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S W I S S

REVIEW

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The Federal Council has decreed an “energy turnaround” – what does this mean?

Giuliano Bignasca’s politics made a lasting impact on Ticino

Bastian Baker: a young man from French-speaking Switzerland on the world stage

Little gems

Import and export in the Stone Age

In archaeology everything proceeds at a slightly less hectic pace than in normal life. In 1920, archaeologists discovered an ancient axe blade during a dig at Horw in the canton of Lucerne. However, news of this sensational find has only emerged now almost 100 years later. Researchers have proven that the axe blade dates to the period around 4000 BC. This means that the Horw copper axe is Switzerland's oldest metal find.

What is remarkable about the discovery is not just its age but also the fact that the axe was not produced in Switzerland. It was imported. It is



extremely likely that the copper comes from a mine in the Austria/Slovenia region. Archaeologists say that similar axe blades have also been found in eastern and northern Europe. Archaeologists also know that Switzerland did not have the expertise in metallurgy required for such production at that time. It was not until 3800 BC that Neolithic man in the region that is modern-day Switzerland

learned to make copper items for himself. At any rate, this provides clear evidence that our ancestors very early on developed a flair for import and export. (mul)



Murder with Swiss precision

Death is dreadful and murder horrifying except when it is a purely literary exploration of the human psyche. Even murder can then become enjoyable reading. In any case, in just under 300 pages a new title "Mord in Switzerland" (Murder in Switzerland) takes us into a dark world where murder is carried out with Swiss precision. It contains literary gems from 18 well-known Swiss authors.



The gruesome tales are written by Karin Bachmann in Biel, Anne Cuneo in Lausanne, Mitra Devi in Lucerne, Petra Ivanov in Kreuzlingen, Sam Jaun in the Jura, Milena Moser in Aarau, Peter Zeindler on Zurich's Gold Coast and Emil Zopfi in Glarus. The Swiss settings give the writing a touch of local colour. But that is actually incidental. The real discovery is the multifaceted picture that emerges when 18

authors conceive how evil manifests itself in a Swiss way. A bloodbath ensues. (mul)

"Mord in Switzerland", Petra Ivanov/Mitra Devi (Hrsg.), Appenzeller Verlag, ISBN 3-85882-653-7. Only available in German. CHF 28, EUR 24.30

Swissmakers online

A man returns to Switzerland after several years abroad. He suddenly feels like an immigrant or tourist in his new former homeland. He sees things that he previously never noticed or paid attention to. He is curious and constantly amazed. It was in these circumstances that the idea emerged for an English-language online magazine to share discoveries and experiences with those who have recently arrived in Switzerland but also with the Swiss abroad. The magazine entitled "Newly Swissed" is packed with fascinating facts and news items about the offbeat and unfamiliar. For exam-

ple, it contains articles on the film "Der Imker", the story of a Kurdish refugee in Switzerland, on stand-up paddle-surfing, a new trend in sport, on an opera performance in Pfäffikon and on how Switzerland is well on the way to becoming a Fort Knox for data storage. The articles all in English are well written and presented. The only downside is that readers could become so engrossed in what the magazine has to offer that they might spend too much time reading and exploring. (BE)

www.newlyswissed.com

