

TRANSLATION ACES NEWS

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◆ IT'S SWISS TO US AT TRANSLATION ACES! ◆

Don't Be Neutral About Switzerland!



+ Beside banks, cheese, watches and chocolate, what do linguists think of when we hear "Switzerland?" At Translation Aces, we don't just love it 'cause its logo is red like ours! This small, landlocked country whose confederation dates to 1291 and comprises less than 16,000 sq. miles consisting of 26 cantons has 4 – count 'em: four, quatre, vier, quattro, IV - official languages: French, German, Italian and Romansch.

+ There's a noticeable "Swiss" accent among the French-speakers, not to mention *Schweizerdeutsch* with its many varieties, all smirked at by those championing "High German" e.g. in Berlin.

+ Romansch is derived from what's called "Vulgar Latin" and itself comprises 5 varieties of closely-related dialects, including Sursilvan, Sutsilvan, Vallader, Surmiran, Putèr, Jauer and Tuatschin. Mostly only spoken in the alpine enclaves of the canton of Graubünden, a/k/a Grisons as the easternmost wedge of the country, there is either strong support or bitter resistance to Romansch. We'd love to see it preserved!

Fun Facts:



Holes in Swiss cheese are known as 'eyes,' while without holes, the cheese is 'blind.' What we call Swiss cheese is actually *Emmentaler*.

The Swiss Army Knife was in fact developed as a standard issue tool for Swiss army officers in the 19th century, and the real thing is still made in Switzerland.



Swiss watches are known the world over, but most movements for the less expensive models come from China.

Switzerland is known to be wealthy and boasts a plethora of banks. But until WWII, it was a fairly poor country, and the Swiss emigrated in large numbers to find a better life elsewhere.



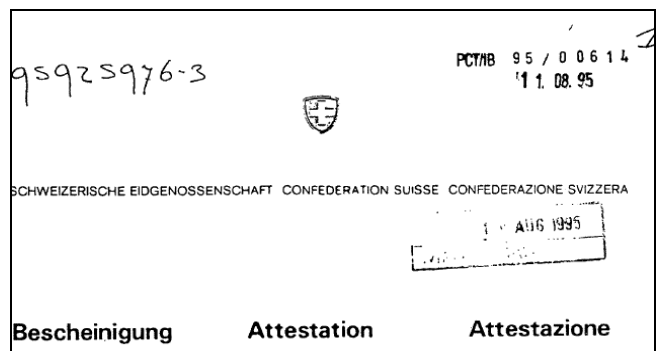
Switzerland didn't join the UN until 2002 though its #1 tennis champ Roger Federer had already won more than 3 ATP tournaments that year!

◆ THIS MONTH'S HIGHLIGHTS ◆



Ausgleichskasse des Kantons Bern
Caisse de compensation du canton de Berne
www.akbern.ch

Chutzenstrasse 10
3007 Bern



We translated Swiss Social Security documents...

but picked only one of the official languages!

◆ FEATURE ◆ Lingua Quiz!

1. True or False

- (a) All the Pope's Swiss guards are Swiss
- (b) Swiss wines are a major export
- (c) Switzerland has more cheeses than France
- (d) Swiss cows outnumber Swiss people
- (e) The Swiss built many US bridges
- (f) The Swiss travel by rail more than anyone
- (g) The Swiss helped create a wine industry in US
- (h) Only wealthy Swiss homes have bomb shelters

2. Multiple choice:

- (a) The correct country abbreviation for Switzerland is: (1) SW; (2) SCH; (3) CH; (4) SD.
- (b) A Berliner can converse with a Berner in:
(1) Standard German; (2) Their respective dialects;
(3) English; (4) Not at all.
- (c) Other than banking, Switzerland makes its money by: (1) Exporting chemicals; (2) Building complex machinery; (3) Tourism; (4) Supplying much of the world with bottled water.

ANSWERS:

- 1. (a) = T - and are single Catholic males; (b) = F - but are quite good; (c) = F - but close; (d) = F - ½ million v 8 million; (e) = T - (e.g. Ammann); (f) T - Average 1000 miles/year; (g) = T - John James Dufour of Vevey; (h) = F - Most homes do.
- 2. (a) = 3 for Confoederatio Helvetica; (b) = (1) and (3); (c) = all of the above.