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HELVETIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

News Letter

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No.1.

JANUARY 1971

25th YEAR

FIRST NEW ISSUE OF 1971

The 1971 SPECIAL (Propaganda) POSTAGE STAMPS will be issued in two series, the first of which, due on the 11th March, will consist of 5 values.

10c. YOUTH & SPORTS The new Article in the Swiss Constitution on gymnastics and sports was approved with a clear majority by the people and cantons in the vote of 27 Sept. 1970. Its purpose is to encourage gymnastics at school and young people's sports activities, both sexes receiving equal treatment. The design shows, on two stamps, groups of young gymnasts, one female, the other male. Exceptionally, these stamps have been printed as so-called twin values, showing a checkered arrangement on the stamp sheet, but can also be obtained as single stamps.

20c. CHILDREN OF THE WORLD: A special stamp has been devoted to the International Child Welfare Organisation (Enfants du monde) for promoting its benevolent work. It depicts a stylised rose, pointing to the charity drive of the organisation, to be undertaken in Geneva in the summer of 1971 during the 'Semaine de la rose'.

30c. 'NABA' - National Philatelic Exhibition in Basle: From 4-13 June 1971 a National Philatelic Exhibition will be held in the halls of the Trade Fair in Basle, an event which takes place every 6 years and emphasises the close link existing between the Post Office and philately. The design shows a reproduction of the 'Rayon II' stamp, together with a basilisk - an emblem of Basle - and thus aptly associates the occasion and the exhibition site.

50c. SECOND DECADE OF DEVELOPMENT AID: The stamp is designed to call the attention of the Swiss public to the growing urgency of technical development aid, which enters its second decade this year; it represents a rising spiral, symbolising the close partnership between Switzerland and the developing nations.

80c. INTERNATIONAL SPACE COMMUNICATIONS CONFERENCE: On 7th June 1971 a 6 weeks conference is scheduled to begin under the auspices of the International Telecommunications Union (UIT) whose purpose is to regulate the allocation of frequencies for communication via satellites. The most advanced of these satellites, 'Intelsat IV' has been used as an appropriate central motif.

Other details are:

Colours: 10c. (a) Gymnasts (female) - 4 colours: grey-ol./grey/Blue/brown
(b) " (male) - 3 colours: grey/yellow/brown
20c. Stylised rose - 4 colours: dk.grn/grey-brown/or-red/red-violet
30c. 'Rayon II' Federal stamp of 1850 and basilisk - 4 colours:
red/yellow/green/dk.blue.
50c. Symbol of co-operation - 2 colours: blue/brown
80c. Communication satellite - 5 colours: red/blue/yellow/violet/blk.

Designers: 10c. Alex Diggelmann, Zurich
20c. Heiner Bauer, Liebefeld
30c & 80c. Adolf Flückiger, Rosshäusern
50c. Hans Hartmann, Künz

FIRST NEW ISSUES OF 1971 (continued)Printing: Rotogravure by Courvoisier S.A., La Chaux-de-FondsStamp size: 36 x 26 mm. (33 x 23 mm)Paper: White with luminous substance, lightly coated, violet fibres.Form cylinder: 2 sheets (A & B): No. of stamps per sheet: 50
10c. 25 (a) & 25 (b)Sale: On sale from 11th March from PTT offices & philatelic bureaux as long as stocks last, but not later than 30th Sept. 1971. Validity unlimited.First Day Cover: Special covers will be available for each value (10c. a + b in pairs) and one for the set of 6 stamps. A special First Day cancellation will be used on March 11th. Collection sheets and folders will also be available.'NABA' 1971. BASEL - Souvenir Miniature Sheet

The exhibition will be held from 4-13 June, 1971, in the halls of the Trade Fair in Basel. At the request of the Organising Committee and the Union of Swiss Philatelic Societies, the Swiss PTT will mark the occasion by the issue of an unperforated souvenir sheet. The net proceeds from the sale of this sheet will be used to meet exhibition costs and to promote philately.

Value: 4 x 50 c. stamps = 2 Fr. + 1 Fr. additional charge = 3 Fr.Design: Reproduction of the 'Rayon I' stamp of 1850 in the form of a four stamp block with types 1, 2, 9, & 10.Designer: Erwin Schnell, Basel.Colours: Front: 4 colours: blue/red/black/grey; reverse: text in greySheet size: 61 x 75 mm. Stamp size: 19 x 24 mm.

The stamps of the souvenir sheet are not perforated, but they may be cut out and used individually.

Paper: White with luminous substance, lightly coated, violet fibres.Lettering: Front: 'NABA 1971 BASEL' in 4 languages and number
Reverse: Designation of type, price and date of issue.

The souvenir sheet will be obtainable during the period of sale (11th March as long as stocks last, but not later than 31st July 1971) from post offices and philatelic bureaux, and the special post office at the exhibition. At all philatelic bureaux, entire series of souvenir sheets, numbered 1-30, will be available at the price of Fr.90 - in addition a special First Day Cover will be issued, together with collection sheets and folders. The First Day cancellations will be the same as for the series of special stamps.

Advance purchases of uncancelled stamps and sheets can be made from 8th March, by written orders to the Philatelic Office of PTT, 3000 Bern (postal cheque a/c 30-6456). Orders and payment for the NABA miniature sheets to be made separately from the stamps, and all orders will be treated in strict rotation.

HAVE YOU SENT IN YOUR RENEWAL
SUBSCRIPTION ? NOW 20/- P.A. (£1)
EARLY PAYMENT WILL BE APPRECIATED.



WANTS

LISTS

It may seem a long time
ahead to talk about

STAMPEX 1971

which is from 1st - 6th March at the Royal Horticultural Society's New Hall Greycoat Street, S.W.1., but time passes very quickly and we thought this would be a good opportunity for you to prepare a list of your missing items. This will enable you to get the maximum advantage from our extensive stock, which cannot be equalled.

We shall look forward to seeing you at STAND 27 when you visit 'STAMPEX'.

*

Nicely produced photocopies of the Leutwyler Swiss Hotel Posts book are now available at £2.10. (£2.50) post free.

*

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1899

1882-1889 CROSS AND VALUE FIGURE

The third section of the ZUMSTEIN SPECIALISED CATALOGUE, translated (with permission) by MRS. N. MacMAHON & MR. H.E. CHAPMAN.

Part I

As before illustration numbers refer to those in the Specialised Catalogue.



1882. 1st April Federal Cross. Value figure below in white shield. Typographed.

Designer: Prof. Hasert, Engraver: Burger, Bern
 Typography Stampfli & Cie, Bern
 Validity: To 31st December 1924.

Control mark I (broad form) Perforation: $11\frac{3}{4}$

Additions to the basic price of the normal stamps are justified according to the rarity of the continually recurring varieties i.e.,

1. Interrupted lines, coloured or colourless areas (cliché faults)
2. Double or thickened marginal lines
3. Colour flecks or light areas
4. Background of the cross more or less filled in. (Illus. 58/A4)
5. Blind perforations
6. Rucking
7. Misplaced control marks
8. Impression: light - clear - very clear

WHITE PAPER

No.53. 2 c. olive-brown

Colour Shades

(a) olive-brown (b) light olive-brown

Sc. No.54. 6 c. brown-lilac (Illus.)

Colour Shades

(a) brown-lilac (b) light brown-lilac

Varieties

9. Left side double perforation, one blind
10. Horizontal double perforation
11. H, with hyphen at top

Plate Flaw 1)

1. Lower left margin interrupted

Note 1) If the recurring cliché errors of the surface-printed stamps of 1882-1906 are referred to as 'plate flaws', in analogy to the recess printed stamps, in normal philatelic parlance, it must be realised that in the case of the surface printed stamps, one is not dealing with 'plates' but with a printing 'forme', which is made up of 200 individual printing blocks bound together.

No.55 10 c. pink

Colour Shades

(a) pink (b) light pink, dull

Plate Flaw

1. Right hand bar of cross broken

No.56. 12 c. ultramarine

Colour Shades

(a) grey-ultramarine (b) light grey-ultramarine

Worn Plate

1. Damaged frame right

No.57. 15 c. Yellow

Colour Shades

(a) Yellow (b) light yellow

CROSS & VALUE FIGURE (continued)Variety

9. Double perforation lower left.

Of this stamp one example is known where apparently the value figure is missing; it would appear that through some secondary cause the paper in this area was imperfectly coloured.

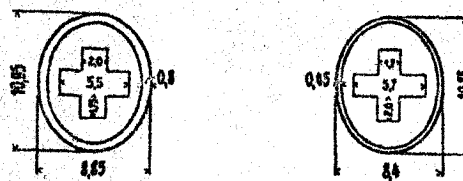
1882. 1st April 1) Blue and red granite paper. Control mark I or II

58. 2c. olive-brown
59. 3c. grey
60. 5c. brown-lilac
61. 10c. red
62. 12c. blue
63. 15c. yellow

1889/99 - Colour changes

64. 15 c. lilac (1889)
65. 5 c. green (1899)

At the time of the renewal of the control mark printing plate in 1893, the shape of the cross was changed in accordance with the Federal resolution of 12th November 1889. The new control mark therefore, has a narrower cross and double oval. (See article Dipl. Archt. Ritter, BBZ. No.4/1937).



I. Wide form II. Narrow Form

The differences are small and not always readily established. In doubtful cases the cheaper variety must be agreed upon.

1) Date stamps before April 1882 result from false insertion of the year date in canceller.

So far only two unusual copies of the 3 c. grey in pale grey on white paper with watermark large cross have been seen.

Parallel coloured lines outside the stamp picture originate from projecting cardboard or paper strips, which were probably inserted to even up the disparity between the individual printing blocks. These qualify for a price increase.

Cataloguing by Control Marks, Colour Shades and VarietiesControl Mark I. Wide form (1882)

No.58A 2c. olive-brown (issue: 207,100,000) 1)

Colour Shades

(a) light olive-brown 1882 1890 (c) deep olive-brown 1883
(b) olive-brown (d) reddish olive-brown 1884

Varieties

9. Double control marks 2)
10. Double Perforation
11. With coloured sheet margin
12. Part of the stamp unprinted (sheet corner turned down)

Plate Flaw

1. Broken margin lines, in various places (B1) (H1) (D1)

- 1) Number issued. As the records of the PTT do not allow for separation of the white and granite papers, the figures given for No. 58A and 60-63 also comprise the issues of Nos. 53-57.
2) The double control marks are mostly next to one another. Those 1 mm. or more from another misplaced double control mark are rarer and valued higher. This applies to all varieties.

No.59A 3c. grey (issue: 285,800)

Colour Shades

(a) pure grey 1882 (c) brownish-grey 1890 3)
(b) pale grey 1883 (d) dark brown-grey 1894

Plate Flaw

1. Broken margin : lower centre (H4)

CROSS & VALUE FIGURE (continued)

- 3) The metal blocks used for the printing wore very badly (broadened, coloured lines running into each other). Therefore, they were re-sunk (freshened mechanically under pressure of the master die) producing again fine, clear prints.

No.60A. 5 c. brownish-lilac (issue: 410,525,000)

Colour Shades

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| (a) light brownish-lilac | (c) deep brown-lilac 1883 |
| (b) brownish lilac 1882 | (d) reddish brown-lilac |

Varieties

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 9. Obverse double print | 11. Coloured sheet margin |
| 10. Double control marks | 12. Tete-beche (printing error)
(see BBZ 5/6 1958) |

Plate Flaws

1. Indented margin lower right and left (H1) (G7)
2. Colourless streak, diagonally from top towards right or horizontally left from the value shield diagonally through 5.
3. Lower left margin corner broken (H1)
4. Upper left or lower right corner slanted off.

Some pieces are known of No. 60A from the lower sheet margin, where the print is divided into two paper parts because of the turning over of the margin (specialist value) (Illus.).

No.61A. 10 c. carmine (issue: 455,203,000)

Colour Shades

- | | | |
|------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| (a) pale-pink | (d) rose-carmine | } water soluble |
| (c) pink | (e) Carmine | |
| (c) carmine-rose | (e) deep Carmine | |

Varieties

9. Strong translucent print on the back.
10. Left side double perforation
11. With coloured sheet margin
12. Double control mark

Plate Flaws

1. Colourless defect in the left lower corner shield (G2) or upper right
2. Margin lines upper right split twice opposite one another (A6)
3. Broken margin line lower right (H6.7)

No.62A. 12c. ultramarine (issue: 20.132,000)

Colour Shades

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| (a) grey-ultramarine 1882 | (c) ultramarine 1890 |
| (b) light ultramarine 1887 | (d) dark ultramarine |

Variety

8. With coloured sheet margin

Plate Flaw

1. Frame defect lower left (H1)

No.63A. 15 c. yellow (issue: 17,662,000)

Colour Shades

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| (a) yellow 1882 | (c) orange yellow (light, dark) |
| (b) pale yellow 1885
(yellowish or greenish tones) | (d) yellow-orange 1888. |

Varieties

8. Smearred print
9. Tete-beche (printing error) See BBZ 5/6 1958

Plate Flaw.

1. Cliche defect: strong colourless line from lower left through to right margin (G1,2)

(To be continued)

HELVETIA AT 151

Some 25 members attended Mr.H.L.Katcher's 'AT HOME' and, as always were treated to a thoroughly enjoyable evening. When they settled down expectantly to see what was in store, Mr. Katcher said it was not always easy to find items of outstanding interest to show or discuss, but on this occasion he was able to produce some new and very unusual material.

Among many superb stamps shown was a dark blue Rayon I with framed cross, but the frame is forged, which is common on the Rayon II but rare on Rayon I. It also has a rare cancel of Conceboz. This is a 'luxury' copy of an expensive stamp with a good postmark, so why should anyone wish to 'improve' it? It is thought it may have been done in Paris.

Some fine 'Strubels' included the 10 & 15 Rp. of the first Munich prints with their very distinctive colours. Mr.Katcher said that the identification of the 'Strubels' is still extremely tricky. For example there are 2 sections which are not mentioned in any catalogue and new discoveries have recently come to light: (a) on cartridge paper; from every angle these should be in the 'B' section, first Bern printing, but the paper can only be likened to the thick paper of 'C' or 'D', but has green threads and heavy embossing. (b) A 10 & 10 Rp. on the very thin paper of the 'E' or 'F' series, but the 10 Rp. is the wrong colour for 'E' and the silk thread is green. Therefore, these must belong to the 'G' section and constitute a category not yet listed. The stamps were sent to the expert, Hunziger, who stated that he himself had only one example of each of these items, which are undoubtedly uncatalogued at present. More of these hitherto unknown types may be hidden away in collections and may eventually be found and studied.

There was some discussion on the merits of good stamps which have been changed by the addition of, for example, postmarks. Mr. Katcher said that many such items had become more 'respectable' following the sale of the Burrus collection. The question of coloured impressions on the back of stamps was also brought up. Under certain conditions, if a number of stamps are washed together, or even dried in a blotter, some colour may be lost, and it can happen that if two come together the colour may be transferred from the front of one stamp to the back of another adhering to it.

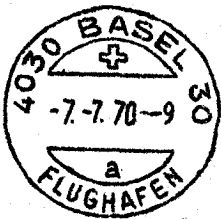
To conclude the evening Mr. Bulstrode showed some of his superb proofs and essays; the Libertés Heads, Standing Helvetia in two colours, Cross & Figure, and colour trials of the 1914 Tell Heads, of which one was on white paper and justified Kissling's insistence on the use of tinted paper.

Altogether a splendid evening, much appreciated by the members, and rounded off by the election of Miss Dominici, Mr. Katcher's invaluable assistant as an Honorary Member of the Society

E.J.R.

SWISS POST OFFICES ABROAD — AN ADDITION

Helvetia members might care to know of an anomaly which has recently come into being with the opening of the Swiss Post Office at Basel Airport, CH-4030, and any collectors of Swiss post office abroad markings ought to include this office in his collection, since it lies wholly and absolutely in France, even though by an international agreement, a connecting fenced-off road snakes its way northward from the Swiss frontier near the Basel Psychiatric Hospital Friedmatt, through French territory of the communes of St.Louis and Hegenheim, to the airport complex. The airport's actual and official name is Basel/Mulouse, and it contains a French section, exist, customs and probably post office? since the new terminal facilities were inaugurated in the Spring of 1970, as well as a Swiss section with similar facilities, including a tax free shop. On intra-Swiss flights, say from Basel



to Zurich or Geneva, a Swiss citizen leaving from Basel airport must go through Swiss customs both on departure and arrival! Rather curious, but true. Thus the Basel 30 Airport office is a strange thing indeed. Since July 7 it possesses a pictorial canceller showing a plane in flight; and one regular cds. also exists which are shown here. Anyone interested in obtaining these strikes should send stamped envelopes (20c. franking value if returned as printed matter, 50c. as a letter, 90 c. or Fr. 1.20 if registered either way) to Postbüro Ch-4030 Basel 30 Flugplatz and ask for the cancel(s) desired.

F. GANZ

TELL HEAD OVERPRINTS

by E.H. SPIRO

Because of sudden changes in postal rates in 1915 and 1921, three 'Tell Heads' were overprinted with new values and used as provisionals in common with some of the 'Tell Boy' values and two 'Helvetia with Sword' stamps.

Although there exist only three 'Tell Head' overprints, they provide a wide and interesting field to the specialist because owing to the hurry with which the overprints were made, a large number of varieties resulted.

The first to be overprinted was No.134, the 12 c. brown of 1914 (No.127) a value which had become redundant in February 1915 and was to be replaced by a 13.c. stamp. The definitive issue was made in September (No.139) but because there were large stocks of the 12 c., 4,550,000 copies were overprinted and remained valid until the end of 1932. The overprint, consisting of the figure '13' and three horizontal bars defacing the old value, was applied in typography in black ink. But because the printers had not sufficient figures of the same type, they used two or three slightly different '1's, some with curved, others with a straight, horizontal upstroke. These different '1's appear, of course, on the same sheet and in various fields, so that one can show pairs and blocks in one's collection with the different '1' next to one another. Also, owing to heavy or insufficient inking, the overprint appears either very thick, showing 'fat', 'black', or 'thin' figures. There are many positions of the overprint, the most drastic 'shifting' occurs almost in the middle of the stamp, across Tell's eyes and leaving the old value free. I have two or three double overprints but all of them are rather weak. A number of sheets show recto-verso overprint traces ('Abklatsch').

By January 1, 1921, the 13 c. olive was overcome by the same fate as the 12c. of 1914, and was overprinted with the value of 10c. mainly in order to comply with the U.P.U. colour regulations which demanded that the stamp required for the postal rate in question should be green. The 13 c. (No. 139) was nearest in colour to green, and being redundant anyway, was turned into a 10c. value by applying a similar 3-bar overprint as in 1915, becoming No.149. Of this stamp there are many interesting and rare varieties, caused by shifted, and double overprints. Thus there exist overprints showing the figure '1010' and '110' and also thick and thin overprints. There are also two distinct colours of the red overprint, one being of a carmine, the other of a brown-red tint.

As in the case of No.134, but much more frequently, we encounter 'broken bars' 'interrupted bars' and some bars, particularly the middle one, often shorter than the two others. Recto verso and mirror prints also occur on the back of these stamps.

Finally we have the 20c. on 15c. overprint (No.150 on No.128) of which about 2,500,000 were produced. The overprint was executed also in January 1921 and was made in two printing works - 1 million at the Federal Mint and 1,500,000 at the Post Office printing works. The first was in black, the second in deep blue. Among the varieties we find again shifted, thin and thick overprints, and in both colours there is a double print, left and right of the Tell Head which is particularly rare on No.150B (blue overprint). Again there are recto-verso mirror prints. Because the postal authorities ordered all post offices to return all available stocks of the 15.c. for overprinting, some small offices sent back a few sheets of the remaining 15 c. dark (blackish) violet No.128c. These were duly overprinted and provided a great rarity which exists in but a few surviving pieces, (catalogued by Zunstein in 1966 at Fr.3,000).

Another rare overprint consists of a 'double' showing the figures '2020' or '0 202' because of shifting and doubling.

Even if one cannot aspire to include these rarities in one's album, the Tell Head overprint varieties can provide an interesting page or two by assembling 'thick', 'thin' and 'short' and 'broken bar' varieties, which may often be found among one's duplicates.

THE END

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS:

February 6th - Northern Group at Bradford: 'PRO JUVENTUTE - Discussion Leader:
MR. R.A. HOYLE

February 10th- London Group at Kingsway Hall, 'FLAWS & VARIETIES' -
Post-1920 - All members.

NORTHERN GROUP: Hon. Sec. R.A. HOYLE
6 Limes Ave, Huddersfield Rd, Halifax.

At the January meeting in Bradford, members were treated to a display of early postal markings given by Mr. Moore.

Beginning with a letter of 1458 from Geneva to Venice, he dealt with the history of Switzerland and its various period, displaying a wide variety of Helvetic Republic and early Cantonal covers and markings, all in wonderful condition. Also shown were tax and transit marks, RL marks and many kinds of postal abbreviations, Ticino ovals etc., The display concluded with a study of the various postal markings of Chur.

This most interesting material together with other items produced by Messrs. Eastwood, Hoyle, Ritchie and Wilson, provoked much discussion and for most of the afternoon Mr. Moore's extensive knowledge of early postal history was put to the test by members' questions. Some (including your reporter) will doubtless be spending the next few evenings re-writing their collections as a result of information gained and mistakes discovered.

R.A.H.

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THE EXCHANGE PACKET

Further booklets are urgently required by mid-February. There is sufficient in hand for only 4 packets, a great drop on last year.

Please look out your spare material and send it in as soon as possible (in decimal currency of course) to:

Mr. C. Rauch,
353, Baddow Road,
CHELMSFORD, Essex.

Tel: (Chelmsford) 0245-54149

EARLY 'NEWS LETTERS'

Mr. S.R. MacKenzie of 'Creag-an-Fhitich', Fetlar Road, Bridge of Weir, Renfrewshire, Scotland is still anxious to obtain the loan of very early copies - 1947-1949 in particular of the 'Helvetia News Letter' for copying.

Can anyone help ?

SPECIAL CANCELLATION

From 4 January - 7 February Murren will use a special cancellation reading:

"3825 MURREN - date -
ARLBERG KANDAHAR-RENNEN.

NEW PICTORIAL SLOGAN

From 7 January Lugano will have a new pictorial slogan cancellation: LUGANO - vacanze al sole. The cancel put into use in 1942 will be withdrawn as from 31st December 1970.

Whether you collect according to the Catalogue, or have extended your collection to include Postal History, or any of the many 'side-lines' which are now so popular, you will still need to see material at leisure.

Whatever the aspect - stamps, miniature sheets, covers, etc., there will be something of interest for you.

So send your Want Lists - or ask for selections on approval. You will not be disappointed.

J.S. ARMSTRONG

14, Low Lane,
Torrisholme,
MORECAMBE,
Lancs.

Founder:
E.H.SPIRO

HELVETIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

News Letter

President:
L.MOORE, M.B.E.,
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Hon. Treasurer:
MR. A.J. HARDING,
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DISS. Norfolk.

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No.2.

FEBRUARY 1971

25th YEAR

20TH CENTURY CIRCULAR TOWN CANCELLATIONS OF SWITZERLAND

See March 71 issue

by FELIX GANZ

Part II

See Part I.

II. The bar-less town strikes of ca 1916 - 1967

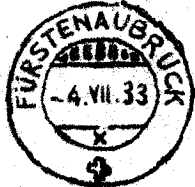
While covering the current type cds of Switzerland in the first instalment, it was pointed out that the period preceding 1964/5, and reaching all the way back to pre-World War I, was one of tremendous overlapping and simultaneous use of the most diverse types of circular date strikes (cds). This, among other things, was a boon to unscrupulous individuals and crooks, because they could fabricate, with the help of an often unsuspecting postal employee, back-dated cancellations which transformed certain cheap mint stamps into very expensive 'used' items, such as the 1881 granite paper 'Seated Helvetias', certain earlier 'Pro Juventutes' and the like. In fact the last 1880-type cancellations were not modified at all until the late 1930s (or possibly even later.).

If cancellers were modified, it happened for a variety of reasons:

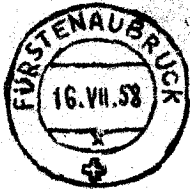
(a) those of larger post offices had a change made from previous hour reels of I - XII (A.M.) and 1 - 12 (p.m.) to one in all-Arabic: -0 to 24; (b) in the late 1920s and early 1930s almost all older type Swiss cds were made to include by excising all or part of the bars in the semi-circles above and below the date bridge, the postal district (I - XI) in the lower semi-circle (or, rarely, in other places); (c) almost all those cds that featured no Swiss cross were, also from around 1930, recut to include that signet; and (d) in the mid 1940s all Romansh speaking communities in the Canton of Grisons were given re-cut cancellers, with the town name either completely in Romansh, or in both Romansh and German. In most instances cited above the old dies were reworked, sometimes by scrapping everything except the outer and inner circles and the date bridge. A few examples of this procedure must be shown so that a reader can understand how extremely difficult it becomes to 'date' any cds by its general shape or size. This cannot be done, and the only way to proceed is to investigate each individual town's cds over a period of 60 or more years!



original form
of the 1880s,
used 1895



name shorten-
ed by 2 lett-
ers and X in-
serted (bars
exc'd); 1933



upper bars
also excised;
used in 1958

Whether or not complaints by philatelists had anything to do with the eventual elimination of all bars from Swiss cds, this writer does not know; but he suspects that such was indeed one of the reasons for their disappearance, resulting in cleaner cancellations.

Overleaf are shown examples of changes which have occurred in the cancellers of some localities, and these few examples must suffice; they already show the enormous number of possible

variants if one multiplies their number with the over 4000 post offices that have existed in Switzerland since about 1900! No wonder no-one seems to have a complete collection!!!

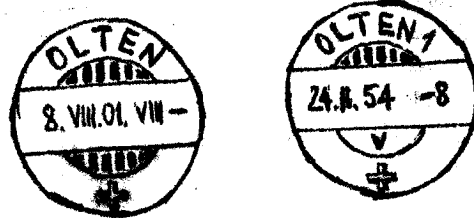
The task of these instalments thus will have to be a careful inspection of all basic types, from the newest to the oldest; and in each case all possible

20th CENTURY CIRCULAR TOWN CANCELLATIONS (Cont.)

changes (or rather, known ones) to which the basic type was subjected, will be recorded as that type's sub-types.



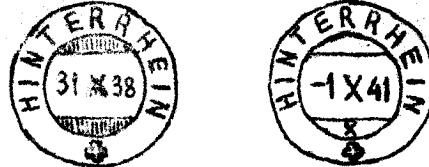
Three cds in which no changes whatsoever were made between 1875-1930+, of Etziken (SO), Campfer (GR) & Mervelier (BE)



Two Olten strikes of same cds: 1. with bars top & bottom and hour reels for Rom & Arab. numbers; 2. Roman num. reel excised, V in place of lower bars, town name cut to Olten I. An intermediate form, only with Rom. num. reel excised, may also have existed.



Three Tinzen strikes with progressive changes: 1. 1880 type cds used in 1929; c. bars excised, cross & X added (1943); r. Tinzen changed to Romansh Tinizong and Canton name excised. A fourth version may have existed as for a brief time 'Tinizun' instead of 'Tinizong' was official PTT spelling, as proved by a rectangular temporary cancel with that spelling.

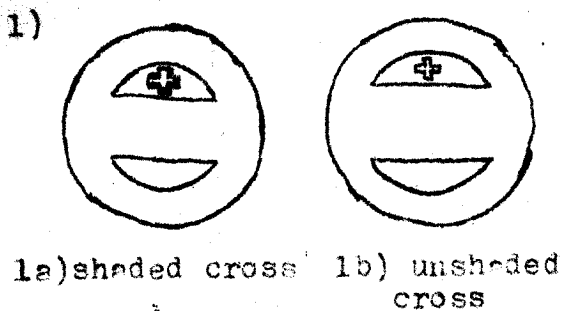


Two cds from the same Hinterrhein canceller: the first unchanged (1938) from the 1880s; the second modernized by eliminating bars and adding an 'X'.

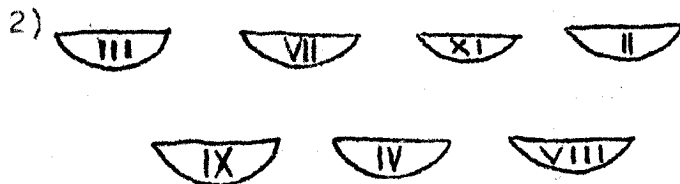
IIA The open bridge types (without ever (?) having had bars in circle segments)

- 1) (a) with shaded cross; (b) with unshaded cross in upper semicircle.
- 2) with Roman district number in lower semicircle.
- 3) (a) with town name and star(s); (b) with town name, stars and Canton or other closer identification; (c) with town name and Canton or other closer identification, but without stars; (d) with town name but without star(s); (e) with 'bouquet'-like decorations.
- 4) (a) with relatively close, or normal spacing of letters; (b) with rather wide-spaced, more modernistic looking letters.
- 5) (a) with Arabic day, Roman month and Arabic year date; (b) for larger offices the hour (time or day) follows the year, in Arabic; (c) or in very early examples of these types there may be I-XII and 1-12 hour reels.
- 6) Exceptions and/or adaptations.

Now mix these ingredients freely, and the result will be about 20 basically different sub-types, most of which are shown in the following sketches:-

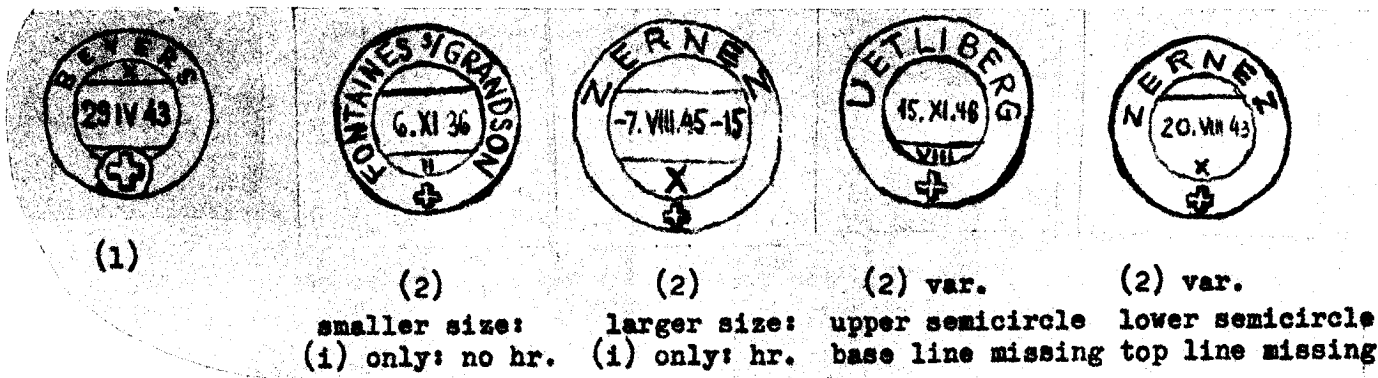


1a) shaded cross 1b) unshaded cross

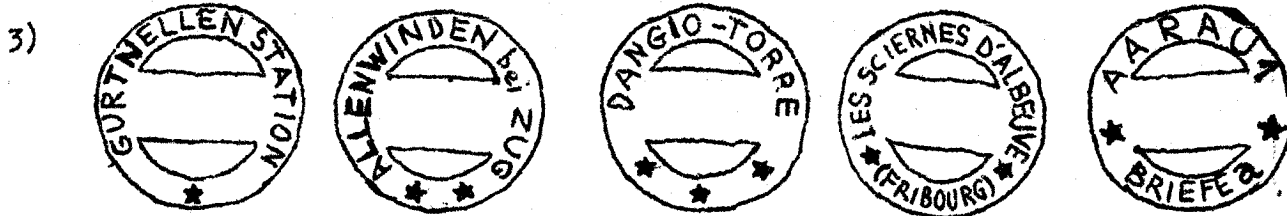


2) Lower cds segments with Roman district numerals (all exist from 1 to XI)

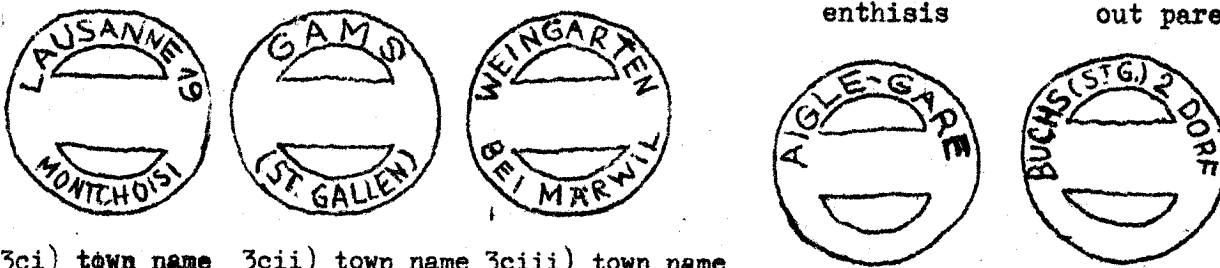
20th CENTURY CIRCULAR TOWN CANCELLATIONS (Cont.)



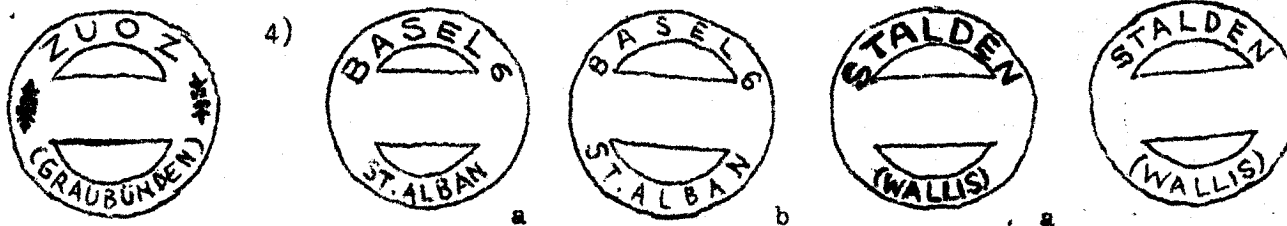
(1) (2) (2) (2) var. (2) var.
 smaller size: larger size: upper semicircle lower semicircle
 (i) only: no hr. (i) only: hr. base line missing top line missing



3ai) town name & one star 3aii) town name and 2 stars 3aiii) town name, 3 stars 3bi) town name, 2 stars & other identⁿ in parenthesis 3bii) same as 3bi; other identⁿ without parenthesis

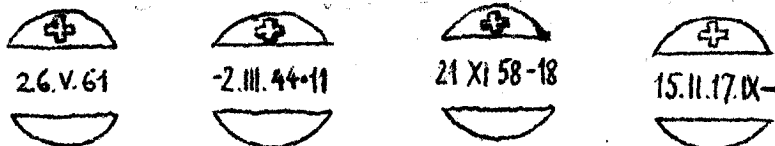


3ci) town name and branch No. plus name 3cii) town name and other info. in parenth. NO STARS 3ciii) town name and other info. not in parenth. 3d) two examples of town names only, without any stars

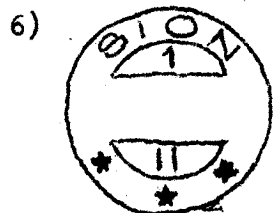


3ei) 'bouquet' decoration instead of stars 3eii) lower text without parenth. 3eiii) no text except town name, 2 bouquets in lower half Two sets of town cds in type 4a) and 4b) respectively. The distinction of type is not always obvious by itself, and border types exist; but the b) types always come with an unshaded cross and without stars, while the a) types may or may not have stars and some with shaded or unshaded cross

5) (NOTE: The shape of the Swiss cross. 1a or 1b, has no bearing on the type of date found)



5a) day, month and year only 5bi) day, mo., year and Arab. hour, separ. by dot 5bii) idem., but Arabic hour indic. separated by a dash 5c) day, month, year; and hour in Roman numerals



6) cds of 3aiii type, but cross (1a/b) replaced by P.O. branch No. in upper circle

A full identification of the four following, completely reproduced cds., thus would have to read as follows: (all are Type IIA, open date bridge):