital, Château-d'Oex in the Vaudois Alps plays host to hundreds of hot air balloons in January of each year. This colourful 9-day festival includes a night-time show, hot air balloon rides and kids' day. The Château-d'Oex International Hot Air Balloon Festival brings together pilots from some twenty different countries, with nearly a hundred hot air balloons taking advantage of the exceptional climate of the Alps in winter.

Created in 1979, the festival attracts crowds of people over two weekends, with hot air balloons in special shapes, air displays and model hot air balloons. One afternoon is always dedicated to children; captive balloon flights and the grand balloon release are guaranteed to create delight on hundreds of little faces!

The link between Château-d'Oex and hot air balloons is a historical one. It was from here in 1999 that the Breitling Orbiter – piloted by Bertrand Piccard and Brian Jones – set off for the first tour of the world in a hot air balloon. It is also well known for a unique event : the "night-glow" show, where all the balloons are exposed on the mountain, lit by their burners, during the evening of the 7th day.

[www.chateau-doex.ch](http://www.chateau-doex.ch)/[www.en.wikipedia.org](http://www.en.wikipedia.org)

