

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK

Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

Band: - (1977)

Heft: 1731

Artikel: BBC Radio's swiss evening was a very successful event

Autor: [s.n.]

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-690865>

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: 13.03.2025

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

BBC RADIO'S SWISS EVENING WAS A VERY SUCCESSFUL EVENT

SUNDAY, 24th APRIL 1977 FROM 5.30 to 11.45 p.m.

The editor, Stanley Williamson, attempted to get behind the popular stereotype of Switzerland as a place of cuckoo clocks, cheese, milk chocolate, yodelling and bank accounts.

The *Radio Times* published an article by William Davis, questioning the myth that the Swiss have no sense of humour. It included cartoons from the "Nebelspalter" and a picture in words of its unique editor who runs this periodical (62,000 copies every week) with just a secretary and lots of contributors.

There followed a sequence of music and speech presented by Nigel Douglas (BBC Manchester) the first part – a confusion of tongues – was presented by John Steinberg (American), author of a book, "Why Switzerland" (publication celebrated at Embassy some time ago). An excellent portrait of how the four national languages work, how they are part of the Swiss make-up, the rôle dialects play in the German-speaking part, but not in the other three. It also stressed the way languages are used in political, cultural and social life, so different and yet so stable a nation. Voices and samples from all parts of the four regions were quoted.

Then two great Swiss sopranos, Lisa della Casa and Edith Mathis, sang music by Mozart, Brahms, Strauss and also a Swiss folk song.

Next there was an excellent production of Friedrich Duerrenmatt's play "Hercules and the Augean Stables" translated and adapted by Stanley Williamson.

The BBC Northern Symphony Orchestra conducted by Swiss Erich Schmid presented music by Martin Honegger and Othmar Schoeck.

At 9 p.m. Peter Arengo-Jones, for many years Press man at the British Embassy in Berne, presented "Excelsior" – some aspects of the British love affair with the Alps.

Then Brian Beedham of the Economist gave a talk entitled "A State of Equilibrium". He argued with evidence from conversations recorded in Switzerland that the Swiss have evolved social and political structures which serve them well and are of considerable interest to the rest of the world. All in all, a most balanced talk.

We then heard Klaus Huber's mystic music "A Whiff of Eternity", Melos Ensemble and 20th Century Music Ensemble Vienna.

Then there was an extremely fair and interesting talk entitled "Neutrality

and Participation" by Jacques Freymond, Director of the Graduate Institute of International Studies at Geneva. He explained the pressures Switzerland is subjected to in preserving its neutral status in a well-reasoned exposé.

Then, in "Desirable Residence", Nigel Douglas discussed with some of his Swiss friends, young and old, critical and appreciative, the pros and cons of life in Switzerland. Some great critics like Ziegler whose anarchist views expressed in his book "Switzerland above suspicion" (cynical!) have caused a great stir. His ideas were pulled to pieces by Douglas.

The programme ended with Swiss folk songs played by the Philip Jones (his wife is Swiss) Brass Ensemble on records (MM did a write-up some time ago on one of their records).

The whole programme was most interesting and extremely fair. All extreme tendencies avoided, criticisms fairly answered and often countered by the British interviewer. Anyone listening must have realized that for once Switzerland was depicted as a country with a great culture and not just cuckoo clocks (not Swiss anyway!) and cheese and chocolate. In my opinion completely fair and most interesting.

MM



GENEVA by jet from only £45

This Summer, for the first time ever, CPT Ltd are pleased to announce 6 flights weekly to Geneva (daily except Tuesday) from Gatwick with the superb service of British Caledonian Airways' BAC 1-11 Jets. Our programme this summer offers a wide range of holidays in Geneva from Hostels to the unbeatable luxury of the Hotel Du Rhone. Prices start from as little as £45 for 2 days including return jet flights and 1 night's basic hostel accommodation or, at the other end of the scale, our price is still a very reasonable £98 including return flights and two nights at the Du Rhone. For the business man, a single room with shower and breakfast for 1 night, giving one complete day for appointments starts from as little as £62 at the Hotel le Grenil.

For full details of the above and many other Hotels in Geneva ask for a copy of our comprehensive brochure which gives all details of Hotels, prices and flight timings.

CRAWFORD PERRY TRAVEL LTD.

260A FULHAM ROAD, LONDON SW10 9EL

ATOL 369B

Telephone: 01-351 2191 (6 lines) Telex: 919078

ABTA