

HELVETIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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News Letter

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No.1.

JANUARY 1967

21st YEAR

EDITORIAL

First of all I wish to thank the many members who sent Christmas Greetings - more than ever this year.

It was impossible to answer them all individually, but they were greatly appreciated and will help to inspire me to further efforts during the year to come. Aided by the continued co-operation of Members this should not prove too difficult a task.

The variety of subjects covered in articles published during 1966 bears this out, so if you can provide an article on any aspect of Swiss philately, not only will the Editor be spared many headaches, but your observations may open up a new field for other Members, or help to elucidate problems.

Meanwhile, may I heartily reciprocate all the good wishes and trust that Members everywhere will have a successful and prosperous 1967.

A very sincere apology is due to the Author of the latest study on the 'National Fete and Pro Patria Issues' whose name - H. W. ROBERTSHAW WAS erroneously transcribed as 'Robertson' in the December issue of the 'News Letter'. E.J.R.

1967 NEW ISSUES

Preliminary, but incomplete, details, just released by the P.T.T., relating to the 1967 programme of new issues, are as follows:

Date	Description	No.	Value Rp.	Set Fr.
13 Mar.	<u>PROPAGANDA I</u> Propaganda for use of white sticks (for blindness) EFTA Customs Union	2	10 20	- .30
	<u>EUROPA - CEPT</u>	1	30	- .30
1 Jun.	<u>'PRO PATRIA'</u> Portrait: Prof. Dr. Theodor Kocher (1841-1917) Ceiling paintings from the Church roof at Zillis (Gr.)	5	5 + 5 (10 + 10 20 + 10 30 + 10 50 + 10	1.60
18 Sep.	<u>PROPAGANDA II</u> 50 Years of 'Swiss Week' 50 Years of organisation 'For the Aged' S. Bernardino road tunnel 75 Years of Central Office of International Rail Transport	4	10 20 30 50	1.10
	<u>DEFINITIVE ISSUE</u> Historic monuments (second series)	*	*	*
1 Dec.	<u>'PRO JUVENTUTE'</u> Indigenous wild animals	*	*	*

Details for the last two issues are not yet available and will be subject to projected changes in the postal rates.

A footnote, however, states that there is no intention of changing the high value stamps of 3, 5, 10 & 20 Fr. (the Evangelists) for some years to come.

REMINDER TO LONDON GROUP MEMBERS

The February meeting will be on THURSDAY, 9TH when MR. H.L. KATCHER will be entertaining Members at 151, Park Road, St. John's Wood, London, N.W.8.

To help the arrangements for the evening it would be appreciated if Members (other than those present at the January meeting) would let the Secretary (Mrs. Rawnsley) know not later than February 7th.

POSTAL VALIDITY OF SWISS STAMPS

In order to clarify the position regarding the various issues of Swiss stamps which are still valid for postage, the P.T.T. has published the following list of those still in use:

1938	Symbolic issue - high values 3, f & 10 Fr.
1941	Historical series 50 c. - 2 Fr.
1949	Landscape & Technology series 3 c. - 70 c.
1960/61	Postal messengers & historic monuments, 5 c. - Fr.2.80
1961	High values - Evangelists 3, 5, 10 & 20 Fr.
1953	Automobile post (summer and winter) 10 & 20 c.
1966	Alps stamps - Matterhorn 10 & 20 c., Finsteraarhorn 10 c.
1961/66	All Propaganda series
1957/66	All Europa issues
1964/66	All Pro Patria series *
1964/66	All Pro Juventute series *

(*Since 1964 these issues have ceased to be subject to a restricted period of use.)

1963	Miniature sheet - Red Cross
1965	" " - 'Nabra'

Printed postcards: 30c. surcharge on
25 c., 10 & 25 c., small 10 c.,
large 30 c.

Newspaper wrapper: 5 c. Edelweiss motif

Aerogram: 65 c.

NEW STAMP BOOKLETS

The stocks of booklets of Fr.3 and Fr.6 value are almost exhausted and they will shortly be replaced by new ones of Fr.2 and Fr.5 values. These will be made up as follows:

a)	8 x 5 Rp.	...	Fr. -.40
	8 x 10 Rp.	...	-.80
	4 x 20 Rp.	...	-.80
			<u>Fr. 2.00</u>
b)	12 x 5 Rp.	...	Fr. -.60
	20 x 10 Rp.	...	2.00
	12 x 20 Rp.	...	2.40
			<u>Fr. 5.00</u>

The stamps will all be luminescent.

The 5 Fr. booklet is expected to be put on sale some time during January 1967, and the 2 Fr. booklet will follow later.

TOURIST SLOGAN CANCELLATION

RHEINFELDEN Solbad - from 9 Jan. 1967

1967 Subscriptions are coming in quite well ... any still outstanding will be appreciated.

ILLEGAL POSTMARKS

Further to the note in last month's 'News Letter' regarding back-dated postmarks, the following cancels have been found:

Hirzel ZH	Sihlwald ZH
Rifferswil ZH	Schönenberg ZH
Vazerol GR	

Often only a small portion of the cancel is shown or part of the cantonal name, i.e. Zurich or Graubünden.

Examples shown in the S.B.Z. are on the 30 c. values of the Pro Juv. of 1926, 1927 & 1937 and 20 c. 1933, also on the 10 c. 'Pax' of 1919 and 60 c. of 1945, and 25 c. U.P.U. 1949.

Further, a date canceller No. 6522 has been missing from Andermatt Post Office since 18 August 1966. It has the postal code No. 6490 before the name and in the segments are the typical Swiss cross above, three stars below and the No. 7A.

It is thought it may have been taken by a souvenir hunter but it may possibly be used in an unauthorised manner to cancel stamps.



Readers may, no doubt, remember the wonderful suitcase of covers which I acquired about 2 years ago, the contents of which were 'liquidated' within a few months, much of the material having found its way into the collections of Helvetia members. Many requests could not then be satisfied.

I recently combined a buying trip with a winter sports holiday in Switzerland and managed to bring back a large carton of similar covers, plus a fabulous accumulation of most interesting postmarks off cover.

It will be some weeks before any of this material is ready for approval viewing, but it would be helpful to have applications now from members who wish to see selections, and these will be dealt with in strict rotation. (I shall try to prepare some of the material in time for the Helvetia meeting at our offices on February 9th).

This is quite an exceptional lot and I will get great pleasure from 'investigating' it.

P.S. New Helvetia members who do not know of our 'suitcase' are advised that the material discussed above is of the 1850-1908 period.

ASDA (H.L. KATCHER) PTS., BPA.
The Amateur Collector Ltd.,
151, Park Road, St. John's Wood, N.W.8.
Tel: JUNiper 0616

NATIONAL FETE & PRO PATRIA ISSUES

by: H.W. ROBERTSHAW (1938 - 1966) PART II.

Continuing the background details of the various issues we come to

1942 10 c. This commemorates the 2,000th ANNIVERSARY of the founding of the CITY OF GENEVA, and shows a 16th century view of the city, from a painting by the artist Albert Yersin of Lutry. Included in the design are the arms of the City of Geneva and the arms of Switzerland.

20 c. Depicts the MONUMENT AT FORCH, near Zurich; a tribute to the memory of soldiers who died during the Swiss mobilisation in 1914-18. Although Switzerland remained neutral during both World Wars and was not engaged in combat, large numbers of soldiers lost their lives through illness or accidents whilst engaged on frontier guard.

Again a miniature sheet incorporating both values was issued, from which 'cut-outs' were allowed for postal use.

1943 10 c. A view of INTRAGNA in Canton Ticino. The Church was built in 1738; its tower is 230-ft. high and houses an unusually fine peal of bells.

20 c. The second stamp marks the 652nd ANNIVERSARY of the founding of Swiss democracy and depicts the BUNDESHAUS (Parliament House) in Bern, as seen from across the River Aare. The building is a combination of three buildings, all in Florentine-Renaissance style. The western block (on the left) is the oldest, dating from 1848.

For the next six years a series of four stamps was issued on each occasion.

1944 5 c. The lowest value shows a view of HELDEN, a mountain village in Canton Aargau, where Henri Dunant, founder of the Red Cross, lived.

10 c. View of ST. JAKOB-an-der-BIRS, south-east of Basle. It is famous for the battle fought here on 26th August, 1444, when 1,800 Swiss resisted 30,000 French marauders, known as Armagnacs. All the Swiss were killed, but not until they had inflicted great damage to the French forces.

A series of five postcards was issued, commemorating the 500th anniversary of this battle. They were placed on sale and the proceeds were devoted to Swiss Red Cross funds.

20 c. CASTLE OF MESOCCO in the Grisons, above the San Bernardino Pass, showing the impressive ruins of the stronghold which was destroyed in 1526.

30 c. A view of the CITY OF BASLE, with the CATHEDRAL TOWERS in the background. Basle is the second largest city of Switzerland, and capital of the half-canton of Basel-Stadt. Basle was first mentioned in the year 374 as Basilea, having probably been founded by the Roman armies, when they fell back on the Rhine. It has been a member of the Swiss Confederation since 1501. The city lies on both banks of the Rhine, which here receives the waters of the Birs and the Birsig on the south and the Wiese on the north.

The Cathedral or Minster, is a picturesque edifice in red sandstone and is characterised by two conspicuous towers. The present building was founded in 1010 by the Emperor Henry II, but it occupies the site of a seventh century church. A fire in 1185 did much damage and reconstruction was carried out in the Gothic style. It suffered again, however, in the earthquake of 1356.

1945 This year saw the start of a series in which the lowest value, depicting a typical craft, was engraved and produced at the P.T.T. Stamp Printing Works, while the other three values, showing various types of houses and farms of the different Cantons, were produced by photogravure.

5 c. SILK WEAVERS at work on looms, a woman at an old spinning-wheel and a man with rolls of finished fabric.

10 c. A farm in the Jura mountain district.

20 c. A farm-house in the Emmenthal valley with large overhanging eaves.

30 c. A timbered house in Eastern Switzerland.

1946 5 c. The production of SWISS CHEESE

10 c. A chalet near the lake of Neuchatel in western Switzerland, set in a vineyard covering the hillside.

20 c. A farmhouse, a combination of house and barn, of Canton Appenzell.

30 c. A house near St. Moritz, with typical wall paintings.



NATIONAL FETE AND PRO PATRIA ISSUES 1938 - 1966 (Continued)

1947 As in this year Switzerland was celebrating the centenary of the Swiss Railways the typical houses depicted on the earlier issues were replaced by railway stations:

- 5 c. 'Tamps' - RAILWAY TRACK LAYERS at work.
- 10 c. Rorschach railway station, overlooking Lake Constance (the Bodensee)
- 20 c. Luen-Castiel station on the Chur-Arosa line, which is built in Swiss chalet style.
- 30 c. Fluelen station on the Gotthard line (Lake Lucerne)

- 1948
- 5 c. FRONTIER GUARD with dog.
 - 10 c. A farm in the Canton of Fribourg.
 - 20 c. A farmhouse in the Valais district.
 - 30 c. Courtyard and house of the Ticino district.



- 1949
- 5 c. A POSTMAN entering a large building.
 - 10 c. A farmhouse in the Jura district of Basle.
 - 20 c. A house in the Canton of Lucerne
 - 40 c. A house of the Prätigau (Roman: Val Prateus - 'Valley of Mountains'.)

1950 For the next two years important anniversaries were depicted on the lowest value, while sports, athletics and typical Swiss activities are featured on the other values:

- 5 c. The design is based on a pair of the 5 c. ~~1850~~ 1840 'Poste Locale' stamps, issued originally for local delivery and marks the centenary of issue.
- 10 c. Putting the stone
- 20 c. Wrestling
- 30 c. Runners in action
- 40 c. Target shooting



- 1951
- 5 c. Commemorating the 600th ANNIVERSARY OF ZURICH joining the Confederation. The Zurich lions are shown holding the Arms of Zurich (one shield reversed) above the arms of Switzerland. Zurich, the capital of the Canton, is the leading commercial centre of the country. In B.C.58 Zurich (Turicum), with other towns of Helvetii, fell under the sway of the Romans. In 1292 it joined Uri and Schwyz and in 1351 became a member of the Swiss Confederation.
 - 10 c. The 'Trullpolka' from the Valais district
 - 20 c. Flag wavers and throwers
 - 30 c. Men engaged in the game of 'Hornussen'. According to legend the name is taken from the word 'hornets', because of the buzzing sound of the wooden puck as it flies through the air.
 - 40 c. Man blowing the Alpenhorn.

1952 saw the start of a new series on four of the values depicting rivers and lakes and this continued for five years:

- 5 c. To commemorate the 600th ANNIVERSARY OF GLARUS AND ZUG joining the Confederation and shows the Swiss arms, with the arms of Glarus on the left and those of Zug on the right. Those of Glarus are superimposed in part over St. Fridolin or Fridold, a 6th century monk and missionary, said to have worked among the Alemanni on the Upper Rhine, where he founded many monasteries and a Benedictine nunnery. He is said to have converted the people of Glarus to Christianity. The arms of Zug are held by an angel dressed in a suit of armour and holding in his left hand the scales of justice.
- 10 c. The River Doubs, Neuchatel
- 20 c. Lake of St. Gotthard. This lake is not specifically mentioned in any of my books of reference. The Pass of St. Gotthard winds its way between several small lakes, while there are some thirty small lakes within the St. Gotthard mountain group, which is 160 square miles in area.
- 30 c. The River Moesa flowing from Lake Moesa (Grisons).
- 40 c. The Lake of Marhelen near Eggishorn (Valais).








(To be continued)

SWISS "PERFIN" STAMPS

by FELIX GANZ

(Conclusion)

Additions to the 'Perfins' list - new items - continued:

Number	Perfin	Type	Height	User or used by:
Pl.5	P.K.Z. (omitted from last month's list)	h	9	(Zürich 7 Enge; prob. Paul Kehl Zürich)
S1.5	S		8	(Zurich)
S4.5	S.A./LF	2h	4½	
S4.8	SB	h	6	(Schaffhausen)
S6.5	SC	h	7	
S6.7	SC	h	5½	
S13.5	S.R.	h	8.3/4	
S13.6	S.R.	h	8	(Zürich, Enge)
S13.8	ST	h	7	(Thun)
S18.5	SWR	h	5½	
S21.5	S.&I./G.	2h	6½	(Geneve Stand)
TO.4	T		10 x 14	(Thomann & Leicht, Zürich)
TO.6	TB	h	7	(St. Gallen)
T2.5	T.H	h	7.3/4	(Zürich)
U2	U.V.	h	8	
V2.5	V.B./S.G.	2h	6½	(St. Gallen)
V3.5	VISC	h	7½	(Emmenbrücke)
WO.5	W.		9	(Winterthur)
W3.5	W.S.	h	7½	(Kreuzlingen 2)
Z0.5	Z.		9	(Zürich 7 Enge; prob. part of perfin design Pl.5)
d13.5		(four-pointed star with x inside)	12½	(tot. holes 29) Geneve 11)
d14a		(same as d14, but horizontally perfed-in)		
d18		(2 wavy lines)	12½	(tot. 22 holes)
d19		(triangle)	8	(tot. 18 holes)
d20		(diamond)	12½	(tot. 24 holes)
d21	 or 	(figure 8)	7½	(tot. 12 holes)

This completes the listing to date, but with new items constantly coming to light, a further list may be compiled some time in the future.

-----oOo-----

Editor's Note: Our member, Mr. F.H.B. Smith of Royston, Herts., has supplied an interesting footnote to this subject:

"Mr. F. Hugh Vallancey was one of the first philatelists interested in 'Perfins', and in his little handbook on the subject, first issued in 1933, he quotes Mr. Charles Bein as the originator of the word 'Spifs', meaning 'Stamps Perforated Initials (of) Firms.' Vallancey, Bein and Charles Nissen made the initial steps to list the Perfins they knew of, but much has been done since 1933 (or even 1948) when Vallancey issued a second edition of his handbook to replace those destroyed by enemy action in May 1941.

"About ten years ago a little group - the G.B. Perfin Study Group - was formed and issued its first News Sheet for July/August 1957, with Mr. C. Jennings, of Southsea, as President - he still is. We are now called The Security Endorsement & Perfin Society of Great Britain and are affiliated to the B.P.A."

J.S. ARMSTRONG A new year for philately is about to commence. Which direction will you be pursuing? Recent exhibitions emphasize the rapidly increasing interest in Cover collecting. Many worthwhile themes can be followed: AIRMAILS, FIRST FLIGHTS, SPECIAL CANCELLATIONS, and the stamps and cancellations of the various WORLD ORGANISATIONS, to name a few, while early 20th century material on cover is being more widely sought.

Why not send for approval selections: Special attention given to requests from Helvetia Members.

14, Low Lane, - Torrisholme, - MORECAMBE, - Lancs.

YORKS/LANCS GROUP

According to the syllabus the December meeting should have been a display of postal stationery on slides, given by Dr. Ritchie, but unfortunately at the last minute he had heard that the slides, which were coming from Switzerland, were being held by the Customs at Dover and so he had prepared an alternative display and paper from his own collection at only 24 hours notice.

Dr. Ritchie is also an expert on the postal history of Liechtenstein and the first part of the display was devoted to that country which, in his opinion, had the most beautiful postal stationery in the world. The earliest items were Austrian ones used in Liechtenstein, followed by the first items issued by the latter country, but still Austrian in design, followed by Swiss style issues, right up to the latest coats-of-arms series of 1965.

The second part of the display was devoted to the postal stationery of Switzerland, dating from 1867 and was a representative collection of all issues up to the present day. Items of particular interest included a complete used reply card of 1886 and a strip of four cards for use in a typewriter.

Dr. Ritchie concluded his display by discussing various ways of mounting postal stationery - a topic of interest to most members (and one to which we may return in more detail later).

The display was voted one of the finest ever seen.

* * * * *

The January meeting consisted of the display, postponed from the previous month, and given by Dr. G.G. Ritchie of Harrogate, who presented a POSTAL STATIONERY DISPLAY by means of slides which he had obtained from Switzerland.

These were magnificent photographic reproductions of all aspects of Swiss Stationery, from the earliest Cantonal envelopes, including many rare items, and it would be difficult to think of a single theme in postal stationery which was not represented.

Dr. Ritchie also gave a commentary on the slides (from the script supplied, which was in French and German, and which made many members envy his linguistic knowledge).

He concluded the display with some beautiful slides of his own of Liechtenstein and places along the Chur-Arosa railway and, together with Mr. J.N. Highsted, showed many of the items seen on the slides.

* * * * *

Hon. Secretary: R.A. HOYLE,
6, Limes Avenue, Huddersfield Road,
Halifax, Yorks.

ULRICH J. F. GOSLING

The Helvetia Society, and the Yorks/Lancs Group in particular, has lost one of its oldest and most valuable members by the recent death of ULRICH J.F. GOSLING. Mr. Gosling was one of the founder members of the Group since its inception and he contributed to its success in every possible way. He gave several displays, each of which was accompanied by an informative paper, and was always ready to give helpful advice to newer members.

His special Swiss interests were the U.P.U. issues of 1900, and postmarks of the middle period. It was his great wish that some publication, carrying on where Emmenegger left off, would appear, and he did a lot of investigation and preliminary work towards that end. Articles of his have been published in the 'News Letter' from time to time. He was also keenly interested in Postal Stationery, of which he had a valuable collection.

He remained throughout a general collector, with world-wide interests, but a rare knowledge of the earlier stamps of Central Europe - Germany and Austria, as well as Switzerland. A special delight for Group Members was on those occasions when they were studying any special issue and Ulrich Gosling would produce a most marvellous range of postcards bearing the stamps in question, all from his Grandparents during their Swiss tours towards the end of last century.

The Yorkshire Group Members and the whole of 'Helvetia' have lost a colleague, a collaborator - and a great friend.

L.M.

Meanwhile Group Members have been busy. Halifax P.S. has had quite a spate of Swiss meetings, from a visit by Mr. H.W. Robertshaw who dealt with the subject of stamp printing, then Dr. G.C. Ritchie who showed the stamps and postal stationery of Liechtenstein, to Mr. R.A. Hoyle who presented miniature sheets and Pro Patria issues for his Presidential Display.

Mr. J.N. Highsted also gave a display on Switzerland to Leeds Junior Society.

* * * * *

P.S. We have just heard that Mr. J.A. Eastwood has also visited Halifax P.S. with a Philatelic Quiz that included many brain-teasers.

LUMINESCENCE IN SWISS STAMPS

by: FREDERICK H. FROST

When a philatelist thinks of luminescence he usually visualizes merely a postage stamp which glows when illuminated in the dark, under ultra-violet light. The scientist, on the other hand, has experimented for many years with luminescence and has formed complex theories regarding this phenomenon.

Briefly and broadly, when an object is illuminated with a light of a specific wave-length, but reflects a light of a longer wave-length, then luminescence has taken place. We see that an object can be exposed to a light source, yet reflect a light wave-length that was not even present in the illuminating source! Theory indicates that under illumination such objects, which may be solids, liquids or gasses, absorb the 'exciting' light, their electrons are forced into and fall back from larger orbits and, as a result, light of a longer wave-length and a lower energy level is given off. This is not true reflectance but a pseudo type.

Thus, if the paper or the ink of a postage stamp is illuminated by ultra-violet light (which contains no visible light) yet produces a visible image, the stamp is said to be luminescent.

If the glow ceases when the ultra-violet light is turned off the effect is called fluorescence, but if the object continues to glow the effect is then known as phosphorescence. Both are luminescence. Even though both involve changes in the orbits of the electrons the two phenomena are different in character. Sometimes substances may show luminescence with exposure to a specific wave-length but not to another.

In recent years the 'brightness' of a sheet of paper has become a sales feature of great importance. If a blue-white fluorescent dye is added the paper may appear much brighter to the eye and much paper has been so produced. Often such dyes are soluble in water and when a stamp is affixed to such paper the dye may transfer to the stamp and when the stamp is soaked off the stamp may have acquired a bright and uniform fluorescence from the paper. It is often difficult to believe some such stamps were not produced in the paper mill.

Swiss fluorescent stamps are usually treated on the side to be printed with a fluorescent material that is decidedly yellow or golden. Used stamps which have acquired fluorescence from the paper are nearly always blue-white on the reverse side. Gums often show some fluorescence, the area around the silk thread of the Strubels shows the effect, and inks may be decidedly fluorescent. This is especially true of some of the red shades.

MEMBERSHIP LIST

Pending publication of an up-to-date list, which it is hoped to issue in the Spring, the following additions etc., should be noted:

NEW MEMBERS:

BALLEY, S.G.,	59, Heol Nant Castan, Rhiwbina, Cardiff.
CANT, J.E.	39, Dalrymple Street, Dundee, Scotland.
CARTER, E.F.,	125, Newport Road, Stafford.
EGGEN, D.R.	2828, Palm Springs Way, Las Vegas, Nevada 89102, U.S.A.
GURNEY, H.F.,	76, Botany Road, Margate, Kent.
HUBBARD, G.W.	52, Allcroft Road, London, N.W.5.
JENNISON, R.R.	'Overdale', 129, Manchester Road, Wilmslow, Cheshire.
ROPER, E.A.	'Ladymead', Hurstpierpoint, Sussex.
SPINNER, A.H.	2419, Helena Road, Lancaster, Pa.17603, U.S.A.
WORSLEY, E.	8, Pembroke Court, Queen's Promenade, Blackpool.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

QUINTON, H.E.	now at: 44, High Road, Southtown, Gt.Yarmouth, Norfolk.
SCARBOROUGH, B.,	" St. Margaret's Lodge, Churchgate, Leicester.
WHITELEY, R.M.	" 'Manleys', Broadhembury, Honiton, Devon.

DELETIONS:

GOITZ, DR. G.E.	(Resigned)
GOSLING, U.J.F.	(Deceased)

It give us very great pleasure to announce that

MR. LAWRENCE MOORE

our enthusiastic Yorks/Lancs Group founder, has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society.

He has been a member of that august body for many years, but richly deserves this recognition of his sterling work in the cause of philately.

LONDON GROUP: Hon. Sec: MRS. E. J. RAWNSLEY

Mr. S. Kander and Mr. A. F. Newman were given a warm welcome at the London meeting in December when they gave displays of SWISS FORGERIES. The many pages covered mainly the 'Classic' stamps of Switzerland: the Zurich 4 & 6, the issues of Geneva, the Basle Dove, Vaud 4 & 5, Poste Locale and Ortspost, Rayon I (dark blue) and Rayon II.

When a number of each stamp are seen together, differences in the printing, paper and colour frequently show up quite distinctly, but taken individually would be much more difficult to classify.

Mr. Kander explained that because there have been a number of very clever forgers: Fournier, Fauré, Sperati and Venturini - to name some of the best

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London Group Report (Cont. from Col.1)

known, it is only by continual and detailed scrutiny of the stamps that they can be detected. Even the experts are baffled at times, but through years of study acquire an 'instinct' which can spot even the most minute differences. That there are still far too many forgeries in existence is borne out by the fact that about 60% of the Swiss classics contained in some 200 collections seen by one of the leading stamp dealers proved to be forgeries.

Among later issues, some of the 'frauds', as distinct from forgeries, were quite audacious. For example a 1 Fr. 'Strubel' in a distinctly pale blue colour, instead of grey, and deeply embossed, and a cover bearing 2, 3 & 5 Rp. stamps of the 1862 issue, but imperf. - actually essays.

A great deal of unusual and fascinating material was shown, serving to emphasize the need for the greatest care when acquiring these early stamps.

A very hearty vote of thanks was extended to both visitors for bringing along displays of such great interest and for giving members the benefit of their experience on the subject.

* * * * *

January 11th, the opening meeting of the new year, was CHAIRMAN'S EVENING, when Mr. E. C. Slate gave a display of SWISS SOLDIER STAMPS.

The material, which consisted of the 1939-45 issues, was contained in three of the Locher albums, especially printed and formerly available for these stamps.

Mr. Slate was accused - perhaps a little unjustly - of providing a 'Do-it-yourself' evening, because instead of passing the sheets round, he arranged for those present to split up into small groups and go through the albums in turn. However, this had the advantage of allowing plenty of opportunity to discuss the stamps and to ask questions.

These stamps make a most interesting side-line and are worthy of study from the production point of view. Many are exceedingly artistic, while the way in which designs suitable to the various army corps have been incorporated into the limited space of a postage stamp, are in many cases, quite remarkable.

RECENT AUTOMOBILE CANCELS:

Auto 3 XVies Epreuves internationales de ski, 21-22 Janvier 67
LE BRASSUS - Vallée de Joux

" 3 II. Schweiz. PTT Skimeisterschaften Engelberg 27-28.1.67.

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No.2

F E B R U A R Y 1 9 6 7

20TH YEAR

FIRST ISSUES OF 1967

This year's special Publicity postage stamps (without additional surcharge) have been tentatively split up into a spring series and an autumn series, the first of which will be issued on 13th March 1967;

10 c. Publicity for the white cane of the blind. The rapidly growing motor traffic presents a particular threat for the weak-sighted or blind users of the road, who rely on the white cane for protection. The special stamp is designed to call the attention of the public to this official distinctive mark identifying blind persons.

20 c. EFTA tariff abolition: By 31st December 1966 industrial customs duties between EFTA member states were completely eliminated. The special stamp showing the flags of the eight member countries marks this memorable event.

On the same day the 1967 EUROPA (CEPT) stamp will also appear;

30 c. The administrations associated in CEPT (Conference europeenne des Administrations des Postes et des Telecommunications) will issue a Europa stamp with a common picture subject. The design of the Belgian artist, Oscar Bonnevalle shows gear wheels symbolising the close European co-operation existing in the postal and telecommunication fields.

Technical details are as follows;

10 c. White cane and automobile wheels; three colours - bluish-green, dark grey and yellow.

20 c. Flags of the EFTA member countries: four colours - yellow-brown, red, blue, and reddish-blue.

Designers: 10 c. Jürg Mauerhofer, Ostermundigen
20 c. Rudolf Mumprecht, Kbniz

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

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

Paper: White postage stamp paper with luminous substance and violet fibres

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

30 c. Gear wheels: one colour - bluish-grey.

Designer: Oscar Bonnevalle, Ghent (Belgium), adapted for the Swiss issue by Jürg Mauerhofer.

Engraver: Albert Yersin, Eschandens

Process: Line-engraved rotary intaglio printing by the Postage Stamp Printing Office P.T.T., Bern.

Stamp size: 24 x 29 mm., Picture size: 21 x 26 mm.

Paper: White paper for intaglio printing; luminescent; violet fibres

No. of sheets per form cylinder: Four (Nos. 1-4) No. of stamps per sheet: 50

The stamps will be on sale at all post offices and Philatelic Agencies from 13th March as long as stocks last, but not longer than 30th September 1967. The stamps will have unlimited postal validity.

Special First Day Covers will be available as usual. A special First Day cancellation; 3000 BERN - 13.3.1967 - AUSGABETAG - will be in use at the Bern Philatelic Agency. Other postmarks will be 3000 Bern 1 Annahme; Basel 2 Wertzeichen; 1000 Lausanne Bureau philatelique and Zurich 22 Wertzeichen.

Collection sheets and folders will also be available for both issues.

NUMBERS ISSUED:

The P.T.T. have released the following figures:

Europa (CEPT) 1965	50 c.	15,561,000
UIT 1965	10 c.	25,208,000
	30 c.	5,087,000
Publicity 1965	5 c.	16,330,000
	10 c.	30,366,000
	20 c.	22,446,000
	50 c.	11,217,000
'La cinquieme Suisse'	20 c.	20,304,000

WHO'S WHO ON SWISS STAMPS

CALVIN & de BEZE, 1959, Z.346

John Calvin, 1509-1564, was born at Noyon in Picardy and was destined for the Roman Catholic church. A remarkable scholar, in 1529 he was appointed cure of Pont l'Eveque, his father's native town. Then, obeying his father's command, he gave up theology for the law, studying first at Orleans, then at Bourges. Here he learned, Greek, read the Greek Testament and became a Protestant. He went to Paris and began to write in support of the 'new religion' - but following persecution he went to Switzerland, first to Basle and then to Geneva, where he joined the reformer Farel and received a ministerial charge and the chair of divinity in the academy. Forced to leave Switzerland for a time, he later returned and remained there until his death, forming a lasting friendship with John Knox and corresponding with Luther and other reformers.

Theodore Beza or de Béze, 1519-1605.

Was born at Vezelay. In 1548 his religious convictions became so strong that he felt compelled to join Calvin in Geneva. For about 10 years he was professor of Greek at Lausanne; but returning to Geneva in 1558, he was appointed professor of theology and president of the college. The great tact with which he conducted negotiations on behalf of the oppressed Vaudois in 1557 and 1558, led to his appointment as representative of the Protestants at the Conference of Poissy (1561). Detained in Paris by the religious wars, he became the most trusted adviser of the reformed leaders. In 1563 he returned to Geneva and, after Calvin's death, was appointed as his successor. In 1562 the French government permitted the publication of the Huguenot Psalter, most of which was written by Béze. To him also the Huguenots owed the final revision of their Bible.

STAMPS WORTH WATCHING!

The four values of the 'Historical Series' which were re-issued in 1958-9 on different coloured paper are becoming highly desirable items, particularly fine used copies.

TOURIST PUBLICITY CANCELS

The following have been put into use:

As from 8 February

7514 FEX
7500 PLAUNDALEJ
7515 SILS/SEGL BASELGA
7514 SILS/SEGL MARIA

As from 22 February

1604 PUIDOUX-GARE - au coeur de Lavaux
9042 SPEICHER - Ferien im Appenzellerland

The current publicity cancels for the following places will be withdrawn and replaced by similar designs, but including the postal code number:

6614 Brissago	6411 Rigi Kulm
3984 Fiesch	3852 Ringgenberg (BE)
3805 Goldswil b. Interlaken	8260 Stain-am-Rhein
3652 Hilterfingen	6950 Tesserete
4950 Huttwil	2513 Twann
7130 Ilanz	3451 Weier im Emmental
5630 Muri (AG)	
1672 Oron-la-Ville	3812 Wilderswil

SPECIAL CANCELLATION

For the period of the 37th International Motor Show in Geneva, from 9 - 19 March 1967, a special cancel will be in use reading: '1211 GENEVE - date - SALON DE L'AUTO'.



MR. H. L. KATCHER

wishes to thank all those members of the Helvetia Philatelic Society who attended the informal meeting

held at 151, Park Road.

Together with the other members of his Staff he looks forward to seeing them again, with many other friends, old and new, at:

' S T A M P E X '

which this year will be held at the Central Hall, Westminster, from

7 - 15th April, 1967.

The Amateur Collector, Ltd., stands - Nos. 44, 45 and 46, will be bigger and better than ever, and will include one on behalf of the P.T.T. Bern, at which will be seen, amongst other things, some exhibits from the P.T.T. Postal Museum in Bern, sent over especially for the occasion.

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