

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 6 (1940-1941)
Heft: 10

Vorwort: 650 years of Swiss Confederation 1291 - August - 1941 : the Swiss charter of 1291
Autor: [s.n.]

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. [Siehe Rechtliche Hinweise.](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. [Voir Informations légales.](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. [See Legal notice.](#)

Download PDF: 02.04.2025

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



Monthly Publication of the
SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY in New Zealand

Groupe New Zealand of the N.H.G.

AUCKLAND,
JULY, 1941.

Vol.10, 6th Year.

650 YEARS OF SWISS CONFEDERATION.

1291 - AUGUST - 1941.

THE SWISS CHARTER OF 1291.

"IN THE NAME OF GOD. WE THE MEN OF URI, SCHWYZ AND UNTERWALDEN, IN THESE EVIL TIMES AND FOR OUR BETTER PROTECTION, PROMISE AND SWEAR TO HELP ONE ANOTHER WITH ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE, WITH OUR LIVES AND POSSESSIONS, WITH MIGHT AND MAIN, AGAINST ANYBODY AND EVERYBODY WHO MAY THREATEN US WITH VIOLENCE AND INJUSTICE.

UNANIMOUSLY WE PROMISE ONE ANOTHER NOT TO TOLERATE ANY FOREIGN JUDGES IN OUR VALES. NO ONE OF US SHALL HARM THE OTHER'S LIFE AND POSSESSIONS. HE WHO HAS COVERED HIMSELF WITH GUILT, SHALL PAY THE PENALTY. IF DISSENSION ARISES AMONGST US, THE WORTHIEST FROM AMONG US SHALL MEET TOGETHER FOR MEDIATION. OUR CHARTER, CONCLUDED FOR THE COMMON WEAL OF ALL, WITH THE HELP OF GOD, SHALL LAST FOR EVER.

DONE IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONETHOUSANDTWOHUNDREDANDNINETYONE, IN THE BEGINNING OF THE MONTH OF AUGUST."

These are the chief provisions, in English translation, of the Swiss Charter of 1291, which was concluded shortly after the Oath of the Ruetli, where the men of the Vales of Uri, Schwyz and Unterwalden had joined together to form an eternal union. It very probably was preceded by a Charter dated 1240, which though is lost. The Charter of 1291, however, written in Latin, has been preserved and is now deposited in the archives at Schwyz, in a building which has been erected specially for this purpose.