

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 73 (2007)
Heft: [7]

Buchbesprechung: Die Schwarzen Brüder [Lisa Tetzner]

Autor: Brühlmann, Trudi

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.](#)

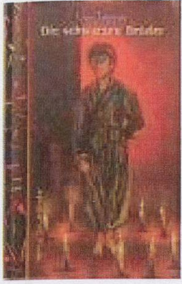
Download PDF: 15.03.2025

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

BOOKS

Die Schwarzen Brüder

By Lisa Tetzner



This is the very sad story of poor farming boys from Tessin. The book is loosely based on fact: In the mid 1840s, a barge, which was heavily overloaded, sank in the Lago Maggiore, and forty boys drowned. The remaining boys made it to Milan, where they were sold to chimney sweeps. They had to work for a whole

season, after which they were free to go home, but many died of ill treatment, malnutrition, pneumonia and tuberculosis. Most of them had very poor parents desperate for the extra bit of money and relieved to have one mouth less to feed. Some were orphans or came from dysfunctional families. The Tessin boys found solace in their gang. They called themselves Die Schwarzen Brüder, the Black Brothers.

Die Schwarzen Brüder is a book about friendship, and there is also a bit of a children's love story in it – a riveting mix. I used to tell the story to my students when they were about twelve in the last lesson of the week. They loved it – and their mothers, too. And we all cried at times and rejoiced when we eventually reached the happy end. I think all my students went on a pilgrimage to Sonogno, the last village in the Valle Verzasca, where Giorgio came from.

The author Lisa Tetzner came to Switzerland during the 1930s. She and her husband Kurt Held, who also wrote children's books, were political refugees. They remained in Switzerland for the rest of their lives and gifted their house in Carona to Switzerland, in grateful recognition for asylum. The house belongs to the foundation Pro Helvetia, and Swiss artists can apply to live and work there for a few months.

I thought the practice of sending poor boys to Milan was a matter of the 19th century. But then, in 2005, a friend sent me a newspaper clipping from the "Tessiner Zeitung" about a reunion of chimney-sweeps, and there was a photo of a man called Giacomo Ferando, one of the (few!) lucky chimney sweeps who survived the ordeal of climbing up inside the chimneys and scraping the soot off the chimney walls. Giacomo Ferando was born in 1927 and worked as a chimneysweep at the age of seven - so all of a sudden it wasn't such a distant past anymore. tb

iROX the Swiss weather station brand !



iROX 'Helvet-X'
Clock, alarm clock, weather forecast
and indoor temperature in a cool red cube!

\$69.00

incl. delivery!
(RRP \$79.00)



iROX HBR653
Barometer, weather forecast
indoor/outdoor temp.
/humidity
temp alarm

\$149.00

incl. delivery!
(RRP \$189.00)

www.weatherstation.co.nz

phone Carlo 09 430 30 67



SAXON 10x25L Deluxe

Fully multi coated optics, waterproof, fog proof.
Very clear image, very versatile binos.

\$200.00

incl. Delivery!
(RRP \$245.00)



SAXON 705AZ3

great for land viewing!
fully multicoated objective
refractor, alt-azimuth mount

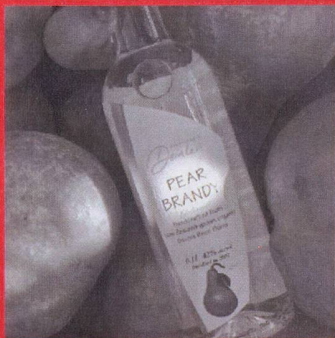
\$495.00

incl. Delivery!
(RRP \$595.00)

www.telescopes.net.nz

**S
C
H
N
A
P
S**

EXCLUSIVE
HELVETIA
WINTER
SCHNAPS
SPECIAL



Distillerie
Deinlein

"New Zealand's
top drop"

**New Zealand
eau de vie**

Pear Williams
Pear Beurle Bosc
Apricot Clutha Gold
Apple Braeburn
Apple Cox's Orange
Obstler
GrapaNZ "Merlot/Malbec"

\$10
discount

on every purchase over \$50
Available July - September 2007, one per customer,
only available to members of the Swiss Society of New
Zealand. When ordering please refer to this special

Ex-distillerie prices
NZ-wide gift service
For orders:

T 07 552 4955

F 07 552 4965

E info@distillerie.co.nz

www.distillerie.co.nz