

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: - (1973)

Heft: 1673

Rubrik: Nouvelle société helvétique

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: 02.03.2025

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

he portrays the self-satisfied, though rather ominous-looking leader of a ramble, he does not "play" him, but he *is* just such a man. He has great gifts of mimicry and never tries to impose on the audience. The more they respond, the more he can give. It is most refreshing to find a really funny comic who neither skates on thin ice, nor brings in politics or controversial topics.

His greatest advantage is that he imitates the ordinary Swiss *Buenzli*, in whom we recognise ourselves occasionally, but smugly far sooner our neighbour! He never imposes on the audience and always treats them as his friends.

The popularity of this young man from Lucerne has been growing ever since he opened his first one-man cabaret in 1964. Having had the privilege of meeting him off-stage, I can vouch for his most endearing personality, no airs and graces of the successful artist, but still, as he was for 9 years behind a post office counter, *one of us*.

M.M.

A DEPARTURE MUCH REGRETTED

In July this year, the Director of the Pestalozzi Village at Trogen (Appenzell), Dr. H. C. Arthur Bill, took leave after more than 26 years in this responsible position. During that time, over 1,000 children have been admitted to this unique institution where children from many nations find a home, love and companionship, valuable assets they would not have known in their own homes broken or dissolved by misfortune. They also get schooling and training according to their abilities.

The children come from many countries, and there are 26 individual houses where nationals of one particular country live together with "house parents" of their own nationality. But they take part in village life, learn to get on with other nationals and get to know the Swiss.

When Arthur Bill and his family arrived in 1947, the village looked like a building site. The war orphans had just arrived from France and Poland. There were four houses then. Before the Bill family left, there were able to receive an unusually large contingent of new arrivals: 7 Greeks, 10 Koreans, 12 Italians, 6 Tibetans, 21 Vietnamese, one English boy, one Finnish girl and three Germand. Dr. Bill saw in this a wonderful sign that the "Village" is alive and will live as long as all the problems of growing up and living with other nationals are solved in a spirit of co-operation and friendship.

"Friendship" is the name of the magazine published by the village and edited by inmates. (Fr. 5 per annum, Fr. 6 abroad). It appears three times a year. It contains news and stories by the children. In it, there was the farewell letter by the departing Director. He introduced his successor, Mr. Traugott Hufschmid and his family, and told of his new task; as delegate of the Federal

Council he is now in charge of the voluntary emergency corps which he hopes will be ready for action in catastrophes abroad by mid-1974. It is an important task for which Dr. Bill has had ample preparation during the years of his leadership at Trogen. It is a job right up his street in which Swiss solidarity is not only affirmed but *lived*.

The success of the Pestalozzi Village at Trogen, a most unusual educational establishment, is largely due to the idealist founder Dr. H. C. Walter Robert Corti, its founder. But his enthusiasm alone could not have brought it to such fine fruition without the help of men and women of wisdom, humanity and dedication. Arthur Bill was one of them who left a lasting mark.

M.M.

THE CHALLENGE OF THE LEISURE SOCIETY

Lorenz Stucki with the *Nouvelle Societe Helvétique*

Lorenz Stucki has long had a name as a journalist and writer. His reputation is perhaps even greater as a man of vision. In his latest book "Lob der schopferischen Faulheit" (published by Scherz, Berne) he is concerned with the challenge of the leisure society. "In Praise of Creative Laziness" is more than just an academic dissertation. It is both a record of what Dr. Stucki found on his travels in various countries where the problem of the leisure society is being studied, and a philosophical essay on the art of creative indolence.

On 4th October, Dr. Stucki was the guest speaker at an Open Meeting of the London Group of the *Nouvelle Societe Helvétique* which delighted the audience, but made it difficult for his talk to be reported in these columns. It was thought advisable under the circumstances to give a short review of the book as it deals with the same subject.

The book is in three parts: The Overtaxed. The Helping Ones. The People's Aristocracy. In his introduction he describes the misery of man bored to death. Fewer and fewer working hours and more and more leisure which he does not know how to use. Some 3,230 hours which he has to fill, after retirement even 5,110, quite apart from the time spent on eating and other essentials. The woman has it only marginally better, for modern labour-saving appliances have reduced her housework to a minimum. Unfortunately, most people spend their leisure in mass amusements, fruitless tours and other planned holidays often designed just to impress friends. On the other hand, the challenge is stupendous; to have freed the masses from too much work and to give the individual so much time to develop himself in undreamt-of ways is a chance to indulge in popular culture and adult education and to realise the old dream of real freedom.

Lorenz Stucki then gives masses of information of what is being done in USA, the Netherlands, Sweden, Austria, Germany and Switzerland. His findings

cover every kind of leisure and retirement activities, both on an official and private basis. Unfortunately, the story is the same everywhere, very little is being done, and even that is not always successful. Too often, playgrounds, community centres and institutions are over-organised or bear the mark of commercial undertakings; too often, homes and settlements for old people turn into "ghettos" where inmates are cut off from life and become utterly miserable.

The writer devotes considerable space to children's upbringing and education. For he believes that the ability or better still the art of true enjoyment of life, work as well as leisure, starts in the home. It is there where a child's curiosity can be killed or stimulated, not by having him sit in front of a television set, but by affording him the kind of play and entertainment which allows immediate question and answer, participation and adventure. Only later, a child becomes selective and then television could possibly play a part. But by that time, he will have had his interest stimulated and his curiosity developed so that he will always be able to enjoy real leisure.

Education at school, too, has its role, though it can never completely make good what has been neglected at home. Nevertheless, there are ways, as for instance with music as part of the curriculum for younger children. Music, Dr. Stucki maintains, is a very fine medium to attain real freedom in leisure.

So, just as for true love and marriage, for retirement, too, the seeds are sown and the seedlings tended in the home. Young people need hurdles to prove themselves, and much of their rebellion today is in opposition to affluence and too easy paths. They want to fight for their freedom, and it is in the cradle that the outcome of that fight begins to take shape.

Lorenz Stucki shows in his book that the art of living consists of efficiency as well as laziness, emotions as well as intellect, play as well as earnestness. He who feels at one with God, must have time to stop in reverence, to listen in the stillness, to look and wonder. "*Time is breath, rhythm, play; it is alternation between action and inaction. It is not a nuisance which we have to pass away.*"

"*To live according to the laws of creation is a development to the highest possible self-realisation and in the history of the earth progress from the primitive to the ever differentiated. Thus life follows aims which are ahead and above, not behind and below where so many are trying to hang guiding-starts today.*"

Some readers, just as there were a few at the N.S.H. meeting listening to Dr. Stucki, will think that such philosophy is too much in the clouds and that one must get on with the job in hand. Are not they exactly the ones who have to stop, to think and to listen? For the first time in human history humanity, in our part of the world at least, has sufficient to cover material needs and has to spend only



PACE MAKING SPACE-MAKER

ACROW CANTILEVER SHELVING SYSTEM

Acrow Cantilever Shelving Systems are designed to set the pace in saving you space! Clever designing has eliminated the need for frontal supports. The ten per cent you save as a result gives you room for one tenth more stock.

Acrow Cantilever Shelving is good: very

good. It's strong, stable yet thoroughly simple to erect. And it's so accessible. See for yourself how much visibility it gives you.

Clean lines, cool looks, infinitely adjustable. No wonder so many important names are changing to Acrow Cantilever. 'Phone your nearest Acrow Branch for details – today.

BRANCHES: BELFAST Belfast 665282 · BIRMINGHAM Walsall 33121-33122 · BRISTOL Bristol 655244 · CANTERBURY Canterbury 66707 · CARDIFF Penarth 708689 · CHESTERFIELD Chesterfield 5833 · EAST ANGLIA Saffron Walden 2552 · GLASGOW 041-776 2328 · KIDDERMINSTER Kidderminster 61937 · LEEDS Leeds 76514 · LEICESTER Market Harborough 2295 LIVERPOOL 051-525 7335 · MANCHESTER 061-480 5215/6/7 · NEWCASTLE Newcastle 86-9493 · NORTH EAST LONDON 01-599 5134 · NORTH WEST LONDON Harefield 2411 SOUTH EAST LONDON 01-858 3191/2 · SOUTH WEST LONDON Epsom 27551 · SOUTHAMPTON Locks Heath 5221

Acrow (Automation) Limited

Moorhall Road, Harefield, UB9 6PA, Middlesex. Telephone: Harefield 2411 Telex 22851



short time to achieve it. Even the less privileged has untold opportunities and incredible possibilities to "develop forward and upward and reach maturity through participation in nature and art, play and friendship and in free co-responsibility in the community."

To most of the audience at the

N.S.H. Open Meeting on 4th October and to most readers of his book, Lorenz Stucki has given more than food for thought. His criticism of the present and his pointers to the future must help any thinking man and woman to re-assess their possibilities and thus lose all fear of freedom. M.M.

Activities of the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad

A year has already passed since we gave a summary of the 1971 Annual Report of the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad. This year's edition has identical chapters and signals no fundamentally new developments. Despite the generally discouraging political evolution in the world today, it has vigorously continued its work of assistance and communication with the 319.000 Swiss registered abroad

The activities of the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad have frequently been described in this paper. We shall outline only some aspects of last year's Report.

The main event of 1972 was undoubtedly the Fiftieth Assembly of the Swiss Abroad. Its Jubilee festivities took place in Berne for almost one week in August. They were marked with exhibitions, concerts and other functions. Eight hundred Swiss from fifty countries converged on Berne to enjoy the rich programme that had been prepared for them. The Assembly's theme was the

Political Rights of Swiss Abroad. Compatriots assembled in Berne's *Kursaal* heard several impassioned speeches on this controversial issue. They heard the delegate from Great Britain, Dr. H.R. Bolliger, express his opposition to current plans which will allow Swiss abroad to vote on visits in the Motherland. The Assembly was highlighted by a well-noticed speech in the three national languages by Mr. Nello Celio, Swiss President for 1972.

A growing aspect of the Secretariat's activities is to establish and keep contact with Swiss societies abroad. That purpose was served by a three-month trip to the United States and Canada by State Councillor *Dr. Louis Guisan*, President of the Commission of the Swiss Abroad. Dr. Guisan visited no less than 83 Swiss societies representing a good cross-section of the 34,000 and 18,000 compatriots who live respectively in the US and Canada.



Mr. Nello Celio addressing the Assembly.

The Secretariat has also contributed to the cultural ties of the Swiss abroad. Among its initiatives of support, it has financed a conference tour by General Consul Berthod (Vevey) in the South of France. It has also contributed to a visit to London by Dr. Philippe Garraux, who spoke of intercantonal school co-ordination to the Nouvelle Société Helvétique. There were further contacts with the Swiss of Mulhouse (France), Copenhagen and Gex (France). Several donations were sent for various projects: buying a second-hand projector for the Swiss of Ruiz de Montoya (Argentina); building a new club house in Helsinki; developing the youth club of the Swiss churches in London; financing wind instruments for the Swiss music society of Samambaya (Argentina). There was a continued demand for films featuring at the various functions of the Swiss abroad. The demand reached a peak in summer because of the 1st August Celebration. The Secretariat has endeavoured to supply more modern films. It has innovated with a film of its own called "Invitation" and directed by Toni Rihs, the former youth organiser of the Secretariat. A circular on this film was sent to Embassies and Consulates. Within weeks, over 20 orders for it were received in Berne.

The Secretariat has continued to supply information abroad by means of the "Echo" magazine and the "Weltschweizer". The new Quarterly Reviews sent to the Swiss living in English speaking countries have gone under way. Part of their content are supplied by the Secretariat. The "Echo" continued to represent a heavy financial load to the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad. The income and expenditure account published in the Report shows that "Echo" has cost 263.000 francs and returned only 218.000 francs last year. The 45.000 franc loss is almost equal to the excess of expenditure over income shown in the 1973 accounts. The



TRAVEL TWICE MONTHLY TO AND FROM SWITZERLAND AND ENGLAND

Providing DOOR TO DOOR SERVICES

with vans specially equipped to carry

- Household Removals. — Exhibition Goods..
- Works of Art. — Machinery.

For full information contact

In Switzerland

KEHRLI + OELER LTD.,
3001 Berne,
Bubenberplatz 9.
Tel. 031 22 00 22.
Telex. 32414 Kerolch

In England

LEP PACKING LTD.,
Corney Road,
Chiswick,
London, W.4.
Tel: 01-995 1300