

# Letter from Switzerland : an alpine alphabet

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Zu einem der bedeutenden Wintersportplätze im Wallis hat sich Verbier in den Sonnenhängen am Tor zum Val de Bagnes entwickelt. Seine Luftseilbahnen führen in Skigebiete mit grandioser Rundschau. — Blick von Les Attelas, 2730 m, auf das Montblancmassiv.

Le village de Verbier, à l'entrée de la vallée de Bagnes, est devenu l'une des principales stations valaisannes de sports d'hiver. Plusieurs téléphériques le relient à d'admirables champs de ski, d'où l'on jouit du plus grandiose des panoramas. Notre photo: le massif du Mont-Blanc vu depuis Les Attelas, 2730 m.

Verbier, su di un pendio soleggiato all'ingresso della Val di Bagnes, è oggi una delle maggiori località climatico-sportive del Vallese. Le sue funivie schiudono al villeggiante campi di sci dagli ampi orizzonti. — Nell'immagine, il massiccio del Monte Bianco, visto da Les Attelas, 2730 m.

Verbier, on the sunny slopes at the entrance to the Val de Bagnes, has become one of the most important winter resorts in the Valais. Its aerial cableways lead up into skiing regions with superb panoramic views.— Looking out from Les Attelas, 8950 ft., towards the Mont Blanc massif.

EUGENE V. EPSTEIN

## LETTER FROM SWITZERLAND AN ALPINE ALPHABET

**A** is for Alphorn, more than ten feet in length.  
Those who can blow it are known for their strength.

**B** is for Building, a Swiss type of game,  
Which goes on forever — and still looks the same.

**C** is for Cheese, the world's best if you please:  
Tastes awfully good after carrots and peas.

**D** is for Dirt, which the Swiss always hate,  
And why they are cleaning from early to late.

**E** is for Eating, which all Swiss adore,  
Begin with five portions, and then we'll have more.

**F** is for Fondue, a cheese kind of dish,  
Some people dip and others swish.

**G** is for *Grüezi*, the most used of words,  
When you meet people, horses or birds.

**H** is for Happy, the happy Swiss people,  
Who work like the devil and never sleep.

**I** means Inspired, mostly from mountains,  
But also from lakes and from very old fountains.

**J** is for *Jass*, a card game of skill,  
Which every Swiss plays — the thought makes me ill.

**K** is for *Kirsch*, which some drink like wine,  
There's quite a resemblance to fine turpentine.

**L** is for Lake, as in Lake of Lucerne,  
But far more important is how much you earn.

**M** is for Money, taken with thanks,  
Most kinds will do, especially francs.

**N** is for Nature, as most people know,  
Now back to Nature with Jean-Jacques Rousseau.

**O** means Official in countries like this,  
Where following orders proves you are Swiss.

**P** stands for *Polizeistund*, when everything closes,  
When the Swiss go to sleep on their own beds of roses.

**Q** is for Quality, synonymous with "Swiss",  
What milk, O what honey, what life and what bliss!

**R** is for *Rösti*, potatoes gone Swiss,  
They're easy to make—it's just hit or miss.

**S** stands for Sausage, all succulent sorts,  
What would life be without sausage and sports?

**T** is for Tourists, O welcome to all,  
Come spend your money, then leave—we're so small.

**U** is for Uri, which rhymes with Missouri,  
And is also a state which has trial by jury.

**V** means *Verboten*, or so we are taught,  
Don't *do* it, don't *touch* it, or you will get caught!

**W** is for Watches and Winter and Wine,  
Which, in itself, makes a perfect first line.

**X** marks the spot where the Swiss people swore  
To settle their problems in peace, not in war.

**Y** is for Yodel, or Swiss alpine shrieking,  
That grates on your nerves from Geneva to Peking.

**Z** is for Zurich, and why not append,  
That Zurich's a city, and really

THE END