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No. 1.

JANUARY 1970

24th YEAR

INFORMATION PLEASE

DR. FELIX GANZ of Chicago poses some questions in the following notes and would enlist the help of other members in a search for even more elusive postmarks.

1. UNUSUAL CANCELLATIONS: Any collector of Swiss philatelic material is familiar with the hatchmark postmarks which made their appearance from 1867 on. The earliest types are summarily listed in the Andres & Emmenegger Handbook of Swiss Postmarks (Groups 76, 82, 85, 86, 88, 138-143, 145-150) and present no special questions; but towards the end of the century some different types came into existence, and it is of these that little is known.



1905-08



1927



1900?



1907-06



1907



1899-1921

The examples 1 - 6 shown above in real size drawings, may have been more or less experimental types from which still later types of hatchmark postmarks (some of them in use until 1965) evolved, particularly those types with a large ornament left and right (No.7). Special features of types 1 to 6 are: (1) stars at bottom left and right; (2) oblong shaded date box; (3) oblong shaded date box, very fine hatchmarks & postal district (11e A) left and right of date box; (4) lozenge-like ornament; (5) Maltese cross-like ornament; (6) tapered date box.

Of types 1 - 5 only the types of the towns illustrated are known. (Editor's note; see footnote re type 2). Type 6 seems to have been more frequently in use and is known to date from Aarau Brf. Exp., 2 diff. subtypes; Bern Brf. Exp.; 2 diff. subtypes; Geneve Exp. Lettr.; Geneve Rue du Stand; Lausanne Exp. Lettr., 2 diff. subtypes; Neuchatel Exp. Lettr.; Luzern Brf. Exp.; Zurich Brf. Exp.; Chur Br. Exp. and Zurich Fahrp. Aufg. Some of these type 6 cancels have a dot at left and right of the date, and the number of bars varies considerably. This type also exists without hatchmarks from Bern, Church and Luzern.



No. 7.

It would be a meritorious task if members of 'Helvetia' would check their 1895 to 1920 holdings and report any additional 'experimental' cancellation types identical or similar to the above types 1 - 5 as well as other towns in type 6.

11. CANCELLATIONS OF FOREIGN POSTAL ADMINISTRATIONS' POSTAL OFFICE IN SWITZERLAND: All those collecting Swiss postmarks and cancellations know that Switzerland maintained postal facilities in surrounding countries through most of the second half of the 19th century and to about World War II - with one agency, in Domodossola (Italy) still in existence to-day.

In addition, or conversely, France (in the railway station at Basel) and Germany (Originally Baden - in Basel's other railway station) maintained post offices on Swiss territory, way back in the 1850s and 1860s. Most, or all of these marks are listed and illustrated in the Emmenegger Handbook.

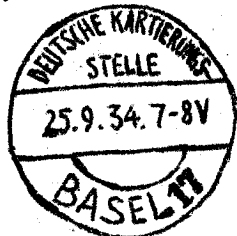
But did you know that at least some administrative facilities of foreign postal

INFORMATION PLEASE (Continued)

administrations have been using postmarks and date strikes with Swiss town names on them?



Seen 1927-30



Seen 1933-34

Illustrated here are two such examples known to the writer, one of the Italian PTT's border parcel post transit office at Chiasso, and the other the German PTT's counterpart (parcel sorting and despatching service) at Basel's main station which houses the postal customs P.O. 'Basel 17 Transit'.

It would be quite interesting to learn what other newer postmarks of this type are known to other members of 'Helvetia'. It seems that no effort has been made to date to assemble information regarding this type of marking.

F.G.

Editor's Note: The cancel 'Ste CROIX SUISSE', designated as No. 2 was dealt with some years ago and Herr André Nussbaum of Basel stated that it is a normal type used around the turn of the century. The addition of the word 'Suisse' is unusual, but similar postmarks are known from Neuchatel and Fribourg.

NUMBERS ISSUED

The following figures have just been released by the P.T.T.

Publicity Stamps Series I, 1968

Women's Alpine Club	10 c.	14,912,000
Europa CEPT 1968	20 c.	35,245,000
Chess Tournament	30 c.	35,178,000
Geneva Airport	50 c.	15,087,000

Publicity Stamps Series II, 1968

SUVA	10 c.	15,096,000
125 Years Swiss Stamps	20 c.	35,585,000
National Land Survey	30 c.	35,621,000
Rhine Navigation	50 c.	14,596,000

<u>UNO Service Stamps 1955</u>	55 c.	1,424,000
	10 c.	1,586,000
	60 c.	873,000
	2 Fr.	701,000

<u>UNO Service Stamps 1959</u>	20 c.	1,152,000
	30 c.	1,219,000
	50 c.	1,362,000

<u>UNO Service Stamp 1960</u>	5 Fr.	453,000
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<u>Visit of Pope Paul VI</u>	30 c.	3,726,000
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<u>Publicity Stamps Series I 1969</u>		
Girl Guides	10 c.	19,981,000
Planetarium	20 c.	25,504,000
Comptoir Suisse	30 c.	15,331,000
Gymnestrada 1969	50 c.	9,895,000
Airmail Jubilee	2 Fr.	4,755,000

A WORD of THANKS

The Editor would like to thank the many Members who sent Christmas Greetings - too many for individual acknowledgement - but greatly appreciated, and sends reciprocal Greetings for 1970 to one and all.

E.J.R.

A CHRISTMAS CARD FROM SWITZERLAND

It has been, in recent years, both my pleasure and privilege to express cordial appreciation of the superbly attractive Christmas Greetings issued by our friends in the Philatelic Department of the PTT.

As I may have said previously 'there are cards and cards', but this year's 'Greeting' under review compares very favourably with previous years. Its brilliant colours (you Swiss can print!) depicts an ancient stained glass panel of the Madonna and Child, which dates back to the 1150 period and adorned the Chapel of St. Jacob at Gräpplang near Flums, in the Canton of St. Gallen. About 80 years ago this priceless glass was removed to the Swiss National Museum at Zurich.

The 'card' with its four-fold message of seasonable goodwill, also bears a 50 c. stamp, reproducing the design, by Ernst Witzig, included in the 1969 Pro Patria set. It will soon occupy an honoured place in my collection.

F.H.B.SMITH

S W I S S

PROOFS & ESSAYS

If you are interested in this fascinating field - we have material for you to examine at leisure.

If you have not yet started on them, why not have a look?

There are still many discoveries to be made, and values are rising as more collectors take to proofs and essays.

Ask for our approvals, in which prices start from very moderate figures.

-----oOo-----

H. L. KATCHER

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

100 YEARS OF SWISS STAMPS 1843-1943

Translated by F. J. ROSENTHAL

Part VII

REGULAR ISSUES WITH SURCHARGE

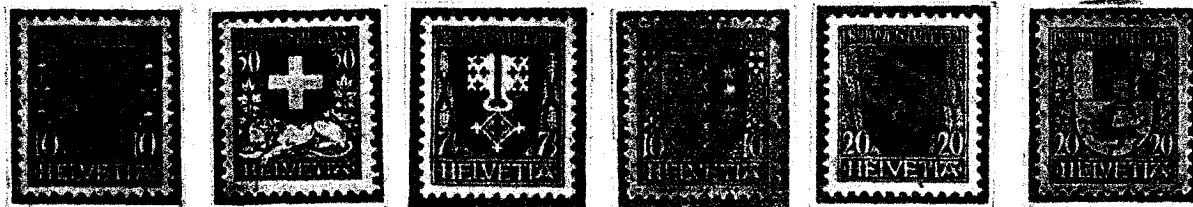
Pro Juventute. For youth! Shortly after the establishment of the Pro Juventute Foundation in 1912, the Swiss postal authorities went beyond its traditional co-operation with this worthy cause. In December 1912 it sold Pro Juventute labels without postal value and during the following year issued a postage stamp of 5 Rp. with a surcharge for the benefit of the Foundation. Ever since 1915 Pro Juventute stamps were issued regularly every December for a period of limited validity; up to the end of 1942 there were altogether 104 such stamps. 37 of the pictorial designs are of a national type, 37 are representations of coats-of-arms, 22 are dedicated to the memory of famous Swiss personalities, and 6 represent landscapes. The Pro Juventute stamps can be divided not only according to the pictures, but also according to the method of printing and periodic order into 4 groups.

From 1915 to 1917 pictures of national costumes were chosen from designs by Wilhelm Balmer and were engraved in steel by Jean Sprenger for single colour typography. In 1915 pictures of a boy (86) and girl appeared; thereafter 3 stamps each with national costumes from various regions of Switzerland. Every year the artist treated the stamp pictures from a different point of view and thus, with simple means, brought variety to the series which has an unpretentious yet appealing effect.



Fig. 86.

The years from 1918 to 1926 brought a series of cantonal coats-of-arms in multi-coloured typography, which were the creation of Rudolf Munger, the eminent master painter of heraldic emblems. He succeeded in using the stamps not merely for simple reproductions of cantonal coats-of-arms, but to create genuine ornament showpieces of miniature graphic art by means of strong colourful composition, both heraldically and artistically. The arms of the cantons represent values of the ordinary stamps, and their shading was cleverly attuned



Figs. 87 88 98 99 100 101

to the colours of the arms. The background is decorated for some stamps by symbols from history or religious life (Figs. 87,98,101,) for others by representations of agricultural or industrial products (99,100.) Beginning with 1921 a stamp was added for foreign mail with the Swiss shield (88). This is flanked by two figures, symbolising for each year one of the major epochs of Swiss history, such as the founding of the Confederation, the battles of Sempach and St. Jakob-an-der-Birs, the wars of Burgundy and the Milanese campaigns.

From 1927 to 1932 the pictorial motives, method of printing and stamp format were changed practically every year. Thus, in 1927 we find a series of stamps dedicated to the memory of Heinrich Pestalozzi, (89) copper plate printing in addition to multicoloured typography, and for the first time for Swiss stamps, etched



Figs. 89 102 103

engraving, as well as the first Pro Juventute stamps in double format. 1928 and 1930 showed three city coats-of-arms in typography, which resembled the earlier series of cantonal arms, and which have remained to this date the only stamps in small rectangular format. In 1929 the first landscapes in two-coloured etched engraving appeared (102), which may be contrasted with the three landscapes of 1931 with their simple impressive design in one-colour etched engraving. In 1932 three values were issued - for the first time in the middle format - with representations of popular games (103).

Following the Pestalozzi series, every year one stamp was subsequently dedicated to the memory of a famous Swiss.

100 YEARS OF SWISS STAMPS (Continued)

In 1933 a new epoch began with the issue of stamps representing feminine costumes, the series concluding with those issued in December 1942. In contrast to the former series of costumes, it was prepared in two-coloured etched engraving and in the middle format. The artists, J. Courvoisier, C. Liner and H. Zaugg



Figs. 90

91

92

104

107

show on these stamps primarily the head-dress and bodice, indicating by means of a characteristic bit of landscape in the background the region represented by the costumes (90, 91, 92, 104, 107). The advantages of this method of printing are here shown to good effect. Every strong line is avoided and the colour tones are delicately shaded in such a fashion as it would be impossible to duplicate by means of any other method of printing. As a result the pictures are of an extraordinary softness.

In addition to the costumes, Karl Bickel created for every year one, and for 1937, 1941 and 1942 two stamps each for engraved printing, with the portraits of famous Swiss personalities, each of which is an unsurpassed masterpiece (93, 95, 105, 106).



Figs. 93

95

105

106

decorative souvenir sheet.

The 25th anniversary of the Pro Juventute Foundation shows on the 1937 stamps instead of the costume pictures two charming children's heads. These were combined within a

(To be continued)

Reports on NORTHERN GROUP MEETINGS: Hon. Sec. R.A. Hayle, 6, Limes Avenue, Huddersfield Road, Halifax, Yorks.

Using the theme 'Condition in Relation to Value', Mr. L. Moore acted as Discussion Leader at the December Northern Group meeting, when the subject for study was 'IMPERF. ONLY'. To-day there is greater emphasis on condition than ever before, resulting in a high rise in the value of early stamps in fine condition. Thus, in order that some of the classics may grace the pages of collectors of modest means, a sub-standard copy may often be better than none at all, although Mr. Moore advised members to try to buy in the first place an item in the best possible condition they could afford.

Mr. Moore quoted from Ed. Müller's 'Catalogue of the Classic Stamps of Europe' of 1958, detailing the various quality standards listed and percentage discounts for degrees of imperfection. Using the 2 Rp. grey 'Strubeli' as an example, he was able to show the relative values of sub-standard items and also recalled past experiences in buying stamps with reference to condition, and the efforts he had made over the years to improve the quality of his collection, thus giving much useful advice to members. His display consisted of a superb array of Imperfs., including the Zurich 4 & 6, Double Geneva, Bale Dove, Large & Small Eagles, some on cover and some illustrated with photographs. He also displayed a page of Sperati forgeries and a fine collection of Rayons and Strubelis including covers and multiples. Just to prove, however, that the theme 'Imperf. Only' does not limit collectors to the 'Classics', Miss Chatburn, Dr. Ritchie and Messrs. Gilchrist, Hoyle & Robertshaw displayed (beside their many sub-standard imperfs!) the imperf. miniature sheets and soldier stamps, thus providing a varied and interesting afternoon for all present.

At the meeting on January 3rd, DR. G. G. RITCHIE of Harrogate displayed the 'MESSENGER & MONUMENTS ISSUE'. Tracing the history of the issue from the original design competitions, he displayed the various series which included value changes (for new postal rates), changes of paper (both coloured and phosphor), changes in design and the 10, 20, 25 & 75c. values with phosphor on the wrong side. Also included were coil strips with the differences in design, booklets, tête-beche & interspace pairs and a wide range of covers.

PROOFS, TRIALS AND ESSAYS

By L. MOORE

Part II.

SITTING HELVETIA (Impressed Watermark)

No other Swiss issue was preceded by such a wide variety of proofs and trials as the 'Sitting Helvetia' perf. There are plate proofs, handprinted in black on white card of the 2, 3, 5, 10, 20, 30, 40, 60c. and 1 Franc. To test the new Control Mark, complete sheets of blank white perforated paper were impressed with it. On the adopted paper, with Control Mark, the 40 c. was printed in green, imperf and with the 'cancellation' 1 FR per 100 Stück ^{or} 1 Fr. par Cent running over every three stamps.

Also on Control Marked paper there were many imperf. colour trials:- 2 c. black, 2 c. black/brown, 2 c. red-brown, 5 c. vermilion, 5 c. bronze, 5 c. gold, 30 c. bronze and 30 c. gold. It will be remembered that this issue had interchangeable value corners, so the reason there are so many proofs and trials of the 2 c. is probably because the 2 c. corners happened to be fitted and were left in for runs in various colours.

On paper without Control Mark are the 2 c. grey & red, 5 c. brown, 10 c. blue, 20 c. orange, 30 c. red, 60 c. yellow, 2 c. brown, 10 c. carmine, 15 c. yellow, 25 c. green, 30 c. blue, 40 c. grey, 50 c. violet, 1 Fr. gold, all imperf. Trials of colours of other values include: 2 c. in grey, blue, rose, yellow, orange, green and lilac, the 5 c. in blue, red, yellow and violet; the 10 c. in brown, the 20 c. in grey-blue and red-gold, the 25 c. in brown, blue and carmine/yellow and the 40 c. in sulphur yellow, all imperf.

There are colour trials of the 2 c. in red on gold, in blue on silver, in violet on silver, in black on rose, in black on green, on blue, on lilac and on salmon, and the 3 c. in black on blue, black on yellow, black on brown and black on lilac: mostly imperf., through some are known perforated.

Perforated trials on the actual paper with control mark are of the 2 c. in black-brown, 5 c. grey, 10 c. yellow-brown and yellow on red. There are paper trials in several shades and different papers. All values are known in adopted colours without Control Mark. The 2 c. is known in perforated colour trials in almost all the adopted colours and also a variety of different coloured papers. The 3 c. also was tried in black on blue, yellow, brown and lilac. To test cancellations on the new paper there was a 2 c. in red and gold with the date stamp 'BERN 15 Nov. 1863' in black.

Bearing the same cancellation is the 2 c. in blue on silver, while the 5 c. in vermilion was cancelled 'OBERPOST CONTROLE 22 Juni '64' in blue. The 5 c. in blue was cancelled 'ROMANSHORN' and the 10 c. blue on blue paper was cancelled 'OBERPOST CONTROLE 22 Juni '64' in violet. On perforated paper, cancellation tests were made on the 2 c. black-brown with the c.d.s. 'BERN 19.1.78', the 20 c. blue is known with the same mark, the 30 c. vermilion with a Posthorn cancellation, and the 40 c. green with 'WEISSENDACH 6.VI. 79' in red.

Before the issue of the granite paper series, there were colour trials on perforated granite paper with Control Mark as follows: 5 c. green, 5 c. carmine, 10 c. green, 10 c. dark brown and 10 c. yellow-brown on rosy tinted paper. The paper itself was subject to tests of the Control Mark and the writer's collection is a piece of the granite paper, imperf. with 25 Control Marks spaced out to receive the stamps. The marks stand out as clearly as if they were printed.

One of the most interesting phases of the development of printing with metallic colours can be traced to trials of this issue. For instance, the 60 c. value originally was to be printed in yellow, but the result was very 'washy' as can be seen from the trial on Control Marked paper. It was then considered appropriate to print the higher values in metallic ink, and experiments were conducted. After underprinting in red or in yellow, metallic powder was sprinkled over the still wet ink. Bronze was used for the 60 c., and gold for the 1 Franc, but as the value corners were interchangeable, many of the trials bear values other than the 60 c. and 1 Franc. One early trial quite clearly shows the red underprinting through the gold powder - and this has the 2 c. corners in position! I have a bronze trial with Control Mark on white paper with 5 c. corners, and a sample of the finally accepted bronze colour with Control Mark but with 30 c. corners. The final proof of the 1 Franc in gold - hand impression with wide margins, imperf. and with Control Mark - is far finer in relief than the issued stamp.

(To be continued)

FEBRUARY LONDON GROUP MEETING.

The next meeting to be held on Wednesday, 11th February, at 6.30 p.m. at the Kingsway Hall, W.C.2. will consist of an AUCTION.

To give all members a chance to sell some of their (vast ?) stocks of surplus material, it is suggested that initially lots will be offered in groups of 10 per member. Items in excess of 10 will be put up in a second round.

It is also suggested that there should be a minimum reserve of 2/- per lot and in fairness to the auctioneer, reserve prices should be noted on the list (in duplicate please) accompanying the lots.

Items sent in by post should reach the Secretary, Mrs. Rawnsley, not later than Monday, 9th February.

Congratulations to Mr. F. Boswell, of Bournemouth who entered 12 sheets of Swiss stamps, showing a fair example of the various issues, in the Annual Competition of the Bournemouth & District P.S., in December, and was awarded the 'Norah Muriel Cup'.

A full report will be given next month on W.Cdr. R.F. Bulstrode's superbly display of 'Hotel Posts' and other items, given at the January London Meeting.

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POSTMARK NEWS:

SLOGAN POSTMARKS: The following pictorial cancels are in use since 1st January (Crans summer from 5 May):

AIGLE - carrefour du tourism
CRANS-sur-Sierre-Soleil, neige, sports
" " " -Soleil, Sports, golf
VERBIER - été - hiver
BASEL und sein Zoo
KLOTEN - Flughafendorf
MEILEN - am Zurichsee

AUTOMOBILE CANCELS

Auto 3 XIXes Epreuves internationales
de ski - 17-18 janvier 70 -
LE BRASSUS, Vallée de Joux

SLOGAN CANCEL

Salon Genève, Vehicules utilitaires -
Manutention 31.1 - 8.2.1970 -
Genève 1 to 8 Feb.

TOURIST PROPAGANDA CANCELS

The following will be withdrawn as from 20th January:

8800 THALWIL (K.172)
8620 WETZIKON (ZH) (K.328)

FOR FUTURE ARTICLES

Have members any requests for articles on subjects which they would be interested to see dealt with in our publication?

If so, drop us a line and we will see what can be done.

J.S. ARMSTRONG

With 'Stampex' and 'Philympia' in the offing, there are likely to be heavy demands on stocks of Swiss stamps in this country, which are cheaper than on the Continent.

Before the rush starts make sure of all your outstanding items.

Material supplied on approval and careful attention given to Want Lists:

Pre-stamp covers
All stamp issues - classics to modern
Airmails, flight covers and special flights
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HELVETIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

News Letter

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No. 2

FEBRUARY 1970

24th YEAR

1970 NEW ISSUE PROGRAMME

Preliminary details of the various issues of new stamps proposed for 1970 have been released and are as follows:

		No.	Values	Total
26th February	<u>PUBLICITY ISSUE - Series I</u>	5	20	
	See below		30	
			30	
			50	
			80	Fr. 2.10
4th May	<u>EUROPA - CEPT</u>	2	30	
			50	0.80
29th May	<u>PRO PATRIA</u>	4	10 + 10	
	Contemporary stained glass		20 + 10	
			30 + 10	
			50 + 20	1.60
17th Sept.	<u>PUBLICITY ISSUE - Series II</u>	4		
	75 Years of Swiss Football			
	Association 1895-1970		10	
	Federal census		20	
	Swiss Alps - Piz Palu		30	
	Nature Year		50	1.10
	<u>COIL STAMPS</u>	3	10	
	(large figures on reverse)		20	
			50	0.80
1st December	<u>PRO JUVENTUTE</u>	4	10 + 10	
	Indigenous birds		20 + 10	
			30 + 10	
			50 + 20	1.60
		22		Fr. 8.00

In addition to the above, from 18th June, the Philatelic Agency will sell complete tete-beche sheets of the 10, 20 & 30 Rp. 'Historic Buildings' of 1968.

PUBLICITY ISSUE - Series I

Five stamps without additional charge will be issued on 26th February, of which two will have a value of 30 Rp. Details are as follows:

20 Rp. 75 Years of the Swiss Telegraphic Agency, 1895-1970: This Agency started its operations in Bern 75 years ago. Its objective and neutral reporting has won the Agency an excellent reputation at home and abroad.

30 Rp. 100 Years of the Swiss Firemen's Association, 1870-1970: The Association has more than 200,000 members. The stamp, showing a child being rescued from a burning house, highlights a particularly important aspect of the many duties of the firemen and pays tribute to their service.

30 Rp. 50 Years of the PRO INFIRMIS Foundation: In an endeavour to better the disabled, a group of high-minded men and women set up the PRO INFIRMIS Foundation in 1920. In spite of the invalidity insurance introduced since, the beneficent work of Pro Infirmis is still indispensable. A modernised version of the Foundation's emblem, a chained wing, is used.

PROGRAMME FOR 1970 - Continued

50 Rp. 25 Years of the United Nations Organisation, 1945-1970: The United Nations Charter came into force on 24th October 1945. Although Switzerland is not a member of the U.N., the European headquarters of the organisation are located at Geneva and it is deemed appropriate to mark the 25th anniversary by a special stamp.

80 Rp. New Headquarters of the Universal Postal Union in Bern: The International Bureau of the Universal Postal Union will move into new quarters in Bern in the spring of 1970 and the new building is shown on the stamp.

Designs: 20 Rp. Textframed by telex tape - 4 colours: green/yellow/dark grey/grey-olive.

30 Rp. Fireman rescuing a child - 4 colours: red/grey-blue/yellow/green

30 Rp. Chained wing - 5 colours: red/reddish-blue/greenish-blue/brown/silver

50 Rp. U.N. emblem - 3 colours: blue/light green/silver

80 Rp. New headquarters of U.P.U.: 2 colours: violet/yellow-grey.

Designers: 20 Rp. Eugen & Max Lenz, Zurich 30 Rp. Emanuel Bösshart, Eschlikon
30 Rp. Donald Brun, Basel (P.I.) (Firemen)
50 Rp. Hans Thöni, Bern 80 Rp. Hans Hartmann, Köniz

Stamp size: 36 x 26 mm. (33 x 23mm.)

Form cylinder: 2 sheets (A&B)

Paper: White, luminous substance, violet fibres. No. per sheet: 50

The new stamps will be sold by post offices and mobile offices from 26th February 1970 in place of ordinary stamps (unless the latter are asked for) until stocks are exhausted. Also obtainable from the 8 Philatelic Bureaux.

Five special covers will be available, one for each design, and also a collective one for the whole issue at a cost of 30 Rp. each; also Collection sheet No.250 and Folder No. 96. A special First Day cancel: '3000 BERN - 26.2.70 - AUSGABETAG' will be used in Bern.

Don't miss

STAMPEX 1970

which will be bigger and better than ever. Make a note of the date and times:

Tuesday, 3rd - Saturday, 6th March
at

The New Horticultural Hall,
Greycoat Street, S.W.1.

Tue - Fri. 10.30 a.m. - 9.00 p.m.
Saturday 10.30 a.m. - 7.00 p.m.

Nearest stations: St. James' Park or
Victoria

Buses: 10, 11, 24, 29, 39, 134, 149,
503 & 507.

Car park in Rochester Row.

RECENT POSTMARK NEWS:

1. CIRCULAR TOURIST PUBLICITY CANCEL
7304 MAIENFELD - Heidi's Heimat
K.517

2. PICTORIAL SLOGAN CANCELS

The following were issued on 5th
February:

KÜSSNACHT-am-RIGI - Hohle Gasse
ST. MARGRETHEN SG - Tor zur Ostschweiz
ALTSTÄTTEN - Marktort im Rheintal
FLIMS - Sommer - und Winterkurort



STAMPEX
1970

We look forward to
welcoming you at

STAND No. 30

We are very pleased that the Swiss P.T.T. will again be with us, showing Stained Glass Window pictures connected with the present PRO PATRIA series, including an illuminated reproduction of the 'Madonna of Flums' window. They will also have current issues on sale.

We shall be showing items of interest to all collectors of Swiss stamps from Classics to Modern.

The lovely H. L. Katcher 'HELVETIA TROPHY' will also be on show at the Exhibition.

---oOo---

H. L. KATCHER

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

Tel: 01-586 0616.

B.P.A. P.T.S. S.P.A. A.S.D.A.

HOTEL POST STAMPS

The Hotel Post stamps of Switzerland were the main subject of the unique display of unusual items given by W. Cdr. R.F. BULSTRODE, O.B.E. to members of the 'Helvetia' at the January meeting in London.

The use of these stamps arose because in the mid-19th century, when tourism was becoming popular, the postal system, while quite good on the main routes, was extremely poor to hotels perched on mountain tops. Hotel proprietors therefore, organised private postal services for the convenience of their guests, but the mail had to be laboriously transported between the hotel and the nearest post office, often several miles away, and for this service a small charge of 5, 10 or 15 Rp. was made. Stamps were issued by the hotels which served as a receipt for the sum paid in addition to the normal postage. They also provided a little extra income and were good publicity, since many included a small picture of the hotel in question as part of the design. This worked well until 1883 when the Post Office decreed that no unofficial stamps were to be used bearing a figure of value or the word 'Franco'. Without these symbols hotel stamps continued in use until at least 1900.

It should be noted that Switzerland was not the only country to issue such hotel stamps. They were also used in Austria, Hungary and Roumania, and almost certainly by two hotels in Scotland.

The display which followed showed examples of the stamps issued, including essays, forgeries, varying types of cancellations and some outstanding items postally used on cards or covers:

BELALP - near the Aletsch Glacier, issued in 1873 and later in 1876 and 1880. Mail was taken to the nearest post office at Brigue, some 12 miles away. The design is a small view in an oval frame. Perforated stamps of Belalp are always forgeries. No. 1 was shown used on cover to England in 1874, tied by the Basel circular date stamp.

ENGELBERG - Hotel Sonnenberg. Issued in 1880 and depicts a view of the hotel. They have a normal perforation of $13\frac{1}{2}$, although most catalogues state $11\frac{1}{2}$, which is far rarer.

MADERANERTAL - nearest post office Amsteg. The design is similar to that of BELALP. The issues of 1870, 71, 72 & 74 were inscribed 5 c. In 1885 they were re-drawn, the figure omitted and the inscription 'EXTRADIENST' added.

MURREN - Grande Hotel des Alpes. One of the very few for which the engraver is known: G. Keller-Kehr of Bern; it is a large rectangular stamp with a fine alpine landscape in a decorative frame.

PIORA TAL - 5 miles from Airolo, the nearest post office. The date of issue is a little uncertain but is thought to be around 1883. The first design shows the hotel with the River Foss, the later one the hotel and Lake Ritom.

RIGI-KALTBAD - the first hotel to issue its own stamps in 1864, and had locally made 'forerunners' even earlier. Probably the best known of all with its dainty design of alpine roses. Among the examples shown were some with telegraph cancels, as well as an essay. A number of forgeries exist. In 1964, to celebrate the centenary of these stamps a small quantity of mail was carried from Weggis up the Rigi by goat-mail on one day only.

RIGI-KULM - nearest post office Vitznau or Arth-Goldau. Several issues were made between 1870 and 1885, in a variation of the alpine rose design but in horizontal format. Among the items shown was a very fine postcard of 1891 cancelled with a 10 c. Cross & Figure stamp and bearing a Rigi-Kulm hotel stamp.

RIGI-SCHELDECK - which followed the example of Rigi-Kaltbad in 1868. Nearest office Gersau on the lakeside. Examples were shown with the straight-line boxed cancel 'RIGI SCHELDECK' and also one with a Federal postmark of 1885. The design, a dove with a letter, is shown within an oval ribbon.

ST. GOTTHARD - Hotel du Mont Prosa, which is depicted on the stamp together with the church and hospice. Date of actual issue unknown. Displayed was a very rare card, postmarked at Airolo and bearing a hotel stamp; the card bears the statement that the writer is the only guest at the hospice!