



## Trychler

The term Trycheln (Trychlen, Tricheln, Treicheln) derives from the Swiss-German. A Trychel is the traditional expression for cattle- and cowbells, resp. -rings. As an activity, the Trycheln marks an old tradition, which comes across in different intensities at the northern alpine regions. A Trychel does always consist of hammered brass. In contrast to that, there`s a a metal-casted bell. Due to this, the Trychel-tone becomes more rattling than the sound of the bell. Concerning that coverage type, the Trychel is admittedly much lighter than a bell of similar tone pitch, hence as well easier to carry over long distances.

Annually, the drums are beaten and big cattle-bells and -rings are chimed in the Haslital, to scare off evil spirits in the longest nights of the year. The old years week extends up from the midnight of the 25<sup>th</sup> /26<sup>th</sup> of December to the last working day of the year, which is called Übersitz and may not fall on a saturday. At the Übersitz, the highlight of the Trychel-week, Trychel-trains from the villages of the Haslital are sent off to Meiringen, where they unite. After the admeasurement of the bells, which are ordered by size and tone, the Trychel-train sets itself in motion and trychels for hours through the lanes of Meiringen up and down in locksteps, whereby the time is beaten by the partially masked drummers. As well, the train includes a giraffe-like member called „Schnabelgeiss“ whose role consists of the affrightening of the audience. In some of the trains, there`s also a so-called „Huttewibli“, who runs through the lanes, to clear the way for the Trychel-trains while she`s heavily bent under the burden of her husband, who sits in the „Hutte“. If a trychler-trains goes into a restaurant, there will be trycheled for so long, until all Trychler are arriving at the restaurant, which produces a deafening noise. The Trycheln is an attraction, at which tourists are lining the waysides at each time.

In Einsiedeln, the Trycheln is traditional at Shrove Tuesday. Therefore, a bell is tied down to the Trychler`s chest by a wide leatherstrap. The Trychel is carried on the back, that`s why there`s spoken about so-called „Füdlitrycheln“ in the dialect. In groups, the Trychler march in locksteps through the village, at which the Trychel is let resounded by them in rhythmic consonance. This tradition is to be seen on Twelfth Day, on Dirty Thursday, on Güdel Monday (Shrove Monday) as on Shrove Tuesday. The Trychler is also available as popular Shrove Tuesday figure. By the move to the Netheralps at the end of May and the High Alps around the 21<sup>th</sup> of June, the Alpsommer and hence the move up to the alps begins. Since 1838, the Eastern Swiss tradition is demonstrating, to let the front kine`s precious bells be carried by the shepherds and dairymen in case of upward routes. So, the kine are unburdened and the precious bells are saved from hitting the boulders on the upward routes. By virtue of this safety measure, the so-called „Schälleschöttle“ (bell tossing), which means the wilfully tossing of the three Sentum-bells through two men, may have come into being. In 1857, the dairymen-music was described for the first time.

In Switzerland, the costumes do not only differ from canton to canton, but (especially the women-costumes) do also varify within each of them. There is, practical everywhere, the differentiation between Sundays- and working days-costumes. **Our Trychler wears a Schwyzer working day-costum.** The special thing at our Trychler is the yoke, which is used by him to carry his two Trychels.