

HELVETIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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NEWS LETTER

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No. 1

JANUARY 1978

32nd YEAR

1978 Programme

The following new issues are proposed for this year:

			Rp.	
9 Mar.	<u>PUBLICITY STAMPS</u> - Series I	4		
	National Philatelic Exhibition 'LEMANEX '78'		20	
	800 Years of City of Luzern		40	
	500 Years of Printing in Geneva		70	
	2nd Triennial of Photography, Fribourg		<u>80</u>	2.10
	<u>Miniature sheet for 'LEMANEX '78'</u>	1		
	Ships on Swiss Lakes (2 x 20, 4 x 40, 1 x 70 and 1 x 80 Rp. + surcharge)			5.00
2 May	<u>EUROPA (CEPT)</u> - Historic Monuments:	2		
	Stockalper Palace, Brig		40	
	Ancient townhall of provincial Council of Bern		<u>80</u>	1.20
26 May	<u>PRO PATRIA</u> - Castles:	4		
	Hagenwil		20+10	
	Berthoud		40+20	
	Tarasp		70+30	
	Chillon		<u>80+40</u>	3.10
14 Sept.	<u>PUBLICITY STAMPS</u> - Series II	3		
	Safety in Industry		<u>3 x 40</u>	1.20
	<u>PORTRAITS</u>	4		
	Abbe Joseph Bovet		20	
	Henri Dunant		40	
	Carl Gustav Jung		70	
	Auguste Picard		<u>80</u>	2.10
28 Nov.	<u>PRO JUVENTUTE</u> - new Arms series	4		
	Aarburg		20+10	
	Gruyères		40+30	
	Castasegna		70+30	
	Wangen a.A.		<u>80+40</u>	3.10
		<u>23</u>		<u>SFr. 18.20</u>

The above programme is subject to amendment should the need arise.
 See also our 'Did you know?' column on page 7 re the latest postcards.

UNITED NATIONS IN GENEVA

A definitive stamp will be issued on 27th January:

Value: 35 c. Olive tree symbolising peace, with leaves shown as doves - multicolour

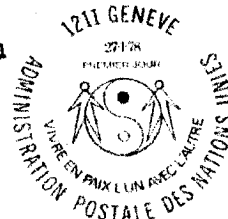
Designer: M. Hieki, Japan

Printing: Offset by Questa Colour Security Printers, Great Britain

Size: 36 x 26 mm. Issue: 3,000,000

Valid only for use on mail from the Palais des Nations.

First Day cancellation as shown.



EXCHANGE PACKET

It seems that some of the difficulties of running the Club Packet are not fully appreciated and the following points should be noted.

1. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES must a Packet be taken out of the United Kingdom, i.e. England, Scotland, Wales & Northern Ireland. Our insurance covers transmission by hand or by all British Post Offices, excluding Jersey, Guernsey and Isle of Man. Re-admission to this country of any Packet may involve up to £20 in VAT.
2. It would be appreciated if renewal subscriptions are not included with Packet payments, as the Pkt. Secretary has an entirely separate bank account and it is advisable not to complicate the already arduous task of coping with the Packet finances.
3. There are times when too many payments by means of stamps can become an embarrassment. Amounts up to 20 Rp. can be accepted in low value stamps, preferably up to 4p. which can be used on postal orders when paying out.

Apart from these worries Packets are going very well, with sales of ca £2,500 and much material in hand. Allowing for earlier closure of the circuits this year as advised earlier, everyone should see 8 Packets.

C.R.

ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY

1. SOLDIER STAMP CATALOGUE (2 volumes)
By H. Sulser. In German
(these are heavy, and if borrowed by post the cost will be at least 54p. each way.)
2. NOTE DI STORICA POSTALE e STUDIE FILATELICA DEL CANTONE TICINO e LAGO MAGGIORE. By Gino Negrini.
In Italian & German
(Also quite heavy, postage will be approx. 36p. each way.)
3. CEUX DE 1602 by Monique Bertossa.
In French.

Short biographies of the heroes and heroines of the Escalade in Geneva, with black/white illustrations and of the commemorative slogan cancellations.

4. DIE SCHWEIZERISCHEN BAHNPOSTSTEMPEL MIT LINIENAUSGABE VON BEGIN BIS HEUTE. By Alfred Müller. In German.

Up-to-date treatise on TPO markings and other railway cancels. Reprint from the Berner Briefmarken Zeitung.

THE NEWS LETTER

Like Oliver Twist we are always wanting more, only we want articles.

Who has been doing some research and is willing to share his findings?

**MILITARY STAMPS**

The enormous sales of the Sulser Soldier Stamp Catalogue make it clear that practically all our clients will be using this Catalogue. To minimise the period of 'confusion' we are proceeding immediately with re-numbering (and reprinting) of all Soldier Stamp Approval booklets.

Numbering will be as follows: If the number shown is without a following oblique stroke it denotes the ordinary perforated stamp as listed in Column 1 of the Sulser Catalogue. If the Catalogue number is followed by an oblique stroke, the number after the stroke indicates the Catalogue column. Example: Army No. 1 is the ordinary perforated stamp; Army No. 1/3 is the same stamp in perforated Miniature Sheet, without text.

Naturally, the Sulser prices are higher than those at which we were selling prior to its publication. FOR AN INTERIM PERIOD ONLY UNTIL FEBRUARY 15th, 1978 we give you the opportunity of deducting 15% from the prices marked in our Approval Booklets. After this date the full prices marked will apply.

A NOTE FOR YOUR DIARY - S T A M P E X 1978 - FEB. 28 to MAR. 4

We look forward to meeting all Helvetia Society friends once more at STAND 30.

May we please boast: There should be even finer morsels on display this year than ever before!

Inland readers may find the enclosed leaflet, giving full 'Stampex' details, of some help.

H.L.KATCHER

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SITTING HELVETIA

Imperforate 15.9.1854-1.8.1863

By A. S. Newall

Part 2.

Continuing with the problems of paper thickness, Zumstein (1924) includes the 1854/55 Berne issues in the thin category (22 B/C - Old 35/35d) specifying at the same time that this means .04-.06 mm. I have checked over 300 of these stamps of these issues to find none UNDER .06 mm. and this with the most accurate micrometer in existence. It causes me to think that Zum. 1924 referred to thickness of paper itself as it left the paper mill and that the relief printing process and possibly the humidity of the atmosphere caused it to swell by .02-.03 mm. This theory seems to fall when applied to later "thick" issues where Zum. 1924 gives a maximum of .14 mm. which should result in a stamp thickness of 0.16 mm. and over. I have measured over 200 stamps of the 1858 (G) issue to find none above 0.13 mm. (but then thicker paper need not react to the external causes as does thin. Zumstein in his 1924 edition refers to "Papierdehnungen". the stretching of paper after printing. Such stretching did alter the length of the sheet by up to 2½ mm. It is safe to assume that the same causes (humidity, rate of drying etc.) could affect the thickness of the stamps in the 'Strubeli' issues.

All Swiss investigators, including the latest Specialized Zumstein Catalogue, mention medium paper (supposedly 0.07 - 0.08 mm.) for the middle issues 1855/1859 - Stanley Gibbons distinguishes between thin and thick only. I had to conclude, with regret, that thickness of paper cannot serve as a definite guide, particularly as we know that the remainders of the Bavarian paper from Pasing were used repeatedly when there was a shortage of supplies from Sihl, even after 1857 (the yellow thread paper from Munich was used up in printing the 1 Fr.) A microscope proved more useful than a micrometer insofar that it shows the German paper contained long fibres, the Swiss short. All one can conclude from this is that if the fibres are short, the paper is Swiss and the printing is certainly not Munich. Up to a point my investigations have also confirmed the findings of Fr. G. Kuisel ('La Helvetia non dentelée dit 'Strubeli') as to the behaviour of the silk thread issues under U/V light. Zürich paper under U/V light appears greivish, Munich white-yellow. This applies to stamps which were not cleaned in benzine or treated chemically in any way.

Printing. Although nobody has said it in any books or reports, we can be sure that dies from the original matrix were transferred from the University press in Munich to the Berne mint sometime in August 1854. These dies could be obtained very easily from the original - this may account for the absence of retouches in the Strubelis. It was cheaper to get a new die. Large sheets of paper were cut into 16 small sheets in Munich, each to accommodate 25 stamps (5 rows of 5). In Berne, sheets were cut to accommodate 8 x 50. The Munich printing gave a much better impression. A number of reasons are advanced to explain the better quality of the Munich print.

Fr. Kuisel states that microscopic examination shows the colour being much better absorbed on the Munich print, possibly because the paper was made humid for printing. The absorption would help to spread colour evenly and prevent it accumulating against the parts of the picture standing in relief, like the head and shoulders. Berne printing, which was done dry, certainly shows these faults, this allowing for the same paper being used. The much inferior Berne printing of the later issue can be put down mainly to the inferior quality of the paper. Fr. Kuisel reports cases where delivery delays of paper and shortage of stamps forced Berne to print on paper already rejected. The Berne system of printing blocks of 50 stamps instead of Munich's 25 has also had a detrimental effect on quality. Having said all that, I am not satisfied that printing can give an absolute identification. I have found very well printed copies of the Berne printing (on short fibre Swiss paper) as well as certified Munich stamps on which the lozenges are hardly visible.

I must refer shortly to the so-called secret marks which are supposed automatically to define the Berne printing. Reference to these is made in the Zumstein 1924. They are supposed to be as follows (Berne printings only):

- 5 Rp. A white dot on the cross bar of 'T' in the word 'CENTISIMI'.
- 10 Rp. The lozenge next to the head in the uppermost line has the left to right top line halved.
- 15 Rp. Top lozenge divided by the tip of the lance shows four shade lines in the left part. (All other values show three lines only.)
- 40 Rp. Thick green line limiting the white cross on the right and forming simultaneously a part of the surrounding oval.

SITTING HELVETIA IMPERFORATE

I do not agree with this definition, especially as nobody can deny the possibility of Munich dies being used in Berne.

Silk Threads. Original instructions to Munich called for stamps printed on paper with 'blue-green' thread. Dr. Kuester, the person responsible for the issue, had the idea of tying the colour of thread to the value of the stamp. In a letter of October 18, 1854, he proposed the following:

Yellow thread for 5 Rp. brown	Green thread for 20 Rp. orange
Red thread for 10 Rp. blue	Brown thread for 40 Rp. green
Blue thread for 15 Rp. pink	Black thread for 1 Fr. grey

This proposal was accepted on October 31, 1854. An incredible decision considering that the Papierfabrik an der Sihl had still considerable production difficulties, so that inferior paper, once rejected, was being used after all because of continuous shortages. The modern Zumstein Specialised gives an excellent guide to the threads. Historically Dr. Kuester's suggestion, partly implemented, caused such chaos in paper production and usage that sometime in 1856 everybody quietly went back to the universal green silk thread. No official announcement, no edicts or instructions.

Quite apart from the intended variety of thread colours we have to contend with colour changes due to age, atmosphere conditions, washing media or simply chemical interference. Hence green thread can change into yellow or blue, any colour can get bleached into white or whitish. Only red is reliable says the modern Zumstein Catalogue. In addition we must consider the manufacturing process of paper with silk thread. The latter was imbedded in the paper mass before setting. No positive control of the depth of the thread's immersion was used. The thread itself varies in thickness. It follows clearly that the same colour thread may appear stronger or paler, subject to the thickness of the paper covering it.

Colours of Stamps. There are many colour codes in existence. They just don't help at all, especially when they set out to show nuances. To appreciate the variety of shades and to distinguish them from bleached and chemically affected colours, there remains only one method: Large numbers of examples and stamp museums, such as the one in Berne. What then are my conclusions?

1. The stamps of the 1854-62 issue can be classified by
 - i Paper thickness
 - ii Colour and its intensity
 - iii Quality of print
 - iv Silk thread

not by only one of these features, but by a combination of all.

2. However excellent the reports on research in the past - the refinement of to-day's research weapons, the U/V light, the micrometer and the microscope can do much which could not be done before.

-----oO-----

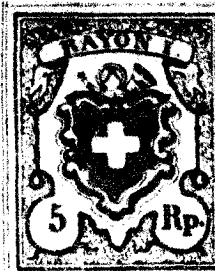
OUR THANKS

The Secretary, Treasurer and Packet Secretary would all like to say a very big 'Thank you' to the many Members who were kind enough to send Christmas Greetings and other expressions of goodwill, all of which are greatly appreciated and we will do our best to keep everyone happy during 1978.

E. J. RAWNSLEY - L. E. STILES
C. RAUCH

ORTSVERZEICHNIS

The 1978 edition of this most useful list of 7000 post offices, with their postcode numbers and other information, will be published in June at SFr.1.50.



RAYON II 1850
RAYON I *1851
RAYON III 1852

Large new selections of the above are now available and are offered in a 12-page illustrated price-list, sent free to interested collectors.

Useful not only for specialists (with classifications into types and printing stones), but also for the general collector who would like to select a stamp from a really wide range, including covers.

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120 Church Street.
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COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE FOR THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE
UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION

By MAX HERTSCH

Part 2.

As related last month Füssli printed the stamps across the grain of the paper, causing it to stretch from 2 - 3 mm. As a result the Mint was compelled to perforate sheets which departed seriously from the specified size, by means of the comb perforator. The first row horizontally has 23 perforation, the second row has 24, the third row has 23, the fourth row has 24, and the fifth row has 23. Comb perforation was started either from the left or the right margin.

Gumming. Gum had to be applied after printing but before perforation. At this stage - it was already September - the work was divided between Kümmerli & Frey and Lithographie Lips & Co. The white gum used by Kümmerli & Frey tended to penetrate the paper too much, because of the absorbitive quality of the paper. This could be overcome by changing the consistency of the gum and reducing the amount dried by one half. This led to overtime to produce the required 1,800 sheets per day. The yellow gum by all appearances is the work of the Lips Co., which had to experiment to adapt the gum to the properties of the paper. Initially the yellow gum was thickly applied, which later gave place to a lighter yellow gum, more sparingly applied. During this experimental period, a greenish gum also came into use, although there is no reference to it in any of the records. It is possible that this gum resulted from the addition of a flavouring compound such as menthol. Judging by its rare occurrence, this experiment must have been quickly abandoned.

Varieties. The story of the development of this issue shows that in almost every stage of its manufacture, technical inadequacies combined so that -- through the intervention of a Higher Power one could almost say -- the collector can distinguish many varieties. Of plate faults and retouches there are very few, although signs of plate wear and a few faults do exist. However, there are two perforation varieties of each issue, and two (in the 30 Rp.) or three (in the 20 Rp.) types of gums.

The perforation varieties can be firmly established in some cases and cannot be established in others:

- a. In vertical pairs or in blocks of four or more, if each stamp has 23 teeth on the long side, it is box perforation; if the stamps have 23 and 24 teeth on their long sides, it is comb perforation.
- b. For single stamps with either an upper or lower margin, if the margin is partly perforated, it is comb perforation, but if the margin is imperforate, it is box perforation. Stamps with side margin which have perforations extending through the margin are comb perforated.
- c. All stamps with 24 teeth along the long side and most stamps with perforated margin have comb perforation.

Some perforation varieties cannot be established:

- a. Single stamps with 23 teeth on the long side, without margin on either side.
- b. Horizontal pairs or strips without margins or imperforate margins.

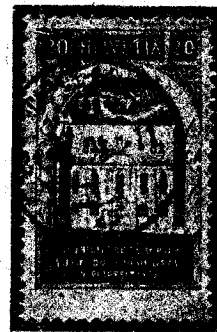
Day of Issue. The commemoratives were issued on October 9, 1924. There was no special cancellation to mark the event because the Congress took place in Stockholm. Much collector dis-satisfaction arose because of the short period of validity, the stamps being withdrawn from validity on November 30, 1924. The PTT issued a circular to its employees advising that the stamps should be sold only on request, and emphasizing the short period of validity. Many complaints were made to the PTT, and it is clear that most of these stamps were sold to collectors. Examples of non-philatelic use on cover are elusive.

(A nice typographical error slipped through the PTT in its new issue announcement; it stated that the UPU had been founded on October 9, 1974. Perhaps the typesetter was already thinking of 'INTERNABA'!)

The Rarest Stamp of Switzerland. To conclude I would like to discuss one of Switzerland's greatest rarities, Zumstein 167B, the 20 Rp. with comb perforation, has 24 teeth on the long side. Since no great difficulties were encountered in fitting this value into the perforating equipment, they were almost exclusively given the box perforation. However, a few sheets, perhaps those originating from the ones printed by Orell Füssli - the number of which is unknown - were comb perforated. They were delivered to post-offices, and to-day hardly four or five examples seem to have survived.

1924 UPU COMMEMORATIVES (Continued)

I am personally aware of two examples, both having the cancellation of La Tour-de-Peilz, both dated 31 October 24. No unused examples have been reported. By comparison with a 'Double Geneva' this stamp is much scarcer, and is rarer even than the Rayon with framed cross! The catalogue value of SFr.1,000 is an understatement of the first order.



167/B

It should be conceded that value is a function of demand as well as supply; just as significant as scarcity is demand, popularity, condition and main or sub-number status in the catalogue. Nevertheless, I suggest that you examine your duplicates of this issue. Who knows, perhaps one of these beauties lies sleeping in your stockbook. Certainly it would become the highlight of its class.

(Note: 'Tell' was unable to properly reproduce the photos in this article which included a 1924 or earlier view of the Assembly House, the stamps themselves as submitted by the article, rejected designs, examples of comb and box perfs, usage on first day letter and postal bulletin showing the '1974' date error.)

-----oOo-----

Fred Lesser Replies ...

MR. HERTSCH HAS A POINT!

When a stamp is known to have been genuinely used, its legal status is catalogued. But is it beyond any question of doubt? Mr. Hertsch writes that he personally knows of two used copies, both cancelled in La Tour-de-Peilz, Ct. Vaud, bearing the date October 31, 1924. Thus Mr. Hertsch obviously has a point.

Let us, however, backtrack a moment. Originally the Landestopographie (Govt. Printing Plant or Topography Dept.) was to print these stamps, but in order for them to be issued in time it was necessary to call on Orell Füssli to assist. The Topography Dept. was equipped with hand presses, whereas Orell Füssli had machine operated presses. The latter firm encountered problems with the Government printing plates, complicated by paper quality difficulties. When wetted, the paper expanded. This led to perforating problems for the Mint. To overcome these and to avoid the perforations cutting into the stamps, the Mint used comb perforation (rather than the normal harrow perfs.) This caused two rows of perforations of the five rows on the sheet to be allocated 24 teeth on the vertical side. Thus, out of 25 stamps on a sheet, ten (two vertical rows of five, the second and fourth rows from the top) have a vertical perforation of 24 teeth, the others have 23. There are no records on how many sheets of the 20 Rp. were actually printed by Orell Füssli, and more important, how many sheets the Mint perforated by comb perforation.

If, therefore, since 1924 only 4 or 5 used specimens have been found, it is fair to assume that the comb perforated 20 Rp. UPU sheets with two horizontal rows of 24 teeth were either never issued or destroyed by the Postal Administration. The few examples known substantiate the speculation that only a single sheet slipped through for distribution and on the basis of the evidence, accidentally issued to the post-office in La Tour-de-Peilz. However, the Mint did maintain records showing its unhappiness with the paper problems with the Orell Füssli printed sheets. It made a deliberate choice of using the comb perforation method to combat the unequal spacing between the stamps. Accidents will happen even to such a meticulous institution as the Swiss Postal authorities. The issue of the 15 Rp. airmail with its inverted 10 Rp. overprint by a mobile post office may serve as a case in point. Yet with no really hard evidence as to exactly where, how and when the mysterious 20 Rp. UPU stamps with their 24 vertical perfs reached the public, Mr. Hertsch's input supports an assumption that the existence of these 4 or 5 stamps was more likely due to an accident than to somebody in Bern having got hold of a comb perforated Orell Füssli sheet and used a few of the 24 perforated stamps in the post office at La Tour-de-Peilz.

The writer rests his case and wishes to thank Mr. Hertsch for his circumstantial correction.

F. R. LESSER

FEBRUARY MEETINGS

LONDON GROUP - Wednesday, 8th February - MORE UNUSUAL SWISS ITEMS -
W.Cdr. R. F. Bulstrode

By which time we hope to meet again in our normal venue.

NORTHERN GROUP - Saturday, 18th February - Official Pre-Paid Mail -
Discussion Leader:
Dr. G. G. Ritchie

DID YOU KNOW ?

..... that the Swiss Telephone Dept. had a very good idea of introducing a scheme whereby a telephone conversation could be given to a friend, a sort of telephone token. A form can be obtained at any post office and any amount above SFr.20.- paid in to the recipient's telephone account. At the same time one received a postcard with which to inform the recipient of the gift. The card, with a forget-me-not picture on the front, is pre-paid with the usual PTT impression in red, but this time in letterpress, i.e. very clear. Not only is this card an official 'Ganzsachen' but comes in all 3 languages. Genuinely used ones will be good to find, especially as the card is rather thin and easily damaged. Of course the French ones are only to be had in W.Switzerland and Italian ones in the Tessin, so that is a difficulty.

..... that another type of PTT postcard is also being followed with interest. It started with the 'Gansabhaut' in Sursee on 11.11.77; not only did the PTT provide an attractive special cancellation, but also a postcard with an exact replica of the 35c. stamp on the front, with space for a block of 4 and the cancel. But there is no mention of its source, strangely enough, altho sold only by the Philatelic Offices. This was followed by 'Escalade' 40c. in Geneva on 10.12.77, but with the Mobile P.O. cancel, and on 31.12.77 by the 'Achetringele' 50c. Laupen. The 2 others which could have been done at this time, i.e. 5 & 20c. will perhaps come in a year's



time. The 80c. for 13th Jan. 1978 is already announced. A very attractive series, poorly handled.

..... that at last it has become law that the Federal Council alone, and not the whole Parliament, can decide on postal rates, and changes.

..... that PEN has brought out a brochure on all machine cancellations of the UN in Geneva. Sfr.12/14.- in French, from 13 av du Midi, 1950 Sion. Complete and useful to UN collectors. A5 size, 18 pages.

..... that the 1977 supplement to the 1973 PEN catalogue of all Swiss special and MPO cancellations is now available at SFr.11.- but he hopes you will rather buy a copy of his new up-to-date catalogue, 1978 Ed. at SFr.52.- (foreign SFr.55.- incl. postage).

(Cont. Col. 2)

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SPECIAL CANCELLATIONS

1. 48th International Motor Show in Geneva. The first part will be held from 21-29 January and the special cancel will be "1211 GENEVE - date - SALON DE L'AUTO".
2. 18th Ski Meeting Interhancario Europee. This will be held in Disentis/Muster from 22-27 January, and cancel illustrated will be used.



WANTED

B.I.E. FORERUNNER MINIATURE SHEET - used (No. 1x)
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DID YOU KNOW? - Cont.

..... that PEN also publishes in March a French/German catalogue of all known 'Aushilfstempel', about 5000! Will cost SFr.43.-/46.-.

..... that the answer to Question No.66 is that CEPT was founded in 1959 in Montreux (see Z.Nos.347-350), but of previous years of Europa common issues, Switzerland did not issue stamps in '56 and '58.

..... that in these days of great interest in gutter pairs, Question No.67 is: In which year did Switzerland sell to collectors the first interspace pair, including the large drain hole?

M.R.

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

At the December meeting in Leeds Mr. L. Moore entertained members with a display of FORGERIES, ESSAYS, PROOFS & REPRINTS, showing the Swiss section of the Leeds P.S. Forgery Collection, describing how he had been responsible for its writing-up. Then displaying examples from his own collection, together with many genuine stamps for comparison, with photographic enlargements. Also examples of the Sperati forgeries with some interesting remarks regarding their superb quality.

The 'Strubeli' period was covered by essays, trials, proofs & colour trials and the 'Sitting Helvetia Perf.' with colour trials, proofs and perforation trials together with examples of both forged stamps and postmarks. 'Libertas' essays, trials and proofs of the 'Standing Helvetia' issues followed, many with photo enlargements, and examples of the Paris Prints.

His display concluded with perforation trials of the 'Cross & Figure' issues, colour trials and die proofs of the 'Helvetia with Sword' issue and trials of the 1900 UPU, in each case with the issued stamps for comparison.

R.A.H.

HURRY, HURRY, HURRY ...

An 'X' in the box means that your 1978 subscription for 1978 (£2 Home & Commonwealth - \$8.00 + airmail \$4.00 for 2 years) in U.S. is still due. Please remit quickly if you wish to remain on the mailing list

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

Thirteen stalwart members braved the Great Storm of Jan. 11th and thanks to Mr. Newall's hospitality there was a most successful meeting. The subject was 'ODDS & ENDS', giving an opportunity to see so many unusual items which do not fit into more conventional displays.

Among the wealth of material on show were uncommon cancellations and covers of all types, including the Hotel Post Centenary cover by 'goat mail'; an unrecorded 1938 20c. Buildings stamp imperf on one side, used on cover; Frank stamps on and off cover and the latest PTT postcards (mentioned in this issue).

Outstanding were two displays of pre-stamp covers, each containing many unusual items and cancellations, such as old spellings of town names, i.e. 'Freyburg' and 'Arau' etc. Particularly interesting were some oval cancels of Estavayer-le-Lac, rather like smaller types of the Zürich lake cancels. Altho dated around 1839 they do not appear to be listed by A & E. Does anyone know of similar cancels?

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Berner Briefmarken-Zeitung with supplements for the Europe catalogue
philatelic accessories
albums

Zumstein + cie

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cash accounts: Bern 30-314
Sweden: Stockholm 42 55-6
Germany: Karlsruhe 705 01-750
Austria: Vienna 1700.512
Netherlands: 380 17 00

TOURIST PUBLICITY CANCELS - 11th January

1961 LA SAGE - Villaz-la Forclaz (K.682)
3412 HEIMISWIL - Wandern-Verweilen (K.683)

1978

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