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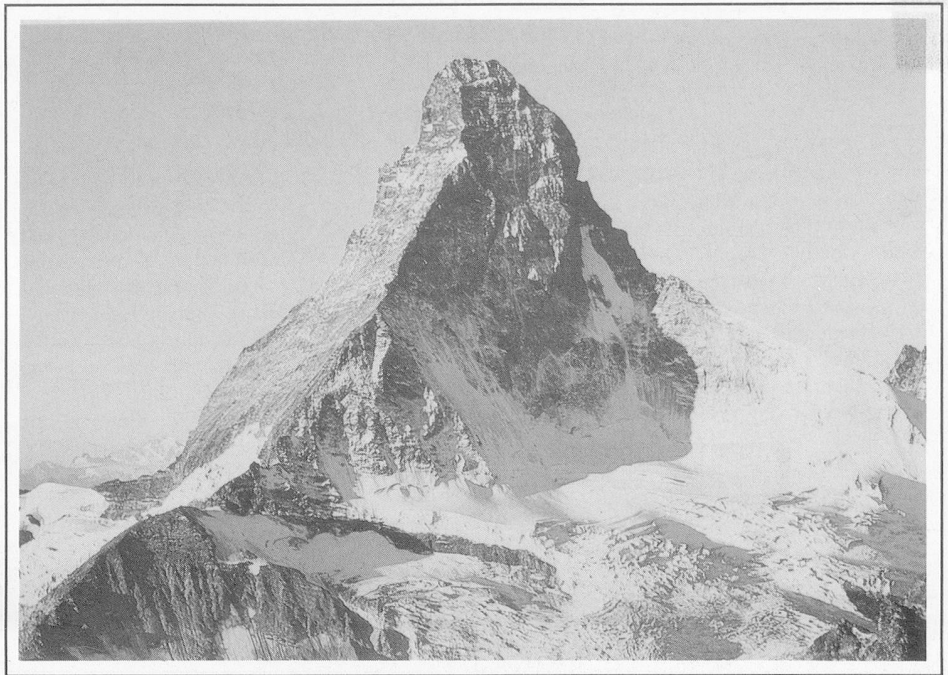
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Arme Leute in Goldach, Reichenau und Neuhausen  
 Blinde in Hellsau und Heiterswil  
 Hellscher in Trübach und Finstersee  
 Kalte Naturen in Fürigen und Kalchofen  
 Abgestumpfte Personen in Wetzikon und Spitzen  
 Gelähmte Menschen in Wildeggen  
 Willenlose in Willisau und Hertenstein  
 Ungeküsste Mädchen in Küsnacht  
 Alkoholisierte Fahrer in Lenk und Fahrwangen  
 Stiere Gesellen in Maria Hilf und Goldau  
 Antimilitaristen in Läuferfingen und Richterswil  
 Schürzenjäger in Klosters und Mönchaldorf  
 Sommerfrischler in Schattdorf und Regensdorf  
 Die Unehelichen in Stammheim  
 Normale Menschen in Schüpfheim und Stabio  
 Schamlose in Sitten  
 Gerade Menschen in Siebnen und Egg  
 Tierquäler in Gais und Hundwil  
 Oberflächliche Personen in Teufen und Tiefenkastel  
 Verbrecher in Freiburg und Gnadenthal  
 Furchtsame Leute in Klingnau und Rauschenbach  
 Nachtschwärmer in Bettwiesen und Bettlach  
 Neugierige in Finstersee  
 Folgsame Knaben in Hauenstein und Kefikon  
 Temperenzler in Weiningen und Champagne  
 Wortkarge Leute in Lachen und Scherzigen  
 Liederliche Hausfrauen in Rheineck und Blankenburg  
 Beschattete Personen in Sonnenburg und Hellbuehl  
 Bleichgesichter in Rothenburg und Blauen  
 Gesunde Menschen in Mumpf und Rüfenacht  
 Kranke Menschen in Wohlen und Wohlhusen  
 Uebermütige in der Enge und Zwingen  
 Halbschlaue in der Grütze  
 Zufriedene Eheleute auf der Scheidegg  
 Motorfahrer in Beinwil  
 Naturschänder in Blätterkinden und Blumenstein  
 Nichtraucher in Brissago  
 Stadtbewohner in Dörflingen  
 Schlafmützen in Glockental und Leutwil  
 Tierscheue Menschen in Bäretswil und Biberbrugg  
 Undankbare in Bittwil  
 Uneheliche Leute in Ehrlenbach  
 Vereinsmeier in Einsiedeln  
 Alpinisten in Tobel und Kandergrund  
 Appetitlose in Esslingen und Fischbach  
 Echte Eidgenossen in Habsburg und Kyburg  
 Ehrliche Leute in Mogelsberg und Schindelegi  
 Fussgänger in Zug



Gesetzestreue Leute in Galgenen und Greifensee  
 Hitzige Menschen in Winterthur und Kaltbrunn  
 Junge Menschen in Altdorf und Alt St. Johann  
 Intellektuelle in Holzweggen

If any readers has any more bright ideas on the subject, please let us know.

And here is another contribution from Mr. Flepp, very suitable for the coming New Year:

#### SILVESTER

Wieder isch es Jahr vergange,  
 Wieder isch es Jahr dahie,  
 Wieder chunt es Neu's entgäge,  
 Wieder fragt me: wo wott das hie?  
 Wott's zum Guete, wott's zum Schlächte,  
 Wieder weiss ma das no nüd,  
 Mit viel Glück und frohem Muet,  
 Beginnt me d's Neu und hofft es wärdi guet

Jahreswende, Schicksalswende ?  
 Begegnen wir mit Zuversicht.  
 Denn Alles Gute kommt von oben,  
 Und wenn's nicht kommt, so wird's verschoben.

Ob Deutsch, ob Welsch, c'est bien égal,  
 Le même soleil scheint überall,  
 Hasta la vista and have good time  
 Am schönsten ist es doch daheim.  
 La mia bella Napoli, vergiss das nicht  
 Begin the New Year mit viel Zuversicht.

#### THANK YOU MATTERHORN

For 3½ years, your Editor has resisted the urge to publish a photograph of the Matterhorn in the Helvetia, but his willpower eventually failed him and so there it is: a picture of the Matterhorn with the following story:

Contrary to common belief, the Matterhorn is not the tallest mountain in Switzerland (of course you all knew that). But it is undeniably the most famous.

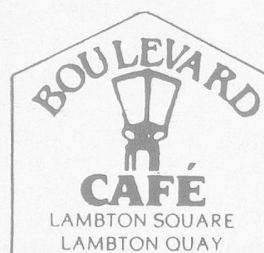
Poets and painters have been inspired by the magic of the Matterhorn. It attracts tens of thousands of visitors to the Valais every year. And countless companies here and abroad have exploited the Matterhorn's distinctive dimensions to present their products as the peak of perfection (it has been used to advertise everything from chocolate and cheese to sprays and cigarettes).

Over the years, this spectacular summit has certainly helped to transform Zermatt from an unknown Alpine village to one of Europe's leading holiday resorts. When Edward Whymper of England became the first man to scale the 4478-metre summit in 1865, there were only three hotels and 176 beds. These figures doubled within a decade, and now there are more than 100 hotels - all

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of them doing good business despite the general down-trend in the Swiss tourist industry.

Much of the success is due to the hoteliers of Zermatt themselves. They have invested millions in renovation over recent years and are now reaping the reward. Hotels in Zermatt had a 70% occupancy last year, compared with 42% nationwide.

The Valais has produced its fair share of hotel pioneers (the legendary César Ritz came from this canton) and the family Seiler of Zermatt were the most famous hotel family of them all. They were largely responsible for putting Zermatt on the tourist map by opening the first real hotel there in 1853 - a tiny tavern, the Monte Rosa. Years later, Edward Whymper wrote that "if anyone enquired: What is the best hotel in Zermatt? - the answer was "Go to the Monte Rosa" or "Go to the Seilers". The Monte Rosa is now an elegant first class property with 90 beds, but still romantically reminiscent of the golden age of Alpinism.

Like Saas-Fee, Zermatt (resident population 5000) is also a car-free resort where many guests return year after year. Nearly 6000 of the resort's "regulars" have been going to Zermatt for at least 20 years.

To cope with the increasing international interest in Zermatt as a holiday destination, the Tourist Office has installed a computerised information system. The office used to receive up to 1000 telephone enquiries a day and many callers just could not get through.

Many enquiries are related to the Matterhorn, while some written requests from abroad are simply addressed to the "Matterhorn Village". And when

guests leave Zermatt it is nothing unusual for them to pen their praises in the style chosen by one couple staying at the Hotel Monte Rosa: "Thank you, Matterhorn, for shining in all your beauty and splendour all weekend. God's creation certainly is amazing".

## OUR EDITORIALS

The last few Editorials in the Helvetia have received quite a few comments. Most of the readers who passed their comments to your Editor could see both the humour and the seriousness of the matters at stake. This is very heartening, because this is exactly what your Editor tried to achieve.

The Editorial on the super-rich (November Helvetia) reminded one of our readers, Bert Flühler, of some inscriptions he had seen on a walkway on the Bürgenstock. One of the inscription along the way said:

Unsere Erde hat nicht zuviele Menschen.

Sie hat nur zuviele Plünderer.

Your Editor is sure that these simple words sum up very aptly the thoughts of many of you.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

With this letter I would like to express how much I enjoy reading the Editorial in the "Helvetia". I always read it with great pleasure and find it interesting, informative and I like the sense of humour. Thank you very much, Henry Sigerist, for your well written contributions.  
A. Wolf

## FLYING FORTRESSES

On October 1945, just over 50 years ago, the last of the American Flying Fortresses left the airport of Dübendorf to fly back to the UK. Between 1943 and 1945, over 90 Flying Fortresses landed at Dübendorf, some of them in perfect condition, others badly damaged.

In line with Switzerland's strict neutrality, the Federal Council did not allow any aircraft to be moved until the end of the war with Japan in August 1945. Only then did the Swiss Government allow US aircraft mechanics and engineers to be brought to Dübendorf to perform the necessary maintenance on the aircraft to make them airworthy again. A particular twist to the story is that none of these 90 Flying Fortresses ever saw the USA again. They were flown to some USA air bases in the UK where they were eventually turned into scrap metal because, by then, the USA had no use for them anymore.

## CARS BACK IN APPENZELL

Whilst more and more cities are creating car free zones, the town of Appenzell has gone against the general trend. For two years, cars had been banned from the centre of Appenzell, but now this ban has been lifted.

Two main reasons were at the root of the reversal:

1) The shops and businesses in the inner township had lost an enormous amount of their trade since the ban had been imposed.

2) The people living along the bypass roads complained that the increased traffic had drastically reduced their quality of life.

So, to restore business in the inner township of Appenzell and to allow "suburbians" to sleep at night and enjoy a peaceful daylight life again, the traffic is squeezed once more through the narrow streets of Appenzell and everyone lived happily ever after.