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## EPILOGUE

### Readings on Switzerland: An Introductory Guide

The following selection of thirty titles relating to some of Switzerland's many facets derives from *World Bibliographies: Switzerland*, published in 1990 by Clio Press of Oxford, England. Permission to use material already published in that bibliography for the following guide is gratefully acknowledged. The authors, the late Heinz K. Meier and his wife Regula A. Meier, both of Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia, have selected nearly a thousand annotated entries that carefully describe the content and significance of each title in some one hundred categories and subcategories. The sampling offered below may serve as an initial guide to Switzerland's complex geographic, linguistic, historical, and cultural world, and it will also give an impression of the nature and scope of the Meiers' bibliographical work. The thirty titles have been arranged under the following eight headings:

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|----------------------|-----------------------|
| I. The Country (1-3) | V. History (16-20)    |
| II. Languages (4-8)  | VI. Politics (21-23)  |
| III. Economy (9-12)  | VII. Religion (24-26) |
| IV. Society (13-15)  | VIII. Culture (27-30) |

In the selection of titles, book-length studies and those available in English were preferred, without prejudice however to their thematic counterparts in other languages. Surveys received preference over titles dealing with individuals or with single institutions. Given the wealth of available material, it would have been possible to create a different, equally representative list.

## I. The Country

1. Emil Egli. *Switzerland: A Survey of Its Land and People*. Translated from the German by Britta M. Charleston, Paul Swain, Walter Sorell. Bern: Haupt, 1978. 229 pages.

Egli divides his scholarly but very readable book into two parts. The first is entitled "Nature: Origin and Aspects of the Country." Since prehistoric times the Alps, the Central Plateau, and the Jura have undergone great changes caused by climatic and glacial shifts, erosion, the flow of water, landslides, etc., so that the topography of present-day Switzerland is totally different from that of thousands of years ago. Tables and sketches illustrate what natural forces were at work and how they affected the landscape. The second part is entitled "Settlement, Economy and Population" and shows how man had to adapt to his surrounding and in turn how the presence of man has changed the face of the landscape. Due to the geographic contrasts so pronounced in Switzerland and the multicultural population, settlements are distinct from one region to another. Switzerland has no natural resources and much of its land is unproductive, yet it enjoys a high standard of living, which Egli attributes to the historical and political development of the country, its early adoption of modern industrial technology, and its "national character" that inspires the trust of others. This is an important book by one of the leading twentieth-century Swiss geographers.

2. Fritz R. Allemann. *26 Mal die Schweiz: Panorama einer Konföderation*. 4th ed. Munich: Piper, 1985. 603 pages.

Allemann, Swiss journalist and writer, provides in this substantial book a picture of the twenty-six ministates or cantons that make up the Swiss Confederation. Each of these cantons has a character and a history of its own, and Allemann succeeds in bringing out the individuality of each of them in fascinating detail. Central Switzerland (*Urschweiz*), where the country's history began, retains many of the old traditions. Zurich, Bern, and Lucerne, the leading states in the Old Confederation, are centers of different kinds of power, with metropolitan Zurich being the undisputed financial and economic leader in the country. French Switzerland (*Welschland, Romandie*) is the land of grain and wine production and watchmaking, where cosmopolitan elegance is combined with puritan discipline. There is no more informative, reliable, and at the same time enjoyable guide to the cantonal diversity of Switzerland than Allemann's book.

3. Gavin R. de Beer. *Early Travellers in the Alps*. [1930]. New York: October House, 1967. 204 pages.

This is the first of half a dozen books that Sir Gavin de Beer has written about his great love and hobby: traveling in Switzerland. It recounts the experiences of people who traveled in the Alps from the sixteenth to the end of the eighteenth century. De Beer defines travelers as persons "who wander about for no purpose other than the interest and enjoyment which the region affords them." He retells the adventures and achievements of the early humanists and scientists attracted to the Alps, of the first Englishmen to venture into the mountain valleys, of poets and writers, and, finally, of "the greatest Alpine tourist," the

Genevan physicist, geologist, and mineralogist Horace Bénédict de Saussure who produced a wealth of scientific reports and materials on his seven trips to the Mont Blanc and Matterhorn regions. The book is illustrated with forty plates and thirty-two figures in the text, all woodcuts and engravings from the works of early travelers, depicting personalities and scenery. Books on similar subjects by the author include *Escape to Switzerland* (London, New York: Penguin, 1945) and *Alps and Men: Pages from Forgotten Diaries of Travellers and Tourists in Switzerland* (London: Edward Arnold, 1932).

## II. Languages

4. Rudolf Hotzenköcherle. *Die Sprachlandschaften der deutschen Schweiz*. Edited by Niklaus Bigler and Robert Schläpfer. Aarau, Switzerland: Sauerländer, 1984. 496 pages.

The book was compiled following the death of Professor Hotzenköcherle, the undisputed authority on Swiss dialects and creator of the *Sprachatlas der deutschen Schweiz*. It contains material from lectures and writings by Hotzenköcherle on phonological and morphological problems of contemporary Swiss German as manifested in different regions. The historical background and the maps illustrating the geographic location of the examples given make this work on dialectology interesting even for the layperson.

5. Pierre du Bois, ed. *Union et division des Suisses: Les relations entre Alamanniques, Romands et Tessinois aux XIXe et XXe siècles*. Lausanne: Editions de l'Aire, 1983. 239 pages.

This book contains the text of twelve scholarly papers on various aspects of the relationship between the ethnic groups of Switzerland presented at a colloquium at the Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne in November 1980. Half of these articles are historical treatments of specific issues such as the ethnic relations before the founding of the new confederation in 1848 or the tensions between German-speaking and French-speaking Swiss during the two world wars of the twentieth century. The other articles analyze the bilateral relationships between ethnic groups and the impact on the *Romandie* of the recent linguistic development in Alemannic Switzerland of increasing use of the dialect even in schools.

6. Alfred Wyler. *Dialect and High German in German-speaking Switzerland*. Translated from the German by Maureen Oberli-Turner. Zurich: Pro Helvetia, 1989. 43 pages.

Swiss German is not a single language but consists of a number of dialects differing from one another in vocabulary, pronunciation, and intonation. "Schwyzerdütsch" as it is called, is spoken in eastern, central and northwestern Switzerland by about 68 percent of the population. All children from Swiss German-speaking areas learn standard German in the first years in school. With some training, this standard written form differs little from High German, while the spoken form retains the local coloring of the speaker. The Swiss do not want

to sound like Germans. Even though they may feel uncomfortable in the presence of a native German, the Swiss make little effort to hide the characteristic patterns of intonation typical for the dialect when speaking High German. In other cultures, use of the dialect may show the social and educational level of the speaker; this is not so in Switzerland. Only in schools, on official occasions or when speakers from other language areas are present is High German, or what the Swiss call "Schriftdeutsch" (written German), used in oral communication. The recent trend to increased use of the dialect in school, church, and the media is welcomed by some and frowned upon by others for various reasons. Wyler begins with a brief description of various dialects from different regions, traces some phonetic changes from Middle High German to Swiss German, and shows differences in inflection and vocabulary between the two languages. Wyler ends with a brief history of the development of the Swiss German dialects and their limited use in literature.

7. Jürgen B. Heye. *A Sociolinguistic Investigation of Multilingualism in the Canton of Ticino*. The Hague: Mouton, 1975. 87 pages.

After World War II, Canton Ticino began to attract large numbers of Swiss from other cantons and foreigners. The mild climate of the southernmost Swiss canton was one attraction. The influx of non-Italian speakers did not create social friction. Heye examined language performance and language attitudes with the aid of a questionnaire in Italian and German which was randomly distributed in the major population areas of Lugano, Locarno, and Bellinzona. Samples of this questionnaire, the results and their interpretation form the major body of this work. Heye finds that regardless of socio-economic status, the attitude toward the standard languages is more positive than toward the corresponding dialects.

8. Douglas B. Gregor. *Romontsch: Language and Literature: The Sursilvan Raeto-Romance of Switzerland*. Cambridge, England: Oleander, 1982. 388 pages.

The Rhaeto-Romance language, spoken by less than 1 percent of the Swiss population, consists really of five languages, each with its own history, idiom, and literature. They are: Sursilvan, Sutsilvan, Surmiran, and the Ladins of the Upper and Lower Engadin valleys. The author deals in a lengthy introduction of eighty-one pages with the geography of the isolated mountain valleys and villages and the history of the Romansh territory that was at one time part of the Roman province Rhaetia. He then touches on language, literature, and folklore and shows the consequences of the absence of a unified language. Only strong support by the federal government, the media, and linguistic societies working toward the creation of a common written language, can halt the disappearance of Switzerland's fourth national language. A 110-page grammar provides an introduction to the phonology, orthography, morphology, and syntax of the Sursilvan language, spoken in the Vorder-Rhein Valley of the northwestern part of Canton Graubünden. The anthology that follows consists of ninety poems, letters, and prose pieces in Sursilvan, translated by Gregor on the facing pages and accompanied by biographical notes about the different authors. The book is produced from a typewritten manuscript and has the look of a not entirely reliable work of an enthusiastic amateur.

### III. Economy

9. François Gross, ed. *Focus on Switzerland: Economic Life and the Export Industries*. Translated from the French by Roger Glémet. 2d ed. Lausanne: Swiss Office for the Development of Trade, 1982. 115 pages.

This richly illustrated book provides an excellent overview of the character of the Swiss economy. The Swiss economy is intimately tied to the economy of the world and depends on successfully marketing its products abroad. The historical roots of this development are sketched, as are the major industries from the dairy and food industry to the chemical and pharmaceutical, watchmaking, engineering, hydroelectric and nuclear power, machine tool, and textile industries. The role scientific research, consulting, customer service training, banks, insurance companies, the merchant marine, and the "sixth Switzerland" of Swiss companies abroad play in maintaining Switzerland's competitive position in the world market is also outlined. The Swiss are able to sell their products abroad thanks to the quality of those products and of their services and the stability of the Swiss franc. The book with its many striking photographs is in itself a quality product and as such the best possible propaganda instrument for the subject it describes. The *Focus on Switzerland* series has also been published in German, French, Italian, and Spanish. It is available from the publisher or Pro Helvetia, Swiss Council for Culture, in Zurich.

10. Paul B. Bernard. *Rush to the Alps: The Evolution of Vacationing in Switzerland*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1978. 228 pages.

As Bernard points out, "vacationing in the Alps is a relatively recent phenomenon." In Switzerland it began less than two hundred years ago, and it became an economically significant factor only during the last century. Bernard traces this development from the early stirrings of interest in the mountains during the Renaissance to the transformation of Alpine Switzerland during the tourism boom of the pre-World War I era. The evolution of concepts such as "leisure," "free time," and "vacation" are historically delineated; the difficulties of travel and the changing modes of lodging and transportation are graphically described; a presentation of the history of taking the waters ("balneology") is as much part of this book as is the characterization of the psychology of hotelkeeping; the sociological and economic analysis of life in the mountain valleys before and after the advent of tourism is balanced by the description of the no less important changes brought about in the vacationer. Bernard puts appropriate stress on the role that the English played in the rush to the Alps. His last two chapters give an entertaining detailed account of how the "little Upper Engadine village of St. Moritz" became "the platinum melting pot" that illustrated like no other place the variety and complexity the Swiss vacation had achieved by 1914.

11. Ernest A. Brugger et al. *The Transformation of Swiss Mountain Regions: Problems of Development between Self-Reliance and Dependence in an Economic and Ecological Perspective*. Translated from the German and French by Barbara Stuckey et al. Bern: Haupt, 1984. 699 pages.

The more than sixty scholarly articles in this book deal with the economic,

political, ecological, and cultural problems affecting the mountain regions of contemporary Switzerland. The mountain areas of the Alps and the Jura, which make up two-thirds of the territory of the country but have only about 14 percent of its population, have not participated in the economic growth of the lowlands of the Central Plateau. The authors of the articles, representing different scientific disciplines, address three basic questions. First, what ecological, economic, cultural, and political disparities characterize the development of the mountain areas of Switzerland? Second, what are the causes and consequences of these disparities? Third, how have the various actors, including governments, reacted to desirable and undesirable structures and processes? The result of their investigations is an impressive interdisciplinary inventory of issues and possible solutions.

12. Willy Zeller. *'Europe 92' und die Schweiz: Blickpunkt Integration*. Zurich: Neue Zürcher Zeitung, 1988. 122 pages.

A first part of this book contains seven articles dealing with the general question of how the program of the European Community (EC) to establish an internal common market by 1992 affects Europe as a whole, and the countries of the EFTA (European Free Trade Association) in particular. The second part consists of ten articles on the partnership between Switzerland and the EC. The prospect of the abolition of all trade barriers within the EC presents a tremendous challenge to Switzerland. It calls for a strategy that builds upon the many existing ties between Switzerland and the EC, without reaching the level of membership in the EC, which is not feasible politically. The Swiss government must strive to reduce differences in legal and economic matters with the EC member states. The task of Swiss business, on the other hand, is to maintain its competitiveness. See also *Schweiz-EG: Stimmen der Schweizer Wirtschaft zur europäischen Integration* (Switzerland-EC: Voices of the Swiss Economy on the European Integration) edited by Richard Senti (Zurich: Neue Zürcher Zeitung, 1988).

#### IV. Society

13. René Levy. *The Social Structure of Switzerland: Outline of a Society*. Translated from the German by R. Bandi. 3d ed. Zurich: Pro Helvetia, 1986. 136 pages.

This brief study deals with some of the most important aspects of the social structure of Switzerland. After a description of Switzerland's position and role in the international scene, Levy, who is senior lecturer in sociology at the University of Lausanne, provides an analysis of life and living conditions in Switzerland with attention to such factors as the material and spiritual standard of living, life patterns from childhood to old age, including family and work roles of both sexes, education, economic conditions, politics, and decision making across the spectrum of society. In a further part Levy describes "the organisation of living conditions at the local, cantonal, and national levels," stressing differences that exist between urban and rural communities and rich and poor cantons. Finally, he assesses strengths and weaknesses of the system and what might be done to improve it. This panorama of the social and cultural diversity of Switzerland and the everyday problems of its inhabitants is an

excellent, sober introduction to the complexity of Swiss society. The book is illustrated and has a number of charts, tables, and graphs, as well as a good bibliography of mainly German-language titles.

14. Robert Billigmeier. *A Crisis in Swiss Pluralism: The Romansh and Their Relations with Germans and Italian-Swiss in the Perspective of a Millennium*. The Hague: Mouton, 1979. 450 pages.

Canton Graubünden is a Switzerland in miniature in its geographical, ethnic, and linguistic diversity. It has three language communities, German, Romansh, and Italian, in order of size. Billigmeier's focus is the fate of the Romansh people and their language. They constitute less than 1 percent of the entire Swiss population and are in danger of losing their identity in the wake of the powerful economic and social forces that engulf them. Billigmeier describes the evolution of the Romansh language through the centuries and its division into seven distinct dialects in the various mountain valleys. This division makes the creation of a common written language very difficult. The revivalist movement that began in the 1830s has had some success, but has been hampered by constant internal bickering. The expansion of Swiss-German enterprises into the Romansh areas since World War II and the impact of tourism, among other things, present real dangers for this unique component of Swiss pluralism.

15. Armin Gretler and Pierre-Emeric Mandl. *Values, Trends and Alternatives in Swiss Society: A Prospective Analysis*. New York: Praeger, 1973. 241 pages.

This book was undertaken at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich in order to develop a guide (*Leitbild*) for town and country planning in Switzerland. Successful planning "will be related to ethical, cultural, social, political, administrative, economic, aesthetic, and other factors," and "the identification and comprehension of all these factors" is a "prerequisite for a valid overall conception." Gretler and Mandl present the results of that portion of the study (*Teilleitbild*) that deals with Swiss society. The subject area of society was divided into the subcategories of demography; the labor force; the condition of women; the family; work and leisure; standards of living; property ownership; urbanization; types of housing and social relations; cantonal party systems and political participation; and external influences on the development of Switzerland, and worldwide interdependence. Each of these topics is given a chapter in which possible developments in the last decades of the twentieth century are outlined. Seventy-eight tables provide statistical data of existing conditions, trends, and forecasts to the year 2040 in some cases. This brief and interesting book manages to present a wealth of information about most aspects of Swiss society and digests many of the results of the vast literature generated by futurologists.

## V. History

16. *Handbuch der Schweizer Geschichte*. 2 vols. Zurich: Verlag Berichthaus, 1972, 1977. 1,320 pages.

The first volume begins with an essay on the content and meaning of Swiss

history by Helbling and then treats Swiss history from prehistoric times to the age of the Counter Reformation in six chapters. The second volume continues the story from the ancien régime to the 1960s in seven chapters. Most of the authors are or were professors at Swiss universities; all are established authorities in their fields. They have produced a thorough chronological account of Swiss history. As contributors to a handbook they were especially concerned to incorporate the available historical literature into their presentation. To this end, copious footnotes throughout provide an exhausting annotated commentary on the scholarly output by Swiss historians. Each chapter also has a listing of source materials in archives and in printed form and, in some cases, an extensive bibliography. This handbook will be a valuable resource for years to come.

17. Georg Thürer. *Free and Swiss: The Story of Switzerland*. Adapted and translated from the German by R. P. Heller and E. Long. London: Wolff, 1970. 198 pages.

Thürer sets the scene by dwelling on the diversity of the Swiss people and the regions where they live which, nevertheless, did not prevent them from achieving unity in the course of seven hundred years of history. He divides the book into thirteen chapters and focuses his narrative on historical periods: the origins of the people, their first attempts at an alliance, their struggle for independence, the conflicts caused by the Reformation, the effects of the French Revolution and Napoleon, the emergence of a federal state in 1848, economic developments in the nineteenth century, the two world wars, and the period from 1945 to 1969. An appendix details briefly the history of the individual cantons. Twelve photographs depict characteristic Swiss scenes and influential Swiss personalities. This condensed history is easy reading. It draws from broad knowledge of the country's past, and presents it in a favorable light.

18. Marc-R. Sauter. *Switzerland: From Earliest Times to the Roman Conquest*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1976. 208 pages.

The varied relief of Switzerland resulted in diverse ethnic and cultural developments already in its prehistoric and protohistoric past. Sauter, one of the foremost Swiss archaeologists and anthropologists concisely introduces this involved subject matter. His information, written in precise, scholarly language, is based on the most recent evidence and interpretations. Beginning in the distant past of the world of glaciers, mammoths, and rock shelters, the story moves on to the Neolithic farmers and builders of lake dwellings, constructed on the shores of Switzerland's many lakes. During the Bronze Age migrant groups of people wandered into the country across the Alpine passes and began the period of continuous settlement on the Swiss Plateau and the Jura, which culminated in the flourishing La Tène culture of the Second Iron Age found near Lake Neuchâtel. The Celtic tribe of the Helvetii were the first inhabitants of Switzerland who can be identified by name. They were first mentioned when they were defeated by Julius Caesar in 58 B.C. Good maps, many illustrations and line drawings, and a comprehensive bibliography enhance the scholarly value and the enjoyment of this fine publication.

19. J. Murray Luck and Lukas F. Burckhardt, eds. *Modern Switzerland*. Stanford, CA: SPOSS, 1976. 515 pages.



This book consists of twenty-six self-contained articles by individual Swiss authors that aim "to describe present-day Switzerland to the English-speaking world." The topics covered include demography, geography, energy resources, agriculture, banking, research, technology, public health, labor relations, social security, education, religion, sports, tourism, federalism, the judicial system, politics, national defense, the status of women, the constitution, Swiss relations with the European Community and the United Nations, the International Committee of the Red Cross, Swiss neutrality, and modern art. Each article ends with a brief bibliography. This work is complemented by J. Murray Luck, *A History of Switzerland* (Palo Alto, CA: SPOSS, 1985). Chapter eleven, titled "The Twentieth Century," provides a richly textured update of *Modern Switzerland*.

20. Leo Schelbert. *Einführung in die schweizerische Auswanderungsgeschichte der Neuzeit*. Zurich: Leemann, 1976. 443 pages.

With this work Leo Schelbert confirmed his expertise in the field of migration history in general and Swiss emigration in particular. In a first part he describes the causes of emigration and the process of emigration. A historical survey of Swiss emigration, military and civilian, into all parts of the world forms part two. Schelbert illustrates his points by means of a collection of some thirty documents, consisting of official statements, travel reports, and letters. Finally, a "historiographical introduction" leads to the primary and secondary literature, arranged according to topics and geographic areas. From one of the thirty statistical tables we learn that an estimated 347,000 Swiss lived abroad in 1928, the year with the largest number of Swiss abroad, 73 percent of them in Europe, and 24 percent in the Americas.

## VI. Politics

21. Kenneth D. McRae. *Conflict and Compromise in Multilingual Societies: Switzerland*. Waterloo, ON: Wilfred Laurier University Press, 1983. 274 pages.

Switzerland is made up of German, French, Italian, and Romansh-speaking people living in different geographic areas of the country who are characterized by distinctive cultures and lifestyles. Despite these differences, Switzerland is an example of peaceful coexistence and remarkable social and political stability. McRae gives a historical overview of how this came about and how the social and political institutionalization of the linguistic cleavages was achieved. Political parties, federal and cantonal institutions, the media, and educational and cultural policies are analyzed in turn, with special attention given to the attitudes and behavior of the members of the four language groups toward one another. A few maps and many tables and figures are part of the scholarly apparatus of this impressive monograph.

22. Frederick W. Dame. *Continuity and Change in Swiss Neutrality from 1815 to 1980: An Analysis*. Saarbrücken: University of the Saarland, 1981. 331 pages.

This political science dissertation examines continuity and change in Swiss neutrality since the Congress of Vienna in 1815, where a "permanent" neu-

trality was imposed on the country. The author examines the influence neutrality had and has on the Swiss people, their society, economy, and political system and how it affects foreign relations. Switzerland has not been involved in a war since 1815 and has been able to preserve its security and national interest while adapting to changing situations. In the years following World War II, the conflict between the capitalist and communist systems and between highly industrialized and underdeveloped countries has put Swiss neutrality to new tests. A book that examines Swiss neutrality during the same period as Dame's is *Neutralität—Ideal oder Kalkül? Zweihundert Jahre außenpolitisches Denken in der Schweiz* (Neutrality—Ideal or Calculation? Two Hundred Years of Thought on Foreign Policy in Switzerland) by Daniel Frei (Frauenfeld, Switzerland; Stuttgart, FRG: Huber, 1967).

23. Heinz K. Meier. *Friendship under Stress: U.S.-Swiss Relations 1900-1950*. Bern: Lang, 1970. 423 pages.

The two world wars of the twentieth century affected U.S.-Swiss relations in important respects. During World War I Switzerland came to depend on American raw materials and food supplies. Both were hard to come by once the United States had joined the war. During the interwar years American tariff laws stirred up negative reaction in Switzerland. In the second half of World War II Switzerland was subjected to intense pressure by the United States and Great Britain to change its economic policies toward Germany. The aftereffects of the tensions created were felt into the early 1950s. Meier points out that in spite of such difficulties, feelings of respect and friendship provided the underlying continuity in the relationship. This book is the only large-scale and detailed scholarly study of twentieth-century relations between Switzerland and any other country. An account that follows Meier's work closely in organization and documentation without acknowledgment is "American Wartime Relations with Neutral European States: The Case of the United States and Switzerland" by Arthur L. Funk in *Les états neutres européens et la Seconde Guerre mondiale*, edited by L.-E. Roulet and R. Blättler (Neuchâtel: La Baconnière, 1985), pp. 283-302.

## VII. Religion

24. Ulrich Gäbler. *Huldrych Zwingli: His Life and Work*. Translated by Ruth C. L. Gritsch. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1986. 196 pages.

Gäbler's book is an excellent short biography of Zwingli in which a thorough knowledge of the entire range of Zwingli literature is coupled with an easy, readable style and presentation. The book begins with a chapter on the historical environment of the Swiss Confederation at the beginning of the sixteenth century and ends with one on Zwingli's historical impact. In between Gäbler tells the story of Zwingli's life in eight chapters from his childhood in Wildhaus in Toggenburg to his death in 1531 on the battlefield in Kappel. Zwingli's intellectual and spiritual growth is described through the analysis of his writings and in its interaction with the communities in which he was active, first and foremost among them Zurich. In addition to an annotated "bibliographical survey" at the end of the book, there are separate bibliographies after each

chapter. A bibliography with 1,619 titles can be found in *A Zwingli Bibliography* by H. Wayne Pipkin (Pittsburgh: The Clifford E. Barbour Library, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, 1972).

25. Robert W. Lovin. *Christian Faith and Public Choices: The Social Ethics of Barth, Brunner, and Bonhoeffer*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1984. 183 pages.

Karl Barth (1886–1968) of Basel and Emil Brunner (1889–1966) of Zurich were two of the most influential twentieth-century Protestant theologians. Lovin analyzes their theology and teaching for their ethical content against the historical background of the crisis years of the 1920s and 1930s. Both believed that the theology and ethics of the preceding generation were inadequate to meet the demands of their time. They set out on a common path toward renewal but soon parted ways and spent some of their energies in the sometimes bitter "Barth-Brunner debate." For Barth, the meaning of good can only be established by the will of God, thus preventing humans from deifying their own choices, yet providing no ethical guidance for making choices. Lovin concludes that "for all its theological integrity, Barth's position is impossible for public ethics." At a personal level, however, Barth made clear choices, as is exemplified by the Barmen Declaration of the German Confessing Church of May 1934, which, drafted by him, put the church in bold opposition to the totalitarian regime created by Hitler. Here at last, Lovin comments, was "a working version of the ethic of the Word of God." Brunner, even though he, too, believed that the meaning of moral terms is tied to the will of God, maintained that this will had to be interpreted in a way that fit the needs of human choice and action. He was a theological realist whose message of "critical cooperation" calls for the union of faith and reason.

26. Hermann Häring and Karl-Josef Kuschel. *Hans Küng: His Work and His Way*. Translated from the German by Robert Nowell. Garden City, NY: Image Books, 1980. 254 pages.

Hans Küng was born in 1928 in Sursee, Canton Lucerne. After his training for the priesthood in Rome he went to Paris where he earned a doctorate in theology at the Sorbonne with a dissertation on his Protestant compatriot, Karl Barth. Küng went on to become one of the most important and controversial Catholic theologians of the second half of the twentieth century. This book is a tribute to Küng by two of his former students and associates at the Institute for Ecumenical Research at the University of Tübingen. A chronological summary provides access to the significant dates in Küng's life and to the sequence of events that led to his conflict with Rome. The bulk of the book consists of a collection of essays by contemporaries of Küng and by Küng himself on key elements of his theology, designed to provide an introduction to his major writings. This section is followed by a fifty-page interview of Küng by the two editors in which he is given the opportunity to "speak on questions connected with his development, on the background to his work, and on how he sees himself both as a theologian and as a member of the Church." A bibliography of Küng's published works 1955–78, compiled by Margret Gentner, completes the book. The bibliography consists of 219 titles, not counting the many translations of his works, which are also listed, and some sixty published interviews.

## VIII. Culture

27. Alfred Berchthold, Andre Kuenzi, and Kurt von Fischer. *Focus on Switzerland: Intellectual and Literary Life, the Fine Arts, Music*. 2d ed. Lausanne: Swiss Office for the Development of Trade, 1982. 175 pages.

This book provides a fine introduction to the intellectual, cultural, and artistic life of Switzerland. Excellent illustrations of individual personalities and their creations give an idea of the richness and the variety of the forces that shaped modern Switzerland. The illuminated manuscript page from the monastery of St. Gallen is part of the rich cultural heritage, as is the animated machine sculpture by Jean Tinguely; Arthur Honegger's *Jeanne d'Arc au bucher* (Joan of Arc at the stakes) is an expression of the twentieth century, as is the Swiss Jazz School in Bern; a play by Dürrenmatt belongs to the literary scene, as does a Romansh poem. Scientists, psychologists, theologians, educators, inventors, and architects have left their marks. The cities lend their support to cultural organizations and the performing arts and provide a meeting ground of the minds not only for the country's citizens but also for the foreign visitors.

28. John L. Flood, ed. *Modern Swiss Literature: Unity and Diversity*. New York: St. Martin's, 1985. 146 pages.

This book is made up of eleven papers which were presented at a symposium on Swiss literature in London in March 1984. Four papers of a general nature analyze the forces that shape the works of Swiss writers. Despite the existence of three major cultural and language entities, each with special ties to its neighbor across the border, there is a national responsibility and a sense of loyalty to the fatherland. But pride about the country's history and its democratic political system is mixed with criticism of, among other things, the materialism that seems to dominate Swiss life and of the country's disregard for the preservation of nature. The Romance literatures of Switzerland are treated in four essays. A paper on the emergence of a distinct French-Swiss literary culture during the first half of the twentieth century is followed by an account of the development of the French-Swiss novel after 1945. The smallest of the Swiss languages, Romansh, receives a brief review of its limitations and perspectives. The paper on Italian-Swiss writers shows how closely tied their work is to the soil and the history of their native Ticino. Even though the body of their writings is small, they form an important part in the diversity of Swiss literature. Three papers deal with German-Swiss literature, one essay each on the *Künstlerroman* after Gottfried Keller to Max Frisch, one on aspects of the contemporary German-Swiss theater, and one on contemporary Swiss poets writing in German.

29. Richard Weiss. *Volkskunde der Schweiz: Grundriss*. 2d ed. Zurich: E. Rentsch, 1978. 435 pages.

This well-documented work by a leading Swiss folklorist presents a subject matter that was relatively new when the book was written. Still, the content of the book is not outdated. Scientific research in folklore attempts to collect and interpret objects and visible expressions of the imagination of the common people, the folk. Weiss carefully investigates such expressions of human endeavor as they are manifested in Switzerland. The number and variety of

customs and traditions in the cantons and regions of this small country are truly astounding. Weiss points out that the task of protecting these customs and traditions is in the hands of the special interest groups who practice them. There are 314 photographs, depicting old houses, artifacts of all kinds made from all sorts of materials, scenes from religious and folk festivals, and local customs.

30. Eugene V. Epstein. *Once Upon an Alp*. Zurich: Atlantis, 1968. 165 pages.

Epstein is an astute observer of little things in the daily routine of Swiss life that, while quite natural to the Swiss, seem peculiar to the foreigner. The love of *Fondue*, *Schüblig* and *Kirsch*, the universal excuse the *Föhn* provides for laziness and headaches, the popularity of newspapers in a land where nothing much happens, the experience of learning how to ski or to play the Swiss national card game *Jass*, the variety of dialects and the impossibility for a non-native to learn them are all topics that provide the fabric for Epstein's funny stories. Epstein has written four more books with further humorous vignettes about the idiosyncracies of the Swiss, namely *Lend Me Your Alphorn* (1977), *Take Me to Your Chalet* (1982), *Malice in Wonderland: Titillating Tales of Life in Switzerland* (1985), and *Who Put the Wit in Switzerland?* (1988), all published by Benteli, Bern.

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