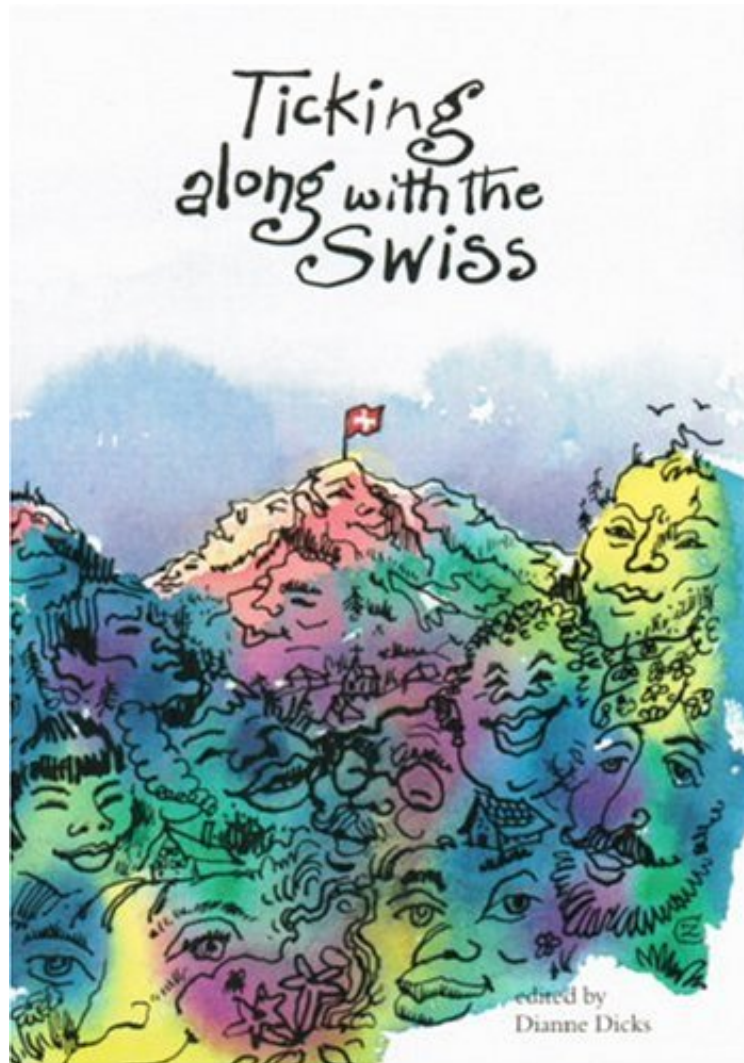


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Ticking Along with the Swiss

Dianne Dicks

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Dianne Dicks : Ticking Along with the Swiss before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ticking Along with the Swiss:

33 of 33 people found the following review helpful. Fun and helpful bookBy J. G. HeiserAmericans are typically not well prepared for a cross-cultural experience. We live in a huge, relatively homogenous country, and can live our entire lifespan without recourse to a second language or exposure to someone who holds their fork in their left hand. This isn't an indictment of Americans, it is just a recognition that without being in close proximity to other cultural rivals, we have no economic or social incentive to understand that others are different than we are in unforeseen ways.I found this book charming and entertaining. It is a selection of essays written by fluent English speakers who have

spent long periods of time in Switzerland. It is also very helpful in understanding some of the subtleties of Swiss behavior and thought process. It is presumptuous to think that inside of a few years you can totally understand a culture, but it is also arrogant not to try to understand it and meet it on its own terms. The way to do this is through study of their language, personal experience, readings on relevant sociological topics, and by reading essays like this by people bringing different view points and experiences. The essays vary from very light and short pieces, to descriptions of unique Swiss behaviors, to autobiographical accounts. The driest piece, but by no means least useful, is a helpful description of culture shock and suggestions on working through it. While I think Americans especially need to work at cross-cultural communications skills, the book is certainly not meant just for Americans--it is meant for everyone who wants to understand more about the Swiss. Providing the varied viewpoints of 30 different commentators with completely different backgrounds, the book succeeds. Apparently, even the Swiss find it enjoyable to read this honest and objective essays by 'outsiders' living within their borders. This is a completely different type of book from either a tourist guidebook, or a guide to Euro etiquette. Those books have their place also, but don't limit yourself to them. 2 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A very good book! By Rosella Ann Myles I would highly recommend this book. I really enjoy learning about people and customs of over countries. This is a very entertaining and interesting book on Switzerland

'Ticking Along with the Swiss' is a collection of personal stories from English-speaking writers, translators, teachers, journalists and business people. The authors talk about their impressions, wonder, perplexity and assimilation in a humorous and entertaining way. The book includes essays, poems, anecdotes, letters and an A to Z on customs and foibles, a report of being in the Swiss army without knowing a Swiss language and many entertaining observations of national and local character traits.