

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 78 (2012)
Heft: [7]

Titelseiten

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: 01.04.2025

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

9528

HELVETIA



MAGAZINE OF THE SWISS SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND

OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2012

YEAR 78

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Switzerland's Three Lakes Region
- Organisation of the Swiss Abroad news
- Helvetia survey results
- Swiss Society Games results

INSIDE:

- Organisation of the Swiss Abroad news 3
- Helvetia survey results 4
- Swiss Society Games results 5
- From the President: back from the winter escape 6
- Swiss economic news 7
- Embassy news 8 - 9
- Health corner 10
- Kids' corner 11
- Three Lakes Region 12 - 13
- Swiss Club news 14 - 20
- Chuchichäschtli/ Garden diary 21
- Obituaries 22 - 23
- Pre-historic pile dwellings 24

The Three Lakes Region of Switzerland

Switzerland's beautiful Three Lakes Region (Drei-Seen-Land or pays des trois lacs) lies at the foot of the Jura mountains, comprising the three lakes of Morat (Murten), Neuchâtel and Bienne (Biel).

It is one of Switzerland's most important growing regions for vegetables (and let us not forget the wine!). The region is at the boundary of the cantons Bern, Fribourg, Neuchâtel and Vaud, forming part of the linguistic boundary region between French and German-speaking Switzerland.

Originally a swampy floodplain of the Aare River, chroniclers reported regular flooding of lakes and adjacent swamps from the 15th century, at times even causing the complete merging of the three lakes.

The original landscape provided an ideal environment for our ancestors who created lake-side settlements built on piles to deal with the periodic changes in water levels (pile dwellings). Significant archaeological remains of these settlements were discovered in the 19th

century during a period of prolonged drought (refer page 24). Other significant Swiss Celtic finds of the later la Tène period were discovered at the northern end of Lake Neuchâtel around the same time.

The Jura Water Correction aimed to mitigate flood risk in a series of hydrological works. This included the diversion of the Aare River from Aarberg directly into Lake Bienne through the Hagneck canal, and building further canals between the three lakes (Broye and Thielle/Zihl canals).

A side effect of this correction was the creation of the longest navigable waterway in Switzerland - much to the delight of modern tourists who make extensive use of boat tours between Solothurn in the north to Yverdon in the south.

The area is historically and culturally rich, including lovely cities such as Morat (Murten), Biel (Bienne), Neuchâtel and Yverdon. There are limitless opportunities for walking, cycling and all manners of water transport.



The three lakes of Morat (Murten - far right), Neuchâtel (foreground) and Bienne (Biel) (far left)

This photograph and others in this issue are used with the kind permission of Bielersee Schifffahrts-Gesellschaft (www.bielersee.ch)