

# SAHS Spring 2025 News

Happy Spring! The Officers have been busy beavers and are happy to share that Richard Hacken's book *Helvetic Heights: A Human History of the Swiss Alps* is going to print and should be in your mailbox by the end of June! Below is the cover image. We think you will enjoy reading this comprehensive new addition to scholarship on the Swiss Alps, which includes chronological and topical parts, with chapters on tourism, mountaineering, sports, literature, politics and land use, to name a few.



**Helvetic Heights: A Human History of the Swiss Alps**

The human mind today grasps the splendor of the Swiss Alps. For millennia, though, the Alps seemed a burden and not a blessing, more a deathtrap than a tourist destination. Mankind has met those mountains... and adapted, avoided, hiked, climbed, worshipped, and cursed them. We have used them as a winter sports playground; fictionalized, sketched, photographed, and painted them. We have studied them, sung about, saved, paved, and politicized them.

**This is the sweeping story of that compelling relationship.**



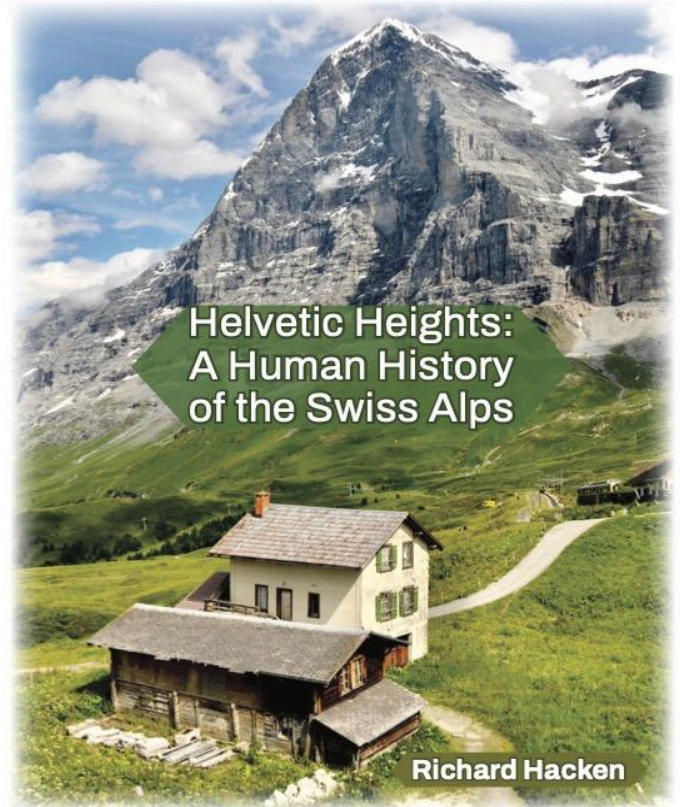
**About the Author:**

Richard Hacken was born in Sacramento (once Johann Sutter's "New Helvetia"). With a Ph.D. from U.C. Davis, he was the European Studies Librarian in the BYU Library for over 40 years. He has published and translated in Swiss and German literature and in European History.



Helvetic Heights: A Human History of the Swiss Alps

Richard Hacken



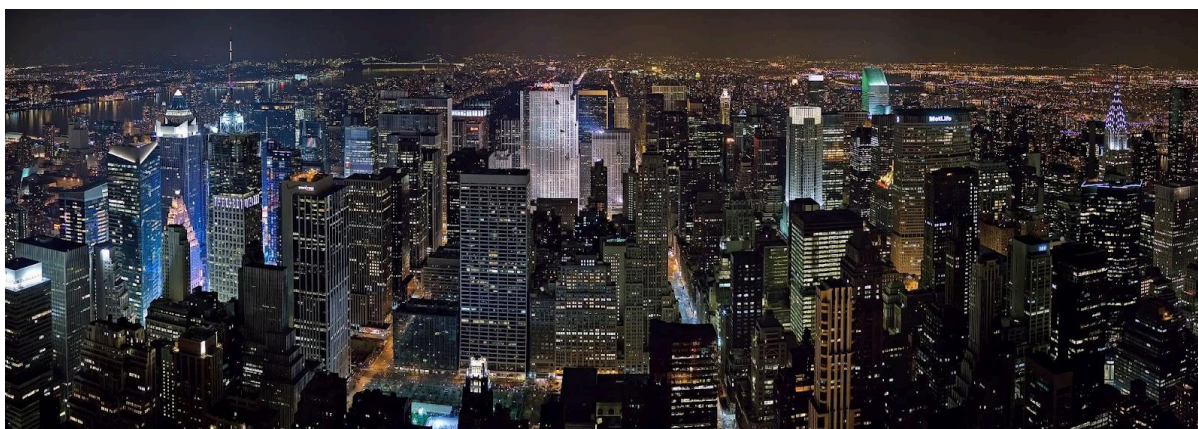
## Annual Swiss Chapter General Meeting, St. Léger, September 10, 2025





The Swiss Chapter Friends of the Swiss American Historical Society welcomes all members to join them for their annual meeting and outing on Wednesday, September 10, 2025. All will meet in Lausanne and take the boat down Lake Geneva to then tour the newly renovated and reopened Chateau d' Hauteville (now owned by Pepperdine University) in St. Léger. The cost is 120 CHF. Please RSVP or send any inquiries to Barbara Müller, President of the Swiss Chapter at [bmuller789@bluewin.ch](mailto:bmuller789@bluewin.ch). Additional information will also be provided in the June issue of the *SAHS Review*.

## **Annual U.S. General Meeting, New York City, October 3–4, 2025**



We hope many of you will come to the annual meeting in New York City the first weekend of October! Due to capacity at the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the UN, we need everyone attending to please complete the form here: [tinyurl.com/SAHSAGM2025](https://tinyurl.com/SAHSAGM2025). Additional information and an agenda are below, and will also appear in the June issue of the *SAHS Review*.

*Saturday, October 4, 2025*

### **Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations**

633 Third Avenue, 29th Floor, New York City, New York

#### **SCHEDULE:**

9:00 AM – Coffee & Pastries

9:30 AM – Welcome Remarks by Joachim Tomaschett, Deputy Consul General, Consulate General of Switzerland in New York

9:45 AM – Business Meeting, Officer Nominations & Elections

11:15 AM – Centennial Committee Presentation, Discussion and Q&A

12:00 PM – Lunch provided by the Consulate General of Switzerland in New York

1:00 PM – Presentation by David Aragai: *Isaak Iselin-Roulet (1783–1841): Swiss Global Trade Pioneer and First Honorary Consul for Switzerland in New York*

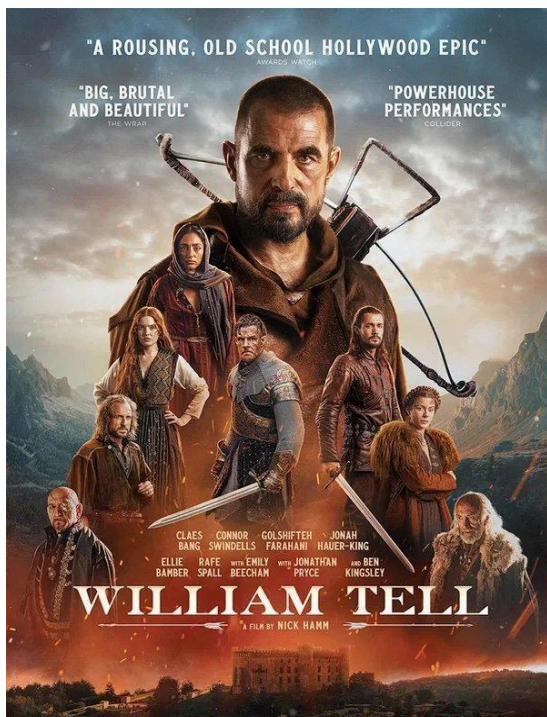
3:00 PM – Tour of New York City Public Library



## Centennial Trip to Switzerland, September 19–29, 2027

We have enough people interested in this trip that we are working with European Educational Travel based in Basel, Switzerland and are able to provide further information. This trip is open to SAHS members and non-members, and if we have to cap numbers it will be based on a first come, first served basis. **The first deposit of \$500 per person will be due on October 15, 2025**, and can be done through PayPal, or by mailing a check as you do for your annual membership dues. The full itinerary will also be sent out later by email, posted on our Facebook and LinkedIn pages, and will also be in the June issue of the *SAHS Review*. The tour will start in Zurich and end in Bern, with stops in Glarus, Appenzell, Lucerne, Locarno, Zermatt, Lausanne and Geneva. Anyone interested in going on this trip needs to complete the survey available at: [tinyurl.com/centennialtrip](https://tinyurl.com/centennialtrip) (this is different from the original interest survey sent out last year, so anyone who wants to go, whether you completed the first survey or not, needs to complete this one).

## SAHS Virtual Event: Switzerland's National Icon – The Legacy & Significance of William Tell



Join us on **Thursday, August 14, 2025** from **7:30–8:30 PM ET** for a virtual presentation and discussion of William Tell.

**Dr. Marc H. Lerner**, a longtime SAHS member and Associate Professor of History at The University of Mississippi, who has researched and written on William Tell, will lead a discussion about the myths of William Tell, the new film portrayal of him, the story's impact on Switzerland, and historical accuracies and inaccuracies in the film. He will then open it up to audience Q&A.

On the day of, go to [meet.google.com/ufd-rpoh-iyp](https://meet.google.com/ufd-rpoh-iyp) and you should be able to enter the virtual space (similar to Zoom, if you have not used Google Meet before). It can work on your computer or cell phone and you do not need to download any software. The film is currently available on **Amazon Prime Video**. Hope you can join us for our first ever virtual event! (For those in Switzerland, we will record the Google Meet presentation and share it with you).



After the assassination of Vatslav Vorovsky on 10 May 1923, the whole world looked to Lausanne. Illustration by Marco Heer.

## Death of a diplomat

In May 1923, Maurice Conradi shot dead a Soviet diplomat in Lausanne. The act itself and the subsequent acquittal of the murderer led to a major diplomatic dust-up.



**Thomas Quinn Marabello** →

Thomas Quinn Marabello is a historian and President of the Swiss American Historical Society (SAHS). He lives in Washington, DC.

SAHS President Tom Marabello is now sharing his writings on The Swiss National Museum History Blog. We believe he is the first American to do so. The Treaty of Lausanne, signed in 1923, formally ended World War I and established the modern borders of Turkey. But a Soviet diplomat's assassination had a major impact on Swiss-Russian relations. Read more...

<https://blog.nationalmuseum.ch/en/2025/05/death-of-a-diplomat/>

### SAHS Website:

<https://www.swiss-american-historical-society.org/>

### SAHS Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/swissamericanhistoricalsociety/>

### SAHS LinkedIn Page:

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/swiss-american-historical-society/>

### Become A Member!

<https://www.swiss-american-historical-society.org/membership>