

SWISS REVIEW

The magazine for the Swiss Abroad
August 2016

**History at the Gotthard –
the opening of the base tunnel**

**A cotton and plastic sandwich –
the new CHF 50 banknote**

**Keeping an eye on the surveillance –
the Davos-born photographer Jules Spinatsch**

Switzerland is mobile and Swiss Abroad may be found everywhere on Earth.

And you, where are you situated around the globe?

And since when?

Share your experience and get to know Swiss citizens living nearby... and everywhere else!

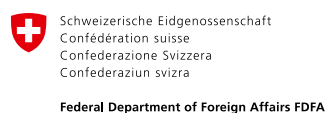


SwissCommunity.org
connects Swiss people across the world

- > You can also take part in the discussions at [SwissCommunity.org](https://www.SwissCommunity.org)
- > Register now for free and connect with the world

SwissCommunity.org is a network set up by the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA)

SwissCommunity-Partner:



Casting your vote – even if it is sometimes a chore

- 5 Mailbag
- 6 Focus
The tunnel-building nation
- 10 Economy
The new banknotes
- 12 Politics
Referendum results from 5 June
Proposals for 25 September
Parmelin's first few months on the
Federal Council
- 17 Culture
The alphorn in the modern age
A profile of the photographer Spinatsch
- 20 Sport
Doping in Switzerland
- 22 Literature series
Hugo Loetscher – the global author of
his generation
- 23 OSA news
- 25 news.admin.ch
- 28 Images
Swiss art at the Kunsthaus Zürich
- 30 Books
Charles Linsmayer
- 30 Sounds
Seven
- 31 Echo



Hand on heart, did you vote in June? If you did, on how many of the five federal proposals? I tried to form an opinion on all of the initiatives and referenda. I studied the voting documents, read newspapers, watched “Arena” on Swiss television and discussed the issues with family and friends.

Admittedly, it was arduous at times: just the documents themselves, which included two hefty booklets, various information sheets and the ballot papers, namely for the five federal proposals – pro public service, unconditional basic income, the milch cow initiative, the amendment to the law on reproductive medicine and an amendment to the Asylum Act – plus, because I live in Baselland, six cantonal proposals ranging from supplementary childcare to the “Cantonal parliament resolution on the implementation of the pension fund law reform for the pension scheme of the University of Basel under the pension fund of the canton of Basel-Stadt – a partnership-based enterprise”. Finally, the envelope also contained three ballot papers from my commune of Schönenbuch. These concerned the re-election of members of the school board, the election office and the president of the communal parliament. That comes to 14 referenda and votes in total.

This is a lot. And when I think how the proposals at national level are stacking up this year, I completely understand why some people opt out. The electorate is overburdened at times. Even politically-minded people cannot have a genuine view on everything. I nevertheless tried to, and voted on 5 June. I hope you did, too. Being able to vote in this way remains a privilege that is only afforded to a few people. Direct democracy allows us as Swiss to actively participate in current affairs and politics. So, we must not shy away from the effort required, however great, and should even be grateful from time to time.

MARKO LEHTINEN, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Cover photo:
Inside the new Gotthard
Base Tunnel (Photo NZZ)

International Health Insurance

- Based on Swiss standards
- Lifelong private medical treatment
- Worldwide free choice of doctor and clinic

Furthermore:

- International disability insurance
- International pension fund

Individual solutions for:

- Swiss citizens abroad
- Expatriates of all nationalities
- Short term assignees / Local hire



Contact us!

Tel: +41 (0)43 399 89 89

www.asn.ch

ASN, Advisory Services Network AG
Bederstrasse 51
CH-8027 Zürich
info@asn.ch



Make your last gift your best!

Calculate your disposable inheritance at
www.tdh.ch/testament

Order our free brochure on legacies by contacting **Vincent Maunoury**, T +41 58 611 07 86, vincent.maunoury@tdh.ch.

Terre des hommes - helping children worldwide
Legacies, Vincent Maunoury
Avenue de Montchoisi 15, CH - 1006 Lausanne
T + 41 58 611 07 86, F +41 58 611 06 77



Terre des hommes
Helping children worldwide. tdh.ch

Be Swiss. Wear it. Show it.



Online Store
www.blueemlisalp.ch



MIET-PW, MIET-Camper, MIET-4x4

Ilgauto ag, 8500 Frauenfeld
200 Autos, 40 Modelle, ab Fr. 500.-/MT inkl. 2000Km



Tel. 0041 52 7203060 / www.ilgauto.ch

International Health Insurance

Comprehensive, worldwide cover and free choice of doctor and hospital

SIP SWISS INSURANCE PARTNERS®

Tel. +41 44 266 61 11
info@sip.ch

Competence. Experience. Independent Advice.

www.sip.ch

.....
SWISSCARE

Online international health insurance for expats around the globe

10% discount for Swisscommunity.org members

www.swisscare.com | +41 58 523 00 40

IS is also recruiting in Switzerland. An interview with the expert Eser Davolio

Thank you for this very interesting interview. The expert says that the motivations of the Swiss jihadists “vary but are often more ideological or political than religious. Religious factors are overestimated. Those being recruited have a dichotomous



view of the world: On the one hand there is the Muslim world and on the other there is the West, whose values, which are deemed to be decadent, have to be fought...” My question is: Is not their ideology a system of beliefs or theories based, in this case, on the religion of Islam? The prophet of Islam, historically speaking, was a religious leader but at the same time also a political and

military leader. The Quran says repeatedly that he is the example every good Muslim must follow. In light of these facts, are you not separating aspects here that need to be together? Do they not feed on each other?

OSKAR, UNITED KINGDOM

The new man from Valais in the top job. FIFA President Infantino under fire

According to details in the press, the new FIFA president, Gianni Infantino, does not appear any better than his predecessor. Let’s hope it is a short stay.

KARL WICKI, THAILAND

Swiss development aid under pressure. Federal government wants to make savings

I am not sure how many people in the First World are aware that the global population will soon reach eight billion. How many of them urgently need help? Estimates indicate 10 % or



perhaps even 20 %. The number who actually receive help is a drop in the ocean. I have lived abroad for most of my adult life and have witnessed terrible misery. What about people helping themselves? That’s all well and good,

but the whole infrastructure costs a great deal. I am in favour of aid abroad if it can help stem the tide of refugees. However, these people will come in any case.

ERNST RÜTIMANN, THAILAND

I’ve lived in Central Africa for 11 years by the Congo River. In my personal experience and view, providing humanitarian development aid in disaster and crisis areas is the most effective and beneficial way of showing our solidarity with the people concerned. I believe cutting this would adversely affect our reputation. However, I would question direct financial aid from our own country and the international community as it disappears into the pockets of officials and those in high office. They get rich while preventing and sabotaging economic develop-

ment. Less can be more if the resources available are deployed properly. Local knowledge and in-depth analysis of the situation are critically important in this. The staff of the implementing institutions who remain in the protected microcosm of their offices and homes cannot identify the causes from there and are not able to take effective decisions or action. In my view such “investment” is counterproductive and damaging and should therefore not simply be cut but thoroughly reviewed.

THOMAS ERWIN VON ARX, CENTRAL AFRICA

I have lived abroad since 1964 and have run a private and highly successful aid organisation for 23 years. I am ashamed of my native country because the Swiss government is mean-spirited and xenophobic citizens are annoyed about millions of economic refugees wanting to come to Switzerland. Incidentally, we don’t need money from Switzerland as we are now self-supporting and sustainable.

RENÉ SCHÄRER, BRAZIL

100 years of the OSA: Mobility preferable to emigration. Profile of Annemarie Tromp

The Swiss at home are not the only ones to be unaware of the existence of the Council of the Swiss Abroad. The same is true of 99 % of the Swiss Abroad.

MICHÈLE ETTLIN MOLLATTE, FRANCE

**Swiss Post congratulates the
Organisation of the Swiss
Abroad on their anniversary!**

Yellow in motion. **SWISS POST** 

Switzerland bores underground

The opening of the Gotthard Base Tunnel this year is just one example of Swiss tunnel mania. Transport routes are being systematically constructed underground in Switzerland.

JÜRIG MÜLLER

It is a surreal story. A young man sits on a train that races through a short tunnel for an unusually long length of time – faster and faster into the dark abyss. Friedrich Dürrenmatt’s nightmarish story entitled “The Tunnel” could almost be called prophetic if interpreted loosely. The tunnel near Burgdorf, which the writer used as a model for his 1952 story, was the only major breakthrough on the Berne-Olten railway line at the time. Today, there is tunnel after tunnel – and they don’t lead headlong into an abyss but instead into Switzerland’s railway future.

For some time now tunnels have not just been constructed in the Alps and for reasons of geography but also in the relatively flat Central Plateau region to save time and as less and less space is available on the surface. The prime example is the high-speed railway line between Mattstetten near Berne and Rothrist close to Olten that was completed in 2004. This reduced journey times between the major hubs of Zurich, Berne and Basel to below an hour.

One of the most spectacular chapters in Swiss railway history is being written this year with the opening of the Gotthard Base Tunnel. The tunnel will officially go into operation with the change of timetable on 11 December 2016, although leading European and Swiss politicians inaugurated the world-record railway tunnel on 1 June 2016. The lavish state event was attended not only by the entire Federal Council and Parlia-

ment but also by German Chancellor Angela Merkel, French President François Hollande and Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi as well as 300 media representatives from all over the world.

The mountain laden with symbolism

The spotlight once again falls on the Gotthard, a mountain laden with symbolism like no other in Switzerland. It has shaped national self-identity in various ways. The history of the Gotthard and its stories have become part of national folklore and a collective point of reference. It has occupied the thoughts not just of writers and intellectuals, but also of politicians, military strategists and, above all, engineers. Switzerland’s tunnelling history also began at the Gotthard. Pietro Morettini, a construction engineer from Ticino, blasted the 64-metre-long Urnerloch tunnel from rock in the Schöllenen Gorge in 1707–08, creating the first road tunnel through the Alps.

Nowhere are the two opposite sides of Swiss self-identity more poignantly illustrated than at the Gotthard – defensive positioning and openness. As the heart of the *réduit* strategy, the Gotthard was until recently home to the most powerful military fortifications in the Alps. At the same time, it has always been one of the most important north-south axes in Europe. The Gotthard railway and the tunnel built in 1882 “influenced the role of Switzerland and its



A romanticised portrayal of the Urnerloch, the first road tunnel through the Alps.

self-perception enormously. No other construction project changed the nation to the same degree – in terms of foreign policy, economics, home affairs and psychologically,” writes Helmut Stalder, author of the new book “Gotthard – der Pass und sein Mythos”. In his book “Das Kalb vor der Gotthardpost”, the literary scholar Peter





von Matt remarks: “There is extraordinary logic to the fact that the new railway tunnel through the Gotthard is the greatest national symbol today. Origin and progress are once again fused in this technically outstanding project, also releasing powerful emotions on this occasion.”

From road to rail

The Gotthard Base Tunnel is a key element of Swiss transport policy, seeking to shift traffic from road to rail – especially freight and passenger transport through the Alps. The Swiss people have backed this policy in several referenda. However, whether this transfer policy really offers any environmental benefits is contentious. According to a study

conducted under the leadership of the Federal Office for Spatial Development, the new alpine tunnel will hardly relieve any pressure on the roads but instead create new rail traffic, as the newspaper “Der Bund” reports. After the opening of the Lötschberg Base Tunnel in 2007, the increase in rail passengers was not due to transfer but instead newly generated traffic, primarily due to much shorter journey times. In the case of the Gotthard, this will probably apply “to an even greater extent, as the planned construction of the second Gotthard road tunnel makes the journey into Ticino and back more attractive – even if only one lane of both road tunnels can be used as currently planned,” says “Der Bund”.

**An historic moment:
The first train
leaves the north
portal of the new
Gotthard Base Tunnel
on 1 June 2016.**

Photo Keystone

Objections were also made to the second Gotthard road tunnel ahead of the referendum on 28 February. However, they failed to convince voters. The proposal was approved by 57%. Amongst other things, this result underlines the fact that the Gotthard Base Tunnel does not represent the end of development. On the contrary, tunnel-building is very much in fashion.

Three further spectacular tunnel projects had been announced even before the opening of the Gotthard Base Tunnel. The idea of unmanned underground freight trains has emerged from business circles – the Cargo Sous Terrain (CST) project is an automated total logistics system. It aims to relieve pressure on the road and railway networks at particularly

critical points: “A first sub-section in the central Swiss Plateau region may provide a link between the Härkingen/Niederbipp area and Zurich city centre from 2030. At a later stage, an entire network between Lake Constance and Lake Geneva is planned with branch routes to Basel and Lucerne,” says the CST homepage. On the other hand, an older project called the Swissmetro, an underground magnetic levitation railway system that was to link the major centres in the Central Plateau region, has been put on the back-burner.

A committee from the cantons of Berne and Valais is preparing a treat for tourists, recently presenting a feasibility study for a Grimsel railway line. A railway tunnel between Meiringen and Oberwald would link the narrow-gauge lines of the central Swiss railway and the Matterhorn-Gotthard railway, providing even better access to tourist destinations in the cantons of Berne, Valais, Uri and Grisons. This would create a narrow-gauge railway network in the central alpine region covering 850 kilometres – a world record. Also on board is the Swiss electricity network operator Swissgrid, which could transfer existing power lines

from the Grimsel to the underground tunnel.

Another project is in the offing at Lötschberg. In addition to the base tunnel, a second, 14-kilometre-long, unused tunnel is awaiting completion there. Though, whether that will ever materialise is uncertain. The complete expansion of the Lötschberg is nevertheless at the top of the list of projects envisaged by “FABI”, the railway funding bill adopted by the Swiss people two years ago. The railway company BLS has in any event now published a tender notice for design work.

Tunnel boom began back in 1950

The Swiss tunnel boom is not a new phenomenon, even if particularly ambitious projects have emerged in recent times. Things really took off after the Second World War from 1950. Initially it was primarily drainage tunnelling for power stations, then there was a boom in road tunnel construction from 1980 and predominantly railway tunnels from 2000. Over a tenth of both the Swiss railway and motorway networks run through tunnels, which is also a world record. Around 50 railway and some 55 road

Four records at the Gotthard

Almost everything is on a gigantic scale at the new Gotthard Base Tunnel. Costing over CHF 12 billion, the tunnel, between the north portal in Erstfeld (Uri) and the south portal in Bodio (Ticino), is Switzerland’s most expensive single construction project ever. The overall cost of the “New Railway Link through the Alps” (NRLA) – with the Lötschberg, Gotthard and Ceneri base tunnels – amounts to over CHF 23 billion.

A number of world records have been set at the Gotthard in terms of transport engineering. The Gotthard railway tunnel of 1882 was the longest in the world at the time, covering 15 kilometres. The 16.9-kilometre Gotthard road tunnel was also the world’s longest for motor traffic when it opened in 1980. The Gotthard Base Tunnel, which opened in 2016, is again the world’s longest railway tunnel covering 57 kilometres. With a rock overburden of up to 2,300 metres, it is also the deepest tunnel on the planet.

Key facts about the Gotthard Base Tunnel:

- Construction took 17 years.
- At peak times, around 2,400 people worked on the tunnel construction sites, mainly foreigners.
- The total length of the two main tunnels and the safety, ventilation and cross-passages is 152 kilometres.
- The two one-lane tunnels are connected by cross-passages every 325 metres.
- 80% of the driving of the main tunnels was carried out by tunnel-boring machines and just 20% by blasting. There was 28.2 million tons of excavated material.
- The flat trajectory through the Alps increases efficiency, reliability and transport capacity. Freight trains through the Alps no longer require banking engines; longer trains (750 metres, with special authorisation even 1,500 metres) carrying greater weight can be deployed and journey times are reduced.
- Up to 260 freight trains and 65 passenger trains a day can travel through the base tunnel.
- The maximum speed for freight trains is 160 kmph and up to 250 kmph for passenger trains.
- The time gain between Zurich and Lugano will be around 45 minutes upon final completion in 2020.



Illustrious guests: The grand event to mark the opening of the Gotthard Base Tunnel was attended by French President François Hollande, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Swiss President Johann Schneider-Ammann (from left to right).

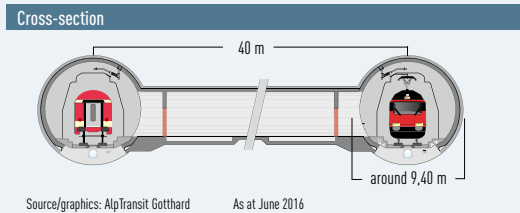
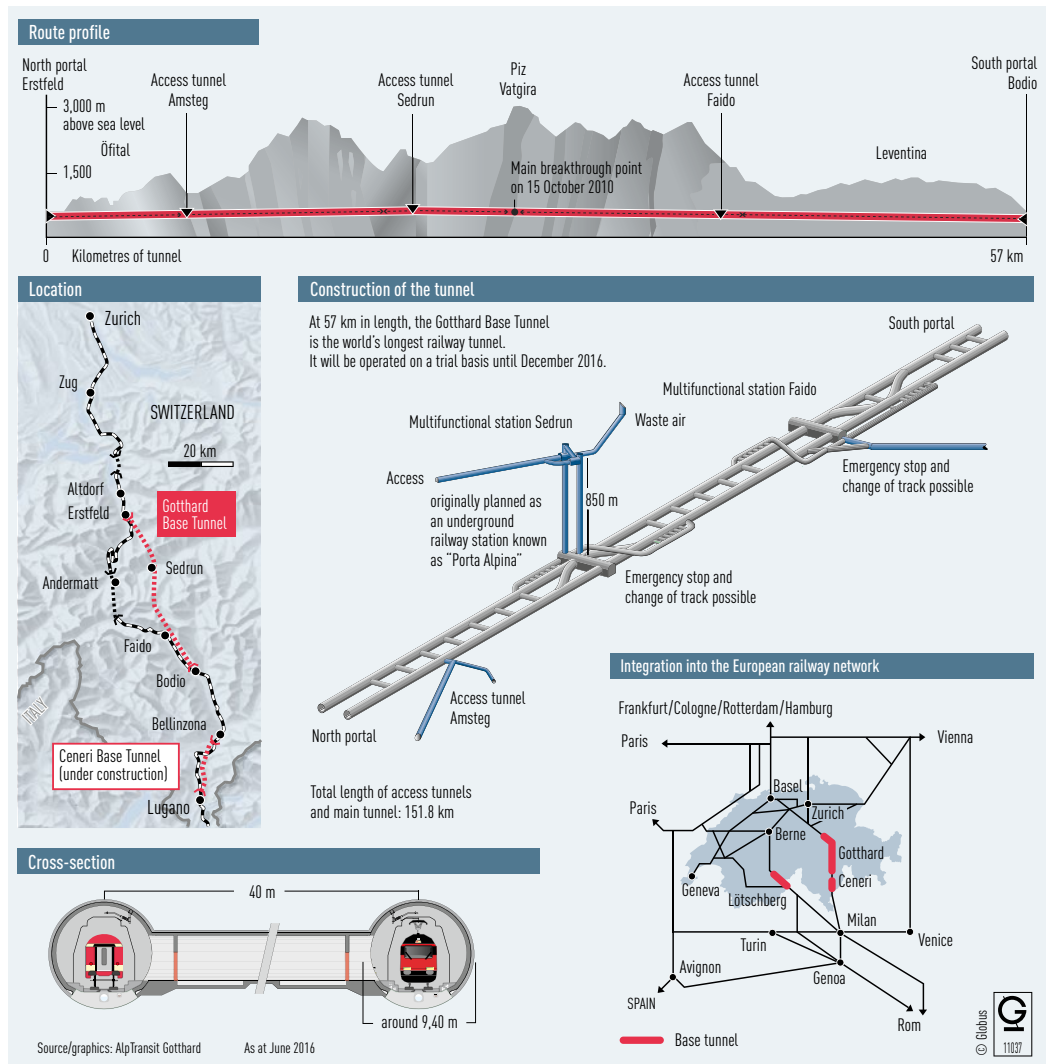
Photo Keystone

tunnels are over 2,000 metres long, and the number of kilometres underground is continually rising. One of the most astounding construction projects is currently taking place in the canton of Grisons. The Rhätische Bahn is boring a second tunnel in parallel to the Albula tunnel which is just under six kilometres in length. The project costing CHF 345 million is set for completion by 2022.

However, tunnels are not just being constructed in the Alps. They are primarily being built in the Central Plateau region. Last March, the Federal Office of Transport made a key preliminary decision on what will one day be Switzerland's second-longest railway tunnel: a 30-kilometre tunnel between Zurich and Rapperswil is to relieve the biggest bottleneck on the Swiss rail network between Aarau and Zurich. Also on the wish list in the Zurich metropolitan area alone are the Brüttener tunnel between Bassersdorf and Winterthur and a second Zimmerberg tunnel between Zurich and Zug.

An article in the "Berne Zeitung" reveals that the motorway expansion – in addition to the Axen tunnel – primarily entails the planning of underground sub-sections on urban motorways: a third route on the Gubrist tunnel on the Zurich north bypass, a Rhine tunnel in Basel, the Lucerne bypass, a third route in the St. Gallen Rosenberg tunnel, four tunnels on the Biel west bypass and a deepening of the city of Berne's Wankdorf-Muri section.

Entire tunnel systems are also being built around the railway stations of major cities. In December 2015, a further large underground station went into operation in Zurich, primarily serving east-west long-distance traffic. The pressure from commuter traffic in the urban agglomeration – namely from Winterthur, Zug and Aarau – will lead to more tunnels in the direction of



Zurich central station. Further underground stations are planned in Zürich-Stadelhofen, Basel, Berne, Geneva and Lucerne.

Dark chapter in tunnel-building

So, are the Swiss a nation of tunnel builders? Not really, the heavy work is usually done by foreigners. That has always been the case since the first Gotthard railway tunnel opened in 1882. Despite technical progress, tunnel-building is still hard work today and often takes place under difficult conditions. Nine workers lost their lives during the 17-year construction of the Gotthard Base Tunnel.

That figure was much higher on the first Gotthard tunnel where 199 workers were killed during work lasting ten years. The tunnel workers also

endured tough living conditions back then. A strike was called in 1875. The Uri militia, unable to cope under the pressure, fired shots into the crowd during the industrial dispute, killing four workers and leaving several seriously injured. Two federal committees examined the living conditions of the tunnel workers. An inspirational doctor gave a candid account: "The misery in the quarters built for the workers is beyond words. There are rows of beds in small, dismal rooms – wretched, putrid straw mattresses." So, the success story of Swiss tunnel-building has included a few dark chapters in the past.

JÜRIG MÜLLER IS AN EDITOR WITH "SWISS REVIEW".

Swiss banknotes become smaller – and more important

It was a very difficult birth. But Switzerland's new banknotes have now arrived. They also represent Switzerland's tenacious commitment to cash.

MARC LETTAU

Scrooge McDuck is a leading expert when it comes to money. He is swimming in it. Ducats run through his fingers. The drake has a very sensual relationship with money. The association may be far-fetched but it is striking how often notes are touched and scrutinised, in Switzerland, too, right now. How do the small green notes feel? Are they not too plastic? Do they feel solid or even board-like?

The new CHF 50 note is a topic of everyday conversation. It is the first in the new series of notes issued by the Swiss National Bank. It is being carefully scrutinised, not least because of its late arrival. The new note was due to be issued in 2010. Organisational failures and technical problems caused delays. It was not unveiled until April this year.

The giant dandelion

Money experts have since been raving about it. The new banknotes are deemed a technological milestone. The newly developed paper is a sandwich made of cotton and plastic that is difficult to counterfeit. A small plastic window allows you to look through the note. It possesses a long list of sophisticated security features. The paying layperson now knows that some of the finer points can only be seen under a good magnifying glass. For example, the names of all major Swiss summits are listed on the new note. But the micro-print cannot be seen by the naked eye. The beautiful, large dandelion is visible, however. Dandelion seeds are carried off, and a paraglider sails over mountain ranges. The elusive – the wind – is the predominant motif.

However, the new note had barely been in circulation before voluble criticism was voiced as the Swiss clearly scrutinise new legal tender very closely. The fact that the new note tends to break when folded lengthways was bemoaned. It is not rub-proof either and runs when wet, people complained. It has since been established that the new note is at least as resistant as the old one in normal use.

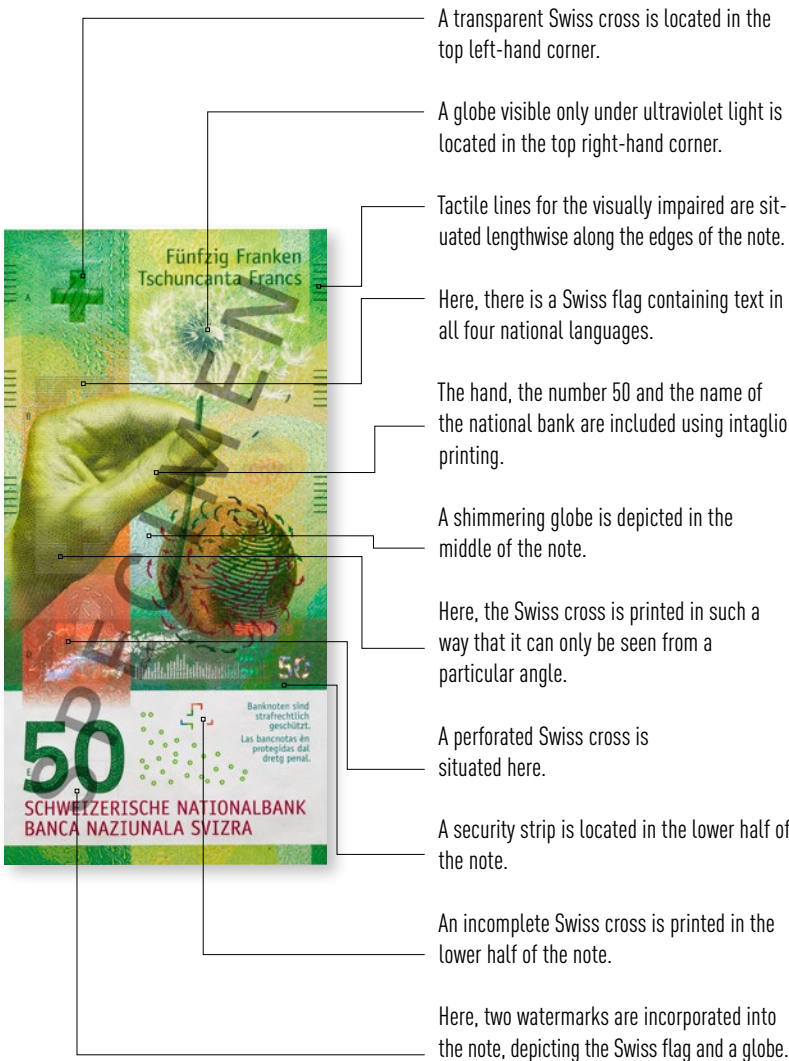
The other new notes will now be gradually introduced into circulation by 2019. The history of time is to be portrayed on the new CHF 10 note. That will be followed by “light” (CHF 20), “water” (CHF 100), “matter” (CHF 200) and “language” (CHF 1,000).

The problem with Auguste Forel

Only famous figures previously appeared on Swiss banknotes. The National Bank is now moving away from that culture. It argues that the people depicted always created a link to the past. It is now looking for a “design identity” in Switzerland's present. The bad experience with Auguste Forel (1848–1931) may have contributed to the decision to refrain from using figureheads. The researcher, psychologist, teetotaler and social reformer adorned the CHF 1,000 note issued in 1974. However, Forel's work was discredited after 1990. It came to light that Forel castrated and sterilised mentally ill patients in order to “increase the number of good and useful people and to reduce the number of bad and weak”. He also considered “good deaths” for “bad people”. Critics see him as a pioneer of racial cleansing and euthanasia, a forerunner to the Nazis' extermination programmes. The figure on the most valuable note gave rise to a painful debate about values. From this perspective, the new series of banknotes presents the least possible risk.

The fact that there are no faces on the notes has thrust that of Manuela Pfrunder into the spotlight. She is the designer of the new series of banknotes. She was commissioned to design them in 2005 as a very young artist. That was her good fortune. Owing to all the delays caused by technical problems, she was obliged to work for over a decade while maintaining confidentiality and not being able to discuss her project with anyone. That was her misfortune. She has thus become a figure of public interest about whom most people only know one thing – she is designing our currency of the future today. Pfrunder has produced at least one other significant piece of work.

In 2000, she created Neotopia, a “utopic-graphic atlas of completed creation”. In this she presented an imaginary new world order – a vision of radical justice. In Neotopia she distributed all wealth – and all adversity – in equal measure to all people based on current statistics. The outcome is nightmarish. Neotopia gives everyone a plot of land of 290 by 290 metres. But because hardship as well as wealth is distributed equally we only drink coffee every 60 days. We only enjoy adequate prosperity for a quarter of our lives. The rest of the time we are only able to meet our basic requirements – housing,



food and clothing – inadequately. It is a veritable “apocalypse of justice”.

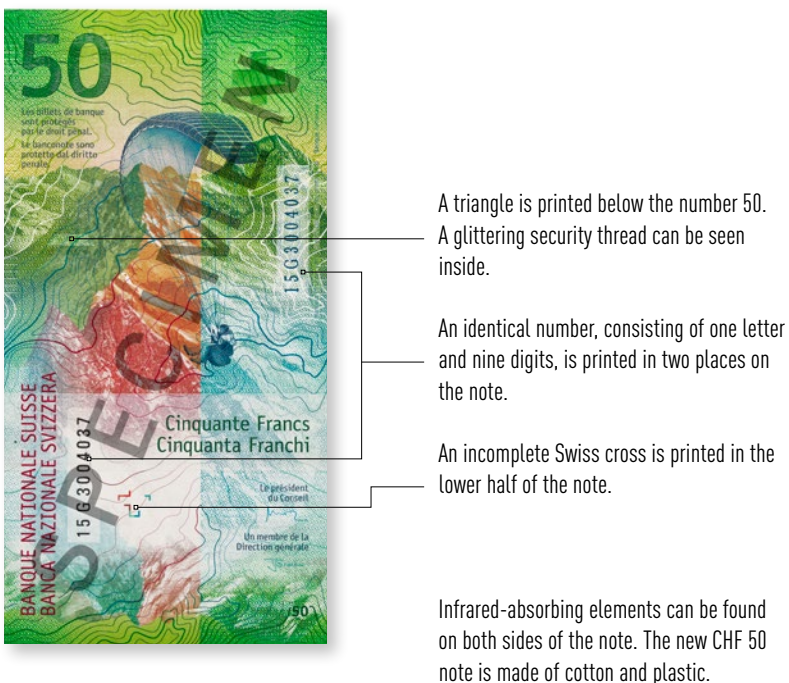
*The earth has become a tranquil place.
Every human being has a personal piece of property
which is absolutely identical to all other pieces of property.
And all the people can be absolutely certain
that there is nothing left anywhere that they do not
already own.
Because everything that was already distributable has been
equitably distributed.*

New CHF 1,000 note is counter-trend

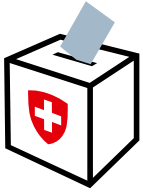
The announcement that Switzerland would also be bringing a new CHF 1,000 note into circulation caused a stir. According to SNB chairman Thomas Jordan, Switzerland is hereby pledging a “commitment to cash”. That goes against the trend. Cash payments are being restricted across Europe. The European Central Bank is considering abolishing the EUR 500 note. The German federal government is weighing up an upper limit of EUR 5,000 for cash payments. All are seeking to counteract money laundering and the funding of terrorist activities.

Swiss faith in cash nevertheless remains intact. The amount of cash circulating in the nation is increasing. Some financial experts predict that cash will become the future means of “storing value”. The Zug SVP politicians Philipp C. Brunner and Manuel Brandenberger are calling for the introduction of a CHF 5,000 note. Their demand is not realistic but they have their fingers on the pulse. If the trend towards negative interest continues, more savers may decide to keep a share of their assets in the form of banknotes.

The research institute Capital Economics has worked out the best currency for savers to tuck away a billion dollars in. Their verdict is that Swiss francs are easiest. Because the new Swiss notes are now becoming smaller a billion dollars stowed away would take up less space.



Source: www.snb.ch



Federal Council riding on wave of success

Three popular initiatives and two referendum proposals were defeated at the ballot box on 5 June. The majority of voters followed the Federal Council and Parliament.

JÜRIG MÜLLER

National government and the parliamentary majority are pushing through more proposals than ever before. 5 June was the sixth popular vote weekend in a row without defeat for the governing councils. Some 20 proposals have been put to the vote since September 2014, and the Swiss people have voted in line with the Federal Council and Parliament each time.

Public service remains as before

The popular vote of 5 June marked the – perhaps somewhat deceptive – return to the Swiss status quo. Initiatives trigger broad debate on key issues ahead of the vote but typically Swiss pragmatism ultimately triumphs, very much in keeping with the notion of ‘please, no experiments’. This was most clearly expressed in the “Pro public service” popular ini-

tiative. According to the opinion polls, the proposal launched by consumer magazines stood a good chance. The initiative’s authors actually thought they were over the line, which meant they were brought down to earth with a bang. The initiative was overwhelmingly defeated with 67.6 % opposing it.

Its text called for quasi-state entities – the Swiss Post Office, Swisscom and the Swiss Federal Railways – not to seek to turn a profit in universal service, not to return profit to the state, and to reduce executive salaries. Considerable discontent with the public utilities emerged during the debate on the initiative. Reduced services, such as post office closures, were bemoaned, as were SBB price increases and late trains. The opposition’s arguments nonetheless ultimately won the day. It warned of the catastrophic consequences of preventing profit and cross-subsidisation, including further

reduction of services and universal service being jeopardised in outlying areas. However, the initiative did have some impact. There are already proposals pending in Parliament targeting executive salaries at the quasi-state utilities.

Basic income attracts great attention

The popular initiative calling for unconditional basic income caused a stir, not least abroad. Almost all leading international media followed the debate on this major socio-political issue. While 76.9 % voted ‘no’, almost a quarter of voters backed this rather revolutionary idea. Introducing basic income for all Swiss residents would have equated to a complete restructuring of the welfare state. For this reason, those on the left also largely rejected the proposal, especially as some ultra-liberals flirted with this

Some of the popular vote issues on 5 June were fiercely debated. All the results were nevertheless clearly decided in the end.

Photo: Keystone



instrument to radically cut back the various tailored social security systems by means of a low basic income.

The “milch cow” fails to deliver on fuel

The “For fair financing of transport” popular initiative – labelled the “milch cow initiative” for marketing purposes – also came up short by a surprisingly clear margin. The initiative’s authors sought to present motorists as the nation’s dairy cow being milked dry. The proposal’s objective was for petroleum tax on fuels only to be used for expenditure on the roads. Half of the proceeds are currently used on the roads and the other half for other federal spending. The initiative failed miserably, with 70.8 % voting against it. This was a devastating result for the motorist lobby, which is in fact regarded as a powerful, well-organised interest group usually able to mobilise its support effectively.

The large-scale reallocation exercise would have left a huge hole in the federal coffers. Federal government would have faced a deficit of around CHF 1.5 billion. This clearly also made some dyed-in-the-wool motorists stop and think. The fact that a kind of indirect counter-proposal is already on the political agenda – the Motorways and Urban Transport Fund (NAF) – may also have contributed to the defeat. Something similar already exists for the railways with the “fund for the financing and expansion of the railway infrastructure”. To provide a solid financial basis for road projects as well, a permanent fund, the NAF, would be created for the motorways and urban transport. This would be enshrined at constitutional level. Road and rail would then be treated in the same way.

SVP backs the wrong horse

The Swiss People’s Party (SVP), which called the referendum against the re-

Voting results from 5 June



Pro public service



Unconditional basic income



Fair financing of transport



Revision of the Asylum Act



Pre-implantation genetic diagnosis

vision of the Asylum Act, suffered a shattering blow. The proposal was clearly adopted, with 66.8 % in favour. The resounding defeat was exacerbated for the SVP because its implementing initiative on the expulsion of foreign criminals had already failed in February. Both proposals concerned foreigner policy issues, which are SVP priorities. The Asylum Act has been amended ten times over the past 25 years, and the SVP has always been on the winning side to date.

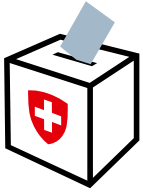
The SVP’s defeat is primarily explained by the fact that the proposal contains precisely what the party has

continually called for – namely an accelerated asylum procedure. This will only take a few months in future. Federal asylum centres where all players will work closely together will be created to achieve this objective. This procedure was successfully trialled in a pilot operation in Zurich. To ensure this shortened procedure is fair, asylum seekers will receive free legal aid. The SVP was up in arms about these “free lawyers”. But their argument did not have the desired effect. This was not least because the new procedure came about as the result of many years of preparation in close cooperation between federal government, the cantons and the communes.

The success of Simonetta Sommaruga (SP), the justice minister who played the leading role in this proposal, is nevertheless deceptive. In light of the uncertain global situation, the refugee crisis could quickly become more acute again. Calls for further tightening of the asylum system were already being made by the conservative parties on the evening of the popular vote Sunday.

PGD for the second time

The electorate voted on pre-implantation genetic diagnosis (PGD) for the second time within a year. Last year the vote was about the constitutional article and on 5 June the corresponding law. It received overwhelming approval, with 62.4 % voting in favour. Embryos produced through artificial insemination can therefore be genetically examined subject to rigorous stipulations. Such examinations aim to prevent the transfer of serious genetic illnesses from parents to the child. This is an ethically contentious area. However, the majority of voters did not share the fears that this narrowly restricted law would open the door to artificial selection and eugenics.



The intelligence service, old-age and survivors' insurance (AHV) and the green economy

Security is at the heart of three proposals at the popular vote to be held on 25 September – national security, social security and securing the natural environment.

JÜRIG MÜLLER

Albeit in three different areas, the three proposals deal with fundamental security issues. How far should or must the state go to identify and avert threats to national security? What funds should be used to ensure a good old-age pension? And how should we manage our economy in future to safeguard the natural environment, protect resources and reduce environmental pollution? Behind such questions lie the new Intelligence Service Act, the “AHV plus” popular initiative and the “Green economy” popular initiative, which will be put to the vote on 25 September.

Bolstering the intelligence service

The Federal Intelligence Service (FIS) is also to be permitted to infiltrate computers, listen in to telephone calls and bug private property in future, according to the new Intelligence Service Act. This governs the duties but also the limits on and control of the FIS. It provides for new measures for obtaining information – such as monitoring the postal and telecommunications systems – in the fields of terrorism, illegal intelligence activities and attacks on critical infrastructure. The FIS is subject to four-fold control by the bodies of Parliament, the administration and the Federal Council. “The fundamental rights and individual freedom of Swiss citizens are protected by the new law and the sphere of privacy remains untouched as far as possible,” maintains the Swiss government. The law also ensures a “strengthening of



How far should the state go in surveillance of suspicious persons? This is one of the issues to be decided upon by the Swiss people in September.

Photo: Keystone

internal and external security appropriate to the threat situation”.

The majority of MPs share this view. Some left-wing politicians nevertheless voiced criticism of the proposal during consultations. Paul Rechsteiner, the SP Council of States member from St. Gallen, declared that Switzerland is facing a fundamental decision about whether to provide the FIS with all means of surveillance. An “alliance against the snooping state” – consisting primarily of small, left-wing parties and youth parties – called the referendum against the Intelligence Service Act. Opponents point to the end of privacy: “Everyone is under surveillance, not just criminals as is often claimed. Mass surveillance can be carried out through the tapping of telephone calls, reading of emails, Facebook, WhatsApp and SMS messages as well as the monitoring of the

internet through keyword searches regardless of whether there is cause for suspicion,” they contend. The Office of the Attorney General of Switzerland and the cantonal police authorities are already responsible for investigating terrorist activities and organised crime, and that is sufficient, they say.

The Social Democrats officially support the referendum and therefore oppose the law. It is noteworthy that resistance is also emerging in some conservative circles and in the business community. Above all, criticism has been voiced by the IT and telecommunications sectors.

10 % more old-age and survivors' insurance (AHV)?

The popular initiative “AHV plus”, launched by the Swiss Federation of

Trade Unions, calls for a 10 % increase in AHV pensions. Each single person would receive CHF 200 more a month and each married couple CHF 350 more. Those behind the initiative are seeking to give state old-age pension and survivors' insurance (AHV) more weight in relation to the pension funds. They argue that the pension fund benefits will continue to decrease in future. Reductions of up to 20 % are not uncommon owing to the financial market crisis. "Pension losses need to be rebalanced. The most effective and economical way of achieving this is by increasing AHV pensions by 10 %. This issue is even more pressing because AHV pensions have not risen significantly for decades and increasingly lag behind wage trends the more time goes on," write the initiative's authors on their homepage.

An increase of 10 % in pensions would see AHV expenditure climb by four billion Swiss francs a year. The initiative does not reveal how the pension increase would be funded. SP National Councillor Silvia Schenker does not see money as an issue. The pension increase "would cost the employer and employee 0.4 % of salary each", she says. That is feasible because salary contributions have not risen for 40 years. Conservative politicians take a different view. Urs Schwaller, a former CVP Council of States member from Fribourg, declared that the pension increase called for is "simply not financially viable". The funding of old-age pensions is a major challenge even without this initiative, he says.

The Federal Council does not believe there is any financial leeway for increasing AHV benefits. It stands by its "old-age pension 2020" reform project. This is currently undergoing parliamentary consultation. This is a comprehensive package that contains the following points: the same pension age of 65 for men and women,

flexible structuring of pensions, reduction in the minimum conversion rate in occupational pensions and additional funding of the AHV by increasing VAT.

One planet instead of three...

The Greens are raising a topic that is central to them with their "for a green economy" initiative. The popular initiative seeks to reduce Switzerland's environmental footprint to a sustainable level of one planet by 2050. If the whole world behaved like Switzerland, three planets would be needed. The authors believe switching to a green economy would tackle environmental issues, such as climate change, rainforest clearance and

Swiss economy is already green enough. He warns against "senseless and excessive regulation". The Federal Council also rejects the initiative but put forward an indirect counter-proposal because it at least supports the general thrust. It tabled an amendment to the Environmental Protection Act with the aim of protecting resources and using them more efficiently. Federal Councillor Doris Leuthard used similar wording to the Greens during the parliamentary debate: "We must move from a throw-away society towards a circular economy." Switzerland produces the greatest amount of refuse per capita in Europe, she said. However, the Federal Councillor's warning went unheeded. Even an amendment to the Environ-

The "for a green economy" initiative aims to reduce Switzerland's environmental footprint to a sustainable level by 2050.

Photo: Keystone



overfishing, and ensure the sustainable use of natural resources. "The throw-away economy has to become a circular one, focussing on long-life products and the recycling of waste as raw materials," they say.

The initiative stood no chance in Parliament where it was not deemed business-friendly enough. The Bernese FDP National Councillor Christian Wasserfallen believes the

mental Protection Act of 1983 was a step too far for Parliament. The Swiss people will now decide solely on the Greens' initiative on 25 September without a counter-proposal.

The Parmelin effect has failed to materialise

The new SVP Federal Councillor Guy Parmelin called a halt to his predecessor's strategic arms deal in his first few months in office. He also created a political furore of his own. However, the election of a second SVP representative has not led to a significant shift to the right on the Federal Council so far.

MARKUS BROTSCHI

Ueli Maurer appeared to have handed over a Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sport (DDPS) in good shape to his successor and party colleague Guy Parmelin. The future development of the armed forces was to a large degree approved by Parliament back in 2015. Sufficient financial resources have also been secured. The conservative majority in the two chambers have made it clear several times that the army will receive CHF 5 billion a year and that fighter jets will soon return to the shopping list despite a referendum defeat.

Yet, the honeymoon period of the 56-year-old from the canton of Vaud did not last long. It soon became apparent that Parmelin would have to address a number of self-made problems in the army. At the end of March, the new defence minister surprisingly called a halt to his predecessor's "ground-based air defence" weapons project costing billions. This involved the acquisition of anti-aircraft missiles. Addressing the media, Parmelin justified the abandonment of the project by indicating that the renewal of the anti-aircraft systems had to be better aligned with the purchase of new fighter jets. However, the decisive factor may have been that both of the defence systems evaluated have shortcomings but the project committee responsible wanted to buy a first tranche of ground-to-air missiles anyway with the next armaments programme.

Maurer versus Parmelin

Intriguingly, the two SVP Federal Councillors publicly contradicted one another, an unusual occurrence in Swiss government convention. Responding to the media, Maurer remarked that he could not understand why Parmelin had applied the emergency brake as everything was "going well" with the ground-to-air defence project. Parmelin took a different view and ordered an administrative investigation. The head of the DDPS sought to establish not only what had gone wrong with the project but also which officers had leaked information leading to details about the missile deal ending up in the public domain.

Parmelin may not have been acting solely on his own initiative but also under pressure from his party. Parmelin now had to demonstrate the leadership strength that the SVP had previously lacked with Defence Minister Maurer. The fact that the new defence minister announced, a day after putting a stop to the ground-to-air missile project, that he was parting company with the head of the army, André Blattmann, would appear to fit in with this notion. Blattmann had fallen foul of the SVP as he had been working on reform of the armed forces with a further reduction of troops under Maurer. As is customary in such situations, Parmelin denied there were

internal reasons for Blattmann's early retirement in March 2017. However, an appearance by Blattmann in front of the general staff officers revealed that nerves were on edge in the army leadership. Blattmann branded the army member who had passed the documents on the ground-to-air missile project evaluation to the TV programme "Rundschau" as a "traitor". He hoped the person responsible would be "strung up", in the figurative sense.

Tax break as stumbling block

However, Parmelin was also guilty of a faux pas in his first few months. The former wine grower supported tax breaks on the sale of agricultural land in the Federal Council at a time when he himself still owned such a plot of development land. Shortly afterwards he assigned the land to his brother. When "Blick" made the affair public, Parmelin did not initially see any reason why he should have excluded himself from decision-making in the Federal Council over tax breaks on development land in agricultural areas. Parmelin, who came in for heavy public criticism, later conceded that while his conduct was above board legally he had made a mistake politically. While the German-speaking Swiss media predominantly conveyed the view that Parmelin had shown a lack of awareness, the media in French-speaking Switzerland perceived a conspiracy against "their" Federal Councillor. They felt that the criticism revealed the condescending attitude of German-speaking Swiss towards French-speaking Switzerland.

The election of a second SVP representative in place of BDP Federal Councillor Eveline Widmer-Schlumpf has not led to a noticeable shift to the right thus far on the Federal Council. The SVP's dual representation is most likely to result in a more conservative approach to finance policy. The SVP nevertheless faces being over-ridden in national government over its key strategic issues of policy on Europe and asylum even with a second representative. The two SVP politicians are fighting a losing battle over policy on Europe in particular as both FDP Federal Councillors, the CVP representative Doris Leuthard and the two SP representatives are focussed on maintaining the bilateral treaties and wish to avoid a break with the EU at all costs. The additional Federal Council member has also so far failed to enable the SVP to make ground over asylum policy. The two SVP politicians were rebuffed with a call for tighter surveillance of the southern border by the army to intercept refugees. A change in the Federal Council's position cannot be ruled out though if an emergency asylum situation arises over the summer months.

MARKUS BROTSCHI IS THE FEDERAL POLITICAL AFFAIRS EDITOR ON THE "BUND" AND "TAGES-ANZEIGER"

Alphorn with a pop and jazz twist

The traditional alphorn attracts modern musicians from a wide spectrum. Its soft, gliding tone and Alpine sound lend it special appeal.

STÉPHANE HERZOG

It's a strikingly simple instrument. "A pipe with a conical horn that widens out," as musician and artist Balthasar Streiff succinctly describes it. Originally from Glarus but now living in Basel, he performs on an array of wind instruments, from the *büchel* – a coiled horn – to the simple cow horn. He has been touring for many years, playing the alphorn as a member of the Hornroh Modern Alp Quartet, a group mixing jazz, traditional music and contemporary music. He also fuses the alphorn with electronic music in his *Alpin Project*, with a DJ adding drum and bass beats.

Yet Balthasar Streiff does not entirely go along with the idea of the alphorn's 'Swissness'. "Ninety-nine per



Eliana Burki plays her alphorn in a modern style – and hates performing in traditional costume...

Photo: Eva Müller

cent of people who play the alphorn are not shepherds or farmers: they are city-dwellers," he laughs, suggesting perhaps that there is little substance to the popular myth. He reinforces his point with a reminder that most compositions for the instrument date from the second half of the 20th century. "Two hundred years ago, the ancestor of the alphorn was played throughout the world. Farmers blew on a stem or a horn to call in the livestock at the

end of the day. The alphorn that we see today – and that the Japanese love and play – was developed in the 19th century, when nationalists promoted folklore for political reasons."

"Smoke on the Water" played on the alphorn

Be that as it may, the sound of the alphorn "evokes images of the Alps", according to Laurent Aubert, director of the *Ateliers d'ethnomusicologie* in Geneva. "When you hear it, you can imagine that you are in the Rütli Meadow, and all Swiss people, even Genevans, associate it with the Alps." A number of musicians play on this emotional bond. Among them is Eliana Burki, who can be found in the archives of Swiss broadcaster RTS performing "Smoke on the Water" in Grindelwald. The musician from Solothurn has toured the world with her alphorn, which is modified in the style of a trumpet. She began playing the alphorn at the age of six and said that she hated performing in traditional costume. She is now on the US record label *Surf Dog*. She plays in a band whose name reflects the attachment to the myth: *I Alpinisti*. "The sound of the alphorn is unique in the world," she says.

In *Château-d'Oex*, the musicians who make up the band *Sonalp*, formed in 1999, have also introduced the alphorn into their repertoire, after starting out playing a new genre, Swiss world music. At the beginning, the band included a didgeridoo among its instruments. "It was a way for us to bring Oceania into our music," explains violinist Guillaume Wahli. Next came a customised alphorn, with

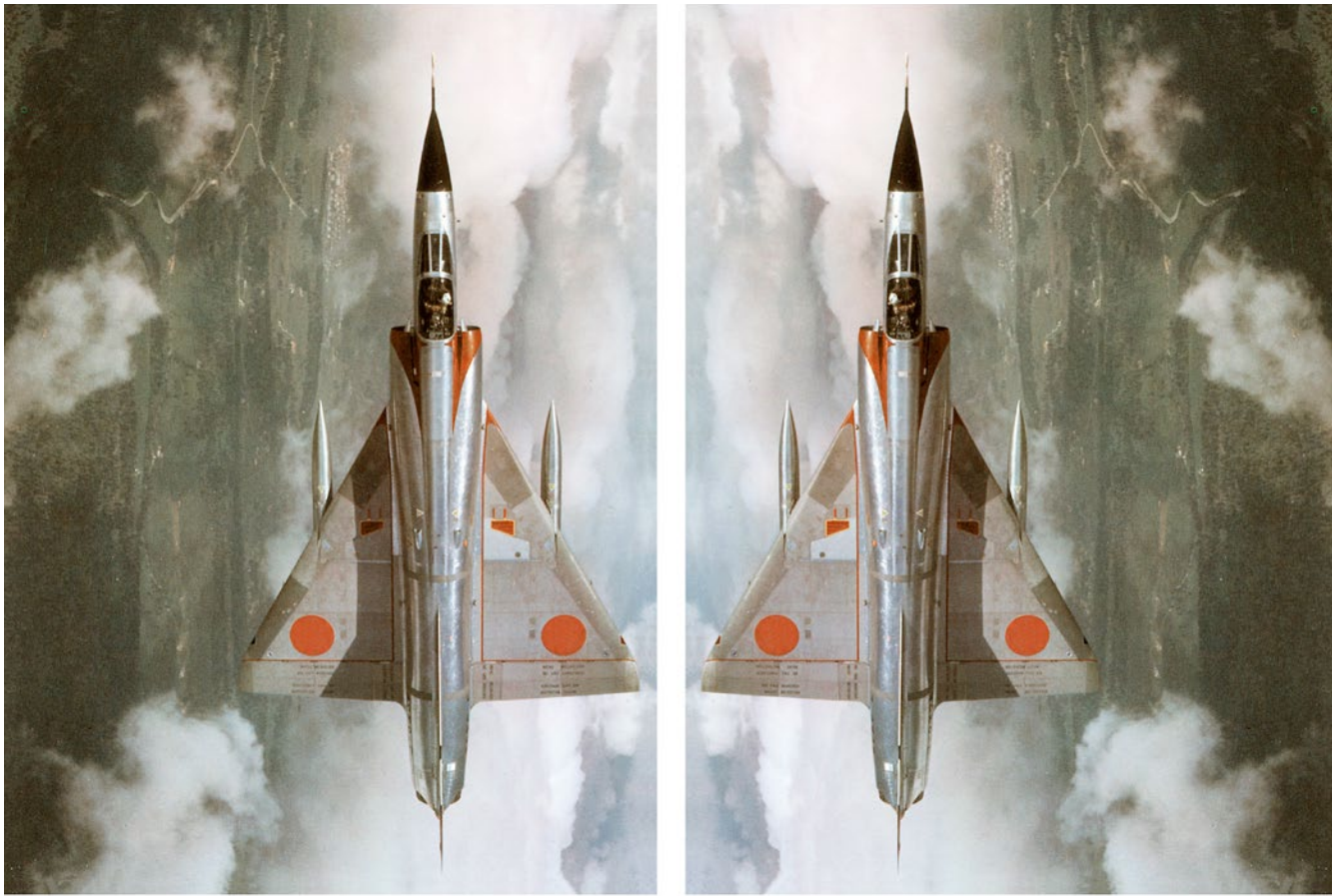
a series of nozzles added to make it easier to play. The group is currently recording its fourth CD, on which the traditional alphorn will feature strongly. The musician from *Sonalp* also enthuses about the "strong identity of the sound, which is associated with Switzerland", while at the same time admitting that it is difficult to play the alphorn given the instrument's natural limitations.

"The alphorn is a voice without words"

In fact, it is the alphorn's boundaries that make it such a powerful and fascinating instrument, according to Balthasar Streiff. "It's a simple instrument that requires a lot of inventiveness. It's unlike anything else we know." Streiff, who has adopted Basel as his home town, praises the alphorn for its sonorous sound, while playing down the – some would say, kitsch – image of the instrument. "The alphorn has a beautiful resonance in streets of towns and cities. If you play it in the forest, people are attracted – and even animals come to listen. The alphorn is a vehicle for many emotions and works like a voice without words."

Hans Kennel, a jazz trumpet player from central Switzerland, was the first to use the alphorn in a modern repertoire. At the time, it was revolutionary, remembers the musicologist Laurent Aubert, who in 2013 invited the two musicians to play at an event dedicated to the music of the Alps and to the new directions it is taking.

STÉPHANE HERZOG IS A JOURNALIST WITH THE "SWISS REVIEW".



From the "Asynchronous series, nuclear technology episodes I-X 2013", "Asynchronous I, Red mirage (1958)". Galerie Luciano Fasciati, Chur

Jules Spinatsch, the photographer who mistrusts clichés

The photographer from Grisons devotes his career to questioning the way images are produced and interpreted. At the World Economic Forum in Davos, he turned his camera on those carrying out the surveillance. In the Alps, he confronted the Alpine myth in the age of the theme park. A portrait.

STÉPHANE HERZOG

Don't let yourself be made into an instrument by the pictures – and don't manipulate the person looking at a photo. This could be one of the mottoes of Jules Spinatsch, the photographer from Grisons, for whom the quality of a photograph can be measured by its ambiguity. "I don't want to be told exactly what I should see in an image, or even what I should not see, because that would be an insult," says the artist.

We find him on the terrace of the Fédéral restaurant, just opposite the palace of the same name. It is May, and the photographer, who has adopted Zurich as his home town, has come to Bern to take part in the launch of a competi-

tion to decorate the long, oblique hall below the corridor of the lobby – where elected representatives, lobbyists and journalists meet. "It is the first time that contemporary art has been admitted within the walls of the Federal Palace," says the photographer brightly, and takes the opportunity to poke fun at an incident in which palm trees were removed from the lobby at the request of some members of parliament – from the Swiss People's Party, he says – because they are not Swiss plants.

Irony and distance

Irony and perspective: these are two of the principles of Jules Spinatsch's pho-

tography. In his work, he marries the precision of an engineer with the sceptical, analytical approach of a journalist. In "Temporary Discomfort", which won the award for best documentary photography book at Arles in 2005, Jules Spinatsch explores politics from the point of view of surveillance. To carry out this vast study, he went first to the G8 summits in Genoa and Evian, then to the 2002 World Economic Forum – moved that year from Davos to New York in honour of the victims of the attacks on 11 September 2001 – and finally to the 2003 Davos forum.

The section of this photographic essay devoted to the Alps takes place in Davos at a time when the town was

protected from the alter-globalists according to a plan put in place by Peter Arbenz, former Delegate for Refugee Affairs, who advocated spaces where a dialogue could be held with the anti-WEF protesters. Jules Spinatsch zig-zagged between the five palaces of the mountain town and snapped drivers and bodyguards. From a vantage point on the slopes of the resort and using a 1200mm lens, he photographed the Davos Congress Centre, which lies at the epicentre of the forum. In other instances, he took mid-range shots, using a tripod to capture elements of the town. “These pictures are no truer than others, but they offer three perspectives, that is to say three views of the same thing. That brings depth and makes it possible to avoid being an instrument of the police or of the alter-globalists,” says the artist.

“A picture is nothing without its context”

In the night-time shots of the resort, areas lit up by spotlights are revealed, including chalets, cross-country ski trails and the Davos Congress Centre. In this context of surveillance, the light makes the most anodyne elements seem suspect. “A picture by itself is nothing. You need a context, an audience, a caption,” insists the 52-year-old artist, who cites the famous shots by Robert Capa taken during the Normandy landings as an example. “There is no way to access the negative. So, if you realised that you had more or less the same image three times on the film, there would no longer be a decisive moment. The moment when the photographer pressed the shutter,” says Spinatsch.

From his years spent as an apprentice at a radio and TV repair business in Davos and at an engineering school in Buchs, Spinatsch has retained a keen taste for technology, which he uses to question photography. Sweep-

ing a field of vision for hours on end to capture continuous images for a photo series is a technique that the photographer has used in many places, beginning with the Davos forum. In one of these panoramic pictures, 1,740 images were recorded between 1.56 p.m. and 5.15 p.m. on 25 January 2003. Calm prevails throughout. He admits that on the afternoon in question, this space should have been the scene of a demonstration by the alter-globalists. In fact, the majority of them had been detained at Küblis train station. In one of the photographs, a solitary man brandishes a banner.

10,008 pictures to capture the Opera Ball in Vienna

What does this panorama say? It would only have needed this demonstrator to have passed a few seconds later for the scene to be entirely devoid of any protesters. “The camera has its own rhythm. It’s a mixture of controlling and not controlling what is happening. Each picture is documentary and precise, but what happens is the result of chance. So attempting to interpret a picture involves some speculation,” explains Spinatsch. The photographer revisited this idea to capture a highlight of the Viennese social calendar: the Opera Ball. The result was 71 pictures – from the 10,008 taken between the evening and the morning – made more beautiful by their arbitrary nature.

Another long-term project is the ten-part series devoted to nuclear energy, entitled “Asynchronous I-X”. One of the sections deals with the Zwentendorf nuclear power plant in Austria. The start-up of the plant was halted in 1978, when it was ready to begin operating. The artist spent exactly 20 minutes lowering a camera into the reactor, resulting in an image showing what would have been the path taken by the nuclear fuel. An-

other subject of the series is the iconography that has developed around Mirages, the jets that the Swiss Air Force wanted to see equipped to carry nuclear bombs to Moscow. The artist’s pictures are aimed at “disinterpreting the original didactic material, comprising photographs and presentations, used to promote nuclear technology”.

In “Snow Management Complex”, which appeared in 2014, the Swiss artist explores the mountains lit up by snow groomers and shows the landscape changed by the artificial lakes needed for snow cannons. In the pictures, the Alps are transformed into a theme park. In the same book, the photographer presents a selection of postcards printed from 1897 onwards, the year which saw the birth of winter sports and the use of cards to promote these destinations. Is it nostalgic? “I don’t wish to judge,” is the trenchant



Jules Spinatsch was born in Davos in 1964. He studied at the ICP in New York from 1993 to 1994. His documentary photography book “Temporary Discomfort” won a prize at Arles in 2005. Ten years later, in 2015, he was given seven exhibition spaces at the Fotofestival Mannheim-Ludwigsburg-Heidelberg.

response. When he was young, Jules Spinatsch lived high up at 2,590 metres above sea level, in the panoramic Jakobshorn restaurant managed by his parents. “At night, I pressed my nose up against the windows of the restaurant. I watched the lights of Davos glittering in the night,” he recalls. It was perhaps during those moments of solitude that the boy developed his taste for this photographic vision, characterised by distance.

“Why should people here be any different to those in Russia?”

In the run-up to the Olympic Games, doping is in the spotlight once again. Russian athletes in particular are in the spotlight. But what's the situation in Switzerland? Are we clean? We spoke to Marco Steiner, Deputy Director of Antidoping Switzerland.

INTERVIEW: BENJAMIN STEFFEN

“Swiss Review”: Mr Steiner, on a scale of 1 to 6 – with 6 being the most serious – how bad is the doping problem in Switzerland?

Marco Steiner: I can't say exactly, but if I were to guess, I'd say “4”.

Why is that?

It's a fact that we carry out too few checks to be able to make any conclusive statements on the matter. With a budget of just under CHF 5 million, we carry out about 2,000 checks each year. Just take a look at football: ten Super League teams with an average of 25 players each makes 250 people. Two thousand divided by 250 would make eight checks per player per year; too few for a conclusive assessment. And that's if no other athletes were checked, only footballers. In the best-case scenario, we're discouraging people from doping.

At present, 14 sportsmen and one sports-woman have been banned in Switzerland, none of them famous-name athletes.

Do you assume that all the celebrity athletes are clean?

I don't assume that, but my instincts aren't enough. We have a relatively large number of pending cases that also include athletes who are reasonably well-known. And we have a new system. Positive analysis results will be handled by a state prosecutor to begin with. We press charges and hope that a house search will be carried out or the person's calls are monitored. The process means two things for us: First of all, the matter must be kept strictly confidential,

otherwise it is unlikely any state prosecutor will support us. Secondly, the state prosecutor may have another 300 files on the desk at once – many of which are at least as important.

There is evidence of systematic doping on a grand scale in Russian athletics. Would something like that be possible in Switzerland too?

I think we must differentiate between two elements. Of course it would be possible for laboratories in Switzerland to collude with sports federations to promote doping, for athletes to attempt to bribe people or for a club or federation to undermine the work of the supervisory bodies. Why not? Why should people here be any different to those in Russia? But I think we must probably draw the line at state involvement. I believe that democracy and the rule of law are so firmly established here in Switzerland that we can hope the intelligence services would not get involved in manipulating samples – and that the Swiss Federal Office of Sport would not be working against us. After all, sport doesn't have such high importance in Switzerland.

In principle, though, even you could be involved and nobody would know, am I right?

When I mention federations, I don't exclude myself or Antidoping Switzerland. Yes, why not me too? Why not a laboratory? Why not another employee of Antidoping Switzerland? It's entirely possible. But I don't think

there is a broad-based political will to create the conditions that have arisen in Russia.

Who is tested in Switzerland?

Tests are only carried out on athletes who have a licence, are members of a club or take part in competitions. We're not generally interested in bodybuilders at fitness centres who may have pumped themselves full of forbidden substances. After that it's a question of level: theoretically, even a footballer in the fifth division could be tested. But it's only those in the first division and up who can definitely expect to be tested now and then. In the Super League, we try to carry out tests in a targeted manner. The same applies to all sports: the better the athlete, the more likely it is that they will be tested.

How are tests distributed across the various sports?

We have a catalogue with several criteria such as “inherent doping risk”, major events and physiological risk. We also use popularity surveys. We then make a rather complicated calculation that stipulates a specific number of tests per federation per year.

But these criteria mean that athletes in more rarely-tested sports can train in relative tranquillity with a minimal chance of getting caught.

That's right. For every test we carry out, say on a professional cyclist, there is one less check being conducted elsewhere. However, the organisations



that fund us expect us to get a more-or-less global impression of top-level sport in Switzerland.

Where do you get the money for all this?

Just under two-thirds comes from the Swiss Federal Office of Sport. A third is from Swiss Olympic, in other words, indirectly from the federations we check. But that's another story. The rest we generate ourselves through tests we sell to events that wouldn't otherwise conduct any. We also benefit from administrative fees for packages intercepted at customs.

What is this other story? That there should be greater independence?

Yes. We're a foundation and thus bound by articles of incorporation that state what we can and should do. The Federal Office of Sport and Swiss Olympic can only pin conditions to their payments to a very limited extent because our independence is enshrined in our articles of association. But our financial

backers may be more or less inclined to actually pay us or even pay us more. Complete independence is therefore utopian. It would be possible only with so much foundation capital that it covers its own costs through interest earned.

How can you be sure there aren't all kinds of doping methods that are still undiscovered and that you aren't two steps behind?

I am pretty sure that we definitely are two steps behind. We know what these methods are, too, but simply can't prove it. Then there are many "cool" substances that are not forbidden, as well as substances that are known to be difficult to prove, such as growth hormones.

So you wouldn't rule out the possibility that a relatively high percentage of cyclists, for example, are still doping?

I would maybe even say it more pointedly, and it would not grieve me to do so. But I'll stick with what I said: that we simply do not know.

And how credible do you find the Olympic Games in terms of doping?

The competitions are likely to be relatively clean. The training leading up to them is a completely different story. But even here I could be wrong because when the International Olympic Committee actually carries out follow-up tests after the Games many of these yield positive results. The blanket statement that nobody would be stupid enough to compete while using forbidden substances therefore probably isn't true.

What do you think: will various rankings have to be redistributed after the Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro?

Yes, but it already looks like many countries have a less systematic approach to doping than Russia.

Where, for example?

The US has a similarly large number of athletes as Russia, and at least during the Cold War it also had a similar attitude about the importance of sporting success. But if we look at what Usada, the US anti-doping organisation, is doing, if we look at its positive cases and its ruthlessness even in relatively harmless doping cases – even if we know that the US conducts too few tests, there is hope that countries that work well will have an excellent deterrent effect. In spite of my concerns, I would also count Switzerland as one of these countries.

www.antidoping.ch

In Switzerland, 14 sportsmen and one sportswoman are currently banned for doping.



Zurich as a gateway to the world

With his productive literary stays in Paris, Portugal, Brazil and Los Angeles, Hugo Loetscher was the only genuine global author of his generation.

CHARLES LINSMAYER

He actually wanted to become a missionary. The Catholic working-class family from Zurich into which Hugo Loetscher was born on 22 December 1929 originated in Escholzmatt in Lucerne, a region where, as he later once wrote, “the women have the body temperature of a cow and it is customary for them to lose their maidenhood in a barn”. However, this second-generation ‘immigrant’ in Zurich did not become a farmer or a missionary. Instead, from the working-class district of Aussersihl, he went on to grammar school and university and then conquered sophisticated Zurich, which regarded him right through to his later volume of essays “Lesen statt Klettern” as a brilliant novelist and essayist with a penchant for the grotesque and self-irony.

This style is evident even in his first novel “Abwässer” from 1963, in which he carries out a kind of exorcism with Zurich. Condensed into an anonymous Kafkaesque system, the city becomes a place of ideological posturing which has long since lost any relation to elementary reality. If “Abwässer” is an ecological book ahead of its time, “Die Kranzflechterin” from 1964, an unsentimental portrayal of a working-class woman from Zurich, anticipates key elements of female emancipation literature. “Noah” in 1967 turns euphoria over prosperity into the flood, and “Der Immune” from 1975 shows – through the example of the main protagonist – what immunisation strategies an enlightened intellectual had to develop to come through the second third of the 20th century unscathed.

“I have no roots”

When asked where his roots lay, Loetscher remarked: “I have no roots. I have feet to walk away.” This means that he always saw home as the base and point of departure to set off from into the world. His stay in Paris in 1950/51 where he studied Valéry, Gide, Sartre, Camus, but also Zola and Voltaire as a doctoral student had a major influence. “France awoke my sensibilities,” he noted in 1963, and the Parisian school was evident in the elegant, sophisticated writer with the mandatory cigarette right to the end.

Via Portugal, where he became a persona non grata after a film about the dictator Salazar, in 1965 he reached Brazil which became his true great love and which he vis-

ited 13 times in total for long and short stays. Here, he also produced the reportages that are still relevant today, which were published in 2016 in the posthumous volume “Das Entdecken erfinden”. He found inspiration for books such as the 1979 novella “Wunderwelt” in which a little girl found dead is given the gift of a life not lived through literary means. Loetscher had a strong interest in poor, working-class and rural Brazil and much less in the glitz of Rio de Janeiro. However, he created a monument to an urban metropolis with another text in the giddy America novel “Herbst in der Grossen Orange” produced during his time as a poetics lecturer in Los Angeles in 1979/80. “War meine Zeit meine Zeit” was published a few days after his death on 18 August 2009. This is a book in which Loetscher recounts his life on the rivers of the world in eloquent, virtuoso fashion, once again powerfully documenting the brilliant way in which the much-travelled Swiss was the only genuine global author of his generation.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: Hugo Loetscher’s works are available in German from Diogenes, Zurich.

CHARLES LINSMAYER IS A LITERARY SCHOLAR AND JOURNALIST IN ZURICH



Photo: Yvonne Bähler

“I lived in an age when one became aware that we would have to ensure we had enough air to breathe. The climate is not something that simply exists but is instead determined by us. I learned about the gastric-brooding frog when it died out, and I am apparently partly responsible for whether rhinos live in the rivers in Sumatra... Am I as a prehistorian to become a co-creator of a world that we are creating by saving it?”
(Taken from “War meine Zeit meine Zeit”, Diogenes, Zurich 2009)

Winter camp for children aged 8 to 14

Whether skiers or snowboarders, novices or at an advanced level, 8 to 14-year-old Swiss children abroad will have a great time at our winter camp.

Winter camp in Sedrun (Grisons):

Date: Wednesday, 28 December 2016 until Friday, 6 January 2017

Number of participants: 42

Cost: CHF 900 camp fee

Ski or snowboard hire: around CHF 150

Registration deadline: 15 October 2016

Registration

The exact details of the winter camp and the registration form can be found from 15 September 2016 at <http://sjas.ch/en/camps/>. Reduced contribution rates will be granted in justified cases. The form required can be requested on the registration form. We would also be pleased to post you our information brochure on request.

Information:

Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad (FYSA)

Alpenstrasse 26

3006 Berne, SWITZERLAND

Tel. +41 31 356 61 16

Fax +41 31 356 61 01

Email: info@sjas.ch

www.sjas.ch

Free participation in young people's ski camp!

Six hundred children aged 13 and 14 will enjoy a winter sports week free of charge from 1 to 8 January 2017 in Lenk in the Bernese Oberland for the 76th time. The 600 draw winners will include 25 Swiss Abroad.

A further chapter in the history of ski camps for young people (Juskila) will begin on 1 January 2017 when 600 girls and boys aged 13 and 14 will travel from all over Switzerland by special train to Lenk in Simmental. For the 76th time Swiss-Ski and its partners are holding Switzerland's largest winter sports camp. This time it is the turn of children born in 2002 and 2003.

Anyone wishing to take part in the ski camp for young people (Juskila) must be able to speak at least one of Switzerland's national languages (German, French or Italian). The camp places will be awarded through a prize draw, with the prize being participation in the camp including winter sports lessons, food and accommodation. Parents are responsible for organising and funding the outbound and return journeys. The 25 Swiss Abroad who have won a place will be announced at the end of September.

Coupon for the draw: JUSKILA Lenk (1 to 8 January 2017)

Please complete in clearly legible block letters.

First name: _____ Surname: _____

Street: _____

Postcode: _____ Place: _____

Country: _____ Date of birth: _____

Name of parent/legal guardian: _____

Girl Boy

Commune of origin in Switzerland (see passport/ID): _____

Email address of parents: _____

Tel. no. of parents: _____

Type of sport: Alpine skiing Cross-country skiing Snowboarding

Only tick one! The type of sport cannot be changed once the draw has taken place.

Language of child: German French Italian

Signature of parent/legal guardian: _____

Signature of child: _____

Send the coupon and a copy of the Swiss passport of one parent or the child by 15 September 2016 (date of receipt) to:

Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad (FYSA), Alpenstrasse 26, 3006 Berne, SWITZERLAND

Information:

Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad (FYSA)

tel. +41 31 356 61 16, fax +41 31 356 61 01

info@sjas.ch, www.sjas.ch



Stiftung für junge Auslandschweizer
Fondation pour les enfants suisses à l'étranger
Fondazione per i giovani svizzeri all'estero
Fundazioni per giuovens svizzers a l'ester

IMPRINT:
"Swiss Review", the magazine for the Swiss Abroad, is in its 42nd year of publication and is published in German, French, Italian, English and Spanish in 14 regional editions. It has a total circulation of 400,000, including 165,000 electronic copies. Regional news appears four times a year. The ordering parties

are fully responsible for the content of advertisements and promotional inserts. This content does not necessarily represent the opinion of either the editorial office or the publisher.
EDITORS: Marko Lehtinen (LEH), Editor-in-Chief; Stéphane Herzog (SH); Marc Lettau (MUL); Jürg Müller (JM); Peter Zimmerli (PZ), responsible for

"news.admin.ch", Relations with the Swiss Abroad, FDFA, 3003 Berne, Switzerland
TRANSLATION: CLS Communication AG
LAYOUT: Joseph Haas, Zürich
PRINT: Vogt-Schild Druck AG, 4552 Derendingen
POSTAL ADDRESS: Publisher, editorial office, advertising: Organisation of the

Swiss Abroad, Alpenstrasse 26, 3006 Berne, Tel.: +41313566110, Fax: +41313566101, Postal account (Swiss National Giro): 30-6768-9. Email: revue@aso.ch

COPY DEADLINE for this edition: 15.06.2016

All Swiss Abroad who are registered with a Swiss representation receive the magazine free of charge. Anyone else can subscribe to the magazine for an annual fee (Switzerland: CHF 30 / abroad: CHF 50). Subscribers are sent the magazine direct from Berne. www.revue.ch

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please advise your local embassy or consulate. Do not write to the editorial office in Berne.





Dual education – an apprenticeship in Switzerland

Johann Schneider-Ammann, President of the Swiss Confederation, continually highlights the success of Switzerland's dual education system: "Its focus on application and freedom of choice provides young people with high-quality training and makes a major contribution to the low level of youth unemployment in Switzerland. Vocational training based on the voluntary participation of companies is increasingly attracting interest internationally."

Professional apprenticeships, known as dual education, take place at two places of learning – at the company and at a vocational college – and generally take three to four years. Similar systems of vocational education exist in Germany and Austria. Professional apprenticeships are the most common form of training in Switzerland after compulsory education. Around two thirds of all young people undertake an apprenticeship. They can choose between 200 apprentice careers recognised by the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) and acquire the knowledge required for a specific career. The youngsters are equipped for the world of work after completing the training and passing the final examination that leads to the Federal VET Diploma. There are various options for education and training, such as the vocational baccalaureate and a subsequent university degree at a university of applied sciences. Admission to traditional universities is also an option with additional qualifications.

The biggest hurdle is at the beginning. Young people have to determine where their interests lie and which vocational training they are best suited to. They must then apply independently for an apprenticeship. This is not always easy for young Swiss Abroad. The apprentices receive a small salary during their training. Grants may be applied for in the case of difficult financial circumstances where parents are not able to pay for the training. Young Swiss Abroad who undertake their training in Switzerland and therefore live away from their parents' home and face higher costs also sometimes depend on such financial support from their home cantons.

educationsuisse provides apprentices and students with support in filing grant applications. educationsuisse also provides advisory consultations in cooperation with the Berne-Mittelland BIZ careers and study advisory centre.

For further information on grants, careers advice and any questions about education and training in Switzerland, please contact the staff at educationsuisse at info@educationsuisse.ch.

RUTH VON GUNTEN, EDUCATIONSUISSE



www.educationsuisse.ch

Youth Service offers

Federal Youth Session in Berne, 10/11 to 13/11/2016

This year's Youth Session for 200 young people will take place from 10/11 to 13/11/2016. Several places are reserved for the Swiss Abroad. During our workshops we ensure participants are well prepared, providing information about Swiss politics, political processes and opportunities for participation.

New Year's ski camp for young people in Valbella (Grisons), 27/12/2016 to 6/1/2017

A programme rich in variety in the mountains of Grisons. Skiing or snowboard lessons in small groups, a varied fringe programme and the chance to make new friends. Supervision by a well-trained team of leaders. This offer is aimed at young people aged 15 to 18.

Winter sports camp for adults in Grächen (Valais), 27/12/2016 to 6/1/2017

We are organising a camp for adults over the New Year period for the first time. Young and young-at-heart Swiss Abroad (aged 18 and over) will enjoy a winter camp in Grächen, Valais.

German course in Berne, 9/1 to 20/1/2017

Four lessons in the morning, activities in the afternoon and accommodation with a host family. Improve your knowledge of one of Switzerland's four national languages. There is also an opportunity to learn basic Swiss German at a workshop.

Subsidy

Funding is available to the Youth Service to provide support for financially disadvantaged participants. The application form can be obtained by email from youth@aso.ch.

Registration start date

Registration for the winter sports offers begins on 15 September 2016. Further information on the offers and registration can be found on our websites:

www.aso.ch und www.swisscommunity.org.

Offers from partners:

Schweizer Jugend Forscht (Swiss Youth in Science):

<http://sjf.ch/nationaler-wettbewerb/nationaler-wettbewerb-2017/>

Easyvote popular votes in September 2016): <https://www.easyvote.ch>

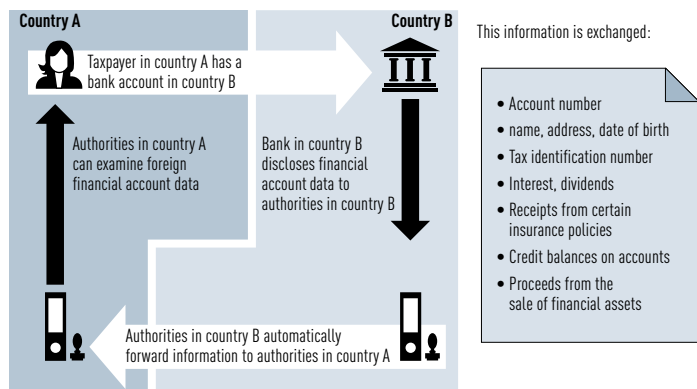
Automatic exchange of information (AEI): the new world of fiscal transparency

Switzerland has committed to implementing the global standard for the automatic exchange of information (AEOI). As a result, the Swiss Abroad face greater fiscal transparency.

About 100 countries have already committed to implementing the AEOI standard. The aim of the new regulations, which Switzerland helped draw up, is to prevent cross-border tax evasion. The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) approved the global AEOI standard back in 2014. The AEOI is due to be introduced in Switzerland from 2017 onwards so that the first data can be exchanged with selected jurisdictions in 2018.

The AEI will have no impact on domestic banking secrecy. However, it will affect Swiss citizens who live abroad and have bank accounts in Switzerland. Swiss tax authorities will therefore be obliged to report relevant information to the respective tax authorities abroad. If, for instance, a Swiss citizen living in Paris has an account at a Swiss bank in Zurich, the bank will report information about his financial accounts to the Federal Tax Administration, which will then pass this information on to the French tax authorities. The diagram below clarifies the way in which the AEOI works.

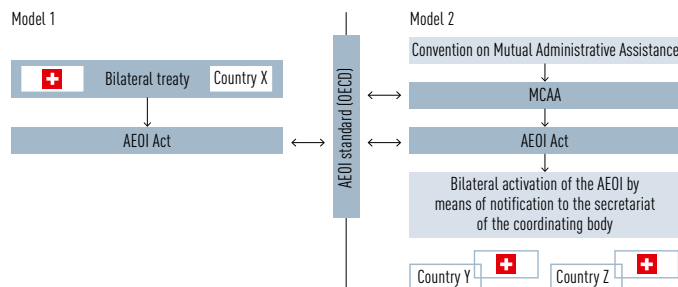
How the automatic exchange of information works



Two forms of implementation

The first group of countries (the “early adopters”) will start exchanging data from 2017. Switzerland, which starts in 2018, belongs to the second group. There are basically two models for implementing the AEOI: either bilateral national agreements are concluded to define implementation or the Multilateral Competent Authority Agreement (MCAA) is applied. This is based on the Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters, signed by the Council of Europe and the OECD. The MCAA is designed to ensure that its signatories implement the AEOI bilaterally (cf. diagram)

The two models for AEOI implementation



AEOI with partner countries

To date, Switzerland has signed declarations with Australia, Jersey, Guernsey, the Isle of Man, Iceland, Norway, Japan, Canada and South Korea on the basis of the MCAA (model 2). The Swiss parliament has already approved the introduction of the AEOI with Australia. The agreements with the other countries will be put to the Federal Assembly for approval later this year.

In May 2015, Switzerland and the EU signed an agreement to introduce the AEOI. This applies to all 28 EU Member States and replaces the agreement with the EU on the taxation of savings income, which has been applied since 2005. This corresponds to model 1 (cf. diagram). Parliament has approved this agreement. Just as with the AEOI agreements mentioned above, Switzerland and the EU intend to start collecting account details in 2017 and exchange information from 2018 onwards. Switzerland also plans to implement the AEOI with other countries.

Special situation with regard to the US

Swiss citizens living in the United States will be subject not to the AEOI but to the FATCA (Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act) agreement between Switzerland and the US. This agreement stipulates that financial institutions in Switzerland must report account information directly to the US tax authorities with the relevant customer’s consent. Last year, the Swiss State Secretariat for International Financial Matters (SIF) began negotiating a new FATCA agreement with the US on reciprocal data exchange.

Regularisation of the past

To enable their taxpayers to make a smooth transition into the AEOI, many countries offer them an opportunity to make a voluntary self-declaration. This enables them to regularise previously untaxed assets and prevent or reduce potential fines. Further information on this can be obtained from the responsible tax authorities in your country of residence. STATE SECRETARIAT FOR INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL MATTERS (SIF)

The single point of contact: your first port of call for questions and concerns

The FDFA has expanded its services for the Swiss Abroad and now has a central information office. This “single point of contact” enables Swiss citizens as well as institutions and companies abroad to obtain information and advice quickly and competently.

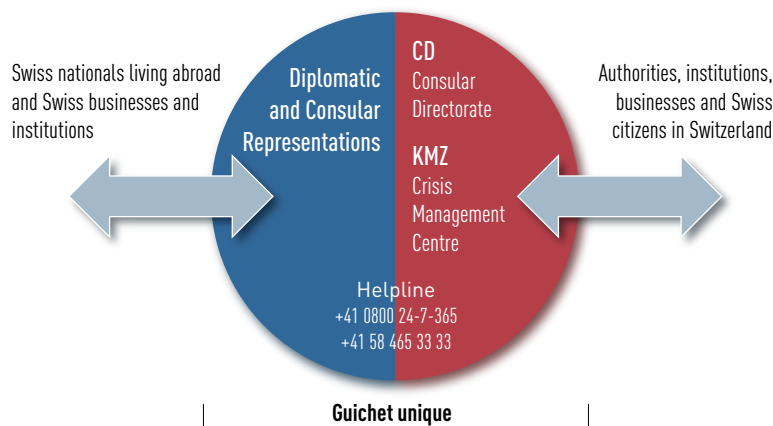
PETER ZIMMERLI

The canton of Neuchâtel pioneered this type of service. For the past 11 years, it has successfully operated a single point of contact, or Guichet Unique, which is greatly appreciated by the general public because it helps people meet their administrative obligations. The canton’s idea of offering its services in a completely paperless form appealed to the majority of its inhabitants, even though the use of the central point of contact is not obligatory. It is therefore hoped that the FDFA’s single point of contact will be equally popular with the Swiss Abroad, even though their different needs mean that the service has a completely different structure as well as additional aims to those of Neuchâtel. That is to say, the focus is not only on offering paperless services but also on facilitating access to information.

Because of rapidly increasing mobility and the growing complexity of various issues, the Federal Government has realised that the various administrative bodies need to work together more closely. That’s why the FDFA created the Consular Directorate (CD) in 2011. This body unites key agencies that provide services exclusively to the Swiss Abroad and their institutions. The CD thus brings together the consular services that the

FDFA has tailored specifically to its target audience’s needs to provide the best possible public service. It runs a hotline that is operational 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. It has also taken over responsibility for welfare issues for the Swiss Abroad from the Federal Office of Justice and the emigration advice service from the State Secretariat for Migration.

range of issues that have a direct link to their home country Switzerland – from AHV to education and training, military service, tax and voting to their marital status. Often enough, only specialists can answer these questions properly. However, it is hard to access these specialists from abroad, often simply because of the time difference. What’s more, it is



Through the combination of foreign representations, the helpline and the Consular Directorate, the FDFA has created a platform that provides Swiss citizens at home and abroad as well as authorities at the local, cantonal and federal level with expert advice on various issues relating to the Swiss Abroad. These also include topics that are not part of the CD’s remit. After all, our compatriots abroad have to deal with a broad

not always obviously immediately who is responsible for what.

This is where the single point of contact can help. The Swiss Abroad can direct their concerns to either the Swiss representation responsible for their place of residence or the FDFA helpline. And they can do so either by telephone or in writing by post or email. Most questions are answered directly by staff at the representation or helpline. More com-

HELPLINE FDFA

© from Switzerland +41 800 24 7 365
 © from abroad +41 58 465 33 33
 E-Mail: helpline@eda.admin.ch
 Skype: [helpline-eda](https://www.skype.com/invite/HELPLINE-EDA)

Travel advice

www.eda.admin.ch/reisehinweise
 © from Switzerland +41 800 24 7 365
 © from abroad +41 58 465 33 33
www.twitter.com/travel_edadfae

itineris

Online registration for Swiss citizens travelling abroad
www.fdfa.admin.ch/itineris



Plan well.
 Travel well.

App available for free for iOS and Android

plex questions are transferred to specialist agencies. The single point of contact thus acts as the central first port of call.

The single point of contact plays an important role in ensuring that we have a coherent and comprehensive policy for the Swiss Abroad, and provides services that meet the needs of this group of people. It makes it easier for Swiss citizens as well as companies and institutions abroad to contact Swiss authorities on all issues. By setting up this central first port of call, the Federal Government is taking account of increasing mobility and reacting to the special needs of Swiss citizens living abroad.

Although they put the Federal Government in a good position to meet current demands, the new instruments will have to be consolidated and expanded in the coming years. The introduction of an online counter, which we reported on in our April issue, takes the Federal Government a step closer to providing a paperless consulate. Through the single point of contact and the online counter, the FDFA offers modern tools that enable Swiss citizens to get access to information and services more easily. Even so, this doesn't mean that interpersonal contact will be scrapped entirely. Our staff abroad will still be pleased to meet and assist you at your embassy or consulate general.

PETER ZIMMERLI IS RESPONSIBLE FOR RELATIONS WITH THE SWISS ABROAD

Responsible for the FDFA official communications:
Peter Zimmerli, Relations with the Swiss Abroad
Bundesgasse 32, 3003 Berne, Switzerland
Tel. +41 800 24 7 365 or +41 58 465 33 33
www.eda.admin.ch, email: helpline@eda.admin.ch

Publications

Politorbis 62 and 63

There are two major anniversaries in 2016: firstly, the OSA celebrates its centenary. Secondly, it was 50 years ago that the Federal Government was given a constitutional mandate to strengthen ties both among the Swiss Abroad and to their home country. That's reason enough for the FDFA to dedicate an entire publication to issues relating to the Swiss Abroad.

With the aid of long-term partnerships with private institutions, the Swiss Federal Government has gradually taken on the role it currently has, a role which was enshrined in the 2015 Swiss Abroad Act. The Federal Government's activities are guided by two tried-and-tested basic princi-



ples that have always served emigrating Swiss citizens themselves as a leitmotif: personal responsibility and solidarity.

Politorbis number 62 and the associated online dossier number 63 consider the profile of the Swiss community abroad today from various perspectives, covering the entire range of the Federal Govern-

ment's activities for the benefit of the Swiss Abroad.

The publication can be downloaded free of charge at the following addresses: www.eda.admin.ch/publikationen. Printed copies of number 62 can also be ordered by writing to: publikationen@eda.admin.ch.

Important notice

Please notify your Swiss representation of your email address(es) and mobile telephone number(s) and/or any changes to these and register at www.swissabroad.ch to ensure you do not miss any communications ("Swiss Review", newsletter from your representation, etc.). The latest issue of "Swiss Review" and previous issues can be read and/or printed out at any time at www.revue.ch. "Swiss Review" (or "Gazzetta Svizzera" in Italy) is sent free of charge to all households of Swiss Abroad who are registered with an embassy or consulate general, either in printed format or electronically (via email or as an iOS/Android app).

Federal referenda

Voting proposals are determined by the Federal Council at least four months before the voting date.

Further voting date: 27 November 2016.

All information on the proposals (voting pamphlets, committees, recommendations of Parliament and the Federal Council, electronic voting, etc.) can be found at www.admin.ch/votes.

Popular initiatives

The following new federal popular initiatives had been launched at the time of going to press (deadline for the collection of signatures in brackets):

- "For a reasonable paternity leave – for the benefit of the whole family" (24.11.2017)

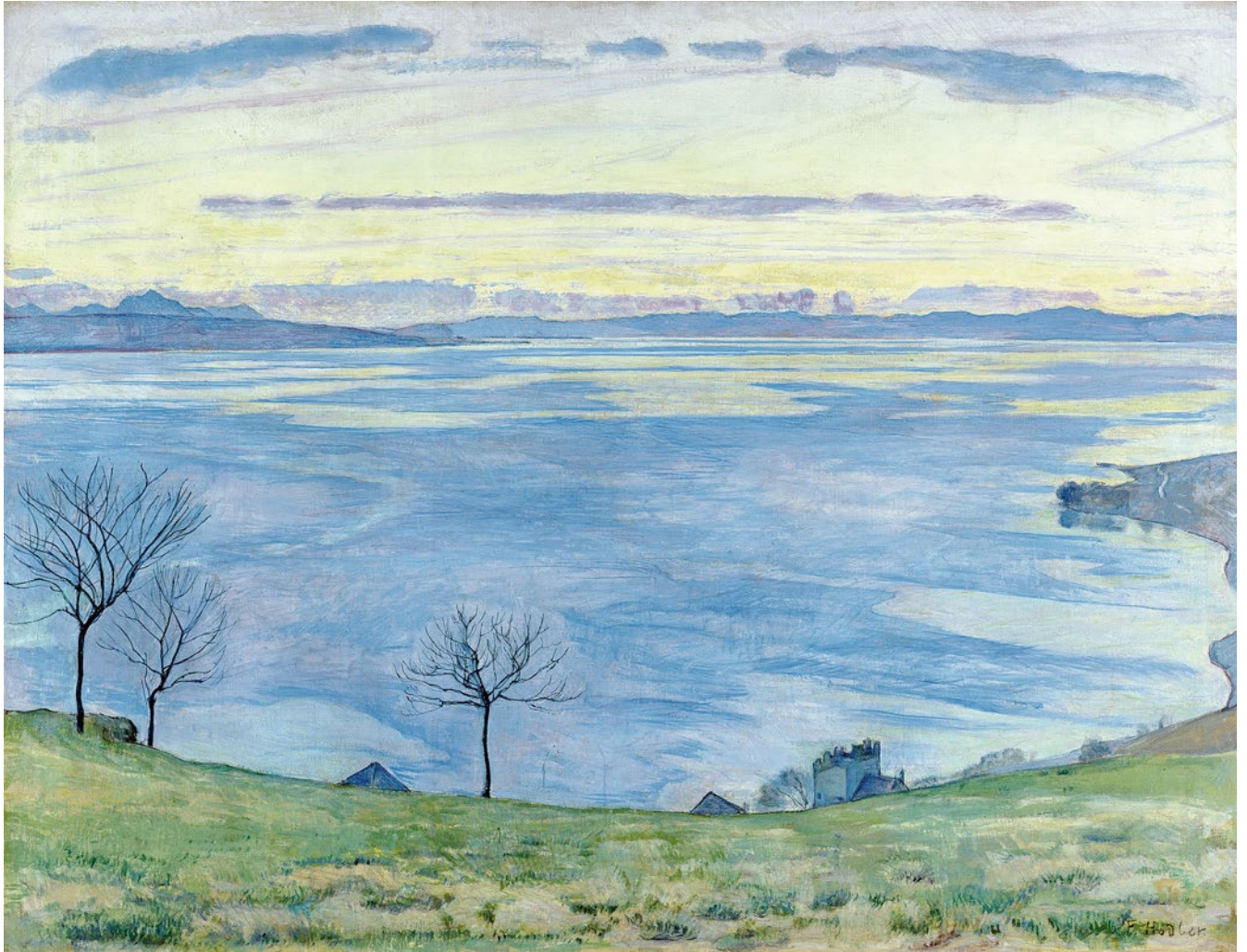
The list of pending popular initiatives can be found at www.bk.admin.ch under Aktuell > Wahlen und Abstimmungen > Hängige Volksinitiativen.

www.swissworld.org

Your Gateway to Switzerland



Switzerland.



Ferdinand Hodler: "Evening over the Lake of Geneva" (1895).

From Falstaff to systematic colour series

The Kunsthaus Zürich houses one of Switzerland's most significant collections of art. It extends from the 15th century to the present and includes around 4,000 exhibits, among them Swiss art from various periods. LEH

www.kunsthau.ch



Heinrich Füssli: "Falstaff in the Laundry Basket" (1792).



Franz Gertsch: "Franz and Luciano" (1973).



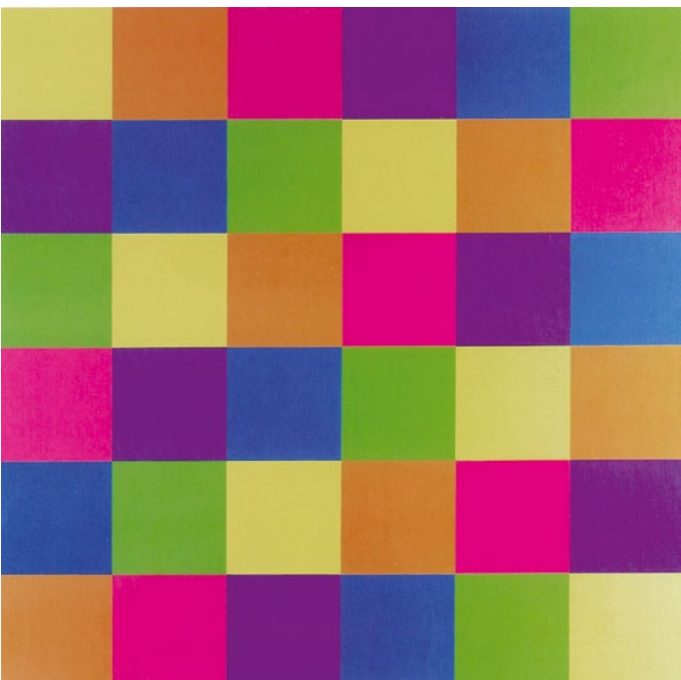
Cuno Amiet: "Sunspots" (1904).



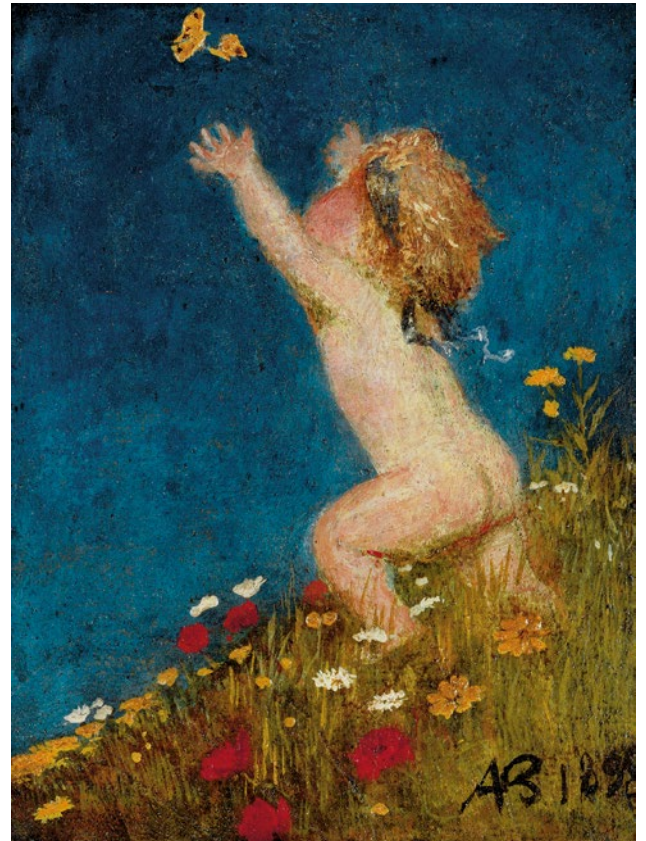
Albert Anker: "Two Girls Sleeping by the Stove" (1895).



Félix Vallotton: "Bathers on a Summer Evening" (1892).



Richard Paul Lohse: "Complementary Groups Formed by Six Horizontal Systematic Colour Series" (1950).



Arnold Böcklin: "Putto and Butterfly" (1895).

150 Swiss portraits



CHARLES LINSMAYER:
"Gesichter der Schweizer
Literatur".
Elfundzehn Verlag, 2015;
311 pages; CHF 43.90

Who is familiar with names like Lore Berger or Jonas Fränkel? Probably only a few people in the know or bookworms. It is a different story with Robert Walser or Max Frisch, names probably all of us have heard at some point in our lives, and whose works we may well also have read if we went to school in Switzerland.

A book has now been published containing 150 brief profiles of figures on the Swiss literary scene from all four language regions from the 19th century to the present day. Charles Linsmayer puts the authors in alphabetical order and dedicates two pages to each of them. All the entries are structured

in the same way. In concise terms, Linsmayer outlines their literary works and provides a brief overview with short biographical details and distinctive features. He has an excellent understanding of how to put works into their historical and literary context. With original inserts, Linsmayer also allows readers to explore the texts directly. A concise bibliography completes each profile.

The book is a reference work, but also a lucky bag of Swiss literature. It includes poets and writers who have long since been forgotten and whose works are out of print. However, it also features contemporary authors, such as Melinda Nadj Abonji, whose novel "Tauben fliegen auf" (Falcons without Falconers) won the German and Swiss Book Prizes in 2010, and Adolf Muschg, one of the greatest writers and thinkers in modern-day Switzerland.

About Werner Renfer, who died in 1936, Linsmayer writes: "What a subtle writer and great, incredibly modern poet he is." This immediately provides inspiration to read his poems. The same goes for Anita Siegfried, born in 1948. Of her novels Linsmayer notes: "She achieved a further peak in her writing in 2007 with 'Die Schatten ferner Jahre'."

The profiles are wonderfully complemented by photos taken at the Hottingen literature debates by Manfred Utzinger and author photographs by Yvonne Böhler. The book is highly recommended for anyone who is or would like to be inspired by Swiss literature.

Charles Linsmayer, born in 1945, lives in Zurich and is a leading Swiss literary scholar. After studying in Zurich and Berlin, he worked as a grammar school teacher, publishing editor and journalist. Still an active literary critic, publicist and cultural mediator, he also writes regularly for "Swiss Review".

RUTH VON GUNTEN

Soul for newcomers



SEVEN:
"BEST OF 2002-2016",
SONY MUSIC

His soft but equally cool look is familiar to the Swiss, as is his passionate but controlled voice. Seven has been influential in Swiss soul music for years, an equally impressive and contradictory figure, always likeable but somehow unapproachable and impenetrable. For some his brand of soul is movingly beautiful, for others it is too clean-cut and simply too Swiss.

In any event, the 37-year-old singer from Wohlen is celebrating 14 years of major success at home. He has released ten studio albums to date, which, from the second album onwards, have all made the charts. His latest release "Back Funk Love Soul" even topped the Swiss charts in 2015. He has also produced three live albums over the years, which highlight Seven's incredible on-stage qualities.

His ability is plain to see, and the artist is taking stock of his achievements for the first time with a "Best Of" album. It contains 19 tracks from 2002 to 2016, including the stand-out singles from "Synthetic Soul" to "Walking With You" as well as two intriguing duets with Omar and Talib Kweli as well as a less appealing collaboration with Stefanie Heinzmann. For dyed-in-the-wool fans, the album is also available as a double CD with 16 bonus tracks, some of which are live or unplugged.

The new "Best Of" album is a coherent compilation for anyone who has only just discovered Seven or who would like to, and there have probably been quite a few in that category lately. Last spring, the performer appeared on the German programme "Sing meinen Song – das Tauschkonzert". In the show, which aired on Vox, singers from different genres met at a remote location to interpret the songs of the others artists in their own way – with a backing band but no audience.

This enabled Seven to attract major attention beyond Switzerland for the first time. His recent albums were released in Germany, but the public has only really become aware of him now. In light of this, the timing of the release of the "Best Of" album is surely no coincidence. It is probably intended to open up the German market and could ultimately mark the beginning of a new chapter in Seven's career.

MARKO LEHTINEN

Developments in energy policy

In future, renewable energies like solar and wind power and new hydroelectric power plants won't be the only projects that will qualify for subsidies in Switzerland. Following a decision by the Council of States in its summer session, so too will existing major hydroelectric power plants. Hydroelectric power plants receive a "market premium" for any electricity that they must sell at below production cost. The National Council will reconsider the entire Energy Strategy 2050 in its autumn session. The electorate will then be asked to vote on the popular initiative "For an ordered withdrawal from nuclear power" on 27 November.

Cutting corporate taxes

After much debate, the National Council and the Council of States finally approved the Corporate Tax Reform III bill in their summer session. The reforms are designed to cut corporate taxes to ensure that Switzerland remains an attractive location for companies. The Social Democrats have already announced their intention to launch a referendum opposing the reforms. The people will therefore have the last word on this controversial issue. The previous bill, Corporate Tax Reform II, which was voted on in 2008, met with considerable public discontent. Announcing the referendum, then Federal Councillor and Finance Minister Hans-Rudolf Merz had failed to inform voters properly that the reforms would cut tax revenues by billions, an omission condemned by the Federal Supreme Court.

Fewer asylum applications than in 2015

The number of applications for asylum in Switzerland has risen for the first time in five months. A total of 1885 people sought asylum in May, 137 more than in April. Nevertheless, the rise is smaller than it was last May, when asylum applications leapt by 60% to more than 2200.

Giulia Steingruber

The 22-year-old Swiss gymnast Giulia Steingruber dominated the women's European Artistic Gymnastics Championships, which were held in Berne in early June. She picked up no fewer than two gold medals; the first in her favourite event, the vault – which she had also won at the 2013 and 2014 European Championships – and then with a fabulous performance in the floor exercises.



"A triumph of art and science, a monument to work and diligence! The barrier which divided nations has fallen, the Swiss Alps have been breached. Countries have moved closer to each other, the world market is open."

SWISS PRESIDENT SIMEON BAVIER, SPEAKING AT THE INAUGURATION OF THE GOTTHARD RAILWAY TUNNEL IN 1882

"Today is an historic day for our country: the completion of the Gotthard Base Tunnel marks the end of a Herculean task."

SWISS PRESIDENT JOHANN SCHNEIDER-AMMANN AT THE OPENING OF THE GOTTHARD BASE TUNNEL ON 1 JUNE 2016

"The new tunnel is more than a transport route, more than a great engineering achievement. It is a symbol of openness and progress because we are connecting people from the North Sea to the Mediterranean."

FEDERAL COUNCILLOR DORIS LEUTHARD

"At a time when some people want to build walls, Switzerland has dug a tunnel that sends an important message."

MATTEO RENZI, ITALIAN PRIME MINISTER

"A marvel of technology."

ANGELA MERKEL, GERMAN CHANCELLOR

"Such constructions are built by people who are willing to travel down a long and arduous road. Political affinities play no part in this."

FORMER FEDERAL COUNCILLOR ADOLF OGI OF THE SVP – BEFORE HUGGING FORMER FEDERAL COUNCILLOR MORITZ LEUENBERGER OF THE SP

"Here comes the national anthem. Now if only we knew the words!"

SWISS PRESIDENT JOHANN SCHNEIDER-AMMANN



Switzerland.
get natural.

#INLOVEWITHSWITZERLAND
since they have three new followers.

The Thompson family



Le Moléson, Fribourg Region

Discover the diversity of Switzerland on the Grand Tour: **00800 100 200 30** or **MySwitzerland.com/grandtour**