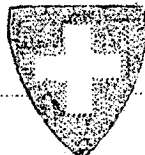


HELVETIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

NEWS LETTER



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No. 1

JANUARY 1966

20TH YEAR

EDITORIAL

The Editor would like to take this opportunity of thanking all those Members who were kind enough to send Christmas Greetings ... too many alas, for individual reply, but nevertheless very much appreciated, and sends good wishes for 1966 to All.

This is also an appropriate time to extend grateful thanks to all who have helped to make our 'Helvetia News Letter' bigger and better by contributing articles.

If this high standard is to be maintained, however, many more articles will be required during the coming year and all contributions will be most welcome.

Suggestions of subjects on which members - in particular the newer ones - would like further information, would also be most helpful.

E.J.R.

1966 NEW ISSUES

A modest programme is forecast by the P.T.T., according to their Bulletin, and consists of the following:

| | | No. | Sw.Fr. |
|----------|--|-----------|-----------------|
| Feb. 21 | PUBLICITY ISSUE 10, 20 & 50 Rp. | 3 | 0.80 |
| " 21 | DEFINITIVE CHANGES Fr.1.30 & Fr.1.70 | 2 | 3.00 |
| June 1 | PRO PATRIA (Heinrich Feder, composer and further motifs from the church roof, Zillis) 5 + 5 Rp. 10 + 10 Rp. 20 + 10 " 30 + 10 " 50 + 10 " | 5 | 1.60 |
| " 1 | 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ORGANISATION FOR SWISS LIVING ABROAD, 20 Rp. | 1 | 0.20 |
| Sept. 19 | EUROPA (CEPT) 20 & 50 Rp. | 2 | 0.70 |
| Dec. 1 | PRO JUVENTUTE (Continuing the theme of 'Wild Life') 5 + 5 Rp. 10 + 10 " 20 + 10 " 30 + 10 " 50 + 10 " | 5 | 1.60 |
| | | <u>18</u> | <u>Fr. 7.90</u> |

The programme is subject to amendment, if necessary and full details will, in general, be released approximately one month before issue.

PUBLICITY ISSUE

Detailed information on the first issues is already available. Only 3 Publicity stamps will be issued on this occasion:

10 c. PRO NATURA - Publicity for the preservation of natural beauty.

The congress of the 'Union internationale pour la conservation de la nature et de ses ressources' will be held in Lucerne in June and will be attended by delegates from over 60 countries. Besides publicizing this event, the Pro Natura stamp is designed to broaden and deepen the idea of preservation of natural beauty.

p.t.o.

1966 PUBLICITY ISSUE (Continued)

20 c. 50 YEARS OF THE SWISS INDUSTRIAL FAIR (MUBA), BASEL. From 16th - 26th April the 50th Swiss Industrial Fair will be held in Basel. Since its modest beginnings, the Fair has grown to become the great industrial and commercial show of Switzerland. The stamp issued for the jubilee emphasises the importance of MUBA.

50 c. CERN - Organisation europeenne pour la recherche nucleaire
Meyrin, in Gt. Geneva, is the site of the international institute for nuclear research operated by 13 European nations. The stamp subject with the flags of the member countries and symbolic representation of a phase in nuclear fission points to the peaceful uses of atomic energy, in whose encouragement CERN is actively engaged.

Other details are:

10 c. Kingfisher - four colours: green, yellow, blue, orange red.

Designer: Burkard Waltenspfl, Basel

20 c. Helmet of Mercury and laurel twig. - three colours: dark red, red, green

Designer: Donald Brun, Basel

50 c. Phase in nuclear fission and flags of CERN members - four colours: greyish-blue, blue, yellow, red

Designer: Heinrich Kämpel, Zurich

Production: Rotogravure by Courvoisier S.A., La Chaux-de-Fonds.

Stamp size: 36 x 26 mm., Picture size: 33 x 23 mm.

Paper: White paper with violet fibres, luminescent, lightly coated.

No. of sheets per form cylinder: Four (A, B, C & D). No. of stamps per sheet: 25

* * * * *

CHANGES IN DEFINITIVE ISSUE

On 21st February two further values of the current definitive stamps will be replaced by stamps bearing new pictures depicting historical buildings:

Fr.1.30 Church of St. Pierre-de-Clages,
2 colours; blue on chamois background

Fr.1.70 Castle of Frauenfeld, 2 colours:
brown on chamois background.

Designer: Hans Hartmann, Bern

Steel engraver: Albert Yersin, Mont-sur-Rolle

Printing: Rotary line engraved by Postage Stamp Printing Office PTT, Bern

Stamp size: 24 x 29 mm. (21 x 26 mm.)

Paper: White with violet fibres, luminescent

Sheets: 2 (Nos. 1 & 2) No. per sheet: 25

* * * * *

All the above-mentioned stamps will be on sale from 21st February onwards. The Publicity stamps will be on sale as long as stocks last but not longer than 30th September 1966. Validity: unlimited.

Special first day covers will be available. For the Publicity issue there will be 4 separate covers, one for each stamp and one for the set, and one cover for the new definitives.

The special cancellation for use on 21st February for all stamps is a plain circle with '3000 BERN - AUSGABETAG - 21.2.1966' in 3 straight lines.

Items available from the Philatelic Agencies in Basle, Bern or Zurich include collection sheets, folders etc.



MAKE A DATE ...

STAMPEX IS DRAWING NEAR

Friday, March 18th, to
Saturday, March 26th.

10.30 a.m. - 8.00 p.m.

Last Day: 10.30 a.m. - 7.30 p.m.

It is always a pleasure to meet Helvetia Members at our stand, which this year, will be even more interesting than usual.

In addition to our normal display we are hoping to show, outside our stand, material from the LEHMANN GOLD MEDAL ESSAY COLLECTION, and the P.T.T. have kindly loaned us a unique model of a Postal Coach about 3-ft. long, which is valued at almost £1,000.

See you at the Show!

A.S.D.A.

H.L.KATCHER

B.P.A.

P.T.S.

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DON'T MISS THE NEXT LONDON GROUP MEETING

Wednesday, 9th February.
See Page 6 for details

EXPRESS LABELS

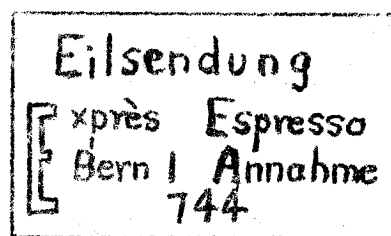
Some further observations
by I. TILLEN

Since my previous articles on the subject of Express Labels (see 'Helvetia News Letters' of February and April 1964) in which I described Types 1 - 8, still more examples and additional information have come to my notice.

In the first place I have now been able to obtain some complete sheets of these labels. Holidaying at Furigen last year I obtained 3 sheets which are most interesting in view of the details given at the foot of each sheet:

- Sheet 1. As Type 5. Sheet of 5 labels. Printing No. 1217a. Date of printing Nov. 1942. No. printed: 800,000 x 5. Format D9 (48 x 34 mm.)
- Sheet 2. Incomplete and consisting of 8 labels only, whereas others were of 10. As Type 1. Printing No. 1217b. Date of printing June 1947. Number printed: 1,500,000 x 10. Format $\frac{1}{2}$ D9 (48 x 17 mm. i.e. half the depth of previous sheet). (Why these sheets from 1942 and 1947 have not been used up in all these years is a mystery).
- Sheet 3. Type 1b. Printing No. 236.32. Date of printing June 1963. Format $\frac{1}{2}$ D9 (48 x 17 mm.). Number printed: 3,000 x 10.

Further, from Bern I have also obtained a complete sheet of what is presumably the type now being issued, which I have called TYPE 9 - a new large size. Printing No. 1207a. There is no date of printing or indication of the number printed on this sheet. This is the only type to bear the name of a post office on each label, i.e. 'BERN 1 Annahme' and a number, which on the sheet before me are Nos. 141-145. I have also a single example of a similar label but with 'ZURICH 23 Hauptbahnhof' and the No. 463. It would appear probable that in larger towns these labels may be used on parcels and the numbers provide a check.



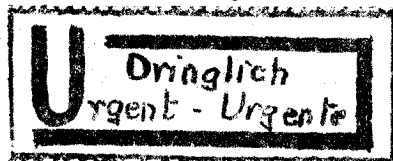
These new examples may be classified as:

- TYPE 9. Large label, $6\frac{1}{2}$ x 5 cm. which includes the name of the post office & a number.
- TYPE 10. Similar to Type 5, but the main stem of the large 'E' is thicker, 3 mm., against the previous 2 mm. and quite distinct.

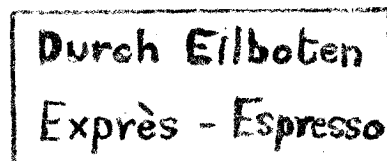
For details of Type 11 I am indebted to another Helvetia member, Mr.S.Beale of Exeter, Devon, who has been kind enough to say that my comments on this subject have been an eye-opener, and who has shown me an example of a totally different type of label, but since its use would be for the same purpose, that of expediting the mail I am including it as:

- TYPE 11. Printed in black on purple paper. Size 7 x 4 cm. Normal perforations top and bottom of label. Also a sub-type:
- TYPE 11a. As above, but with pin perforation. Lettering very slightly larger.

This would appear to be a much scarcer type of Express label, insofar as this is the first example I have seen. Finally, yet another distinctive label, quite different to any other:



Type 11



Type 12

- TYPE 12. In black on bright red paper. Size 40 x 16 mm. Upper row letters 3 mm. wide, lower row 2 mm. wide.

Below is a table of the types so far recorded, with earliest and latest dates so far seen, and I would be grateful for any additional information.

| | Earliest known date. | Latest Date. | | Earliest date. | Latest Date. |
|--------|----------------------|--------------|--------|----------------|--------------|
| Type 1 | 12. 5. 37. | 22. 9. 59. | Type 6 | 10. 5. 30. | ? |
| " 1a | ? | ? | " 7 | 22. 11. 48. | ? |
| " 1b | 3. 5. 32. | 9. 8. 65. | " 8 | 28. 9. 24. | ? |
| " 2 | 10. 3. 27. | 14. 6. 34. | " 9 | ? | ? |
| " 3 | 28. 6. 16. | 18. 8. 23. | " 10 | 25. 8. 59 | ? |
| " 3a | 12. 8. 13. | ? | " 11 | 12. 10. 48. | 16. 5. 49. |
| " 4 | 30. 10. 32. | 30. 3. 39. | " 11a | 4. 9. 36. | ? |
| " 5 | ? | ? | " 12 | 10. 5. 25. | ? |

AN INTRODUCTION TO POSTMARKS

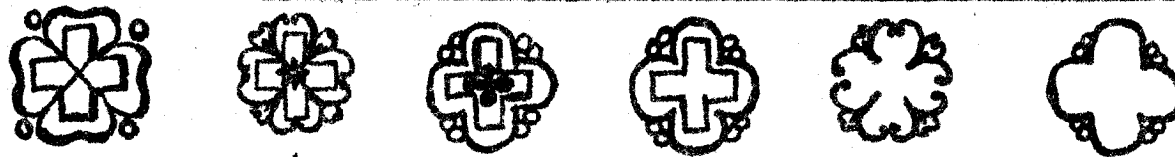
RL
DB^U
Pte Wohlen
AUW Wyl
Sasse

EARLY DIRECTIONAL MARKINGS

STRAIGHT-LINE CANCELS



VARIOUS TYPES OF CIRCULAR POSTMARKS



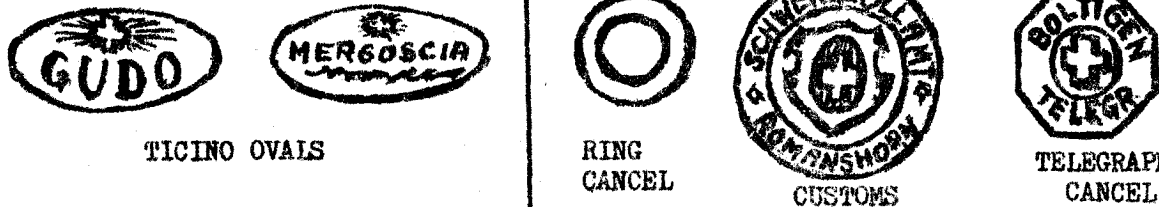
(Zurich)

ROSETTE CANCELS

(Geneva)



GRILLE OR LOZENGE CANCELS



TICINO OVALS

RING CANCEL

CUSTOMS

TELEGRAPH CANCEL



EARLY T.B.O. CANCELS

T.P.O. CanceIs

J.S. ARMSTRONG ... Start the New Year well ... go through your collection and make sure that all vacant spaces are filled. You will regret it if you do not.

If you are extending your collection, send for approval selections: Stamps, mint or used; postal stationery, First day covers, miniature sheets, airmail covers, varieties, etc., etc.

Prompt attention given to members' requests.

14, Low Lane, Torrisholme, MORECAMBE, Lancs.

AN INTRODUCTION TO POSTMARKS

By E.J. RAWNSLEY (Conclusion)

A final word on the subject of 'thimble' postmarks. According to the examples of these small cancels without year, noted by Emmenegger in his monumental list, they were used mainly in the cantons of Bern, Luzern & Aargau. No examples (up to that time) were known from places in the cantons of Glarus, Zug, Fribourg, Basel Stadt, Appenzell, St. Gallen & Geneva. A slightly larger type, usually including the year, was in use from 1869-82.

Nevertheless, despite this emphasis on circular postmarks, the P.T.T. themselves state that from 1874 until the beginning of the 1880's, straight-line postmarks continued in use - they quote specifically places in the Italian sector of the country. These later examples consisted of one, two or three lines, with or without a frame, such as:

| |
|--------------------|
| PUTZ GRAUBUNDEN |
|--------------------|

or

| |
|---|
| B E L L I N Z O N A 18. guig. 82 messageria |
|---|

In the Ticino region the regular use of postage stamps seems to have been slower to establish and stampless (as distinct from pre-stamp) covers are found with quite late dates.

From this region, too, between the years 1852 to about 1897, come the very interesting 'TICINO OVAL' cancels, in which the Federal cross is shown surrounded by rays, together with the name of the village. About 83 of these cancels are known to have existed at some time, but of some no examples have survived, while others are quite scarce.

Covers are, in the main, 'stampless', with either a straight-line or circular postal cancellation. They may have on them more than one Ticino oval, since these were often applied both on despatch and arrival and may be found on the front or reverse of the covers. These make a very interesting collection. Ticino cancels are less frequently found on stamps and are best shown on complete covers, since, with the exception of very short names, such as 'CAMA' or 'GUDO' they will appear only partially on the stamp. The writer has only 2 examples on stamps: one on a 'Strubeli', the other on a 'Sitting Helvetia Perf.'.

This brief account covers, more or less, the various stages in the development of the postmark from the earliest pre-stamp covers up to the time of the establishment of the Post Office under the Federal Government, after which the whole administration was brought gradually into line.

There are, of course, many side-lines which are of great interest, cancellations which, because they are unknown or very heavy, are often discarded and as a result many once common cancellations have now become scarce.

Stamped covers, usually of the late 'Strubeli' or 'Sitting Helvetia Perf.' issues, often bear early T.P.O. cancellations, usually on the reverse and so often missed. The early ones are now very collectable items.

Stamps of the 'Standing Helvetia' and some following issues may be found with curious obliterations composed of a 'carpet' of dots, lines, lozenges etc. These are Customs cancellations and are now very elusive. From the Tell Boy issues onwards a larger and more elaborate cancel with an ornamental Federal shield in the centre has been used, which is to be found variously described as: Schweiz, Zollamp, Zollstaette, Douanes Suisse, Bureau des Peages, or Ufficio dei Dazi.

Also, again mainly on 'Standing Helvetia' stamps, circular cancels consisting of 1, 2 or 3 rings, sometimes with a pen cancellation in the centre, may be found. They are said to be hand obliterations used to cancel stamps on awkwardly shaped parcels, and this may well be so as the writer has never yet seen one on a cover.

The subject of cancellations is virtually inexhaustible and will provide zest for a long time to come. Even common stamps acquire new interest when an unusual cancel comes to light.

On the preceding page will be found illustrations of typical postmarks of many of the types described and which may tempt you to explore this fascinating field.

| | | N U M B E R S | I S S U E D |
|-----------------------------|-----|---------------|-------------|
| <u>'EXPO 1964'</u> | | | |
| 10 c. | ... | 69,152,000 | |
| 20 c. | ... | 46,355,000 | |
| 50 c. | ... | 15,677,000 | |
| 75 c. | ... | 7,006,000 | |
| <u>'EUROPA - CEPT' 1964</u> | | | |
| 20 c. | ... | 52,420,000 | |
| 50 c. | ... | 18,443,000 | |

SPECIALISED CATALOGUE:
SWITZERLAND/LIECHTENSTEIN 1966

Swiss collectors do not need to be told that the newly published 18th Ed. of this indispensable catalogue more than maintains its usual high standard.

Comprising 650 pages and 1870 illustrations, with an introduction in English & French, and now bound in a water-resistant cover, it is the standard work on all Swiss stamps, with plate flaws & major varieties (many with enlarged illustration), including many newly catalogued items on recent issues.

Special sections cover Specimens, Ausser Kurs, booklet stamps, Kocher, Hotel and Railway stamps etc. Prices are given for single stamps, pairs, blocks of 4, rare franking combinations, F.D.C., Pro Juv. & Pro Patria with marginal inscriptions and a most comprehensive airmail section.

Since the previous edition 2 years ago the continuing market activity in the stamps of Switzerland & Liechtenstein has necessitated a complete revision of prices.

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FEBRUARY LONDON GROUP MEETING

Wednesday, February 9th

The highlight of our programme:
 Talk and Display by MR. JACK BEKEN on
THE STAMPS OF LIECHTENSTEIN.

Older members know this should not be
 missed - newer members are in for a treat!

COIL STAMPS

From Mr. C. Rauch of Chelmsford comes a Swiss newspaper cutting which indicates that in addition to the normal rolls of stamps of 5, 10, 20 & 50 Rp., there are rolls of all values from 5 Rp. to Fr.2.80 which are in use experimentally in the Post Office Mont-Blanc in Geneva to frank parcels handed in by customers. These stamps are not on sale to the public.

The article suggests that the other values may also have minor modifications of design as on the normal 5, 10, 20 and 50 Rp. coil stamps. A little investigation might prove interesting.

From Mr. J.H. Short:

EXCHANGE PACKET INSURANCE

To add to the difficulties of trying to run an Exchange Packet, the Insurance Company, as well as increasing the premium, has laid down new regulations as from January 1st, 1966. Packets will in future be covered only for a period of three months at a time, after which the balance remaining unsold must be re-insured. This could become expensive.

It will be necessary, therefore, to cut down the circuit list for every Packet which may be sent out and it is now imperative that ALL MEMBERS adhere strictly to the 48 hour rule. All Packets must be forwarded really promptly.

The Insurance Co. even recommends that any Member failing to comply should be taken off Packet lists, and his name forwarded to the Company!

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 CENTRE LTD**

We deal in SWISS STAMPS and have a good range of SWISS AIRMAILS - mint and used.

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We also welcome Wants Lists.

50, Great George Street,
 LEEDS 1, Yorks.

HELVETIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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No. 2.

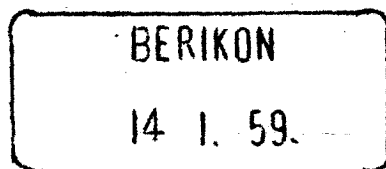
FEBRUARY 1966

20TH YEAR

"AUSHILFSSTEMPEL" TEMPORARY CANCELS

Editor's Note: In the July issue of the 'News Letter' there was a paragraph about temporary cancellations, the exact use of which has long mystified many of our members. Apparently the original comment in the S.B.Z. aroused some amusement in Switzerland, but to our advantage, since our good friend HERR JOS. BUHLER has very kindly sent us the following:

"In a recent (Swiss) Bulletin 'Prophil' drew attention to this category of date stamps which is indeed interesting and worthy of being collected, although it is to-day hardly possible to get together a collection anywhere near completeness. Nevertheless, it may prove of interest to go further into the question and to complete 'Prophil's notes.



Of varying sizes, i.e.
20 x 48 mm., 25 x 44 mm.,
23 x 51 mm., etc. etc.

These Temporary Canceles were first introduced in September 1889 and have ever since been furnished mainly to the small offices as a stop-gap when their one and only circular date stamp required revision or repair. The post-offices with two or more date stamps had, in similar circumstances, as a rule to make do with the remaining one or ones.

Each of the 11 Regional Postal Administrations has a few such cancels at its disposal: Zurich, for instance, possesses 7. As necessity arises, the appropriate letters for the name of

the office in question are inserted into the metal frame and laterally fastened by a screw provided for this purpose.

"At the beginning of the 1920's, these temporary stop-gap cancels were required particularly often for the following reasons:

- (1) On the 10th July 1914 it was first decided that as soon as reasonably possible the hatching in the circular date stamps then in use should be replaced, above the bridge containing the date, by a Swiss cross, and below by the Roman figure indicating the Postal Region to which each post-office belonged. At the same time the ornaments to the right and left of the name should be replaced by asterisks.
- (2) On the 1st May 1919 the 24 hour count was introduced, and this necessitated the replacement, in all the cancels of the 1st and 2nd class post-offices, of the Roman figures which had heretofore indicated the hours of the forenoon, by Arabic figures.

"In the course of time all the date stamps had, therefore, to be altered, and where necessary replaced, and during these operations a number of the Temporary Canceles were constantly in use in the 3rd class offices. Moreover, they are constantly required due to the constant practice of re-cutting worn cancels in order to ensure an irreproachably clear postmark. Thus, for instance in 1958, these cancels were required in no less than 106 cases.

"During 1959, in preparation for the following decade, one of the date-reels of very many circular date stamps had to be altered because it contained no figure 6. In the Postal Region of Zurich alone, this applied to some 120 date stamps, of which about 40 belonged to small post-offices requiring, in the meantime, temporary cancels.

"It seems that in ordering and re-ordering temporary cancels, the Regional Administration did not pay particular attention to the exact size: at any rate the writer has found many differences, even within one Postal Region." J.B.

TRIBUTE TO KARL BICKEL

On 13th February 1966 Karl Bickel, the supreme engraver of postage stamps, celebrated his 80th birthday, and we feel sure that Helvetia members everywhere would like to add their congratulations to those which will have reached him from all over the world.

Looking through the stamp album one sees repeatedly the superb designs which have delighted us for so many years. In the studio of his house on the Walenstadtberg, high above the quiet waters of the Walensee, he has, between 1923 & 1964, produced no less than 98 accepted designs for Swiss stamps, to say nothing of several hundred trials etc., a colossal total, bearing in mind the exacting nature of the work.

The first of this long series were some of the airmails issued in 1923 - Z. Nos. 3 & 5-9, which included the well-known 'Pilot' stamps, and in 1927 the first of his 'Pro Juventute' portrait stamps, the head of Pestalozzi - which, incidentally, remains his favourite stamp even to-day. These were followed by further portraits in the series of 'Famous Swiss', between 1932 & 1936 produced by copper engraving. Meanwhile the P.T.T. had decided on the use of steel engraving and, in collaboration with the P.T.T., Karl Bickel developed the art of producing stamps by this method which brought him to the height of his fame.

Although his portrait stamps constitute probably his finest and most detailed work, he also engraved the designs for the 'Small Landscapes' of 1936, and 'Large Landscapes' of 1949, the high values. 3 - 10 Fr. of 1938, the fine 'Historical Series' of 1941 and the 3 - 10 Fr. 'Pax' stamps, among others.

By way of relaxation from this intricate work he has constructed, over a period of 25 years, in the grounds of his home, his huge 'PAX-MAL' - monument to Peace. (Those members who have seen the P.T.T. film on 'Postage Stamps by Steel Engraving' will recall this monument which was featured in it.) It comprises 15 groups of figures in mosaic relief on the theme of the Creation and Being of Mankind. Only last year this life's work was bequeathed to the Confederation.

In order to honour this great artist the P.T.T. have arranged a special exhibition in the Postal Museum, Helvetiaplatz, Bern, from 1st February to 11th April 1966, and no-one who is fortunate enough to be visiting Switzerland during this period should miss the opportunity to see it.

E.J.R.

LONDON GROUP: Hon. Sec: Mrs.E.J.Rawnsley

A lively evening was enjoyed by all who turned up in force at the January meeting, probably attracted by the fact that an auction was on the programme. The keen competition for the lots offered bore witness to the interest of everyone in all Swiss material.

While the Treasurer and his assistants coped with the resulting finances, the remaining members utilised the rest of the time by displaying a variety of sheets covering many subjects: Pro Juventute, fiscal stamps, varieties, airmail covers, etc., to name only some.

The excellent attendance seems to indicate the popularity of an evening of this kind and efforts will be made to repeat it in the near future.

STAMPS WORTH WATCHING

Recent 'tips' in the philatelic press have picked out the following as being on the up-grade:

The 1949 'Pro Aero' - Fr.1.50, already much higher catalogued on the Continent.

Also the 1952 Swiss Telecommunications Centenary 40c., in short supply in Switzerland & much in demand there.



L E H M A N N

GOLD MEDAL

ESSAY

COLLECTION

We have set a deadline for selling this wonderful collection en bloc as May 1st. If unsold by then we will offer parts of the collection in groups and as individual items.

As we anticipate considerable demand particularly for the many unique items, clients wishing to see approvals from this collection are now invited to contact us so that a list can be compiled. It would be helpful if, at the same time, an indication were given as to price limit per stamp. There will be no item below 85/-d, the majority of prices lying between this figure and £10. Above this price, the rarer items will be around £25 to £50 each, with a few copies running into three figures.

Additional space has been acquired adjoining our stamps at 'STAMPEX' - Nos. 44 & 45 - where it is hoped to show parts of the above Essay Collection, as well as other items.

COME AND SEE US - March 18th - 26th ...

A.S.D.A. H. L. KATCHER BPA., PTS.

The Amateur Collector Ltd.,
151, Park Road, St. John's Wood,
London, N.W.8.

LIECHTENSTEIN AT HELVETIA

The Chairman, Mr. E.C. Slate, while warmly welcoming Mr. Jack Beken to the meeting held in February, said that he did not really need any introduction to members who had been looking forward to this occasion.

Mr. Beken said he had tried to bear in mind the neighbourly relations, philatelic and otherwise, between Liechtenstein and Switzerland and, as far as possible, he had tried to include items having some connections with both countries. Philatelically there are roughly three periods to be considered:

1. From 1850 - 1912 when the stamps of Austria were used, distinguishable by the postmarks. These are known as 'Vorläufer' or 'Forerunners.'
2. From 1912 - 1921, during which period the stamps of both Austria and Liechtenstein were used concurrently. These are known as 'Mitläufer' or 'Co-runners.'
3. From 1st February 1921 when the Liechtenstein postal service was transferred to Swiss administration and the currency values were changed from the Austrian Heller and Kronen to Swiss Rappen and Francs.

Among the early items of cancellations on Austrian stamps were examples which could be designated as 'Things are not always what they seem to be' and illustrate some of the pitfalls for unwary collectors when using postmarks as a means of identification. In Czechoslovakia - then under Austrian rule - there is a place called 'TESCHEN' and in Liechtenstein there is 'ESCHEN', which can easily be confused. Similarly with 'TRIESTE' and the Liechtenstein name of 'TRIESEN'. In Switzerland there is a town of 'LICHTENSTEIG', while a pre-stamp cover of 1845 with the cancellation of 'LIECHTENSTEIN' actually emanated from Germany, since there is no town of that name in the Principality.

Liechtenstein cancellations on Swiss postage stamps are rare - an example of 'BALZERS' on a pair of Tell Boys was shown, and were in use for a period of only about 5 months - and are more often found on postage due stamps which were in use until 1928.

The 1920 issue of Liechtenstein, at one time to be found in almost all packet material, is now much more elusive and can provide a wealth of interest since, like so many issues of that period, it abounds in flaws and varieties. Some pages of these varieties were shown. Also many examples of covers with 'mixed frankings', i.e. stamps of Austria and Liechtenstein used together, or Swiss and Liechtenstein.

An unusual piece of postal history occurred during the First World War when, to short-circuit the Austrian postal censorship, a messenger service was instituted across the River Rhine between Sevelen in Switzerland and Vaduz. This was never officially authorised, but a 'sticker' was printed, inscribed 'Schweizer Post Vaduz' and affixed to letters against a small fee. A mint specimen of this label was shown, together with two postcards marked 'c/o Poste Restante Sevelen' which, by the dates, were most certainly carried by the messenger, although they do not bear the label.

When the Swiss Administration took over, the 10 Heller value of the 1920 issue of Liechtenstein stamps was overprinted in Swiss currency and some pages of this 2 Rp. value were shown, together with essays and proofs for new issues.

Then followed a selection of first flight covers, again showing many examples of mixed frankings; Liechtenstein and/or Swiss - Zeppelin covers, a Gordon Bennett balloon flight, as well as later balloon flights, glider and helicopter mail and so on.

Postage due stamps provided another interesting section, with many examples on cover, as well as essays in three different sizes. As in Switzerland postage due stamps are no longer used; instead definitive stamps are cancelled with the large 'T' or smaller 'T' in circle, or with the normal date stamp.

Another section dealt with railway cancels on the earlier stamps. It takes only 16 minutes to pass through this little country by train, travelling from Buchs in Switzerland to Feldkirch in Austria. In earlier times express trains as well as local ones made stops at Schaan-Vaduz and mail posted in the boxes attached to the trains received the very desirable cancellation 'Buchs-Feldkirch' or vice-versa. Nowadays the Arlberg express goes right through and although the local trains stop, there are no longer any post boxes attached.

A particularly interesting cover bore a Swiss ambulant cancellation on a 10 c. 'Sitting Helvetia' perf., with the Sevelen railway station date stamp, Vaduz thimble cancel and an 'R.L.' strike.

An unusual printing flaw occurs on the 1950 'Official' series, where the '0'

This is constant on Plates 1 & 2. stamp (cont. over)