

HELVETIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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President : L. MOORE, M.B.E., F.R.P.S.L.

NEWS LETTER

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No. 1

JANUARY 1975

29th YEAR

New Issue Programme for 1975

The proposed programme of new issues for 1975 has been published and is as follows:

	No.	Values Rp.	Total
18 February	4		
<u>PROPAGANDA STAMPS - Series I</u>			
Centenary of the International Convention on the Metre			
		15	
		30	
		60	
		90	1.95
<u>SERVICE STAMPS</u>			
	3	30	
		60	
		100	1.90
	4	30	
		60	
		90	
		100	2.80
28 April	3	30	
		50	
		60	1.40
30 May	4		
<u>PRO PATRIA - Archaeological Finds from various epochs</u>			
		15+10	
		30+20	
		50+20	
		60+25	2.30
11 September	4		
<u>PROPAGANDA STAMPS - Series II</u>			
Constructional aids for the handicapped			
		15	
		30	
		50	
		60	1.55
<u>DEFINITIVE STAMP</u>			
	1	250	2.50
1 December	4		
<u>PRO JUVENUTE</u>			
Ornamental forest plants			
		15+10	
		30+20	
		50+20	
		60+25	2.30
	20		12.00
	7		4.70
			<u>S.Fr. 16.70</u>

The programme may be amended if circumstances necessitate. Fuller details will be published in due course, usually 5-6 weeks before issue.

DID YOU KNOW ?

..... that the PTT issued a folder with 12 beautiful coloured postcards of old telephones, with descriptions in four languages, in 1973. Well worth SFr.3.-, buy why no mention in any sales lists?

..... that another little 'secret' publicity effort by the PTT has come to light. In the spring of 1974 a sales counter (really more of a drawer) was opened in the newly renovated main PO in Winterthur - 8th largest town in Switzerland. Never a word to anyone in advance, and I use that PO regularly. They were surprised that sales were so low and after a month or two it was closed.

..... that in 1959 the PTT issued an interesting booklet "Formular-Verzeichnis", in Ger., Fr. and It. separately. This lists all forms, labels, covers and other printed matter available from the main stores in Bern, in alphabetical & numerical order, as well as giving the old numbers, in many cases in use since the turn of the century, and which were being replaced at the end of the '50s by new longer numbers. Now a new edition has been issued, PTT 001.10 dt VI 74, without the old superseded numbers of course, obtainable gratis from PTT GD in Bern.

..... that I am not suggesting every specialist should start collecting an example of every form the PTT has ever issued, but it is interesting to see how the various labels are grouped, i.e. those that can appear on an item delivered to the door. Naturally it is tricky to locate those that appeared and disappeared between 1959 and 1974. Sizes and colours etc. are not mentioned, nor printing dates.

..... that the 'Internaba' miniature sheet is predicted as an item for the future with sales of 2,173,503. Of the so-called 'Black Print' 81,542 were sold. Here its future is more difficult to forecast. It may rise in value or may become a forgotten item .. who knows?

..... that the promoters of winter sports in Le Brassus have used a slogan in Lausanne and a MPO cachet every January since 1967. Now all 8 villages in the Vallee de Joux are using, from 11 Jan. 1975, an identical pictorial cds, only the name of the village varies. The Lac de Joux is remarkable in that it has no visible outflow, however, the water does get to Lake Neuchatel via underground passages.

..... that the answer to Question No. 31 is Z. No. 67 in the 'Pro Patria' 'Rivers & Lakes' series.

..... that Question No. 32 is: Which stamps show 3 cantonal arms?

M.R.

The Big Thank You

From the Secretary

My grateful thanks to the very many members who sent Christmas Greetings, more than ever before and too many for individual reply, but all deeply appreciated.

After a number of hitches I now expect settlement of my property sale and purchase to be completed very soon and to be able to arrange my move, following which the Library Service can be restored. Apologies for any inconvenience, but no-one is more frustrated over the whole matter than yours truly!!

Best wishes for a Happy and Prosperous New Year to all members.

-----oOo-----

MR. C. RAUCH also wishes to express his thanks for the many cards and good wishes which he has received. These he heartily reciprocates and only regrets he cannot acknowledge each one.

-----oOo-----

E. J. Rawnsley

Sincere apologies for two errors which occurred in last month's issue: Mr. R.F. Bulstrode's award at the B.P.E. was for 'HOTEL POSTS' and not 'Proofs - Essays' as stated.

The catalogue review on page 90 should, of course, have been headed 'AMATEUR COLLECTOR CATALOGUE 1975'. I regret the oversight.

E.J.R.



GOING FAST

OUR FABULOUS SELECTIONS

from the DR. BERLIN COLLECTION
of SWISS FISCALS.

If you wish to see any of these while stocks still remain, please contact us immediately or it will be too late.

We send our Best Wishes for 1975 to all our friends and will be at their service for the supply of Swiss stamps, covers etc., during the months ahead.

H.L.KATCHER

THE AMATEUR COLLECTOR LTD.,
P.O. Box 242, Highgate,
LONDON N6 4LW
Tel. 01 - 348 - 0296

MAIL CARRIED FROM SWITZERLAND TO THE U.K. DURING WORLD WAR II

By L.M.C. DUTTON

Part III

2. Period 2, June to August 1940 - Covers 13-16

2.1 Postal Services. The compilations associated with Periods 1 and 2 take in the main events between the German attack on Holland on 10th May and the signing of the Frano-German armistice on 22nd June 1940. It was inevitable that CH-UK postal communications would be disrupted, and the cover of 12th June (Cover 13 - Fig. 2) is an example of mail which was overtaken by the German advance and retained by them for the period of the occupation of France.

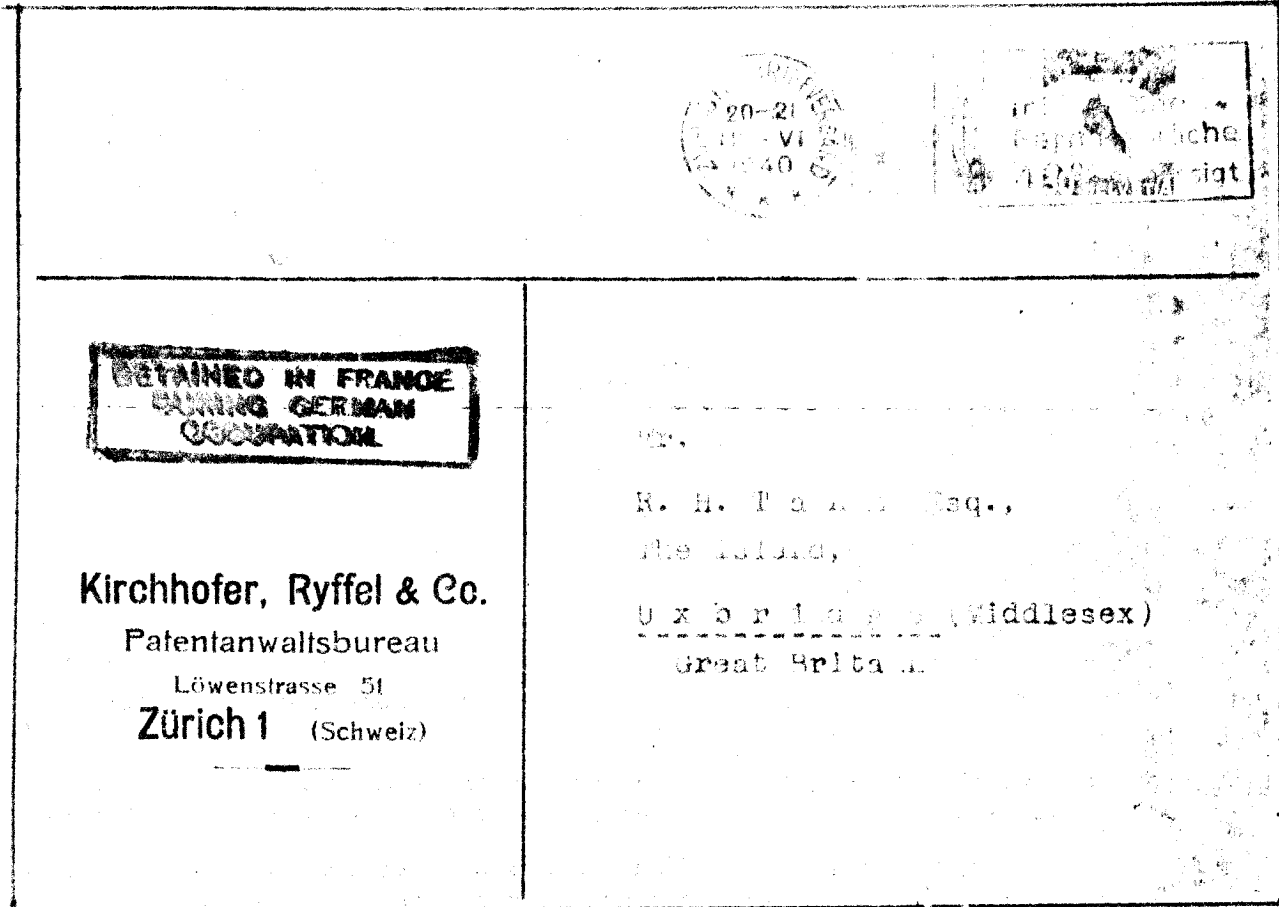


Fig. 2 - Letter retained in France following German advance into Northern France. Reached its destination in May 1945.

The cover of 13th June (Cover 14 - Fig. 3), which is an International



Fig. 3

Red Cross envelope, was presumably treated differently from normal private or commercial mail. The identification letter on the German censor seal (see Section 2.4), indicates that it was censored by the Germans at Cologne, but there is no indication of the route followed from Cologne to London.

It is clear from the cover of 19th June (Cover 15 - Fig. 4) that, by then, the Swiss authorities had realised that mail to the U.K. was not getting

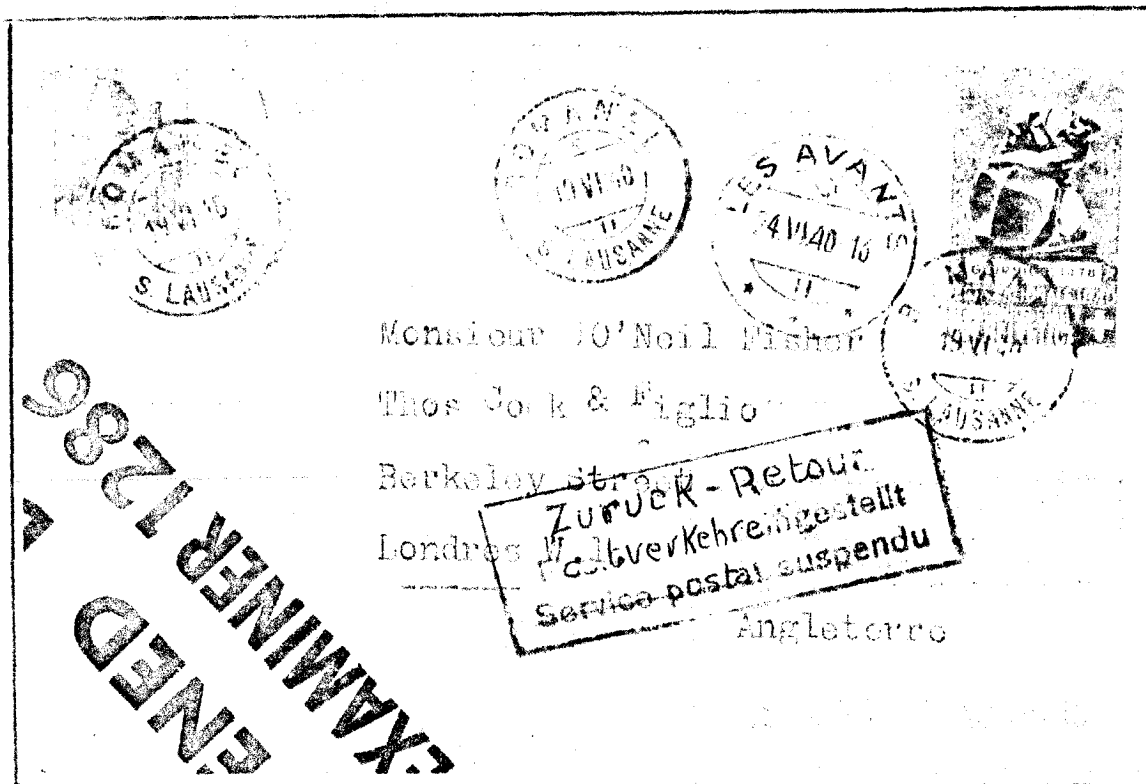


Fig. 4 - Cover returned to sender; subsequently reposted at Les Avants.

through France and they were returning letters to the senders. This cover has a black handstamp with the following wording, enclosed in a 60 x 20 mm. frame:

<p>Zurück - Retour Postverkehr eingestellt Service postal suspendu</p>
--

Thus, assuming that the Swiss authorities were reasonably quick in stopping mail for the U.K. leaving the country after the route through France was cut, this must have occurred close to the 12th and before the 19th. Inevitably the official announcements of the disruption by the

G.P.O. and PTT were published later - on the 19th and 22nd June respectively.

The G.P.O. were also returning letters during this period, as illustrated by the cover posted in Bath on 23rd June, which was returned to Bath from London on 8th July (Cover 16).

It appears that the postal authorities lost little time in establishing a new route, and not surprising that the latter did not involve mail crossing three ports of northern and western France which were occupied by the German forces. Apart from the difficulty of ferrying mail across the Channel in neutral ships, at a time when the invasion of England seemed imminent, the regulations affecting postal services in occupied France were extremely strict. These were officially issued by the Commander-in-Chief of the German army in France, von Brauchitsch, on 18th July (4). All mail between the occupied and free zones was exchanged at the censor office under Major Perbeuhn in the Hotel Royal, 212, boulevard Raspail, Paris, the total number of letters entering the occupied zone was limited to 300. This number included letters from the free zone, neutral countries like Switzerland, and Germany itself.

Reference:

4. 'Philatelic' - 'Le journal des années noires', 68 (October 1973) 5.

(To be continued)

FEBRUARY MEETINGS:

Northern Group: February 8th
REGISTERED MAIL -
D.K. Mr. L. Moore
London Group: February 12th
ROUTE MARKS & SHIP
CANCELLATIONS - All Members

Short articles - as well as long ones - are urgently required for our 'News Letter'. In particular can anyone provide information on the perforation differences in the 1924 UPU issue?

TRAVEL ON THE HIGH PASSES

by E. J. RAWNSLEY

Accustomed as we are to speedy travel by train, aeroplane, fast motor coach or car, and the prompt plop through the letter-box of our mail, seldom do we pause to consider the difficulties of earlier days, particularly in Switzerland where almost every geographical hazard existed to thwart the efforts of man. But yield they did and by the 19th century the canary-coloured diligences were already maintaining both summer and winter services over the high alpine passes.

In summer the coaches were drawn by teams of horses, sometimes by as many as 5 - two wheelers and three leaders abreast. As many as 10 passengers could be carried, 4 inside the coach, 2 or 3 in a spacious hooded 'dickey' behind and 2 or 3 in the 'imperiale' in front. The driver, together with his mate, were perched high up on top of the latter. At the various stops, forewarned by the call of the posthorn, the notes of which indicated the number of horses required, fresh teams would be waiting, mail bags were exchanged, and off went the coach on the next stage of its journey.

In winter, such journeys were limited by the advancing snows, passengers and mail then being transferred to yellow post sleighs. A caravan would be formed: the first sleigh carrying 1 driver and 2 passengers, followed by one without a driver, carrying baggage and mail, then one with a driver and one without and so on according to the requirements. In such a caravan there might be up to a dozen sleighs, but never more than 4 or 5 drivers. So well trained were the horses that, even without a driver, they never failed to stop or start or keep their correct position. It was greatly to the credit of the Swiss postal authorities that the services were maintained and even more so to the drivers who rarely failed to make their journeys in all weathers.

Romantic though such methods of travel may appear, they were long and tedious. Let us take a look at some of the main ones:

ST. GOTTHARD PASS. For this, probably the most famous of all, the diligence began its journey from Fluelen, passengers and mail being conveyed there by the steamers plying on Lake Lucerne. From Fluelen the coach travelled right through to Camerlata (near Como) in Italy, a journey occupying 23 hours. An alternative route ran from Altdorf to Milan, as shown on the accompanying schedule. The Gotthard route was the first to cease running, for

EXPRESS SERVICE over ST. GOTTHARD
to ITALY, 1844
Mail, Goods & Passengers -
8 place coach
connecting with ships on L. Maggiore.

Departures from Altdorf to Italy
Daily at 8.30 a.m.

To	Arrival	Price
Steg (Amsteg)	9 ¹ / ₂ (a.m.)	1.40
Wassen	11 ¹ / ₂ "	3.20
Andermatt	1 ¹ / ₂ (p.m.)	5.10
Hospental	2 ¹ / ₂	5.60
Hospiz	4 ¹ / ₂	7.60
Airolo	6	9.60
Faido	8 ¹ / ₂	11.60
Giornico	9 ¹ / ₂	12.90
Osogna	10 ¹ / ₂	14.30
Bellinzona	12 (m.nt)	15.30
Magadino	6 ¹ / ₂ (a.m.)	16.80
Locarno	7 ¹ / ₂	16.80
Lugano	4 ¹ / ₂	17.50
Chiasso	7	19.55
Como	8 ¹ / ₂	20.45
Milan	12 ¹ / ₂ (noon)	23.15

Same prices from Italy to Switzerland, leaving Milan 12 noon; Chiasso 6 p.m., Lugano 8.30 p.m., Magadino & Locarno 7 p.m. by boat, Bellinzona 12.15 a.m., Airolo 8.15 a.m. and Andermatt 12.30 p.m.

with the opening of the rail tunnel it was no longer necessary to do the more arduous journey over the pass. On 31st December 1881, a coach driven by the veteran Michael Danieth of Andermatt, made the last journey, an event held as a day of mourning in many Swiss post-offices, and immortalised in the painting by the artist Koller (in the Kunsthau Zurich).

SIMPLON PASS. In 1850 the Swiss diligence service covered the whole distance from Lausanne to Domodossola in Italy. By 1860 the railway had advanced to Sion and the diligence started from there, but by agreement with the Sardinian Post-Office was extended to Arona, the trip taking 24 hours. As the railway system advanced on both sides of the Pass, the journey became shorter until in 1906 the Simplon Tunnel was opened to traffic and rendered the diligence service unnecessary.

SPLUGEN PASS. The service here linked Chur in the Grisons with Chiavenna in Italy, via Thusis and the Via Mala - an account of which was given by Mr. Rauch in an earlier issue. By diligence this journey took 13 hours.

(To be continued)

WHO WOULD BE A PACKET SECRETARY?

Our long-suffering Pkt. Secretary, Mr. Rauch, is in difficulties again and wishes to draw particular attention to the following matters:

1. A packet recently returned to him had 'HELVETIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY' included on the address label. Under the terms of our insurance it is STRICTLY PROHIBITED FOR ANY REFERENCE EITHER TO THE SOCIETY OR THE CONTENTS OF THE PARCEL TO BE MENTIONED ON THE OUTSIDE, and this regulation must be adhered to if we do not want to invalidate the terms of the insurance.

Neither, in view of the wicked times in which we live, is it necessary to include a reference to the Society when addressing envelopes to his private address.

The co-operation of members on these almost elementary precautions would be greatly appreciated.

2. Exchange Packet Payments. While it realised that payment of comparatively small sums by means of stamps is convenient to the buyer, it soon becomes an embarrassment to our Pkt. Sec. when, for example, in one month over £2 is forwarded in this way. Stamps cannot be paid into the bank a/c!

Obviously it has not been mentioned lately but it was agreed a long time ago that only purchases of up to 10p. should be paid in stamps. Oh yes, it has been known for someone to buy only 1 or 2 stamps out of a packet!

Our Pkt. Secretary's task is not an easy one at the best of times. Please don't make it even more difficult.

J S ARMSTRONG

wishes all Members a very

H A P P Y & P R O S P E R O U S
1 9 7 5

and will be at their service for all requirements of Swiss Stamps, Covers, Postal History, Varieties, Postal Stationery, Railway & TPO items, etc., etc.

Want Lists welcome

Material supplied on approval

Write to

14, Low Lane, Torrisholme,
M O R E C A M B E
Lancs.

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

On December 14th, Northern Group members were entertained by Mr. Highsted who presented an extensive display of the stamps of the Geneva International Offices.

He began by showing the overprints on the 'Tell' & 'Tell Boy' issues in complete sets, including the 30c. blue on gridded paper overprinted for the United Nations Office.

He continued with the overprints on the 'Small Landscapes', 'Historicals' and 1949 'Landscapes', with many varieties. Then followed the new designs issued from 1955 in sets and on cover and concluded with covers showing special postmarks and the stamps and stationery for the United Nations Office in Geneva.

SWISS CONTACTS

A member, Mr. J.A.K. Moilliet, of 13, Park Lane, Northwich, Cheshire, recently advertised in the SBZ for a contact to exchange GB stamps with Swiss. He has received more replies than he can cope with and wonders if other members would be interested.

As the original advert was expensive and considerable postage is involved, would anyone wishing to take up this offer be prepared to contribute say 50p to help defray the costs involved?

Please write to Mr. Moilliet direct.

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No. 2

FEBRUARY 1975

29th YEAR

FEBRUARY NEW ISSUES

The following were issued on 13th February:

A. PROPAGANDA STAMPS - Series I

15 Rp. Centenary of the International Metre Convention. This was signed in Paris in 1875, when the standard metre was introduced which has since served as the unit of length in the decimal measuring system. Besides the standard metre the stamp design shows the reddish-orange spectral line of krypton, by which the metre is defined to-day. The tremendous development of measuring techniques in the past century is thus aptly expressed.
3 Colours: green/orange/blue

30 Rp. Women's Year. To mark 'Women's Year' proclaimed by the U.N. and also the Congress 'Women's Year in Switzerland', held last January. The stamp design shows the profiles of women in discussion, giving graphic expression to the basic idea - partnership and dialogue. The faces, linked by elegantly drawn lines, are turned towards the sun.
3 colours: brown/yellow/violet

60 Rp. Diplomatic Conference on Humanitarian International Law in Geneva. The second session will be held in Geneva this month. Its aim is to work out two supplementary protocols for the four Geneva Conventions of 1949, particularly the one covering armed international conflict, and also other armed non-international conflicts. The stamp design shows a Red Cross flag surrounded by barbed wire.
3 Colours: blue/red/black

90 Rp. Aviation & Space Travel in the Museum of Transport & Communications
The Museum in Lucerne wishes to draw the public's attention to its attractive exhibition on 'Aviation & Space Travel'. The design depicts the airship 'Ville de Lucerne', formerly based in Lucerne, thus paying tribute to aviation. It is also meant to do homage to the Swiss aero-philatelists who will carry through the LUPU 75 Stamp Exhibition in April and will mark the 50th anniversary of their Society.
5 Colours: blue/yellow/red/violet/dk grey

Designers:
15 Rp. Roland Hirter, Bern
30 Rp. Hans Erni, Lucerne
60 Rp. Hans Hartmann, K nig
90 Rp. Burkard Waltensp ll, Basle

Printing: Multicolour rotogravure by Courvoisier S.A., La Chaux-de-Fonds

Size: 36 x 26 mm. (33 x 23 mm.)

Paper: White, luminescent, without fibres

Form cylinder: 2 sheets (A & B) of 50 stamps each.

B. SERVICE STAMPS

- (i) **B.I.L.T.** The current official stamps of the International Labour Office in Geneva were issued in the years 1956/1960. Only some of them still correspond to present postage rates, hence the following:
- 30 Rp. Young man at the lathe. 2 Colours: lt-brown/violet-brown
60 Rp. Woman at a drilling machine. 2 Colours: blue/black
100 Rp. Surveyor with a theodolite. 2 Colours: lt-green/dark green

FEBRUARY NEW ISSUES (Continued)

Designer: Hans Erni, Lucerne
Printing: Two-colour rotogravure by Courvoisier S.A.
Size: 36 x 26 mm.
Form cylinder: 2 sheets (A & B) of 50 stamps each.

(ii) O.M.S. (World Health Organisation). Reason for issue as for B.I.T. At the express wish of the W.H.O. the organisation's official emblem, in modern graphic design, has been used on all the new values:

30 Rp.	3 Colours:	red/green/dk brown
60 Rp.	3 "	blue/yellow/dk blue
90 Rp.	3 "	violet/yellow/dk violet
100 Rp.	3 "	orange/blue/brown

Designer: Hans Thöni, Bern
Printing: Three-colour letterpress by the Postage Stamp Printing Office of the PTT, Bern

Size: 48 x 29 mm.
Form cylinder: 2 sheets (1 & 2) of 25 stamps each
Paper: White, luminescent, with violet fibres

First Day cancellations, of the same type, will be used:

- (a) BIT JOUR D'EMISSION - 13.2.75 - 1211 GENEVE - BUREAU INTERNATIONAL DU TRAVAIL
 (b) OMS - JOUR d'EMISSION - 13.2.75 - 1211 GENEVE - ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTE

Special covers will be issued:

- A. Propaganda: 1 for each value and 1 for the set
 B.(i) B.I.T. 1 cover for the set
 (ii) O.M.S. 1 " " " "

Collection sheets and folders will be available as usual.

SPECIAL CANCEL - Diplomatic Conference on Humanitarian International Law.

During the forthcoming session, to be held in Geneva from 3 February - 18th April 1975, a special cancellation will be used consisting of an inscription in a block: '1211 GENEVE / CONFERENCE / DIPLOMATIQUE / SUR LE DROIT / HUMANITAIRE / 3.2 - 18.4.75'.

PICTORIAL TOURIST CANCELS

The cancel formerly used for Le Brassus - Vallee de Joux, has now been extended to cover eight areas. The wording and design, apart from place name and postcode (which in three instances is identical) is the same in each case.

	As from 11th Jan.	
1341 L'ABBAYE - Vallee de Joux	K.625	
1341 LES BICOUX - " "	K.626	
1348 LE BRASSUS - " "	K.627	
1343 LES CHARBONNIERES " "	K.628	
1345 LE LIEU " "	K.629	
1341 ORIEN " "	K.630	
1342 LE PONT " "	K.631	
1347 LE SENTIER " "	K.632	

	As from 3rd Feb.	
4108 WITTERSWIL	K.633	
3438 LAUPERSWIL - Glasgenälde um 1520	K.634	

	As from 17th Feb.	
1820 TERRITET-VEYTAUX - Chillon	K.635	

AUTOMOBILE CANCELS

Auto 3 MORGARTEN Histor. Schiessen und Schlachtgedenktag - 15 Nov.
 " 5 ESCALADE GENEVE 1602-1974
 14/15 Dec.

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Since our prices are increased only when replenishing stocks, there will be none until after 'Stampex'. This is your big chance to secure a great deal of fine material at old prices.

With the rising value of Swiss stamps you will be well advised to channel into your collection whatever funds you can spare at this time.

H.L.KATCHER

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