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From the Editor

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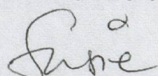
Spring is now definitely in the air. For us Auckland (and other) urbanites, it often takes a trip to the countryside to be really convinced - lets face it, spring is not spring without the many calves and lambs that dot the countryside, and the green hue that starts to spread over trees and shrubs. I hope that for the farmers among you, this spring has been successful and the weather not too inclement for calving and lambing.

Well, we are into our second Helvetia issue and I must say it's already a bit easier - not in the least part due to the excellent articles the Helvetia team has contributed. I am so pleased about their creativity and penmanship, and of course hugely grateful.

The Three Lakes Region is our key topic for this issue - and there is simply not enough space to give it all the credit it deserves! For me personally, it brings back memories of a "shipwreck" - that is, capsizing in a sailing boat on Lake Biel one late and very stormy afternoon just off the Island of St Peter, losing all our valuable possessions including wallets in the process - only to be rescued by a fancy boat with cocktail party on board. Talking about the bedraggled among the glitzy!

62 among you have taken the opportunity to participate in the Helvetia survey - thank you all very much. This is really valuable information which we will consider in adjusting the content of the Helvetia.

Have you ever wondered why the British National Anthem sounds vaguely familiar? Our Ambassador Marion Weichelt sheds some light on to this conundrum (page 6). Now I am very curious about the alternative anthem! Wishing you a very enjoyable spring.



Mim Bueb sin Hosesack

*En alti Chäpshlischtöle
es Portmenee, natürlich leer
En Bleischtift und es Stückli Chole
Es Naastuech, wo gärn suber weer,
Es gröönelig-grüens Stuck Kandiszucker,
En Chlee, vierblettrig und verblüet
En Hegel und e Hampfle Chlüüre
Es Loos, wo sicher nüme ziet,
Zündhölzli und es Niele-Zwiigli
Es Bileet uf de Münscherturm,
E Lupe-n und es Muulörgeli
und z'underscht nu en Rägewuurm*

*Was sonen Chnopf – s isch fascht es Wunder nöd alles mit sich umeträit!
En Sack voll Gnuusch, Dräck und Plunder?
En Sack voll Buebe-Seligkäit!*

Walter-Verlag Meilen

Contributed by Edith Hess

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