

THE MAGAZINE FOR THE SWISS ABROAD

S W I S S

REVIEW

JUNE 2011 / NO. 3



Max Frisch:
New publications mark the 100th birthday of
an outsider

SRG:
Popular with the people, less so with politicians

Fabian Cancellara:
Outstanding cyclist sets ambitious goals



Ronco s. Ascona, Ticino

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An inconceivable reality

DRAMATIC GLOBAL EVENTS SPARKED a foreboding sense of insecurity worldwide in recent months. There were the uprisings in the Maghreb and Middle Eastern countries where societies have revolted against despots and dictators in a way never deemed possible. The revolutionaries, who are predominantly Muslim, are not fighting for Islamic theocracies, but are calling for freedom and democracy. Many observers in the West did not consider them ready for this or even capable of it. The second event with global ramifications was the catastrophe in Japan, where the chain reaction of an earthquake and tsunami triggered the worst-case scenario at the Fukushima nuclear power plant.

The disaster in Japan is of even greater concern to people than the political upheaval mentioned above. The German Federal Chancellor, Angela Merkel, said that the “impossible became possible” in Fukushima. This is perhaps how we would like to see it. However, what happened in Fukushima was not that the impossible became possible but rather that a possibility that we did not want to envisage became a reality. This event has changed our perception of the risks involved, as the catastrophe has shown that the calculations concerning the so-called residual risk and the assumptions regarding its controllability



Barbara Engel

were too optimistic. Schopenhauer called such behaviour “nefarious optimism”.

Fukushima serves as a warning against excessive faith in the progress, feasibility and controllability of technology and nature. The events in Japan will change energy policy worldwide as Fukushima is not Chernobyl. Unlike 25 years ago, dangerous experiments were not being carried out in a scrap reactor in an unpredictable dictatorship. The Fukushima disaster occurred in a technologically advanced country, in a democracy where, until 11 March 2011, the government had constantly affirmed that its nuclear power stations were safe. Major doubts have since arisen about the assurances of other governments on nuclear safety. Even those who previously supported nuclear technology unconditionally are now intently discussing and considering its abandonment and a change in energy policy.

The catastrophe in Japan as well as new scenarios and responsibilities will also have an impact on Swiss politics. The number of people who oppose the construction of new nuclear power stations or believe they are untenable for the future has risen sharply. The change in opinion by many Swiss politicians within days or weeks is clearly explained by the forthcoming elections. While tens of thousands of people in Japan must begin a new life having been permanently driven from their homes by the disaster and forced to live in unbearable uncertainty regarding the long-term consequences of contamination, there is intense speculation in Switzerland about which party will turn “Japan” to its advantage.

Read Heinz Eckert’s article on page 16 onwards to discover how recent developments will influence campaigning for the parliamentary elections on 23 October.

BARBARA ENGEL

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Cover photo: Max Frisch, the most famous Swiss writer of the last century, would have celebrated his 100th birthday in May. (Photo: Suhrkamp Verlag, Berlin).

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Distance from Switzerland

In the March edition of "Swiss Review", Ms Cigall Zitoun, from Israel, wrote that the Swiss abroad should not take part in referenda or elections on account of a lack of knowledge. She is mistaken. I have taken greater interest in affairs at home since being away. I never miss "tovorio". As a masterpiece requires you to stand some distance away to appreciate the finer detail, the same is also true of Switzerland.

WERNER BUCHER, ALMUÑECAR, SPAIN

Opposed to the right to vote and citizenship

I regularly listen to Radio DRS1 and consider myself to be well-informed. I nevertheless think differently to all my relatives and friends who live in Switzerland. This is why I'm also opposed to the right to vote for Swiss abroad. Neither do I support the retention of entitlement to Swiss citizenship down the generations.

VERENA BLENK, BUCHENBERG, GERMANY

"La Suisse n'existe pas" – has it come to this?

Last year I was involved in a matter in Singapore in which I exposed the fact that an official letter by a senior government official did not contain the truth. My work permit was subsequently not renewed after ten years in the country. As I had done no wrong in Singapore, I called upon the Swiss embassy to support me and to mediate. However, the embassy rejected my request on the grounds that any state has the right to expel an undesired person without providing justification. I think it is disgraceful that a Swiss representation can look on without acting while a Swiss citizen suffers an injus-

tice. The embassy's unwillingness to act is consistent with the servile policies pursued by Switzerland in recent times where the government distances itself from the result of a referendum (ban on minarets) and the Federal Council apologises to terrorists (Gaddafi affair). It is time for those who represent Switzerland to remind themselves that our forefathers did not win their freedom by kissing people's feet and for us to start showing some backbone rather than being the soft touches of world politics. If we continue as we are doing, we may one day have to accept that the Swiss Pavilion's shocking slogan at the 1992 World Expo in Seville has become a reality: "La Suisse n'existe pas" (Switzerland does not exist).

JÜRIG WALDER, NEW DELHI, INDIA

SWISS BANKS

The editorial team at "Swiss Review" has received a huge pile of letters from readers over recent months in which Swiss abroad express their disappointment, anger and outrage at the major banks, UBS and CS, and their new charges for Swiss living abroad.

As we have limited space available, we are unfortunately unable to publish all these letters in "Swiss Review". However, we wish to refer you to the two articles on this matter on page 23.

WHAT HAVE RÜTLI, TELL AND GUISAN got to do with Rösti, Toblerone and Swatch? We perceive them all as typically Swiss. In the words of Georg Kreis, they are "reference points of Swiss memory". Kreis, one of Switzerland's leading contemporary historians, takes us on a journey through the topography of Swiss memory in his book of the same name. It leads the reader into an extremely diverse, colourful and sometimes unfamiliar world. It deals with geographical locations, but not exclusively or primarily. "Schweizer Erinnerungsorte" does not concentrate on historical facts but rather on how these are transformed in the collective memory over time. It deals with phenomena such as reality, myth, legend, identity, hotly-contested symbolism and marketing.

Swissness

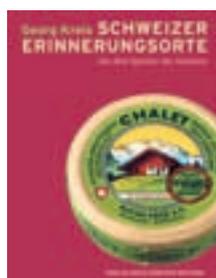
Kreis' 26 milestones of Swiss memory take us into extremely diverse territories. The author features historical figures (Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi, Henri Guisan), mythical and fictional characters (William Tell, Heidi), places (Rütli, St. Gotthard), events (Battle of Marignano) and legendary items that are the embodiment of Swissness (Toblerone, Swiss army knife, Swatch). Kreis does not just look at the much-covered aspect of historical identification but also examines fault lines and controversial issues, such as the crumbling stronghold of banking confidentiality or Kaiseraugst as the pinnacle of the anti-nuclear power movement. And when it comes to Rösti, it is not just the potato dish that is explored, but also the "Röstigraben", the linguistic divide within Switzerland.

This book does not simply go over old ground or recount epic heroic tales. It shows how the crystallisation points of national memory develop over time and how different perspectives can be. For example, it discusses how a German song originally became a typically Swiss one, what chance events were necessary for it to enter national folklore and how it was not until 1915 that it became the "Beresinalied" (Beresina Song), which everyone associates with the sacrificial withdrawal of Napoleonic Swiss soldiers from Russia in 1812.

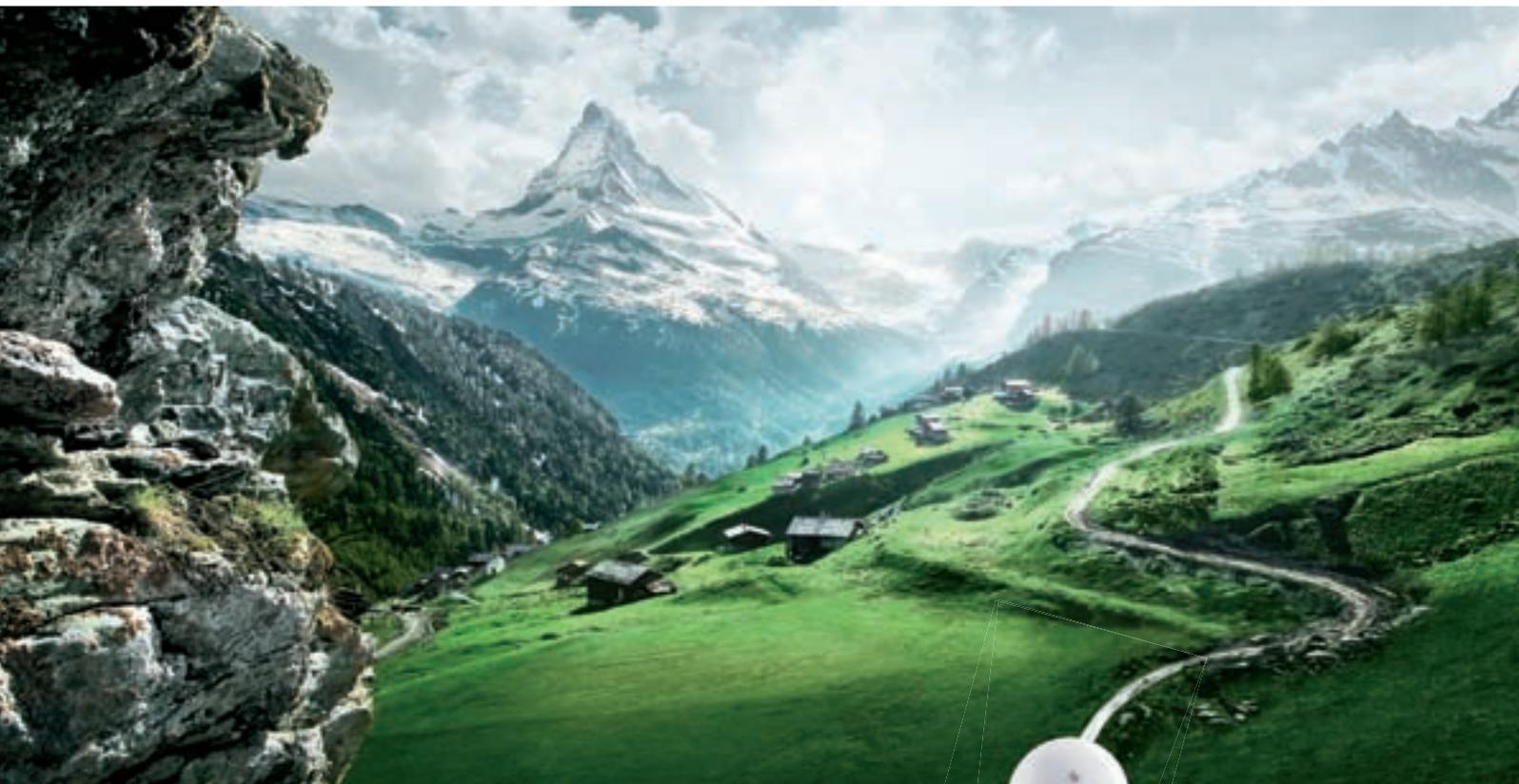
Georg Kreis makes subtle observations about his selection of topics and writes in his theoretical conclusion "that such a book cannot actually be produced under academic standards". Each area of recollection is too volatile, the reference points of national memory come and go, or at least fade, too dynamically. The selections should therefore be understood "in an experimental rather than a dogmatic sense", Kreis writes in the foreword. He chooses the form of the essay, which he combines with analysis and explanation, loosely made associations and a healthy dose of irony to produce a very readable book.

Readers will also greatly appreciate the carefully designed graphic layout and the selection of photographs. This book is certainly an excellent read for anyone who believes they know Switzerland well.

JÜRIG MÜLLER

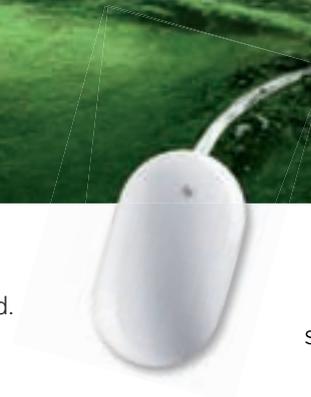


GEORG KREIS. "Schweizer Erinnerungsorte. Aus dem Speicher der Swissness". Verlag NZZ, Zurich 2010. 349 pages, CHF 44



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“Built up and sold off” Until several decades ago, Switzerland defined itself as a nation of freedom-loving farmers. However, it has become one of the wealthiest countries in the world as an industrial nation. This transformation has been based on innovative capability, receptiveness to outside influences, social cohesion and industriousness. “Aufgebaut und ausverkauft” (Built up and sold off) is a fascinating, richly illustrated book on the history of Switzerland as an industrial state. Historian Hans-Peter Bärtschi describes this history in nine chapters, with titles such as “Affluent Switzerland”, “Plundered Heavy Industry” and “Clean Coal – Shadowy Tax Haven”. “Industrial Switzerland – from the 18th to the 21st century, Built up and sold off”.



Zurich 1978: The wooden pumping towers above the Sodafabrik's drill holes sunk in 1914 are listed as an historical heritage site



Riburg 2005: Rheinsalinen's logistics and storage centre with a 31-metre-high wooden dome



Uster 1980: Brewing vats at the Uster brewery with the last steam engine in the Zurich Oberland. Valve engine and cooling compressor from 1897



Kemptthal 1896: Assembly line work in the Maggi factory. Mechanical transmission equipment powered the packing conveyer before electrification



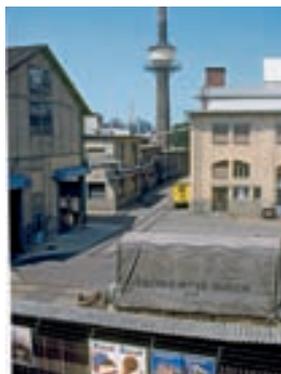
Berne 1952: Assembly line work at Hasler-Ascom, which once had a workforce of 14,000



Fribourg 1979: Manual work on the production line, such as the quality control of marshmallows here at Villars, is still commonplace today at chocolate factories



Biel 1998: Whether for sundials, clocks, pocket watches or wristwatches, accurate timekeeping requires maximum precision from watch and clock manufacturers, as in this photograph taken at Omega



Zurich 1989: Escher Wyss was taken over firstly by Schmidheiny and then by Sulzer



Rheinfelden 1990: The Feldschlösschen bottling plant constructed in 1974 in the famous castle style of this leading brewery

“The national institution of equilibrium”

The Swiss Broadcasting Corporation, or SRG as it is known in German, is extremely popular and its radio and TV programmes are highly regarded in Switzerland. The mandate and political control of SRG, seen as an identity-shaping institution for generations, are the subject of fierce debate. By Hanspeter Spörri

The media influence thoughts and feelings and evoke mental images and moods that become part of our memories, fusing with personal experiences and shaping how we see eras in retrospect. When I was allowed to spend the night in my grandparents' living room in the early 1960s, I would wake up to a world of sputniks, summits and nuclear bomb tests when my grandmother switched on the radio at six in the morning and Radio Beromünster began broadcasting. From my bed I watched the “magic eye” come to life: two green compartments opened up and became lighter and lighter before forming a circle. This indicated that the station was properly tuned in. I was unable to explain it at the time, but the magic eye seemed to pierce the dawn in the room and look directly into my childish dreams and nightmares.

These were tense times. The Second World War was still fresh in the memory of the adults. Many had also lived through the First World War and most feared the outbreak of a third, perhaps final, war. During the Cuban Missile Crisis in autumn 1962, the family gathered at 6.15 a.m. to listen to the news bulletin from the Swiss National News Agency (Depeschenagentur). I can still hear the solemn-sounding voice.

The radio also shaped our outlook on the world with its evening broadcast “Echo der Zeit”. Heiner Gautschy, with his distinctive voice, read the news and reported on Kennedy's proclamation that the USA would land a man on the moon in less than ten years, on the Soviet missile bases found on

Cuba and on the sea blockade imposed by the USA. The family regarded these reports as objective despite their being highly emotive and, as a result, even more powerful than the TV images of that time. Many Swiss people shared their shock at the assassination of the US President on 22 November 1963 with Gautschy.

Intellectual aristocrat appointed head of SRG

The media report on contradictory facts and different viewpoints, conflicts and clashes of interest in the same way today as they did then. They explore events through analysis or comment and they compete for attention, circulation and audience figures. They are therefore sometimes exposed to severe criticism themselves. In Switzerland, this is particularly true of the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation, which was founded in 1931 as the “Schweizerische Rundspruchgesell-

schaft”. SRG, often labelled a state broadcaster by critics, is actually an association currently made up of 20,000 members from all linguistic regions. Anyone can join its various regional companies. These are the trustees for 18 radio and eight TV stations. With over 6,000 employees, SRG is by far the largest electronic media firm in Switzerland.

Roger de Weck has been the head of the corporation since the start of 2011. The new Director General used to be a journalist and editor-in-chief at the “Tagesanzeiger” newspaper in Zurich and the “Zeit” publication in Hamburg. De Weck, who comes from an aristocratic Fribourg family of bankers, has taken clear stands in recent years as a columnist with the “Sonntagszeitung”. He opposed the initiative to ban minarets and never concealed his support for closer ties between Switzerland and the European Union. “It is not in the interests of small and medium-sized countries to make the nation the



A family in front of their radio – a photograph from 1936

measure of all things”, he wrote several days before his appointment as SRG Director General. Supporters of the nationalist-conservative camp, in particular representatives of the Swiss People’s Party (SVP), subsequently saw this as a declaration of war.

Two new heads

De Weck’s appointment also came as a surprise to media analysts. Prior to his appointment, he was not even treated as a potential candidate publicly. It was expected that somebody with business management experience would be thrust into the high-profile position – the SRG Director General is also responsible for the planning and implementation of savings measures.

Rudolf Matter took up his position as Director of SRF, the subsidiary for German-speaking Switzerland, at the same time as de Weck. He too has a journalistic background. Matter has been branded a “super director” because he is responsible for both radio and television. SRG’s radio and television companies were merged at the start of the year as part of a convergence process.

Matter’s predecessor as head of television, Ingrid Deltenre, did not have any journalistic experience. She was constantly criticised, and not always unjustly, for focusing too heavily on viewing figures and for allowing SRG’s channels to become too lightweight and similar to German commercial private

broadcasters. Matter wants to set a different tone. He says that he will also accept a slight drop in audience figures, that relevance rather than sensationalism will take priority, citing as an example the issues featured on “Arena”, the primarily political debate show broadcast every Friday.

Schawinski’s talk show

However, Matter has caused a sensation of his own by appointing Roger Schawinski, the media entrepreneur, one-time pirate radio operator and founder of “Radio 24”, as the presenter of a new talk show. The 65-year-old, who created and produced the consumer show “Kassensturz” on Swiss TV in the 1970s, turned the Swiss media landscape upside down around 1980 with his illegal private radio station, whose transmission equipment was located on a 3000-metre-high mountain in Italy, and forced the licensing of local radio that was financed by advertising. In recent years, he has positioned himself as a vehement critic of SRG and its monopoly on national television. He conducted a private war with de Weck’s predecessor, Armin Walpen, a rough-and-ready man from Valais, who was seen as a power monger. Commenting on Schawinski’s appointment, Matter said: “A prodigal son is returning home.”

However, Karl Lüönd of the “Tagesanzeiger”, who is seen as the grand old man



Roger de Weck, SRG Director General since January 2011

of Swiss journalism, believes that de Weck and Matter’s sensational appointment of Schawinski has embarrassingly sent out the “wrong signal”. To pronounce this often “poorly prepared and obscenely aggressive egotist” as “Switzerland’s finest interviewer” is an affront to SRG employees. Allowing him to return to much-berated SRG shows “poor instinct” for which there is no reasonable explanation. Lüönd then poses a venomous question: “Does this figure represent a new form of nepotism at SRG?”

This may also be interpreted as a tit-for-tat response as, shortly beforehand, Schawinski had accused Lüönd of being in his paymaster’s pocket, having been commissioned by Blocher’s Ems-Chemie to write a favourable company history in book form which was published in “Weltwoche” as an advance publication without any reference to the contractual relationship. However, Lüönd’s accusation of nepotism refers to a pre-existing close relationship between de Weck, Schawinski and Matter, who once lived or worked in Berlin at the same time and apparently became friends.

The SVP, the party with the largest share of the vote, issued an ironic press release on the matter. It said that with the “purchase” of Roger Schawinski a long-standing critic of state TV had been silenced with licence payers’ money



“Unter uns gesagt” on 4 March 1978 with Federal Councillor Kurt Furgler (r) and author Max Frisch became legendary. The presenter was Heiner Gautschy.



Rudolf Matter, Director of SRF

and a figure who clearly expresses what he thinks of the nation's best-supported party, that is to say not a lot, had been appointed as the new political presenter. The SVP therefore demanded: "To ensure that having a presenter with such strong political views does not constantly violate the licence in the area of diversity and neutrality, Swiss television should now invite an SVP representative as a guest on all Schawinski's talk shows to balance the scales."

Cultural battle over "Arena"

Like de Weck, Matter has also wasted no time in antagonising the nationalist-conservative camp, in particular the SVP. The main reason is his criticism of "Arena", German-speaking Switzerland's leading political debate show. According to Matter, more time has been dedicated to confrontation between left and right – in other words, between the Social Democratic Party (SP) and the Swiss People's Party (SVP) – than has been objectively justifiable. He is calling for the show to also cover alternative, solution-oriented viewpoints because solutions to complex political issues in Parliament have often been found through the involvement of the centre parties.

At the end of 2009, the "NZZ am Sonntag" calculated that the SVP had in fact been invited onto "Arena" more often than any other party. SVP representatives appeared precisely 29 times as main guests in 2009; in addition, there were three appearances by the ultraconservative former EDU National Councillor, Christian Waber, who belonged to the SVP faction for a period. And Roger Köppel, editor-in-chief of "Weltwoche", which largely represents SVP views, was invited on three times. The other parties lag behind by some margin: the SP provided 22 "Arena" guests, the FDP 18, the

CVP 17 and the Greens six. The politician who received the most invitations was Christoph Blocher, former Federal Councillor and father figure of the SVP. He alone made five appearances on the show. The presenter, Reto Brennwald, was also continually reproached for a lack of distance from the SVP, even within television circles.

The SVP and its strategist, Blocher, therefore found an ideal platform in "Arena". They won popularity not in spite of the "state broadcaster", which they constantly criticised, but very probably because of SRG's stations. However, Brennwald has now been replaced as presenter.

Where does Switzerland's strength lie?

The SVP has made radical demands concerning the future of SRG. It is calling for "a drastic cut in the range of stations within ten years, with strict restrictions on this public service and a limit to one radio and TV station per linguistic region in addition to corresponding licence fee reductions". "Weltwoche" is supporting its SVP friends with a campaign against left-leaning SRG, denouncing, in typical fashion, the "antidemocratic roots of Roger de Weck", whose devout Catholic family still supports a form of rule that despises and disenfranchises the people. Previous generations obeyed Rome, today's worships Brussels, it continues.

"Who will stop Roger de Weck?" asks editor-in-chief Roger Köppel in one of his "Weltwoche" editorials. He says that Switzerland's strength lies in "open debate and the exchange and assertion of opinions". He claims that de Weck and Matter, the radio and television director appointed by him, want to prevent a "robust political contest" and are "focusing on staging a contrived harmony that does not exist in real Switzerland".

Roger de Weck has not picked up the gauntlet and has refrained from becoming directly involved in the new cultural battle. In an interview with the NZZ, he said: "Our task is to reflect political affairs and not to shape them. SRG journalists should convey polarisation objectively and not add to it for the sake of sensationalism." De Weck sees SRG as "a national institution of equilibrium". He feels that the secret to Switzerland's success is its consideration for minority opinion and constant efforts to achieve a balance of interests. He says that SRG embodies this spirit. Its associative structure assures that it remains independent and not controlled by

political parties, as is the case with Germany's public service broadcaster, "saying nothing of Sarkozy and Berlusconi". De Weck also highlights the "Swiss solidarity" exemplified by SRG. Without this neither French-speaking Switzerland nor Ticino would have radio and TV stations on an equal footing with those in German-speaking Switzerland. Of the CHF 462 generated annually by the licence fee, CHF 202 goes to French, Italian and Romansh-speaking Switzerland.

This is of little interest to the SVP, which is attempting to repress SRG and working hard to strengthen its influence over the media and editorial offices. Following a change of ownership, the "Basler Zeitung" recently fell into its sphere of influence and the once left-liberal "Weltwoche" went over to the nationalist-conservative camp some years ago following several changes of ownership with unclear financial ties.

Decades of conflict

The current wrangling in media politics about the definition and scope of public service broadcasting is taking place at a time already marked by major upheaval. In place of the magic eye on yesteryear's radio set, today there are user interfaces, serving as access portals to a vast number of communication and distribution channels, social networks and communities. Countless magic eyes are now looking directly into our private domain.

"The use of the media is changing rapidly and radically", Rudolf Matter told the specialist media publication "Edito" prior to his appointment. He said: "The reach of radio and television is diminishing. We are seeing rapid growth in multimedia." There can be no doubt that Matter is also thinking of expanding the online services of radio and TV. This is angering the President of the Association of Swiss Media, the former Association of Newspaper Publishers. Hanspeter Lebrument, publisher and chairman of the Board of Directors of Südostschweiz-Medien-gruppe AG in Chur, is calling for an online advertising ban for SRG, arguing that "online is the future of private media". The SVP does not regard Internet services as within the public service remit either. Indeed Blocher's party goes even further. It is calling for SRG to surrender frequencies and radio stations that do not provide a public service, such as special-interest stations, to the private sector.

Two partially overlapping lines of conflict can be identified in the media industry. On the one hand, there is a struggle over the distribution of advertising revenues and the division of roles for individual media between private media companies and SRG. Compromise solutions have always been found in the past because the media companies as well had no interest in the complete liberalisation and privatisation of electronic media – this would also have meant new international competition. On the other hand, there is debate over the journalistic quality and political orientation of electronic media, in other words the political control of SRG. These conflicts are exacerbated by the egos at management level in the media companies. Journalistic and publishing heavyweights, such as Roger Schawinski, Roger Köppel, Frank A. Meyer, SVP National Councillor Christoph Mörgeli and president of newspaper publishers Hanspeter Lebrument, write venomously and often express themselves in a self-opinionated and self-righteous way.

A look at history shows that the conflict of economic interests between publishing companies and SRG – mainly funded by the licence fee (currently CHF 1.1 billion a year) – has always existed. Radio is having a seriously detrimental impact on the interests of the press, wrote the Association of Newspaper Publishers at the beginning of the 1930s

in correspondence with the supervisory authority of the day, the Telegraph Directorate. The publishers believed that radio news should remain just “a supplement to the daily newspaper to prepare for and encourage” the reading of newspapers. The Swiss National News Agency, which produced the news for Swiss radio until the 1960s, was also a member of the Association of Newspaper Publishers. At the start of the Second World War, the NZZ wrote: “The press forms opinion in the democratic state (...) The shorter and more concise radio news is, the more it contributes to maintaining spiritual and political equilibrium.” (*)

Suspected of being leftist

The political conflict has been fought from the outset with varying degrees of intensity depending on the overall political situation. The Association of Swiss Television and Radio, formed in January 1974 and also known as the “Hofer Club”, set itself the task of “tackling the misuse of the television and radio monopoly in terms of information and programme policy”, as it was no longer acceptable that “the media monopoly influences large sections of the population ideologically in a way that not everyone recognises and defames our economic and social system, often severely, through a one-sided selection of news and clearly left-leaning programmes without any reply”. (*)

“Weltwoche” recently presented a similar argument, claiming that the majority of employees at Swiss TV were left-wing. It called for all SRG employees to declare any party membership. However, even “Weltwoche” conceded that most of SRF’s reports were of excellent quality. It said: “The question is whether appropriate attention is given to balance for a monopoly broadcaster. SRF has the power to set the agenda in the nation and determines the political debate.”

It sounds as though there is a hint of resignation among the critics. It is difficult to get the better of SRG. It does its job well, especially in view of the diverse and contradictory requirements of the public. SRG programmes are popular. In republican Switzerland, television stars take on the role performed by the royals in the UK. With love affairs, children and fashion, they gladly provide daily material for the gossip columns and commuter papers. The German Swiss public used SRF’s services for 14.4 hours a week on average in 2010, so before the merger. In television, it occupied 32.6 percent of market share. Its dominance was even greater in radio with 61.7 percent of all listeners tuning into an SRF station. And SRF is aware of its value. Its homepage says that it is “deeply rooted in society” and serves the public with its diverse and high-quality programmes. That is difficult to argue with.

(*) Quotes from: Radio und Fernsehen in der Schweiz, Verlag hier + jetzt, 2000, Baden.



For the political parties, the show “Arena” is the ideal stage for self-promotion and is criticised or praised accordingly. On 16 May 2008, Federal Councillor Eveline Widmer-Schlumpf took on Christoph Blocher

The outsider

Max Frisch, who would have celebrated his 100th birthday in May of this year, always saw alienation as part of existence. The more transient his places of residence, the more at home the author felt. He did not associate the notion of home with a particular country. By Julian Schütt



Max Frisch in Rome, 1965

Returning home was a problem for Max Frisch even before he made his first trip abroad to south-eastern Europe as a 21-year-old in 1933. In a newspaper supplement, he describes a hike in the mountains. His walk back to the valley and civilisation alarmed him: it was as though time had stood still. He passed an uninhabited mountain hut and continued his descent crossing alpine pastures, which seemed deserted, as did the first village he finally reached. As he walked along the village road, it felt as though he was passing a row of graves. There was not a person or an animal in sight. Complete desolation. Here Frisch refers, for the first time, to the fairytale of Rip van Winkle, who returns so late after awakening from his enchanted slumber that he cannot find anyone. This age-old figure of alienation pervades Frisch's entire works. He portrays the Rip-van-Winkle experiences repeatedly, with the narrator wondering why all of a sudden he is walking through the streets "as though I was in a foreign place and unable to understand your language". Consciousness means alienation for Rip van Winkle, as it did for Max Frisch.

Switzerland – a mousetrap

The desire to constantly make a fresh start, to leave old chapters of life behind, to shed one's skin and to become unknown permeates through Frisch's biography and works. Abroad he felt truly alive. Similarly, he could only describe his compatriots with the necessary clarity and inexorability once the Hitler era and the associated entrenchment of Switzerland were over and he was able to travel again. He saw alienation as an inescapable part of consciousness.

Not being able to travel abroad for a decade after 1936 was a hardship for Frisch. "More of a mousetrap than a haven" was his description of Switzerland's position during the war. The country had become an endangered "void between war and peace", or, according to modern historical knowledge, a fissure not casually forgotten that was important to the Axis powers between which Switzerland was sandwiched and which it fatefully accommodated economically and in terms of refugee policy.

Distanced from the events of war

The fact that Switzerland was not involved in any acts of war but remained cloistered as

a spared nation was not without consequence. It resulted in closer ties domestically, which was ultimately counterproductive from a cultural point of view. There was "embarrassing familiarity" (Frisch) to relationships in domestic literary circles, where everyone had already encountered one another "in their slippers and nightcaps". This lack of distance fostered appalling apathy over the long term. Most cultural figures left politics to the politicians in power and focused instead on supposedly more essential matters. Pro-government, army-friendly discourse therefore predominated without any real state pressure. Though, if necessary, the censors of the Swiss government armed with far-reaching powers helped bring any insubordinate voices into line.

Strictly-regulated army life, known as "active service", made the most attentive observers passive and dulled the powers of perception. While there was not exactly a fear of being drawn into the war, there was an increasingly apathetic response to the suffering in other countries, despite or perhaps because of the many exercises and simulated emergency drills. Frisch observed: "The news is becoming boring, a list of cities in the afternoon and evening. People don't even bother looking at the map anymore. With no bloodshed, it sounds like a sports report. There is no screaming, no stench, no numb staring, no wheezing, no burning." It was as though Switzerland had been immunised against the realities of war. Not until "Dienstbüchlein" (1974), a book about his life in the army, does Frisch painstakingly explore what he actually knew about the Nazi period, Hitler's attacks and the annihilation of the Jews. Did the void outweigh everything? No, what stayed with him above all was the recollection of "how the uniform takes away our conscience without anyone recognising it as conscience".

Confrontation with Germany

Literature encountered all sorts of confines during and after the war. It was inadequate. How could the incomprehensible be expressed when it lay beyond our own experiences? There was only one feasible way – writers needed to understand their own limitations. Max Frisch came to this conclusion earlier than many other authors. He went to occupied Germany so often after 1945 that he attracted attention. In

Germany, his work was exposed to a completely different environment to that in Switzerland. Germans reacted with great sensitivity to things that mattered little to the Swiss, and vice versa. Writing in and for both cultures represented a risky undertaking. Most contemporaries did not voluntarily expose themselves to the threat of cross-border misunderstandings. Frisch wrote that one had to be capable of “revealing the reality of our time”. This capability involved depicting various realities while they were still “ardent” objects, and presenting them with their diversity and synchronicity as one constellation that was true at least of the moment. That was essentially what Frisch set out to achieve after the war.

Observed and reported

He did not just travel to Germany, but also to countries destroyed by the Germans, such as Poland, to gain as accurate an impression as possible of the changed state of Europe. His travel behind the Iron Curtain did not go down well, particularly in Switzerland. The state protection authorities began to observe and keep files on him. The “*Neue Zürcher Zeitung*”, with which he had a long association, distanced itself from him, openly pigeonholing him as a Nazi sympathiser and a national traitor.

From this point on, Frisch no longer saw politics as being detached from culture. Quite the opposite, he perceived politics as part of culture and culture as part of politics. He now described his stance as “humanistic socialism”, against dictatorships of all kinds. He became the first German-speaking author to tackle the issue of the nuclear age and its dangers in the 1946 play “*Die chinesische Mauer*” (The Chinese Wall).

NEW PUBLICATIONS

In addition to Julian Schütt’s biography, various publications on Frisch have been brought out in German for the anniversary year.

Beatrice von Matt: “*Mein Name ist Frisch*”, encounters with the author and his work. Verlag Nagel & Kimche, Zurich, 156 pages, CHF 23.90

Daniel de Vin (ed.): “*Max Frisch – Citoyen und Poet*”.

Wallstein Verlag, Göttingen, 128 pages, CHF 30.50
Volker Hage: “*Max Frisch – Sein Leben in Bildern und Texten*”. Suhrkamp Verlag, Berlin, 257 pages, CHF 37.90

“*Nicht weise werden, zornig bleiben*”. A portrait in original recordings (edited by Ingo Schulz), Hörverlag, 2 CDs, CHF 35.20

“*Max Frisch spricht*”, speeches and a chat on the

Europe and the USA

In 1951, he went to the USA for more than a year thanks to a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation, spending several months in New York and San Francisco. Back in Europe, he was annoyed at the snobbery shown towards the USA by artists, architects and intellectuals. The lecture entitled “*Our arrogance towards America*” was a response to all those who wondered why Frisch had chosen to spend over a year in the USA. They expected some kind of juicy justification after his return, which he could not see the need for. This arrogance related to culture in particular. Frisch observed that while there was indeed a lack of a cultural middle class in the USA, in its place was a refreshing uninhibitedness. People did not hide behind unfamiliar knowledge of art history. Frisch wrote that a vast number of Americans were tired of being patronised intellectually by “old father” Europe, which they had to look after, and that this situation was of no benefit to anyone. He embraced a cultural globalisation in this 1953 lecture. He said that the world was starting to become round, not just in terms of knowledge but also human experience. He added that this type of global person would primarily be born in America and that it was only natural that such a person would refuse to see Europe as the intellectual epicentre of the world. Frisch later bought an apartment in Manhattan.

...quickly becomes an emigrant

Did he choose to live abroad – he also spent long periods in Rome and Berlin – in order to write? He certainly chose to do so in order to live. The first part of “*Tagebuch 1946–1949*” (Diary 1946–1949) contains the phrase: “...somehow one is always a

foreigner”, in particular when describing things not experienced personally. And the phrase appears again in the concluding sections in a more radical form: “...one quickly becomes an emigrant.”

During his speech at the Büchner Prize award ceremony in 1958, he spoke at length of a “sense of not belonging”. He said that it was, of course, debatable whether a positive assessment of the emigrant’s situation does not push the compulsive nature of any period of exile too far into the background. The literary results are certainly exciting, the way in which Max Frisch has depicted man’s alienation in post-war society in “*Tagebuch 1946–1949*”, “*Graf Öderland*” (1950/51), “*Stiller*” (1954), “*Homo faber*” (1957) and “*Andorra*” (1961).

The first “diary” ends with the vignette “*Schinz*”, which is about a lawyer of the same name. “*Schinz*” (so it seems) is a common colloquial expression in Switzerland used to confirm that one has also already heard a particular rumour. The Word seems to have got around that something is not quite right with Schinz, he feels ostracised at least. It is he who suddenly realises: “One quickly becomes an emigrant.”

Almost immediately after reading “*Schinz*”, Frisch’s publisher, Peter Suhrkamp, was convinced that it was the draft for a more important work. *Schinz* is in fact a precursor to *Stiller*, the “emigrant in his own country”. Both attract the attention of the authorities as they are suspected of being in contact with subversive elements. Suhrkamp recognised a great deal of Frisch in this: “It seems to me that you are having a personal crisis but that is probably a prerequisite for a productive state”, he wrote to Frisch.

The Cold War produced various emigrants. One of these was Frisch. It happened very quickly or, as he writes in “*Schinz*”: “You see things differently to how they are taught by others; you can’t help it if the newspapers write the opposite...”

It is undoubtedly true that Max Frisch needed to feel like an emigrant in order to write.

JULIAN SCHÜTT, born in 1964, is an author and journalist living in Zurich. His book “*Max Frisch – Biographie eines Aufstiegs*” (Suhrkamp Verlag Berlin) was published this spring.

The party funding debate heats up with elections looming

The parties on the left as well as various experts and international organisations are calling for greater transparency in the funding of parties and electoral campaigns. All such proposals have previously been rejected by a parliamentary majority. However, popular initiatives are now set to help make the breakthrough. By René Lenzin

“The most expensive election campaign of all time” read the headlines of Swiss newspapers at the start of the year as several parties revealed their budgets for the federal elections this autumn. The Christian Democrats (CVP) indicated a sum of three million Swiss francs, three times higher than at the last elections in 2007. For the Free Democrat-Liberals (FDP) the figure was 2.6 million Swiss francs, which has since become over three million. “Eight million Swiss francs would be required for a high-profile campaign”, said Vincenzo Pedrazzini, FDP campaign chief, with five million as the absolute minimum. However, these figures only cover the budgets of the national parties. In addition, there is the expenditure of their cantonal sections and the individual candidates.

No-one knows exactly how much the parties will spend in total. For the 2007 elections, experts put the total election campaign costs at around 50 million Swiss francs. They anticipate the figure will at least double this year, but Switzerland is still a long way off US levels where hundreds of millions of US dollars are spent on the presidential election campaign alone. Yet the cost of political marketing is constantly increasing in Switzerland too and with it the call for greater transparency over funding sources. Political donations are another area in which Switzerland fails to meet international standards on disclosure.

Only the parliamentary group contributions are disclosed

The parties are unable to fund election and referendum campaigns with membership contributions as they bring too little money into the coffers. This also applies to the Social Democrats (SP) and the Greens, which depend more heavily on these sources of income than the conservative parties. They therefore require their representatives in re-

munerated government posts and on the National Council and Council of States to make contributions to party funds. All parties are primarily reliant on donations for their campaigning. However, the origin of this money remains largely unknown as disclosure is not mandatory. The only area in which there is a degree of transparency relates to state contributions to the parliamentary groups in the councils at federal level. Each group with at least five seats on the National Council or Council of States receives an annual basic contribution of 144,500 Swiss francs plus an additional 26,800 Swiss francs per member. In total, this funding recently increased from just under 5 million Swiss francs to around 7.3 million per year.

In recent years, various attempts have been made, mainly by the left-wing parties and the Greens, to introduce greater transparency to party funding. They have called for parties and referendum committees to have to disclose the source of their donations above a certain amount, or for those who reveal the names of their donors to be rewarded with state funding. Another appeal is for parliamentarians to disclose their personal financial position. The supporters of these proposals are annoyed, in particular, at donations from the business world, which are generally only made to the conservative parties. The SP and Greens claim this allows powerful lobby groups, such as the banks and pharmaceutical industry, to wield improper influence over politics.

They are also concerned about the financial might of the Swiss People's Party (SVP). Critics complain that it has three times more funding available for the elections than all the other parties put together – money that is invested in campaigning by extremely wealthy SVP members. This information cannot be verified as the SVP does not grant any inspection of its campaign accounts. But



it must have had funding available for referendum campaigns such as the minaret and expulsion initiatives on a scale that only the powerful Economiesuisse, the umbrella association representing the Swiss economy, could otherwise muster.

Proponents of the disclosure obligation argue that greater transparency is essential to ensure a functioning democracy. They say that the electorate would only have sufficient information to form its opinion if it knew where the money for campaigns came from. The call for transparency is often coupled with the desire for state party funding, a system familiar to many western countries. The differences in donation revenues are balanced out through public contributions, increasing equal opportunities in terms of political competition.

However, it is precisely such state contributions that the opponents of greater trans-



parency use as their main argument. They claim that a disclosure obligation would not only infringe upon the privacy of donors and result in a decrease in contributions but would also inevitably lead to state support of the parties, which is not compatible with the established Swiss principle of having part-time politicians (*Milizprinzip*). Even though there are certainly critics within the conservative camp of the lack of transparency, all previous attempts to shed more light on party funding have been blocked on the basis of this argument.

International criticism

International bodies regularly criticise Switzerland over the lack of transparency on party funding. The Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the non-governmental organisation Transparency International warn that this is

exposing Switzerland to the suspicion of corruption. But is the Swiss political system really corrupt? The problem is “that this question cannot be answered owing to a lack of transparency”, says Martina Caroni, Professor of Public Law at the University of Lucerne. She does not believe that Swiss politics is corrupt, rather that it is open to influence. This is resulting in a loss of basic confidence in a functional system. “The feeling of not being able to trust politicians because they are open to influence is widespread among the electorate”, explains Caroni.

The recently elected Federal Councillor, Simonetta Sommaruga (SP), also seems to have recognised a need for action. She is responsible for such matters as Minister of Justice. As a parliamentarian, she has always supported her party’s call for greater transparency. However, the Federal Council as a whole has so far opposed a disclosure obligation. Sommaruga is therefore adopting a cautious approach and has started by commissioning a report comparing foreign party funding models.

Two committees, which plan to call for transparency through popular initiatives, are making more rapid progress. Firstly, there is that of 31-year-old SVP National Councillor Lukas Reimann, who intended to oblige all parliamentarians to declare their incomes and gifts. Under pressure from his party, which has so far refused any transparency, Reimann is now limiting his proposal to additional income and gifts relating to the political mandate. But as a representative of the Facebook generation, he is standing by the fundamental call for greater transparency. He is also receiving support from other youth parties.

Secondly, SP National Councillors Andreas Gross and Andi Tschümperlin have launched a host of initiative projects. They want to present the people with several variants to increase the chances of referendum success. A minimum variant provides for a disclosure obligation for donations above a certain amount. A second variant would supplement this obligation with an upper donation limit for individuals and companies. The third variant is based on incentives and rewards parties and committees with state contributions if they disclose the source of their donations. Finally, the fourth variant proposes state party funding: parties that disclose their accounts and have at least one

seat on the National Council would receive one or two Swiss francs a year per vote. Gross and Tschümperlin are hoping to have set up a cross-party committee, revised the wording of the initiative and launched the collection of signatures by late summer.

Money is not everything

The intentions of the two Social Democrats are clear. They want to highlight the issues that they consider a problem, namely a lack of transparency and the excessive financial power of the SVP, at the height of the electoral campaign. The SVP is in fact setting a high benchmark and forcing the other parties to increase their budgets. That even includes the Greens, who plan to spend three to four times more on this year’s election campaign than in 2007. However, at 100,000 to 200,000 Swiss francs, the budget of this national party is still very modest.

The recent successes enjoyed by the Greens as well as the Green Liberals show that money is not everything in politics. The parties that win elections are those that give the right answers at the right time or are simply in vogue. Referenda such as those on the custody and statute-of-limitation initiatives show that political success cannot simply be bought. Both proposals were launched by citizens’ committees that had neither significant financial resources nor professional structures, but whose issues were clearly in tune with the times.

However, money can, of course, make the difference between victory and defeat, particularly where referendum results are tight. And while it will not determine general trends in elections, it can at least tip the balance. “If we had the SVP’s budget, we could win two to three percent more of the vote”, says Ueli Leuenberger, President of the Greens. Alongside the Social Democrats, he now at least wants to ensure that the electorate knows where the SVP’s funding comes from. If the planned popular initiatives materialise, the electorate will decide for itself whether this is something that it does indeed want to know.

Will there be a Fukushima effect?

The Greens celebrated major success at the Swiss federal elections after the Chernobyl reactor accident 25 years ago.

It is unclear whether the Fukushima disaster will now also have an impact on the elections in October. The political environment has changed since Chernobyl. By Heinz Eckert

Before the nuclear disaster in the Japanese city of Fukushima, all the polls indicated that the Swiss People's Party (SVP) would be victorious in the federal elections on 23 October. Christoph Blocher's fellow campaigners were sweeping the other parties aside with their manifesto. The debates have primarily focused on refugees from North Africa, immigrants from Eastern Europe, the relationship with the European Union and the increasing pressure to conform, and concordance within the Federal Council. It is as yet unclear whether the political agenda will shift as a result of the catastrophic events in Japan. The Social Democrats, the Greens and the recently formed Green Liberals received a significant media boost after the incident and were able to highlight their already established positions on nuclear power stations. This culminated in a large-scale march against nuclear power during the traditional Easter marches.

CVP Federal Councillor Doris Leuthard was also quick to react as the Swiss energy minister and called for the approval procedures for new nuclear power stations in Switzerland to be suspended immediately. However, she had to play down this demand shortly afterwards as her party is completely split on this issue, as is the FDP. Leading politicians hold differing views on nuclear power in both conservative parties. Whereas Federal Councillor Johann Schneider-Ammann is arguing for the abandonment of nuclear power after lengthy consideration, Georg Bührer, as President of *Economiesuisse*, the umbrella organisation representing Swiss businesses, is advocating the exact opposite. FDP President Fulvio Pelli is managing to present even this internal dispute as a plus point for his party. He says the difference in opinion simply goes to prove that FDP policy is independent of the umbrella organisation for business in Switzerland.

Waiting until the furore dies down

The SVP, which does not usually overlook any major issues, has had very little to say on

this matter. It is leaving its rivals to take up a prominent stance on this delicate issue, probably in the hope that the furore will have died down by the autumn and that the Swiss people will be focusing on other issues again by then. The Greens have evidently benefitted from topical environmental issues several times at elections in the past – in 1987 they benefitted from the Chernobyl disaster, in 2003 from the summer heatwave, which brought environmental concerns to the fore, and in 2007 from Al Gore's film on the climate, which triggered environmental hype worldwide. He helped the Greens in Switzerland achieve their largest ever share of the vote (9.6 %).

It is not clear as to whether there will be a Fukushima effect and, if so, whether this will last until Election Day on 23 October. Although the Greens and Green Liberals emerged as winners at the elections in the cantons of Basel-Landschaft and Zurich at the end of March and beginning of April, experts do not believe that events in Japan had a major impact on these elections. "If there had been strong interest in current events, the turnout would have been higher in both cases", says Lukas Golder of the GFS research institute in Berne. The fact that the red/green camp did not increase its share of the vote overall would also suggest that no Fukushima effect occurred. It was a differ-

ent situation in Germany, where a Fukushima effect was certainly felt at the elections in Baden-Württemberg, but Golder explains this by saying that "the only way people in Germany can express protest is through elections".

The Zurich-based political scientist, Michael Hermann, presents a similar line of argument, indicating that there is a clear difference between referenda on specific policies and elections. "It will undoubtedly be much more difficult now to win the support of the electorate for a new nuclear power station than it was before Fukushima", he says but predicts: "Any Fukushima effect will have further abated by the time of the autumn elections." He goes on to argue that the nuclear issue will be decided at a referendum in Switzerland and not at the elections. In Switzerland, the electorate has rarely sought to lay down a marker for a particular direction or to punish politicians at election time, as is constantly the case in Germany, for example.

No abandonment in sight

One thing is for sure and that is that events in Japan will have an impact on future Swiss energy policy. Just as the accident in Chernobyl spelt the end for the planned nuclear power plant in Kaiseraugst in 1987, a year after the catastrophe, Fukushima will give momentum to the opponents of nuclear power and will help promote alternative energy production. However, powerful business groups have already indicated their opposition to the abandonment of nuclear power. And, as electricity consumption continues to rise in Switzerland and 40% of this is provided by nuclear power plants, it is likely to take some time and involve significant cost before any abandonment can become a reality.



"Nuclear power? No thanks – Electioneering? No thanks!"

Forty years Women's Suffrage

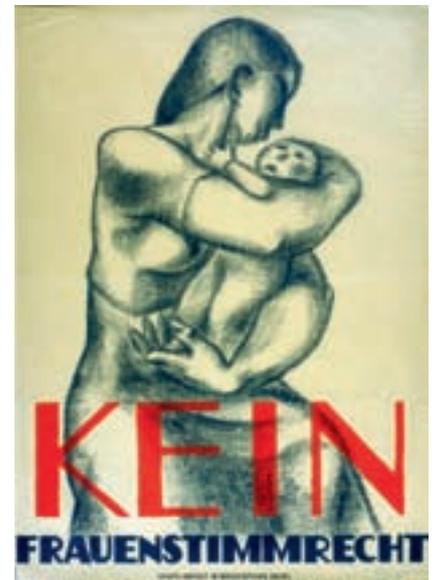
On 7 February 1971, the Swiss men conceded women the right to vote. 66 percent voted Yes, 34 percent No. The women's struggle for equality was long and difficult: from 1866, there were repeated attempts. Posters from the voting campaigns show what an emotional fight it was.



1901



circa 1920



1920



1920



1968



circa 1945



Reorganisation of Switzerland's diplomatic and consular network – set-up of regional consular centres and support measures

Switzerland relies on a network of around 140 diplomatic and consular representations distributed throughout the world to implement its foreign policy and to protect its interests. This is a remarkable network for a nation of Switzerland's size and is ranked ninth worldwide. The allocation of resources within the Swiss network is evaluated on an ongoing basis. Over the past 15 years, these resources have been reduced in Western Europe (closure of representations in Naples, Bordeaux and Dresden, etc.) and in North America (e.g. closure in Houston) in order to meet new requirements relating to the emergence of countries in southern and eastern regions (e.g. opening of representations in Astana, Saint Petersburg and Guangzhou). More recently, budgetary considerations – implementation of savings on personnel and operational expenses – have resulted in the closure of our general consulates in Dusseldorf, Genoa and Edinburgh.

The current revaluations are based on an analysis of the efficiency of the provision of consular services to the Swiss abroad while maintaining or improving the quality of public service. This analysis has resulted in the production of lists of services specific to each representation which has led to the closure of consular sections within embassies in favour of the set-up of regional consular centres (see the list in the box). It showed that the embassies concerned all offer the full range of consular services, including the production of identity documents for civil status matters, attestations and the issuing of visas, etc., in addition to their diplomatic commitments covering political, cultural, economic and commercial matters. These similar products are therefore provided by consular services relatively close to one another individually using key resources in terms of personnel as well as infrastructure and equipment (e.g. equipment for recording biometric data). Our embassy in Bratislava is a good example of the inefficient use of our resources in the context of consular services alone. An output of 42 passports and 3 visas a year does not justify the presence of two full-time transferable employees. The concept of concentrating a complete list of consular services in a single location produces significant economies of scale. It effectively involves the allocation of personnel not disproportionate to but instead in line with the requirements of Swiss citizens in neighbouring regions registered under one roof as well as investment in equipment limited to just one location in a given region. The transfer of administrative units to regional consular centres aims to optimise resources. However, it should be noted that this concentration proce-

sure should not be compared to the closure of representations. The Swiss presence remains strong in the countries where consular services have been relocated. Our ambassadors will carry out their diplomatic tasks and ensure human proximity with our fellow citizens in their countries of residence or accreditation.

However, the FDFA is aware that the closure of representations and the concentration of tasks in regional consular centres have significant implications for the Swiss abroad. This is due to the transfer of certain tasks to other representations, geographical distance and the subsequent loss of the sense of proximity. We understand, for example, that having to travel to have biometric data recorded could be an inconvenience for the persons concerned.

With a view to maintaining and consolidating high-quality public service, the FDFA has therefore provided for various support measures, such as the establishment of a Consular Directorate which aims to deliver public service of the highest standard. The helpline that will respond to telephone calls and e-mails, progressively reaching availability 365 days of the year, is one of the flagship services. With regard to these measures, it should be noted that local personnel will remain in the embassies, breaking away from their consular services to perform certain tasks in close collaboration with the regional consular centres. Transportable services with mobile equipment for recording biometric data will also be set up. It should be noted that anyone can carry out this procedure at any passport office in Switzerland (for example, during a visit to Switzerland) or at any Swiss representation abroad providing consular services in agreement with the representation where the applicant is registered. Drop-in points will be set up for official affirmation of subsistence certificates for Old Age and Survivors' Insurance (e.g. Swiss clubs and honorary consulates). When consular protection becomes necessary, we intend to rely more on our network of honorary consulates which will be made aware of the various aspects of their role – including their proximity to the Swiss community – at a conference that will bring them together for the first time in Switzerland in August 2011. In this regard, it is worth pointing out that the FDFA has opened more than 100 honorary consulates since 1990, in or-

CONSULAR SERVICE (CLOSED)	REGIONAL CONSULAR CENTRE (OPEN)	DATE
Tirana (Albania)	Balkans (Pristina)	01.04.2011
Harare (Zimbabwe, Malawi, Zambia, Angola)	Southern Africa (Pretoria)	01.04.2011
Sofia (Bulgaria)	South East Europe (Bucharest)	15.04.2011
Port-au-Prince (Haiti)	Hispaniola (Saint Domingo)	01.05.2011
Brussels (Belgium)		
Luxembourg (Luxembourg)	Benelux (The Hague)	16.05.2011
Helsinki (Finland)		
Copenhagen (Denmark)		
Oslo (Norway)	Nordic Countries (Stockholm)	30.05.2011
Ljubljana (Slovenia)		
Zagreb (Croatia)		
Budapest (Hungary)		
Bratislava (Slovakia)		Summer
Prague (Czech Republic)	Vienna	2011

der to take account of the development of Swiss interests and the emergence of new requirements, primarily in the developing countries. The FDFA will now ensure the participation of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad in the nomination procedures in order to optimally meet local requirements and the expectations of the Swiss abroad. It goes without saying that the FDFA will support the development of online services. It will also engage in forms of cooperation with states in the Schengen area and intensify its partnership with Austria and Germany in the field of consular protection.

We will keep the readers of "Swiss Review" up to date with future developments regarding the Swiss diplomatic and consular network. This undergoes constant change as its form is determined by the principle of universality in particular (Switzerland aims to establish relations with all countries worldwide), new geopolitical challenges and the protection of Swiss interests in their entirety, including its role of providing services for Swiss citizens. JFL.

POPULAR INITIATIVES:

By the time of going to press, the following popular initiatives had been launched since the last edition:

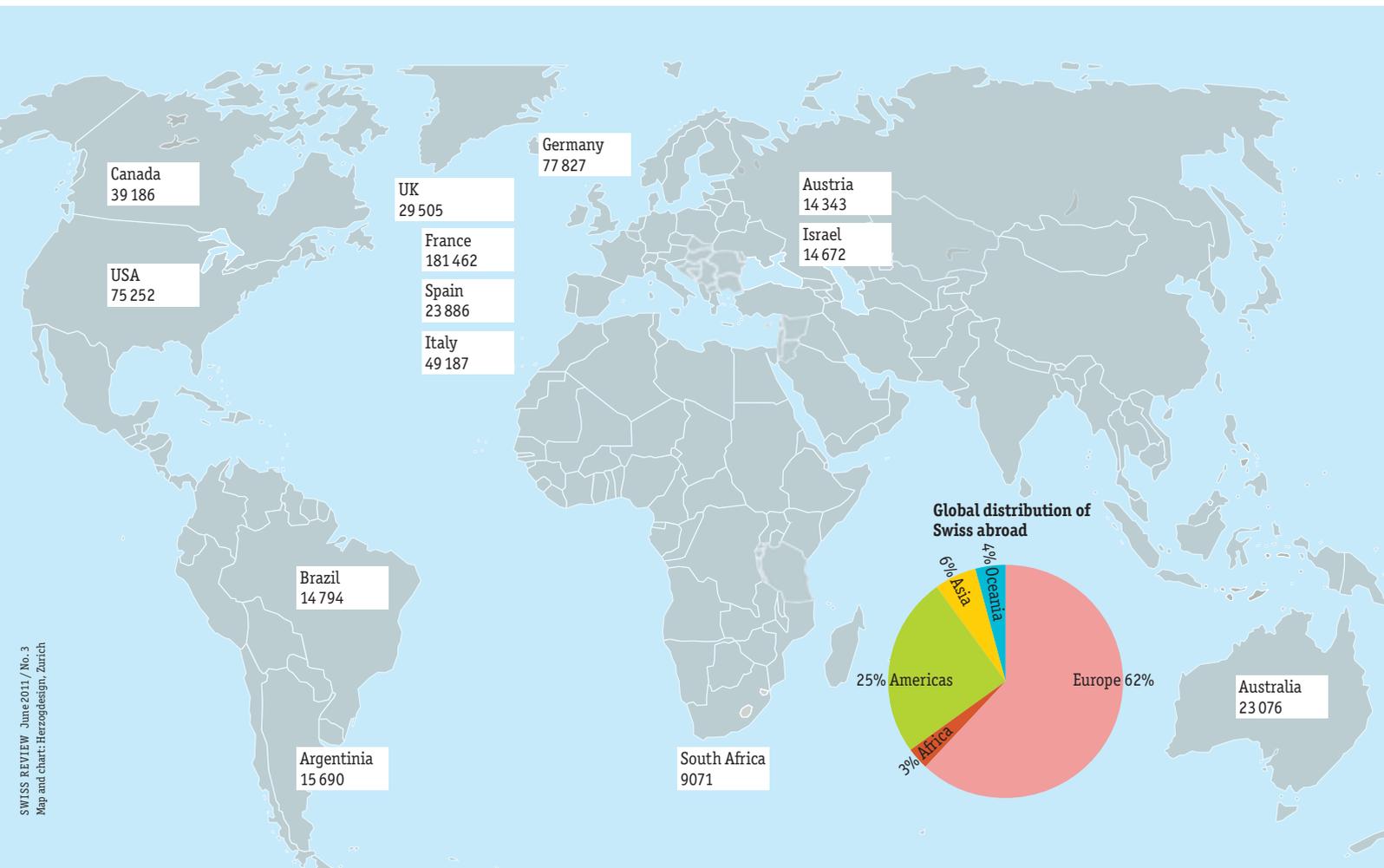
(deadlines for collection of signatures in brackets)

- Federal popular initiative "Für eine öffentliche Krankenkasse" (For a system of public health insurance) (01.08.2012)
- Federal popular initiative "Für eine nachhaltige und ressourceneffiziente Wirtschaft (Grüne Wirtschaft)" (For an economy based on sustainability and efficient resource management – green economy) (08.09.2012)
- Federal popular initiative "Für den Schutz fairer Löhne (Mindestlohn-Initiative)" (For the protection of fair wages – minimum wage initiative) (17.12.2012)

Please visit the site www.bk.admin.ch/aktuell/abstimmung. This contains a list of pending referendum proposals and popular initiatives in addition to the signature forms, if available. Please complete, sign and send the forms directly to the relevant initiative committee.

FDFA OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER:
JEAN-FRANCOIS LICHTENSTERN, RELATIONS WITH THE SWISS ABROAD
BUNDESGASSE 32, CH-3003 BERNE
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WWW.EDA.ADMIN.CH/ASD, HELPLINE@EDA.ADMIN.CH

Where most Swiss abroad live



The Swiss summer of sound

A whole host of music festivals are held throughout Switzerland during the summer months. Rock, pop and hip-hop concerts take place at sometimes extraordinary venues, such as Roman arenas and the shores of lakes. We take a look at this growing phenomenon. By Alain Wey

With magnificent views of the mountains, lake or sunset and with the music and atmosphere created by inspirational bands, festivals certainly provide some memorable moments. Switzerland has a vast array to choose from, which attract hordes of festival-goers each year. The Swiss have been moving to sounds from all over the world since the 1970s. The same pattern emerges each time. A group of friends with a passion for a particular type of music start a small festival which, over the years, turns into a major event, such as the Paléo Festival in Nyon, to rival the best in Europe. We take a closer look at these temporary spectacles.

Nature as a backdrop

The appeal and the convivial atmosphere found at festivals are largely explained by the idyllic settings in which they take place. The shores of Lake Neuchâtel, for instance, play host to the Festi'neuch (2 to 5 June 2011) and the Estivale d'Estavayer-le-lac. Lake Geneva is home to the Montreux Jazz Festival and the Caribana Festival at Crans-sur-Nyon (8 to 12 June 2011), where the music is performed virtually on the water's edge. Nature is the backdrop to these events. Woodrock is held in the middle of a forest in Emmental amidst ancient trees, as is the OpenAir in St.Gallen, which takes place in a clearing in the woods. In Berne, festival-

goers climb the Gurten hill each evening to enjoy the music and picture-postcard sunsets or, if the weather turns inclement, to endure driving rain. Historic town centres are also used as venues with Locarno's magnificent Piazza Grande hosting the Moon and Stars festival, while performances take place on the cobblestoned streets during Winterthur's music weeks. Rock'Oz Arènes prides itself on taking place in the legendary Roman arenas of Avenches, a magical venue that comes to life each summer.

Volunteers and professionals

The success of these events depends heavily on the commitment of volunteers. There are no paid workers at the small-scale festivals as the budget predominantly goes towards the fees of the bands and infrastructure. However, where the scale of the event requires organisation throughout the year, professionals are employed. The Paléo Festival, for example, has 55 employees and 4400 volunteers.



Pink at the Heitere Open Air festival, Zofingen



Sittertobel, OpenAir St. Gallen

KEY DATES AND FIGURES

■ OpenAir St. Gallen

30 June to 3 July 2011, 35th event, established in 1977, around 30 000 visitors. Headline acts: Queens of the Stone Age, Linkin Park, Die Fantastischen Vier, The Young Gods. www.openairsg.ch

■ Montreux Jazz Festival

1 to 16 July 2011, 45th event, established in 1967, around 230,000 visitors. Headline acts: Santana, B.B. King, Quincy Jones,

Herbie Hancock, Sting, Deep Purple, etc.

www.montreuxjazz.com

■ Openair Frauenfeld

8 to 10 July 2011, 17th event, established in 1987, festival now entirely dedicated to hip-hop and the largest of its kind in Europe around 150 000 visitors.

Headline acts: Snoop Dogg, Cypress Hill, Wu-Tang Clan, The Roots, Ice Cube, Public Enemy, Sens Unik.

www.openair-frauenfeld.ch

■ Gurten Festival

14 to 17 July 2011, Berne, 28th event, established in 1977 around 32 000 visitors. Headline acts: Arctic Monkeys, Jamiroquai, Kasabian, Sophie Hunger, Jamie Cullum, Kaiser Chiefs. www.gurtenfestival.ch

■ Moon and Stars

8 to 17 July 2011, Piazza Grande, Locarno, 8th event, established in 2004, around 85 000 visitors. Headline acts: Sting, Santana, Amy Winehouse, Bryan Adams,

Roxette, Zucchero, Joe Cocker, Jack Johnson.

www.moonandstarslocarno.ch

■ Paléo Festival

19 to 24 July 2011, Nyon, 36th event, established in 1976, around 230 000 visitors.

Headline acts: Amy Winehouse, The Strokes, PJ Harvey, Robert Plant, Jack Johnson, Portishead, Eddy Mitchell. www.paleo.ch

■ Blue Balls Festival

22 to 30 July 2011, Lucerne, 7th event, established in 2005,

Montreux Jazz Festival: the pioneering event

Established in 1967 by Claude Nobs of the Local Tourism Office, the Montreux Jazz Festival has become a firm fixture on the summer calendar for fans of rock and jazz. Festival stands take over Lake Geneva's rivièra for a fortnight in July, while leading performers from all over the world come to crank up the decibels in the festival venues, which, since the 1990s, have been the Auditorium Stravinski and the Miles Davis Hall. In its 44-year history, many big names have performed at Montreux. Queen, David Bowie, Santana and the greatest jazz musicians of the golden age have all made appearances. The Rolling Stones gave their first performance outside the UK in Montreux. The concerts originally took place in the Casino de Montreux, which burned down in 1971 during a Frank Zappa concert. This fire

went down in history when Deep Purple wrote their greatest track entitled "Smoke on the Water". Miles Davis, the pianists Ray Charles and Herbie Hancock as well as the blues singer B.B. King have all appeared many times at Montreux. The last two artists mentioned also feature on the 2011 programme. Today, the event welcomes almost 230 000 visitors. The festival also stands out from its peers with anthological jam sessions which go on well into the night at the Montreux Jazz Café long after the end of the official concerts. In 2009, Prince stunned festival-goers by playing in the night-time venue until three in the morning. And the hospitality of the festival does not stop there. The greatest stars are sometimes put up by Claude Nobs himself, including the jazz musician/producer Quincy Jones who comes to Montreux almost every summer. It is also

not unusual for the festival organiser himself to take to the stage with his harmonica. Montreux Jazz also has the greatest collection of concert recordings in the world, immortalising all the performances since the event began.

The model open-air festival: Paléo

While the spirit of Woodstock pervades the festivals, Paléo stands out in terms of organisation. In the 35 festivals held since it was established in 1976, Switzerland's largest open-air concert has welcomed 2460 performers and groups for 3035 concerts and events attended by almost 4.8 million fans. In 2010, almost 230 000 descended on the lowlands of Assé at the edge of the forest where 195 performances took place on six stages. With a budget of 23 million Swiss francs, an 84-hectare site, 8000 campers, 206 stands and 42 bars, a small town is created from nothing for the festival each year. The streets of the camping and festival sites are given the names of major world cities and a global village welcomes each country and its culture, in terms of cuisine, art and music.

Peace, love and rock'n'roll

Anyone who has attended many festivals will have been left with a general impression of celebration and peace. These musical events are the place to look if you are wondering what happened to the 1960's philosophy of peace and love. Living together in a self-governed environment and engaging with people without prejudice are part of the attraction of another era where time stood still. These microcosmic summer events have an enduring appeal for lovers of open-air music, embracing the spirit of rock'n'roll!



Jazz Festival, Montreux

100 000 to 150 000 visitors.

Headline acts: Sophie Hunger, Macy Gray, Beverley Knight, Erykah Badu, Johnny Lang, Heather Nova, Keziah Jones, Rodrigo y Gabriela, Ben Harper.

www.blueballs.ch

■ Estivale Open Air

29 July to 1 August 2011, Estavayer-le-Lac (Fribourg), 21st event, established in 1990, around 15 000 visitors.

www.estivale.ch

■ Rock Oz'Arènes

3 to 6 August 2011, Avenches, 20th event, established in 1992, around 30 000 visitors.

Headline acts: Ben Harper, Motörhead, Stephan Eicher.

www.rockozarenes.com

■ Lake Brienz Rock Festival

5 to 7 August 2011, 24th event, established in 1988, around 8 000 visitors.

Headline acts: Steve Lukather (guitarist of Toto).

www.brienzerseerockfestival.ch

■ Heitere Open Air

3 to 6 August 2011, Avenches, 20th event, established in 1992, around 30 000 visitors. Headline acts: Ben Harper, Motörhead, Stephan Eicher.

www.rockozarenes.com

■ Winterthur

Music Festival Weeks

17 to 28 August 2011, Winterthur, 36th event, established in 1976, around 38 000 visitors. Headline acts: Archive, Deus.

www.musikfestwochen.ch

■ Open Air Gampel

18 to 21 August 2011, 25th event, established in 1986, around 81 000 visitors. Headline acts: The Chemical Brothers, The Offspring, Skunk Anansie, NOFX, Simple Plan, Favez. www.openairgampel.ch

■ Chant du Gros

88 to 10 September 2011, Noirmont, 20th event, established in 1991, around 20 000 visitors.

www.chantdugros.ch



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Ursula Deplazes

Researcher from Graubünden, living in Rome



“Networking plays an important role among the Swiss abroad – both personally and professionally.”



Urs Steiner

Teacher from Berne, head of the Swiss School in Peru



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Daniel Keller

Manager from Zurich, living in Hanoi



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Meeting of the Council of the Swiss Abroad

The Council of the Swiss Abroad held its spring meeting in Brunnen, rather than its usual venue of Berne, on 8 and 9 April. There was a packed agenda, and some items produced a lively debate. The main causes for concern were the reorganisation of the consular service at the FDFA and the Swiss banks.

Gerhard Brügger, who has been made Director of the new Consular Directorate at the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), presented the FDFA's reorganisation of the consular service to the 100 or so Council members present in Brunnen. He did this eloquently, but was unable to placate the anger that had built up beforehand. There is still great dissatisfaction with the FDFA's decision to close many consulates and consular departments at embassies. Many councillors were also outraged that the FDFA had made its decisions without consulting the Swiss abroad or the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA). The Swiss abroad will, in some cases, be forced to make long journeys if they wish to use consular services as a result of the closures. To give just one example, the Swiss in Slovenia, Croatia, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovakia will, in future, only be looked after in Vienna (Austria). Brügger explained to the Council that this step had already been decided and was non-negotiable, but that the FDFA would endeavour to accommodate the Swiss abroad through "support measures", such as mobile consulates and new regulations on the recording of biometric data for passports (see box below). The Council of the Swiss Abroad passed a resolution on this matter in Brunnen (text can be found in German

at www.aso.ch under Politik / Auslandschweizerrat / Aktuelles).

The conduct of the Swiss banks towards the Swiss abroad (which include account closures and exorbitant charges), an issue already covered by "Swiss Review", was described as "scandalous" by the Council. However, the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad does not have any means to intervene in this regard (see also the "OSA advice" section on this page).

The presentation on the topic of "Switzerland and Europe – an External Perspective" by Peter Winkler, correspondent for the "Neue Zürcher Zeitung" (NZZ) in Brussels, was also met with great interest by the Council. Winkler diagnosed a "sometimes aggressive attitude towards the EU" in Switzerland and said that many people in Brussels are under the impression that Switzerland wants to reconcile two things that are incompatible: access to the positive achievements of the EU while, at the same time, remaining on the outside in those areas with which Switzerland does not agree. Winkler described this as "à la carte membership". Winkler added that objectivity is lacking in the debate. It is, he said, quite simply a question of what Switzerland must bring to the table to be able to participate. He said that he often hears the term "cherry-picking" in relation to Switzerland in Brussels and that many EU Member States are increasingly becoming less inclined to grant Switzerland exemptions.

In addition to the resolution on the consular service, the Council of the Swiss Abroad also approved an election manifesto concerning the national elections on 23 October 2011 (the text can be found in German at www.aso.ch under Politik / Auslandschweizerrat / Aktuelles).

The reason for holding the meeting of the CSA in Brunnen was the 20th anniversary of

the "Area for the Swiss Abroad" in Brunnen. The ceremony in the park took place on the day after the Council meeting and was followed by a sightseeing excursion with a boat trip, a walk along the "Swiss Path" and a visit to the Rütli. The 200 or so participants from Switzerland and abroad enjoyed coming together for the excursion in glorious sunshine.

OSA advice

QUESTION:

I am a Swiss citizen abroad and I am having difficulty opening or holding an account in Switzerland. Some banks levy very high bank charges to manage the accounts of people domiciled abroad. What can I do?

ANSWER:

The Organisation of the Swiss Abroad regularly receives letters of this nature. Legally, the banks benefit from freedom of contract. They therefore have the right to decide whether or not to establish a banking relationship with a client for their own reasons. The Organisation of the Swiss Abroad advises persons concerned to contact small banks or banks with a more restricted geographical area of activity, such as the cantonal banks or branches of Raiffeisen, etc. Some Swiss abroad seem to have found solutions in this way. However, responses can vary from one branch to the next and it is therefore worthwhile enquiring with different branches of the same bank. We also recommend asking the banks concerned if there are alternatives to make account management easier (for instance, by nominating a person of trust in Switzerland to receive mail). Other people seem to have resolved their problems by contacting Postfinance. However, it should be noted that this situation is constantly evolving and these options are subject to

ORDERING A SWISS PASSPORT

Swiss citizens abroad who are registered with a Swiss representation abroad can also record their biometric data for a new passport in Switzerland or at a Swiss representation in another country.

The following procedure applies:

- The passport application must be made with the representation abroad (consulate/embassy) via the website www.schweizerpass.ch or by telephone. Applicants must indicate at this stage which data capture centre they wish to use to record their biometric data.
- The representation informs the passport office or the representation chosen.

Passport offices can reject applications (due to insufficient capacity or on other grounds). In such cases, the applicant must select another passport office in Switzerland or visit the representation abroad.

- If approval is granted by a passport office in Switzerland, the representation abroad forwards the application and informs the applicant.
- Applicants can then agree a date directly with the passport office in Switzerland.
- Once the data has been recorded, the passport is sent by post to an address in Switzerland or to the representation abroad, from where it has to be collected. It cannot be delivered by post to applicants abroad. Further information is available from the FDFA's helpline +41 (0)800 24-7-365



change at any time. The Organisation of the Swiss Abroad also wishes to point out that having a bank account in Switzerland does not constitute an exemption from declaring it in the account holder's country of residence.

We also advise anyone who contacts us about this matter to follow the discussions on the [Swisscommunity.org](http://www.swisscommunity.org) website where the Swiss abroad exchange their experiences and provide each other with advice, in particular concerning the solutions they have found.

Link: www.swisscommunity.org

“Area for the Swiss Abroad” to be made more attractive



The 20th anniversary of the “Area for the Swiss Abroad” in Brunnen will be celebrated this year on 1 August. This park, which was purchased from a private owner thanks to generous donations from numerous Swiss abroad in 1991 on the 700th anniversary of the Swiss confederation, is seen as the “Rütli of the Swiss abroad” and symbolises the solidarity of Swiss people abroad.

However, this wonderful meadow in Brunnen Bay has been very underused to date. That is now set to change. The Foundation for the Area for the Swiss Abroad and the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad have given a group of students from the University of Applied Sciences Northwestern Switzerland the task of producing a concept for new possible uses and improved marketing.

“This location urgently needs a feature that is instantly recognisable and which people will remember and associate with it”, says Aileen Morgenthaler, one of the students involved in the project. However, it is not an easy task as there is insufficient funding for a building, a monument or a “Botta tent”, like the one Brunnen had in 1991. They have therefore, Morgenthaler explains, set themselves the task of identifying sponsorship and partnership opportunities and drawing up a

basic marketing and communication strategy as part of the project.

The project group believes that “people should leave their mark on the site”. This could be achieved very simply and at minimal cost with a virtual guest book, for example, which people from all over the world could use interactively. Morgenthaler adds that the concept will also set out proposals for events, initially perhaps only for people from the surrounding area or from Switzerland and neighbouring countries. The project group will present the detailed proposals to both the Foundation and the Organisation over the summer.

Offers for young Swiss abroad covering activities, politics and sport

The offers that the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA) provides for young people give Swiss youngsters abroad fascinating and topical insights into Switzerland. We offer unforgettable holiday experiences with young people of the same age from all over the world as well as educational visits that allow Swiss youngsters from abroad to discover their own roots.

“Direct Democracy in an International Context” is the theme of the 2011 Congress of the Swiss Abroad, which will take place in Lugano from 26 to 28 August. Young people are also welcome to attend this congress. Anyone who would like to gain a better understanding of the Swiss political system can take part in an exciting project week in Ticino. The first few days will be spent at a camp. You will be introduced to the congress topics in workshops and will have the opportunity to speak with Swiss politicians. The week will also include an enjoyable fringe programme and sporting activities in Ticino. At the end of the week, we will move into the youth hostel in Lugano as the voice of young people must also be heard at the congress. Federal councillor Doris Leuthard will be available to answer your questions.

Immediately after the congress, OSA will organise a seminar on the 20th Federal Youth Session. You will be prepared for this event in Berne and will receive an introduction to various political topics on the agenda of the Youth Session. On the Friday, you will have the opportunity to meet all the other young politicians and to help with the

drafting of petitions. You will then be able to discuss issues with experts and parliamentarians.

October elections

A new Swiss parliament will be elected on 23 October 2011. The campaigning has already started. OSA encourages all Swiss abroad to take part in the elections. We are organising a seminar for young people in the week prior to the election weekend where we will take a look behind the scenes of the election. OSA will firstly provide an introduction to the Swiss political system. You will then become familiar with the candidates. We will examine the media coverage and experience live TV and radio reporting. Finally, we will share the election-day excitement with the parties and then analyse the results together with experts.

Information on the offers for young people can be found under “Offers” at www.aso.ch.

Circus performers sought

Every year, the Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad organises various two-week camps for 8 to 14-year-old Swiss children living abroad. This year, the foundation is offering a unique circus project week in Rapperswil-Jona in cooperation with the Pipistrello interactive circus. Forty Swiss children abroad will have the chance to take part in the circus together with 40 children from Rapperswil-Jona and the surrounding area as jugglers, tightrope walkers and clowns, etc. – anything's possible! And participants will, of course, also have the opportunity to discover

TRAINING CAMP FOR TALENTED SWISS FOOTBALLERS ABROAD

The Swiss Football Association (SFV) attaches great importance to developing talented footballers, among the Swiss abroad as well. In cooperation with Swiss Olympic, the association is organising a training camp to scout for talent at the Tenero sports centre from 25 September to 1 October 2011.

■ Anyone born between 1994 and 1997 who believes they have the talent, motivation and ability to be among the best in their age group should not hesitate to register at www.football.ch. All further details can be found there.



Switzerland (Swiss National Day celebration, trip to Zurich, and so on).

A gala show will take place at the end of the week, on Saturday, 6 August 2011. Anyone who would like to attend is more than welcome to do so.

No prior circus knowledge is required to take part in the circus camp. Any child can make his or her circus dreams come true without already being a master performer.

Information and registration at www.sjas.ch or www.pipistrello.ch.

Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad, Simone Riner, Project Manager, Alpenstrasse 26, CH-3006 Berne, Tel. +41 (0)31 356 61 19; Mobile +41 (0)79 705 67 35; E-mail: riner@aso.ch

Vocational training in Switzerland

Many young people in Switzerland enter vocational training after completing their compulsory education. Heinrich Klaus, Rector of Fricktal Vocational Training Centre in Rheinfelden, explains why this path also offers a promising route into a career for Swiss abroad. This interview was conducted by Lauranne Zellweger and Silvia Hirsig from the Association for the Promotion of Education for Young Swiss Abroad (AJAS).

AJAS: Around two-thirds of young people in Switzerland complete basic vocational training after nine years of compulsory education. What is so special about this training?

HEINRICH KLAUS: It's the dual system, which combines practical training as an apprentice in a company with theoretical study at the vocational training college. There are over 200 types of apprenticeship to choose from.

What opportunities are available to young people afterwards?

A three or four-year apprenticeship resulting in a federal certificate of proficiency

(EFZ) is needed to move on to the next stage, advanced vocational training, where basic training is complemented with the federal vocational school-leaving certificate. The focus for this is on furthering the young person's general education. The vocational school-leaving certificate gives young people access to universities. Anyone with a commercial qualification and a vocational school-leaving certificate can study business at university, for example, or attend a teacher training college. The apprenticeship route is therefore a genuine alternative today to entering higher education via a grammar school.

Most young Swiss people abroad who contact AJAS are interested in university study in Switzerland. Very few plan to take the apprenticeship route. Why is that?

Very few people abroad are aware of our vocational training system, particularly our apprenticeships.

How expensive is the training?

There are no costs for the apprentices except for the teaching materials. They receive a decent wage of around 500 Swiss francs in the first year and between 1000 and 1400 Swiss francs in the third, depending on the sector.

What is the situation in terms of recognition of the apprenticeships in other countries?

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) was sceptical about our apprenticeships for a long time. That has changed in recent years because other countries have recognised how skilled our graduates are. However, reciprocal recognition is very complicated because the Greek certificate of professional training, for instance, is very different to that in Portugal or France.



HEINRICH KLAUS is an Executive Board member of the Swiss Conference of Directors of Vocational Training Colleges (SDK). In this role, he is also a member of AJAS.

What is the apprenticeship market like at the moment?

For a long time, people complained that there were too few apprenticeships. Then, in August 2010, there were suddenly 7,000 vacancies. One reason for this is that more apprenticeships were created; another is that more and more young people are attending grammar schools. There are currently enough apprenticeships in quite a number of professions.

What is the youth unemployment situation like in Switzerland?

Most apprentices find a job immediately. The direct relationship with the world of work is clearly a key factor. We have a low rate of youth unemployment in Switzerland in comparison to other European countries.

The vocational training system is a success then in that respect?

Absolutely. In his recently published book "Warum wir so reich sind" (Why we are so rich), the former price regulator and national councillor Rudolf Strahm writes that, in his view, our vocational training system is and will continue to be a decisive factor in Switzerland's prosperity and its strong position on the global market – thanks to better quality, greater precision and niche products. I agree with him entirely. Basic vocational training in Switzerland is therefore also an option that offers good prospects for our Swiss abroad as well.

Swiss abroad can obtain further information from the AJAS advisory centre.

AJAS, Alpenstrasse 26, CH-3006 Berne, Tel. +41 31 353 61 22, Fax + 41 31 365 61 01, ajas@aso.ch, www.ajas.ch

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The man they call "Spartacus"

The four-time world time-trial champion Fabian Cancellara has got 2011 off to a flying start with a biography, four podium finishes and a new cycling team. A profile of a star name in one-day cycling races. By Alain Wey

Fabian Cancellara's cycling performance is reaching perfection and the cyclist has made a very strong start to the year, winning the E3 Harelbeke in Belgium, finishing second in the Milan to San Remo road race, third in the Tour of Flanders (Belgium) and second in the Paris to Roubaix race. The four-time world champion in time trial is clearly on a roll, although he has not reproduced his 2010 achievement of winning the Tour of Flanders as well as the Paris to Roubaix race. A member of the Luxembourg Leopard-Trek team since the start of the year, the Olympic champion has a colossal physique (1m 86 and 80 kg) that has earned him the nickname "Spartacus". Fourteenth in the UCI world rankings, the native of Berne was voted winner of the "Vélo d'or" in 2010 by the French publication "Vélo Magazine". In many respects, a champion has to contend with severe criticism as well as plenty of adulation. This perhaps applies to cycling in particular where the spectre of doping is omnipresent. Fabian Cancellara has repeatedly come under suspicion (after his gold medal in Beijing in 2008 and his classic double in 2010) but has always emerged clean.

The taste of victory

Born on 18 March 1981, Fabian Cancellara grew up in the Bernese countryside in Wohlen. He began racing and winning competitions at the age of 12. His father Donato, an Italian immigrant, and his mother, Rosa, would take him to cycling competitions in Switzerland every Sunday, setting off at dawn to get to Basel, Fislisbach, Siglistorf, Schleithem, Lucerne, Hochdorf, Fully and Bussigny. Cancellara raced all over the country, almost always finishing first. He revealed: "My idol was the Spaniard Miguel Indurain", the five-time winner of the Tour de France. In 1997, he began an apprenticeship as an electrician and trained every evening in all weathers. At the time, his father was

his manager and trainer with the support of the Ciclo International Ostermundigen (canton of Berne) team. In spring 1998, he tried a time-trial cycle for the first time and became junior world champion that October. The following year, he rode for the Italian team Mapei, one of the most successful at the time, whose colours were worn by Tony Rominger from Zug. He reluctantly had to give up his apprenticeship owing to the travel involved in racing. This proved a wise decision as in 2000 he won the silver medal in the time trial at the under-23 world championships. He was officially part of the Mapei team from that September and trained in northern Italy in Castellanza. He was touted as the new Miguel Indurain. From 2003, he rode for the Italian team Fassa Bortolo, where his teammate Roberto Petito, amazed at the width of the Swiss rider's shoulders, gave him the nickname "Spartacus".

In the limelight

Fabian Cancellara took part in his first Tour de France at the age of 23 where his immediate win over favourite Lance Armstrong during the prologue stage thrust the unknown Swiss into the limelight. In 2005, he won bronze at the time-trial world championships. His time in Italy came to an end and he joined the Danish team CSC. The tailored training he received helped him to become a specialist in one-day races and to improve his performance as a time-trial cyclist. He acquired new cycling techniques with each change of team: the work on team structure at Mapei, intelligent season planning at Fassa Bortolo, and preparation for specific races and maintenance of motivation levels at CSC and Saxobank (2006-2010). Finally, he

was victorious at the Vélodrome de Roubaix in April 2006. The native of Berne won the Paris to Roubaix race, known as the "Queen of the Classics" or the "Hell of the North". That autumn, he became world time-trial champion and, in his private life, he married Stefanie, who gave birth to his daughter Giuliana in October.

Gold medal at the Olympics

The 2008 season marked a turning point. By winning the Tirreno - Adriatico stage race and Milan - San Remo (the longest of the classics), Cancellara clearly demonstrated the calibre of competition he was capable of winning. That August, he won the Olympic gold medal in the time-trial event in Beijing: "I was hungry for it. I was like a tiger. I trained like a man possessed. I really wanted that title."** That October, he was suspected of doping but was cleared two weeks later. The Bernese athlete can undergo between 50 and 60 anti-doping tests a year and has to send details of all his movements to the anti-doping authorities, which can turn up at his home in Ittigen unannounced.

The suspicions of cheating grow each time Cancellara wins. In April 2010, he pulled off the double, winning the Tour of Flanders and the Paris - Roubaix race with stretches alone of 14 km and 49 km, respectively. That May, critics in the sports press claimed that Cancellara had only won the two races thanks to an electric device. Nothing was proven and it finally emerged that he had used a revolutionary new pedal and gear system authorised by the UCI. The Bernese cyclist again won the prologue stages of the Tour de Suisse and Tour de France, during which he wore the yellow jersey for six days.

In the autumn, he set a record in Australia with a fourth victory in the world time-trial championships. He exclaimed: "I want to make history, that's what motivates me."**

A new departure

Fabian Cancellara left Saxobank at the end of 2010 to join the newly formed Luxembourg team, Leopard-Trek, which incorporated some of the Danish team, including the brothers Andy and Fränk Schleck. Cancellara said: "It's a great opportunity for me to work with lots of the members of my former team who are friends. It also gives me the chance to

"I was hungry for it. I was like a tiger. I trained like a man possessed. I really wanted that title."

make the most of my experience. I made great progress with Saxobank, but I needed a fresh start and things are going well at the moment." Fabian Cancellara sidesteps the question when asked about his childhood dream of winning the Tour de France. He says: "It's a dream but not a goal. I keep it deep within." His main ambition for 2011 is now to be the best on the big stage at the world championships in Copenhagen in September. He says: "I don't know yet whether I'll focus on the time trial or the road race, which I haven't won yet." His talent, work ethic and complete dedication to his family and country make "Spartacus" an exceptional cyclist. As for the final classic missing from his list of achievements, "Liège - Bastogne - Liège", Fabian Cancellara vows: "One day, I'll try to break the hour record on the course."

*The classics are the most prestigious one-day races. The five greatest are known as the "five monuments": Milan - San Remo (since 1907), Paris - Roubaix (1896), Liège - Bastogne - Liège (1892), the Tour of Flanders (1913) and the Tour of Lombardy (1905).

** "Fabian Cancellaras Welt. Die Geschichte eines Radrennfahrers", by Benjamin Steffen and Christof Gertsch, Verlag Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Zurich, 2011.

DESTINED FOR GREATNESS

■ World time-trial champion in 2006, 2007, 2009 and 2010. Gold medal winner in the time trial at the Beijing Olympic Games in 2008.

■ The classics. Paris - Roubaix: winner in 2006 and 2010, 2nd in 2008 and 2011. Milan - San Remo: winner in 2008, 2nd in 2011. Tour of Flanders: winner in 2010, 3rd in 2011.

■ Tour de France: prologue stage in 2004, prologue stage

and 4th stage in 2007, 20th stage in 2008, 1st stage in 2009, prologue stage and 19th stage in 2010. Having taken part in the Tour six times, he has worn the yellow jersey for 21 days. Although this is a record for a Swiss cyclist, Cancellara has never finished higher than 64th in the overall rankings.

■ Tour de Suisse: prologue stage and 9th stage of the

Tour de Suisse in 2007, 7th and 9th stages in 2008, 9th stage and winner in the overall rankings in 2009, prologue stage in 2010.

■ Other competitions: winner of the Tour of Denmark in 2006, Tirreno - Adriatico in 2008, Tour of Oman in 2010, and the Grand Prix E3 in 2010 and 2011.



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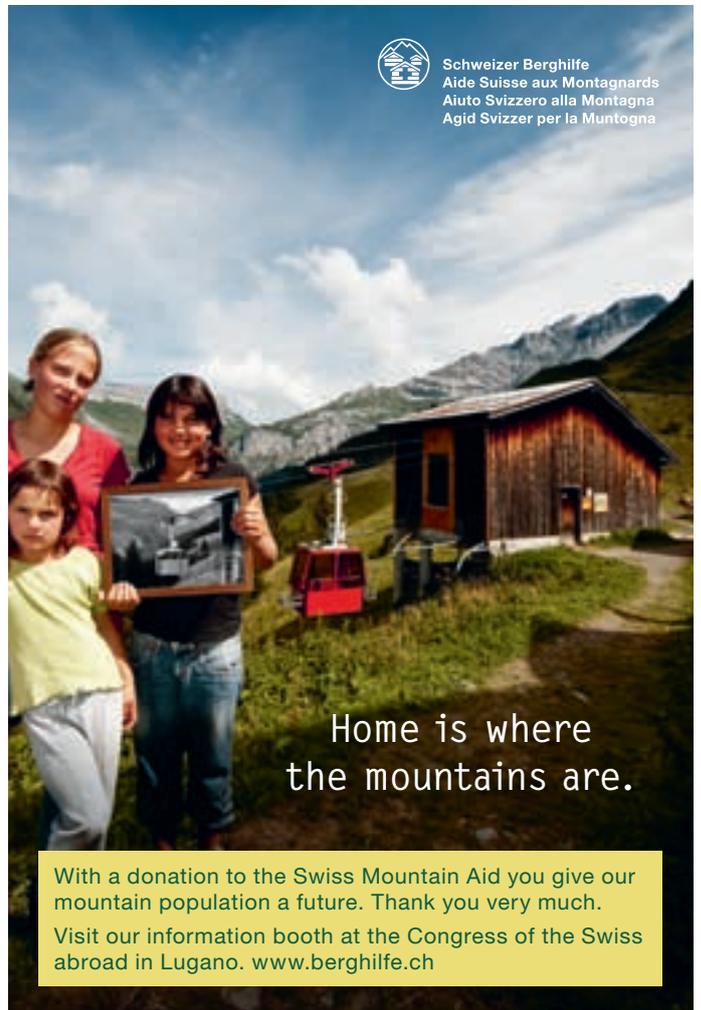
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I vote!

Of the 700,000 or so Swiss abroad, just under 136,000 are entered in electoral registers in Switzerland, enabling them to participate in elections and referenda in their homeland. We are featuring some of them in this election year and asking what their reasons are for taking part in politics from afar.



*First name: Cornelia
Last name: Tschibold
Age: 48
Place of residence:
Swansea, Wales, UK
Since: 2006*



*First name: Dario
Surname: Cavegn
Age: 29
Place of residence: Tallinn, Estonia
Since: 2006*

Will you take part in the elections on 23 October? Do you vote regularly?

CORNELIA TSCHICHOLD: YES.

DARIO CAVEGN: I've always taken part in elections, but with federal referenda it depends on the proposal.

What are your memories of the first election or referendum you took part in?

The issue was not that interesting; I can't even remember whether I ended up on the "winning side" or not. I went to the village hall with my parents, had our papers stamped, put them in the ballot box and left again.

It was a great moment. I voted in a referendum for the first time in 2000. It involved several proposals that were important to me.

And why do you take part in elections and referenda?

I'd have no right to complain about the government if I didn't! Seriously, I believe that change from below is the only real change. Democracy only works well if people take their vote seriously.

I think not taking part in elections and referenda is inexcusable, particularly if you have an opinion on things. Political participation is the purest expression of responsibility and patriotism in our country.

How do you decide who to vote for?

Through a mix of my general political outlook, looking at the parties' and politicians' statements, following the discussions in the media, and a general tendency to vote for women.

A society has to be able to function. This means the state and the law must ensure balance between different interests. I vote for parties and politicians who stand up for this principle.

Swiss abroad can vote even though they do not pay taxes. This is often met with criticism. What is your opinion?

I pay taxes in my country of residence, but cannot vote here. The right to vote is a human right that we shouldn't lose just because we live abroad. I can also imagine returning to Switzerland, still my home country, one day. So I take great interest in what goes on there.

Most Swiss abroad contribute through social agreements or voluntary payments, for example, to Old Age and Survivors' Insurance (AHV). The notion that paying taxes equates to assuming responsibility is not very well thought through. Responsibility is not determined by taxes, but rather by the entitlement to have a say.

What are the key issues that Swiss politicians have to resolve?

The unjust taxation system which privileges the very rich, the absurdly overblown banking sector and its grip on politicians, the growing environmental problems caused by climate change, and the increasing xenophobia in some parts of Switzerland, and the way this is exploited by some groups.

The privatisation and deregulation trend has to come to an end. Switzerland needs a uniform health insurance system. Switzerland should show greater self-assurance towards the EU, but it should not join. That would be the end of our political system.

“Värslischmied” at the National Museum

Mani Matter, the Bernese singer-songwriter, remains extremely popular 40 years after his death. The National Museum in Zurich is now dedicating an exhibition to him where parts of his estate will go on public display for the first time. The exhibition will run until 18 September. By Miriam Hutter

He was a philosopher, a lawyer, an intellectual, a literary talent and an extremely political figure. Mani Matter combined all of these facets in his songs, or “Liedli” as he called them. He has been revered in German-speaking Switzerland for generations. His songs are part of Swiss cultural heritage and unite people from wide-ranging backgrounds. Anyone born after 1970 will be familiar with Mani Matter’s songs from their childhood and will have loved them long before being able to really understand them. Schoolchildren still sing about the Eskimo whose love of music proved to be his downfall and the “Zündhölzli” (matchstick), which almost started a world war. New interpretations of Mani Matter’s songs have been performed by leading artists such as Polo Hofer, Dodo Hug and Züri West.

Mani who?

Mani Matter is virtually unknown in Ticino and French-speaking Switzerland despite the fact that it was his love of the French chanson of the 1950s that inspired him to sing and compose music. The legendary French chansonnier, Georges Brassens, for example, was an important source of inspiration for Mani Matter. He actually used the melody of Brassens’ “Ballade des dames du temps jadis” for his first song “Dr Rägewurm”. “Hemmige” – a homage to human inhibitions that would one day perhaps even save the world – was the only one of Mani Matter’s songs to become widely known in the French-speaking world, thanks to Stephan Eicher’s cover version in 1992.

Mani Matter was born into a liberal bourgeois Bernese family in 1936 as Hans Peter Matter. He wrote his first chansons at grammar school and initially wanted to study literature. He eventually opted for law as a school of thought. Matter only began performing his songs from 1965 onwards, after he had completed his studies, initially with the “Bernese Troubadours” and from 1971



Mani Matter on the little train to Worb, Berne 1972

mainly as a solo artist. Between 1969 and 1972, he filled concert halls in German-speaking Switzerland, performing between 90 and 100 times a year. At the end of 1972, he had a fatal car accident on the way to one of his concerts at just 36 years of age.

Songwriter, philosopher and poet

How can music be exhibited? Pascale Meyer, the exhibition curator, explored this issue extensively. She has long been fascinated by Matter’s songs, his surprising philosophical ideas and sharp observations which initially sound so harmless and cheerful. According to Meyer, Mani Matter, the “Värslischmied” (master of rhyme), had a unique understanding of how to deliver a message to an audience in a humorous way using brilliantly astonishing rhymes and to make people receptive to often severe criticism of affluent society and politics.

The exhibition does not just aim to present the Matter who performed songs in his Bernese dialect. The organisers have also attempted to show as many facets of his fasci-

nating personality as possible. The tour begins with a stage presenting Mani Matter the performer, before going on to an office where visitors find out more about his work as a lawyer. The various scenes that visitors pass through are all taken from the content of famous Matter songs. A different aspect is highlighted in each staged setting. The train compartment (from “Ir Ysebahn”) focuses on Mani Matter as a writer and poet, the barber’s chair (from “Bim Coiffeur”) reflects his philosophical side, and the parking meter (“Ds Parkingmeter”) explores his political motivations.

“Mani Matter felt responsible for society as a whole during his lifetime”, writes Wilfried Meichtry in the special publication that accompanies the exhibition. Matter debated philosophical, ethical, political and social issues while still a student. Even after taking up the newly created position of Legal Counsel to the City of Berne, he did not refrain from criticising Switzerland’s paralysis. But instead of becoming a full-time politician or publishing intellectual works for like-minded people, Mani Matter sought to reach those who might not have approved of him immediately through his chansons.

Multimedia-based exhibition

The exhibition at the National Museum in Zurich takes up little space at just under 400 square metres. However, it is worth taking time to appreciate it, as the subtle nuances and little gems here and there can only be discovered by listening carefully. In addition to previously unseen exhibits from his estate, all his published songs and a lot of film footage are also on display. This has been made possible thanks to the iPads that the National Museum uses instead of traditional audio guides. All the information is available not only in German, but also in French, Italian and English.

SPECIAL EXHIBITION PUBLICATION

MANI MATTER (1936 – 1972),
Wilfried Meichtry / Pascale Meyer (ed.),
Zytglogge Verlag, Oberhofen, 2011. 112 pgs,
containing various photos and a CD, CHF 36
www.landmuseum.ch
www.manimatter.ch

■ **What worries the Swiss** has changed significantly as a result of the Fukushima disaster. The environment has climbed from 6th to 1st position in the list of concerns. Over 90 % of voters surveyed in a poll conducted at the end of April thought that the most urgent political issues were environmental ones. The issue of immigration, which previously topped the list, was in 2nd position with 33 %. A majority of those surveyed supported a gradual abandonment of nuclear power.

■ Switzerland is becoming wealthier year by year. However, **wage inequality** is also constantly increasing. This is according to a study by the Swiss Federation of Trade Unions published at the end of April. It shows that salaries in the top income brackets are rising much more than those in the middle and lower income categories: 2 to 4 % for average salaries compared to 28 % for higher incomes. The study, which is based on data from the Federal Statistical Office, says that a massive bottom-up redistribution is currently taking place.

■ The **reform of corporate taxation**, approved by 50.53 % of Swiss people in 2008, has resulted in far greater tax revenue losses than indicated at the time by Federal Councillor Hans-Rudolf Merz. The tax revenue shortfalls amount to at least CHF 7 billion, whereas the figure given then was CHF 950 million. The cantonal government of Zurich is now calling on the Federal Council to repeal the referendum and to hold it again. National Councillor Margret Kiener Nellen has lodged an appeal against the referendum with the Federal Supreme Court. She too is calling for a new referendum to be held.

"We have to learn to think in the timeframe of trees."

Federal Councillor Doris Leuthard on a forest visit as part of the UN Year of Forests

"There is currently a state of hysteria over nuclear power."

Federal Councillor Ueli Maurer

"Aesthetics are tremendously undervalued in politics. Sitting in your predecessor's office without rearranging the furniture is almost like sleeping in someone else's unmade bed."

Former Federal Councillor Moritz Leuenberger, who is sharing an office with three designers after stepping down

"I do not know Mr Grübel or his psychology."

Eveline Widmer-Schlumpf, Federal Councillor and Head of the Federal Department of Finance, on the much-criticised CEO of UBS

"The CVP and FDP have a fundamental problem: a manifesto that no-one is familiar with or understands."

Georg Lutz, political scientist at the University of Berne

"Switzerland would have a problem without the CVP."

Christophe Darbellay, President of the CVP

"We will continue on our path."

Fulvio Pelli, President of FDP.The Liberals

"Immigration will be one of the major issues in the immediate future. It divides the nation, making conflict inevitable. The SP does not see, or does not want to see, the issue, which is a mistake."

Wolf Linder, Professor Emeritus of Political Science and member of the SP

"It's like going to war. You sit on your horse, give it the spurs and join the fray. You don't always question whether it would have been better if you hadn't had to go."

Christoph Blocher on his candidature as National Councillor and member of the Council of States

"The safety myth also went up in smoke in Fukushima."

Ulrich Beck, sociologist, political scientist and philosopher



Former ski racer Paul Accola is a leading candidate for SVP International at the elections in October. When asked why he was standing for the National Council, Accola said: "No idea." He does, however, have an idea about what is wrong with Swiss television. "Swiss television is full of lefties and gays. No wonder there is a lack of balanced reporting", he believes.

■ **People live for longer in the canton of Zug**, where the average life expectancy is 81.4 years, than anywhere else in Switzerland. The life ex-

pectancy record is held by women in Ticino (85.8 years) followed by women in Geneva (85.2 years), according to federal government statistics.

The canton of Glarus is at the bottom end of the scale with an average life expectancy of 77.7 years for men and 82.5 for women. The Swiss average is 79.9 years for men and 84.4 for women.

■ **Too warm in winter and a dry spring** – Switzerland has not experienced such a dry start to the year as in 2011, with temperatures exceeding 30°C even in April, since 1993 and 1976. There was only 45 % of normal rainfall in the first third of the year. This has resulted in a high risk of forest fires and worryingly low water levels. Lake Biel reached a new low point, 10cm below the previous record of 1993.

■ According to a study by the Swiss National Science Foundation, the vast majority of Swiss people have a **distanced relationship with Christianity** and spirituality. The proportion of Christians has fallen in Switzerland in recent years. 32 % of Swiss people are members of the Swiss Reformed Church, 31 % are Catholic and 12 % belong to a non-Christian religion. The largest increase was among people with no religious beliefs: 25 % belong to this group. Four types of religiosity were defined in the study: distanced (64 %), institutional (17 %), secular (10 %) and alternative (9 %).

■ St. Moritz has officially submitted its candidacy for the **2017 Alpine Ski World Championships**. In addition to St. Moritz, the Italian ski resort of Cortina d'Ampezzo has already put itself forward. The decision on the venue will be made in 2012 in South Korea.

■ The Swiss eat more than a **kilogram of meat** per week. Record consumption of 53.6 kg per person was reached last year. Pork remains the most popular meat, followed by beef, then poultry and lamb.

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