



Helvetia Philatelic Society of Great Britain

Founded 1946

The society to join for anyone interested in Swiss stamps and postal history.



Switzerland has issued attractive stamps for nearly 175 years.

Apart from stamps, popular areas of collecting include pre-philately, air mail covers, railway travelling post offices, cancellations, postage due, official mail, postal stationery, perfins, soldier stamps and thematics (mountains, bridges, clocks, flowers, birds etc).

Benefits of joining the HPS include:

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER – our 'flagship' colour publication with 8 or 10 A4 pages every month:



Available by post or email it includes:

- researched articles
- society news
- identification clues
- queries & answers

If you would like a free copy of a recent newsletter by email write to librarian@swiss-philately.co.uk

POSTAL PACKET SALES – for both stamps and covers. Several in circulation at any time.

REGULAR GROUP MEETINGS – we take great emphasis on being a friendly philatelic society.

At our meetings almost any subject can be displayed, discussed and studied:

- Southern Group: based near Salisbury, meets three times a year on Saturdays (full-day). Guest speakers on a wide range of topics; members' displays.
- Northern Group: based near Leeds, meets three times a year on Saturdays (afternoons). Members' displays.
- Annual national meeting. Full weekend includes: guest speaker; philatelic and postal history competitions; society dinner; members displays.
- All meetings usually have 'buy and sell', often with a specialist dealer present.

BORROWING LIBRARY – a superb reference library with over 300 books and catalogues for reading and research, also many journals of other societies etc. Free borrowing, available only to UK members.

Did you know . . .

- +** The first Swiss postage stamp was issued in 1843 by Canton Zürich?
- +** Far ahead of its time, the attractive 'Basel Dove' stamp of 1845 was in three colours *and* embossed with a cameo of a dove carrying an envelope?
- +** The rarest Swiss stamp is the 1878 5c blue postage due, a printing error with a 'rayed' background. Only one example is known, discovered as recently as 1979? Can you find another?
- +** Swiss stamp designer Hans Erni was still producing designs until just before his death in 2015 at the age of 106?
- +** Swiss Post issued a stamp in 2001 that actually smelled of chocolate?
- +** Geneva is the home of the United Nations, which issues its own stamps?
- +** Charity stamps (Pro-Juventute and Pro-Patria) have been issued since 1912 and remain just as popular today?

Some examples of Switzerland's fascinating postal history:



There's much more information on our website. Take a look at: <http://www.swiss-philately.co.uk/>

So why delay? Join the Helvetia Philatelic Society today!

Please complete the application form and send it with a cheque. You will start receiving the Newsletter immediately *and we will email you the current year's Newsletters.*

Membership application form

Full name _____

Address _____

_____ Postcode _____

Email _____

Telephone _____

UK only: do you wish to receive sales packets by post? (approx. bi-monthly)

Subscription rates: (please tick)

For newsletter to be sent by post:

UK: £20 pa

Europe: £23 pa

Rest of world: £24 pa

For newsletter to be sent by email:

Anywhere: £15 pa

Please send completed form + cheque to: Neville Nelder (HPS), 13 Bowbridge Lock, Stroud, Glos GL5 2JZ
email: secretary@swiss-philately.co.uk

BACS payments to Helvetia Philatelic Society (GBG) Sort code XX-XX-XX A/c: XXXXXXXX

Non-UK: payment by SEPA acceptable.