

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK
Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom
Band: - (1966)
Heft: 1507

Artikel: Restoration of historical church
Autor: [s.n.]
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-696321>

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RESTORATION OF HISTORICAL CHURCH

The monastery church of Payerne, in the Broye Valley of the Canton of Vaud, has been undergoing careful restoration for more than forty years. The laborious work, however, has not yet been completed. Latest research and scientific developments have made necessary some corrections on earlier phases of the restoration. Even in its present form the high, long building radiates the serene and solemn warmth typical of all structures belonging to the austere Cistercian Order. A chapel to Mary was built on this spot as early as the sixth century, on the ruins of a Roman villa. Later, a larger house of worship took its place, and during the latter Middle Ages, this in turn was supplanted by a large romanesque building. Since the Reformation it served as a granary, which explains its excellent state of preservation, making it a prime example of the very rare churches of the 11th Century.

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