



The postcard illustrated above provides a very clear picture of the rail and road structures near the SBB's St. Gallen-Bruggen rail line at Sittertobel which appeared on the CHF 0.05 definitive first issued in 1949 (Z298) – the Kräzer Bridge, the SBB Viaduct (six arches spanning 191 metres), the highest bridge in Switzerland – the viaduct of the Lake Constance-Toggenburg Railway (with 100 metre high lattice girders) and the Gmünder-Tobel road bridge.

This is a detailed schedule of Swiss stamps which emphasise the importance and, in many cases, beauty of the works of the country's bridge and viaduct engineers. 64 different stamp designs have been identified (including those on miniature sheets). Any comments by Members to improve the accuracy of the descriptions and fill in any gaps are welcomed. Further information on the various engineers involved in the structures so far unattributed would be particularly helpful. Thanks are due to Eric Lienhard and Torbjorn Hallenstvedt for their considerable background research.

Definitives and Commemoratives

- Z198** Definitive CHF 0.20 Pianotondo Viaduct (in foreground)
- stone, 111 metres long, 9 arches, 300 metres radius) and 36m Upper Ticino Bridge on the St. Gotthard Railway, in the Biaschina Gorge above Giornico Ticino.
 - Also new design - Z205y and z ; 205Ay and z; 205y.2.01 ; 205y.2.05 and 205z.2.01.
- Z199** Definitive CHF 0.25 Two stone bridges over the River Hinterrhein
- in the Viamala Gorge near Thusis, Upper Engadine.
 - Also new design - Z206y and z.
- Z200** Definitive CHF 0.30 Ten-arched, 167m stone bridge above the Rhine Falls at Schaffhausen
- originally built in 1856 for the Rheinfall Railway (now SBB Winterthur - Schaffhausen).
 - Also new design - Z207y and z ; 207yRM ; Z289 and Z289RM.
- Z240/41** Red Cross (Geneva Convention)
- view of Geneva including the old bridge over the Rhône.(where the present Pont du Mont Blanc now stands).

- Z279** SBB Centenary
- the Landi locomotive on the Gotthard Railway (probably crossing the 1847 causeway across Lake Lugano between Melide and Bissone
 - 5 spans, total length 60m.).
- Z280** SBB Centenary
- a four-track railway bridge probably based on the Lorraine Viaduct (1941)
 - reinforced concrete, 1,700 metres in length) over the River Aare at Bern.
- Z298** Definitive CHF 0.05 Four SBB rail structures at Sittertobel, near St Gallen-Bruggen
- the Kräzer Bridge,
 - the SBB Viaduct,
 - the viaduct of the Lake Constance-Toggenburg Railway and
 - the Gmünder-Tobel road bridge.
- Z302** Definitive CHF 0.25 The 1847 causeway bridge/dam across Lake Lugano on the Gotthard Railway between Melide and Bissone.
- originally designed by Pasquale Lucchini (1798 – 1892).
 - Also Z302RM.
- Z307** Definitive CHF 0.60 Landwasser Viaduct at Filisur
- on Rhaetian Railway (St Moritz to Tirano, Italy).
- Z329** St. Gotthard Railway – Upper Ticino Bridge and Pianotondo Viaduct
- in Biaschina Gorge, Giornico
- Z366 & 366L** Definitive CHF 0.75 blue Kapell Bridge Lucerne
- first built in 1300, 204m. wooden covered bridge, restored several times, latest fire in 1993.
 - See also Zumstein W74 red
 - surcharge on earlier definitive for restoration of the bridge after fire in 1993.
- Z397** Lügelkin Viaduct (stone, 5-span) on Bern-Lötschberg-Simplon railway line at Hohentenn, Valais.
- Z589** Europa Pont St. Jeanne, at St Ursanne, Jura, over the River Doubs
- 1729 four-arched bridge. The bridge features a full-length statue of St. John Nepomuk, the patron saint of bridges, but it is not visible on the stamp.
- Z590** Europa - small footbridge (represented by a single black line) over the river at Sils-Baselgia.
- Z604** Kapell Bridge Lucerne – see details above.
- Z622** Bridge designer O.H.Ammann, and the Verrazano Narrows Bridge, New York Harbour.
- Z683** Definitive CHF 1.40 Gemini – Krumme Bridge (6 span road bridge) Zwillinge, Bischofszell Thurgau.
- Z687** Definitive CHF 1.80 Leo – Old Via Male stone bridge over River Hinterrhein in the Areuse Gorge.
- Z708/9** Europa – high bridge as a symbol of the links between countries.
- Z773** Rhaetian Railway Centenary – 1903, curving, 130m. long Landwasser Viaduct at Filisur, Grisons.

Z814-817 Bridges Commemoratives set:

- Z814** CHF 0.50 Ponte de Salti
- vernacular ancient stone bridge, near Lavertezzo in the Verzasca Valley (Ticino)
 - probably 16th Century
 - smaller arch once collapsed, but was repaired in 20th Century.
- Z815** CHF 0.70 Neubrugg covered wooden bridge over the Aare near Bremgarten, north of Bern 1535
- crosses the river in 4 spans with a total length of 91 metres
 - one of the largest and oldest of Switzerland's approximately 200 surviving wooden bridges.
- Z816** CHF 0.80 Aarebrücke, Koblenz 1891/92
- on railway line between Koblenz and Felsenau stations (Aargau)
 - first iron truss bridge over the River Aare
 - five 48 metre spans have a total weight of 1,100 tonnes. Strengthened in 1984.
- Z817** CHF 0.90 Ganter Bridge 1980
- in the Ganter Gorge near Berisal on the new Simplon Pass highway (Valais), high above the old route/bridge.
 - Part of major upgrading between Brig and the Simplon Pass summit.
 - Pre-stressed concrete, 700 metres in length with a main span of 174 metres and the larger of the two main piers rising to about 150 metres.
- Z958** Joint issue Hhouxi Hu and stone bridge China
- also on sheetlet, FDC and stamp on MS Z960.
- Z1004** Tourism Cycling
- unidentified stone bridge.
- Z1189** Centenary of Bern-Lötschberg-Simplon Railway (BLS)
- the steel-arch, 136m. Bietschtal Bridge.
- (Zumstein)
- W92** NABA 2006 Baden CHF 0.85 + 0.15
- Covered bridge by Hans Ulrich and Johannes Grubenmann over the River Limmat, which provides access to Wettingen Monastery (now a teacher training college).
 - The stamp is also included on the first NABA 2006 promotional MS 93I.
- Z1193** Centenary of the Swiss Post Bus service
- symbolic bridge.
- Z1248** Schellen-Ursli on wooden suspension bridge
- fictional, illustration by Alois Carigiet.
- Z1288** Joint issue with Germany
- Old Rhine bridge between Bad Säkingen in Germany and Stein (Aargau)
 - 200m long, Europe's longest covered wooden bridge, Its present appearance dates from C19th
 - also in sheetlets of 10 stamps, and the bridge is portrayed on the back of the official FDC, on the official FDC cancellation and the related official postcards.
 - Its origins date back to at least 1272. In 1570 the wooden piers were replaced with stone piers.
- Z1305** Bridge-builder Hans Ulrich Grubenmann
- his most famous 111m covered truss bridge over the Rhine in Schaffhausen built in 1759 (burnt down in 1799).
- Z1349** Niesen Funicular Railway Centenary
- Viaduct (possibly the Hegernalp ?) of 1910 on the Niesen Funicular Railway near Lake Thun (postcard issued at the same time showing the Hegernalp Viaduct).
 - Also issued as sheetlets.

Z1350 Bernina Line Centenary

- Viaduct of 1908 on the Bernina Railway UNESCO (postcard issued at the same time showing the 110 metre spiral viaduct near Brusio which enables trains to gain height on the Bernina Railway).
- Also issued as sheetlets.

In March 2013 Lötschberg Railway Centenary

- the Kander Railway Viaduct in Frutigen.
- Also in the selvedge of the related sheetlet of 10 stamps and the picture postcard plus further illustrations in the Anniversary Combi-folder.

Pro Juventute :

(Zumstein)

J90 Costume Fribourg - unidentified bridge over the River Saane in the background.

J95 Costume Solothurn - Röti Bridge (1925, demolished 2005) over the River Aare in the background.

Pro Patria :

(Zumstein)

B15 Old bridge over River Rhône in Geneva.

B62 Stone-arch Devil's Bridge over the River Reuss rapids in the Schöllenen Gorge, Uri.

B72 Pont de Pérollies (1922 reinforced concrete, 380 m.) over the River Saane near Fribourg.

B77 Stone-arch road bridge over the Rhône near St. Maurice, Valais.

B177 Access bridge to Hallwil Castle.

B178 Drawbridge to Hagenwil Castle.

B211 Painting of stone bridge – 'Bridge in the Sun' by Giovanni Giacometti.

B269 Small bridge over stream at Tengia.

B280-83 Pro Patria Historic Bridges set in 2003 –

- B280** Innere Wynigen Bridge over the Emme Canal, Burgdorf (Bern)
 - built in 1776 (relocated there in 1959)
 - Four-trestle, covered wooden bridge by Hans Ulrich Grubenmann.
- B281** Salginatobel Bridge, Schiers (Grisons) spanning the Salgina Ravine
 - 1929, 133 m. in length, reinforced concrete by Robert Maillart
 - International Historic Engineering Landmark.
- B282** Pont St. Jean, Saint Ursanne (Jura) over the River Doubs
 - 1729, four-arched, stone bridge.
- B283** Reuss Bridge, Rottenschwil (Aargau)
 - 1907 twin-span, riveted steel arch bridge.
- B298** Stone bridge on the Via Gottardo at the Piottino Ravine, Faido (Ticino) over the Schöllenen Gorge.
- B306** Two stone bridges in the Viamala Ravine on the ancient Via Spluga near Thusis, Grisons.

Pro Patria Booklet Covers

WII/15 Yr. 2003 the stone Pont de St. Jean over the River Doubs at St. Ursanne

WII/16 Yr. 2003 the covered wooden bridge at Wynigen

Philatelic Exhibition Miniature Sheets :

(W61 and 62) NABA ZÜRICH 1984

- central pair of stamps show the 1838, 4-arch, stone Münster Bridge across the River Limmat.

(W70) HELVETIA GENÈVE '90

- one stamp shows the causeway across the River Rhône to Rousseau's Island in Geneva.

(W78) BASLER TAUBE '95

- one stamp shows the old bridge across the River Rhine at Basle, where the Mittel Rhine Bridge now stands.

(W93I) NABA BADEN 2006

- one stamp shows the covered bridge by Hans Ulrich Grubenmann over the River Limmat.

Express Mail Service (EMS) Marken stamps/postage labels :

Issued in August 1997 – first full-colour, imperforate and self-adhesive on film.

No. 1 SFr. 28.50 Postage to Europe – depicts Tower Bridge in London

No. 2 SFr. 37.50 Postage to North America – depicts the Golden Gate Bridge, San Francisco



Illustrations of some bridges on Postal Stationery Cards and World War II Soldier Stamps.

Footnotes -

- a) The 1997 Europa ('Fables and Legends') stamp – Z919 does not depict a bridge but the folk tale that it refers to is the legend of the 'Devil's Bridge' over the River Reuss in the Schöllenen Gorge. The stamp shows the large mural 'The Devil and the Billy Goat' which was painted on the rock-face of the Gorge in 1950 by Heinrich Danioth, not far from the present 60m stone arch bridge which was built in 1930 (ref. PTT's 'Focus on Stamps' March 1997 p. 10)
- b) The railway engineers Niklaus Riggerbach (1817 – 99 Swiss) and Louis Favre (1826 – 79 French), largely responsible for the Rigi and St. Gotthard Railways respectively, appear on J101 and Z 191. They have not been included in the schedule because I have no information that they personally designed any rail bridges or viaducts.

Many Swiss Bridges and Viaducts also appear on K-cancels (at least 92), Publicity cancels, the top of various Postal Stationery Cards and on some Soldier Stamps (particularly those of the Sappers). The covered wooden bridge at Olten is depicted on a Swiss Telecom Telephone card. And if you still haven't had enough, then there are 'Swiss or Alpine Tunnels' – another favourite subject for civil engineering enthusiasts!