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Book Review: *Marie-Angèle Lovis. Un village suisse émigré: Le cas de Cornol dans le canton du Jura (1815-1956)*

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Book Reviews



Marie-Angèle Lovis. *Un village suisse émigré: Le cas de Cornol dans le canton du Jura (1815-1956)*. Éditions Alphil: Neuchâtel, 2020. ISBN 978-2-88930-279-6.

A great deal has been published concerning emigration from German-speaking, Alemannic Switzerland. The present book fulfills the great need to give more attention to

the French speaking cantons of the western part of Switzerland, La Suisse romande.

The authoress tells us that the main objective of this book is to trace the emigration from Cornol in the canton of Jura throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. In this regard, the geographical location of Cornol is symbolic: the village is located on the western slope of the Jura, extending from the lofty col des Rangiers, looking west toward the plain of France and the Atlantic Ocean, even farther west. In other words, the village of Cornol seems to open its doors toward the Western Hemisphere and America, and is thus perfectly situated to encourage and to promote westward emigration.

The book begins with an introduction containing helpful images and graphs, and is then divided into four parts: Part One, concerning emigration between the years 1815 and 1876; Part Two, concerning emigration from the last quarter of the nineteenth century until 1950; Part Three, entitled “The United States, the new Promised Land”; and finally, Part Four, dealing with the hazards of emigration.

The book is quite comprehensive and provides many insights on the full spectrum of the subject of Swiss emigration abroad. Thus, it goes far beyond emigration from the canton of Jura, and serves as a kind of encyclopedia of the various topics of Swiss emigration abroad. Chapter Four, in particular, presents three cases of Swiss emigration to foreign lands: Canada, Argentina, and Madagascar. Hence, the book provides the reader with a unique and thorough global perspective.

It is, however, Part Three which is of special interest to the readership of the Swiss American Historical Society. This section focuses on emigration from the canton of Jura specifically to the United States. It includes a chapter on the emigrants' arrival at New York and Castle Garden and Ellis Island, the principal centers for processing Swiss emigrants in those days; a second chapter elucidating the geographic redistribution of the emigrants across the United States, from New York to the Far West; and a third chapter examining the various professions of the Swiss emigrants in the United States; and a sixth chapter clarifying the attitudes of Americans and American society toward the new Swiss newcomers. The book demonstrates that in the late nineteenth century attitudes toward Swiss emigrants were, in some cases, unfriendly and critical. In other cases, however, attitudes were receptive and positive. The book stresses that, over time, the Swiss came to be more and more appreciated and valued by American society.

The book concludes with a special chapter on the motivations which incited the Swiss of the canton of Jura to emigrate to America and to other destinations. Beginning on page 325, there is also a long and exhaustive list of all emigrants from Cornol, providing in addition the names of the respective countries to which each individual emigrated. Thus, the book is of great value to any American whose family originated in the canton of Jura, and who wishes to explore his or her genealogical tree.

In sum, *Un village Suisse émigré dans le canton du Jura*, is a masterpiece of sociology and genealogical research, which exemplifies

the best activities of the historian and the genealogist. In addition, the book would be an excellent supplementary textbook for inclusion in courses on Francophone culture. It is written in a superb French, and makes it obvious why Neuchâtel and the canton of Jura for centuries have been the principal pedagogical center of Europe. This book is therefore a must for the libraries of all Swiss Embassies and Consulate and for the libraries of all serious researchers on Swiss history and genealogy.

~ Dr. Dwight Page, Bryan College