

# **DAREJAN DVALI-DEMETRADZE**

## **HOLIDAYS IN SWITZERLAND**

**(PARALLELS TO GEORGIAN HOLIDAYS)**

In Switzerland most of the holidays are conditioned with the four seasons of the year and chiefly are of religious origin. The 1<sup>st</sup> of August, Swiss official National Holiday, is typical Swiss holiday celebrating the foundation of the Swiss Confederacy. The date has the profound importance for the central Switzerland as it reminds the establishment of the confederacy to its citizens.

Folk rites and customs have their roots particularly in the rural areas of Switzerland and they are related to sowing, harvest and historical events. The majority of the holidays serve the reinforcement of the sense of solidarity.

If one looks for the parallels between the Swiss and Georgian holidays one will trace quite a few similarities in the ways of celebrations, particularly of those days as Christmas, New Year, Easter, Ascension, All Saints day; there is also but very little difference between the Swiss and Georgian rituals of seasonal driving away of the cattle to pastures and their returning back to the village.

Likewise, there is much similarity between the Vintage Day celebration patterns in Switzerland and vintage process in Georgia.