

# HELVETIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Founder: E. H. SPIRO

## NEWS LETTER

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

<p><b>Hon. Treasurer:</b>  <b>Mr L.E. STILES</b>                  135 St John's Road                  Walthamstow                  London E.17 4JH                  Tel. 01 527 6670</p>	<p><b>Hon. Secretary &amp; Editor:</b>  <b>Mrs E.J. Rawnsley,</b>                  3 Cranford Gardens,                  Victoria Dr.,                  Bognor Regis Sussex                  PO21 2EL</p>	<p><b>Hon. Exchange Pkt. Sec:</b>  <b>Mr. C. Rauch,</b>                  353 Baddow Rd,                  Chelmsford, Essex                  CM2 7QF                  Tel 0245 54149</p>
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No. 1
JANUARY 1979
33rd YEAR

## NEW ISSUES IN 1979

The following new issues are proposed for 1979, subject to alteration if necessary:

	<u>No.</u>	<u>Values</u>	<u>Series</u>
21 Feb. <b>PUBLICITY - Series I</b>	4	Rp.	
100th Birthday of O. H. Ammann		20	
50th Federal Shooting Festival, Luzern		40	
World Esperanto Congress, Luzern		70	
Basel-Mulhouse Airport		80	2.10
<b>PORTRAITS:</b> Rainer Maria Rilke	4	20	
Paul Klee		40	
Hermann Hesse		70	
Thomas Mann		80	2.10
20 Apr. <b>EUROPA - CEPT:</b> Historic Postbox in Basle	2	40	
Alpine Relay Station Jungfraujoeh		80	1.20
25 May <b>PRO PATRIA - Castles:</b> Oron	4	20+10	
Spiez		40+20	
Porrentruy		70+30	
Rapperswil		80+40	3.10
6 Sept. <b>PUBLICITY - Series II</b>	4		
Centenary of Swiss Numismatic Society		20	
International Year of the Child		40	
50 Years of Swiss Amateur Radio		70	
European Space Organisation ESA		80	2.10
<b>DEFINITIVE - Church Font, Saanen (BE)</b>	1	300	3.00
18 Nov. <b>PRO JUVENTUTE - Arms:</b> Cadro	4	20+10	
Rüte		40+20	
Schwamendingen		70+30	
Perroy		80+40	3.10
	<u>23</u>		<u>Fr16.70</u>

### LATEST PTT SURPRISE

The PTA No. 62 announced that on 5th January 1978 the current stamp booklet will be replaced by a new one containing 'Folklore' stamps: 2 x 10c., 8 x 20c. and 8 x 40c. Make-up and price, SFr.5.-, unchanged, BUT with cut booklet edges (as in Sweden) giving 10 new stamp varieties, unique in Swiss philately. To avoid a financial burden on collectors, the tête-bêche sheets will not initially be available.

There were no advance orders, FD covers or special cancellations, but cto and mint booklets can be ordered. As only PJ booklets can be obtained via the Standing Order system, there will be a rush on the 5th. What will the catalogues say? The announcement is especially exciting if one reads between the lines: a) will tête-bêche sheets be available later? b) how about tête-bêche and inter-space pairs? c) no FDC for these pairs? d) which 40c. stamps will go into the booklets, plain paper or fibre or both. These simple changes made by the PTT are never as simple as they seem.

Reports by C. J. LaBlonde & M. Rutnerfoord

20762

## 20 Superb items from our stock.

<u>1847 GENEVA EAGLE</u> , dark green (No.7). Outstanding full-margined mint copy, original gum (very slight thinning). The most brilliant copy we have seen, as printed yesterday .. .. .	£ 1250.00
<u>SITTING HELVETIA</u> : 10c. No. 38/A12 <u>Double Print</u> . Fine mint .. .. .	35.00
25c. No. 40/1 <u>Double embossing</u> , superb used .. .. .	275.00
<u>NUMERAL</u> : 15c. No. 63A <u>Used Block of Four</u> on address label .. .. .	100.00
<u>STANDING HELVETIA</u> : Fr.3.- No. 72F. <u>Great rarity</u> , used in Geneva. First known copy with this cancellation .. .. .	3600.00
89A Used .. .. .	30.00
89A Mint Block of Four, luxury condition & outstanding centering .. .. .	325.00
<u>KOCHER STAMPS</u> : 2c. blue, superb used .. .. .	300.00
10c. blue, mint .. .. .	125.00
10c. blue, superb used .. .. .	180.00
10c. violet, mint, broken ' ' variety .. .. .	140.00
<u>TELL BOY</u> : 5c. No. 103 Fine mint copy with major 'lantern' variety .. .. .	125.00
<u>1914 HIGH VALUE</u> : Fr.3.- No. 129 Fine mint .. .. .	625.00
<u>1924 ARMS</u> : Fr.1.50 No. 1651 <u>Imperf</u> , superb mint .. .. .	400.00
<u>1936 LANDSCAPES</u> : 20c. No. 205y, fine mint .. .. .	60.00
<u>1941 BERN CENTENARY</u> : 10c. No. 253a <u>IMPERF</u> . mint .. .. .	165.00
<u>GUTTER PAIRS</u> : 25c. S1 fine mint .. .. .	110.00
25c. S1 <u>double pair</u> , superb used on address label .. .. .	625.00
<u>POSTAGE DUES</u> : 1c. 15G <u>Type I</u> , fine used .. .. .	67.50
5c. 17G <u>Type I</u> , fine used .. .. .	60.00

\*\*\*\*\*

??????? QUIZZES ARE THE RAGE THESE DAYS - HOW DO YOU SHAPE UP TO THIS ONE? HOW MANY OF THE REALLY DIFFICULT ITEMS ABOVE ARE IN YOUR COLLECTION?

- IF ALL 20: YOU DON'T NEED US! BUT CONTACT US PLEASE SO THAT WE CAN DELETE YOUR NAME FROM OUR MAILING LIST!
- IF 15 - 19: YOU HAVE A SUPERB COLLECTION - BUT STAY IN TOUCH; WE WILL STILL HAVE THE ODD ITEM FOR YOU FROM TIME TO TIME.
- IF 10 - 14: YOUR COLLECTION IS "ON ITS WAY" BUT STILL NEEDS OUR HELP TO GET IT TO THE TOP.
- IF 5 - 9 : YOUR COLLECTION WOULD BENEFIT GREATLY FROM REGULAR APPROVALS; DROP US A LINE AND ASK FOR OUR ENROLMENT FORM.
- IF 0 - 4 : GET THAT CHEQUE BOOK OUT RIGHT NOW - OR DO YOU ENJOY BEING AT THE BOTTOM OF THE LEAGUE?

WHEN IT COMES TO GOOD STOCKS, WE ARE TOP OF THE LEAGUE!

**H.L.KATCHER**

THE AMATEUR COLLECTOR LTD.  
(SWISS SPECIALISTS FOR OVER 33 YEARS)  
PO BOX 242, HIGHGATE, LONDON N6 4LW  
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### A BIG 'THANK YOU'

THE SECRETARY wishes to express appreciation of the many Christmas Greetings - more than ever this time - received from members at home and abroad. Such expressions of goodwill are most encouraging and every endeavour will be made to maintain our standards in the coming year.

THE TREASURER and THE PACKET SECRETARY also send their thanks to the many members who have sent good wishes and words of encouragement and thus make the many hours of work involved so worthwhile.

SWISS STAMPS are foremost in the philatelic field. With so many facets you can build up a superb collection .....

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AIRMAILS - stamps, pioneer, special and regular flights  
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Many 'side-lines' - TPOs, SOLDIER STAMPS etc.

Items on Approval or to your Wants Lists will help your collecting. Write to

**J.S.ARMSTRONG**  
14, Low Lane, Torrisholme, MORECAMBE,  
Lancs LA4 6PN

## BASLE - THE FOCAL POINT

By C. RAUCH

(Concl.)

By 1880 the increasing traffic rendered the station too small, especially for the handling of mail and a new station was planned. The long awaited new building in the Schwarzwaldallee was inaugurated on 13.9.13, with great rejoicing, but after only 10½ months' use, was closed on 1.8.1914 owing to the outbreak of World War I.

During the period 1855 to 1900 six important treaties were made between the Federal Post Administration and the Baden - later the Imperial German Post.

Mention was made earlier of mail from Austria passing through Basle and the cover shown in Fig. 6 is particularly interesting for the large number of postal markings.

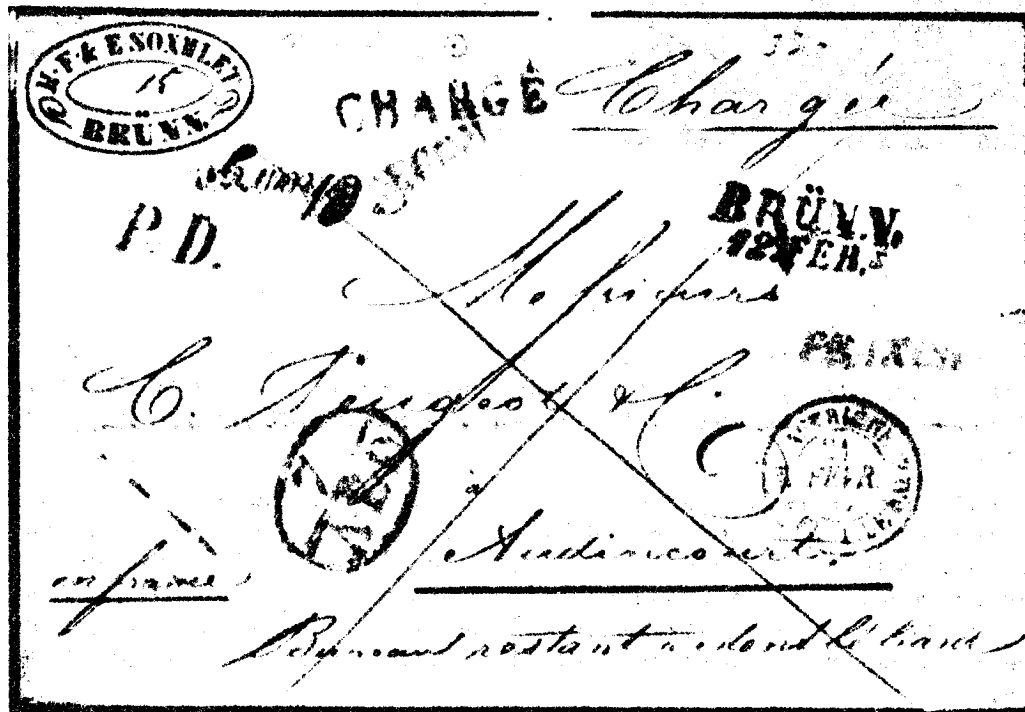


Fig. 6 Prepaid registered letter from BRUNN, Austria (now Brno, Czechoslovakia), dated 12 Feb. 1847 to Audincourt, addressed to Bureau restant at Montbeliard for collection.

Austrian marks: 'BRUNN 12 FEB.' in green; 'RECOM. & 'FRANCO' Registered & Paid; 'CHARGE' in black - Charged i.e. containing money etc.

French marks: 'AUTRICHE Beau FR 1 DE BALE 21 FEVR 47' cds in red; French transit mark applied at St. Louis. nr Basle; 'A. D.' oval in red. St. Louis mark for a prepaid letter; 'CHARGE' in red and backstamped 'MONTBELIARD' 22 FEVR 47 - French receiving mark.

The first Swiss Branch (Filiale) Post Office in the railway station was opened on 18.11.1862. On 'Strubelis' single circle cancels were used with 'BASEL' at the top and 'BAD. BAHNHOF' at the foot. On the 'Cross & Figure' issue at the turn of the century, the normal Swiss cancel, double circle with 10 bars in both segments, was used, with 'BASEL 2' at the top and 'FIL. B.B.' (Badische Bahnhof) at the foot, usually in conjunction with a straight-line cancel 'RIESEN (BAHNHOF)'. On 'Tell Boy' stamps are known the large German oval cancels which are still in use to-day. From 1907 a later mark had 'FILIALE B.B.' or 'FIL.B.B.', while still later ones show 'BASEL 16' with 'B.B.' or 'BAD. BAHNHOF' at the foot.

In 1935 the German authorities altered the name from 'BASEL BADISCHER BAHNHOF' to 'DEUTSCHE REICHSBAHN', with the agreement of the Swiss, and so in the 1930s and 1940s postmarks show 'D.R.B.' at the foot. However, after the end of World War II, on 8.5.1948 the German station reverted to its former title of 'BAD. BAHNHOF'. Cancellations with D.R.B. are found up to about the middle of 1948.

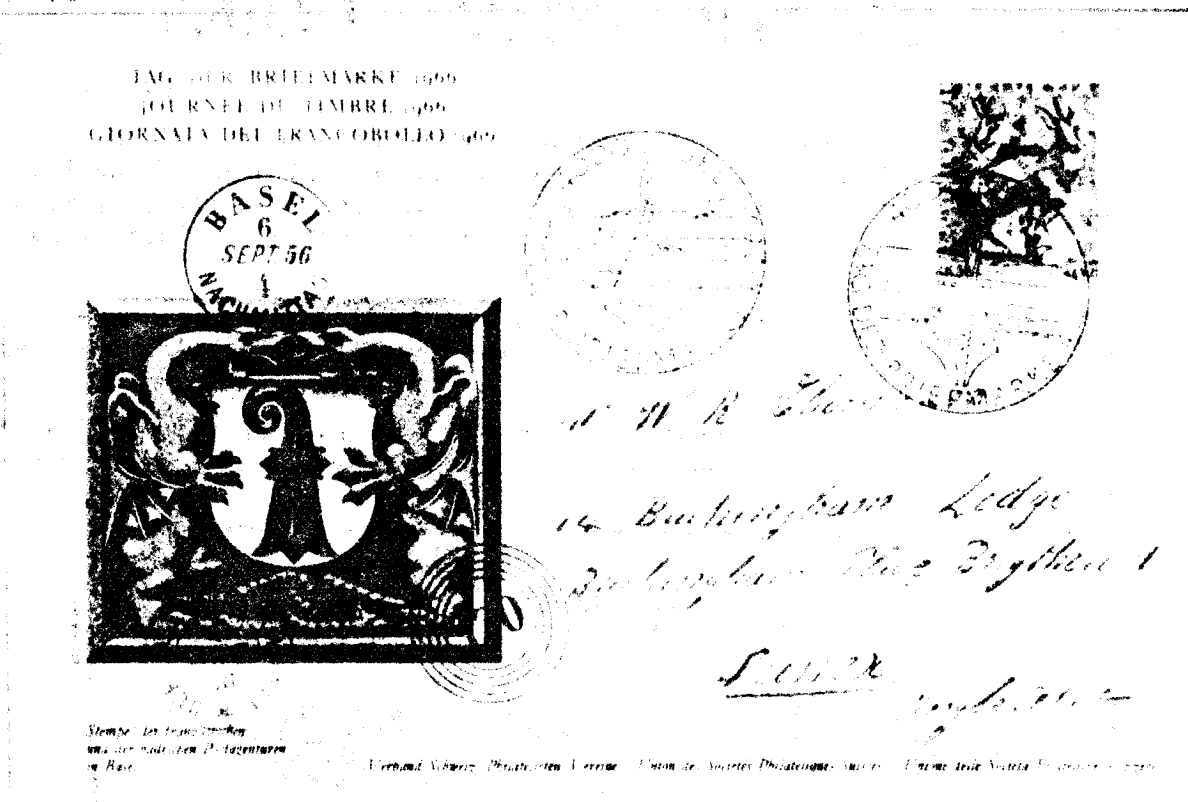
BASLE - THE FOCAL POINT (Cont.)

Fig. 7

The cover of the "Day of the Stamp" of 1966 (Fig. 7), when the event was celebrated in Basle, has taken up the multi-national aspect of Basle as a theme and illustrates the Swiss, French and Baden postal markings in use in Basle in the 1860s.

And here in Basle, watching the activity in the station in the late afternoon I could see in the far siding a number of modern German turquoise and white TPOs being loaded with sacks of mail and nearby some dark green Swiss TPOs likewise receiving their sacks of mail and being taken away one by one to be coupled to their appropriate trains. Later, on the west side of the station, on the French side, there were the dark red French TPOs also being loaded and made ready.

And whilst waiting and watching, in front of me passed a tall German red and white electric engine, with the train driver sitting very high, pulling its red and white 'inter-city' carriages through the station. A little later it was a French set of carriages with some Italian carriages for good measure, that were being drawn across into the Swiss section to go on through Switzerland into Italy. On another platform was the white and black Austrian rail set just arrived from Vienna and Innsbruck. And then there was an old Swiss electric engine of the 1930s drawing across from the French side a set of dark blue coaches with dining cars of the "Compagnie Internationale de Wagons Lits & du Tourisme" of the same period and I spotted the wording on the plate that shows on each carriage the destination: "Orient Express - Nostalgie". I wonder how much of the old run of the Orient Express this train will have covered. It all made me think how it started.

The fact that a large town is situated at the point where the frontiers of three countries join is unique in Europe and possibly unique in the world. This is not surprising bearing in mind that Basle is at the point where the Rhine leaves one region of hills and mountains through a 90 degree angle to flow through the plains of Alsace. This helps to explain the reason for a town of such importance in the communication sense at this geographical point.

..... The End .....

FEBRUARY MEETINGS

NORTHERN GROUP: Saturday, Feb. 3rd - ENVELOPES, WRAPPERS & SEMI-OFFICIAL CARDS  
(Discussion Leader: DR. RITCHIE)

LONDON GROUP: Wednesday, Feb. 14th - STRUBELIS .... All Members

The list of lots submitted for the Postal Auction (U.K.) on 28th February is enclosed herewith.

# THE ZÜRICH POST & ITS POSTMARKS

By E. J. Rawnsley

Part VI

### 3. AEROPHILATELY

A glance through the airmail catalogue will show that there are countless cancellations and special cachets which have been applied to mail from and to Zürich since the earliest days of aviation. The nearest airfield was then situated at Dübendorf, a short distance from the city. It is noticeable that although flying meetings were held there at intervals from October 1910, none of the classic pioneer flights in 1913 took place from Dübendorf, perhaps because it was primarily a military base. Even a cover of 4 June 1919, bearing a 50c. stamp with the propeller overprint has a military cancel. (Figs. 38/39).

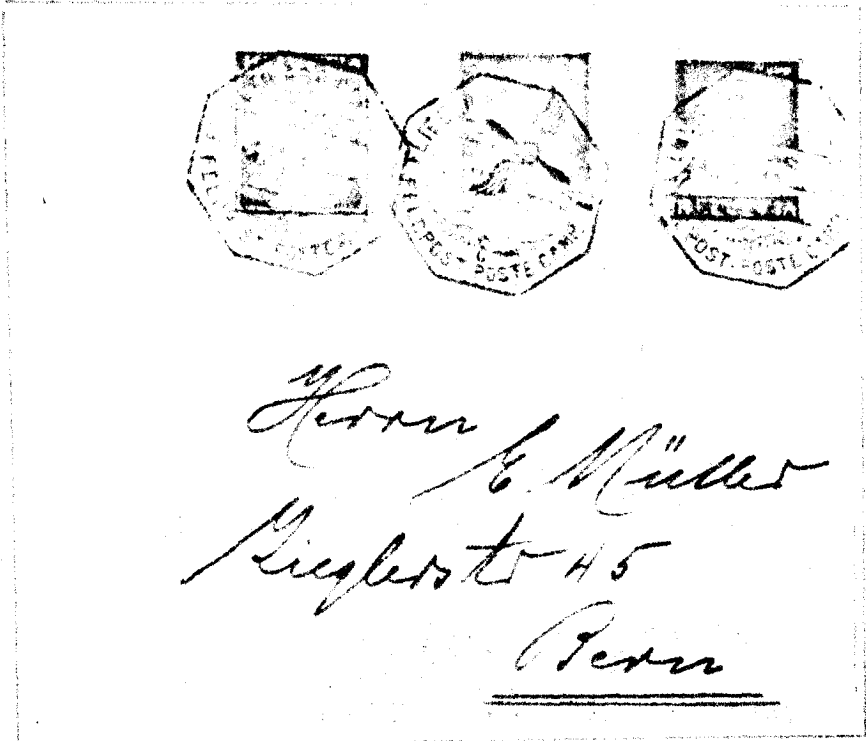


Fig. 38

Fig. 39



The first postmarks on regular mail flights read simply 'SCHWEIZER FLUGPOST', without town name and were used on flights between Zürich, Bern, Lausanne and Geneva. In the 1920s covers began to bear a variety of markings indicating the



Fig. 40

routes, and there was also a cancel inscribed "FLUGPLATZ/ZÜRICH/DÜBENDORF \* FLUGPOST \* " (Fig. 41). Then came a simple cancel with stars at the sides, 'ZÜRICH' at the top and 'FLUGPOST' below. Later still the modern airport was constructed at Kloten, inaugurated on 28 August 1963 and in due course the present pictorial cancel of 'ZÜRICH 58 FLUGHAFEN' came into being. Such is the variety of markings relating to Zürich that a separate study would be needed to deal with them adequately.

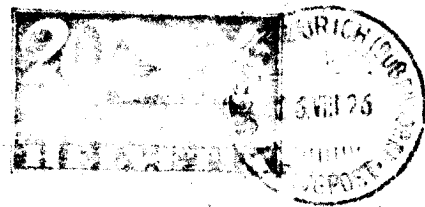


Fig. 41



Fig. 42

It must not be forgotten, however, that even before the era of the aeroplane, ballooning had been - and still is - very popular in Switzerland, with flights recorded as early as 1892, and in more recent times balloons have carried mail with appropriate

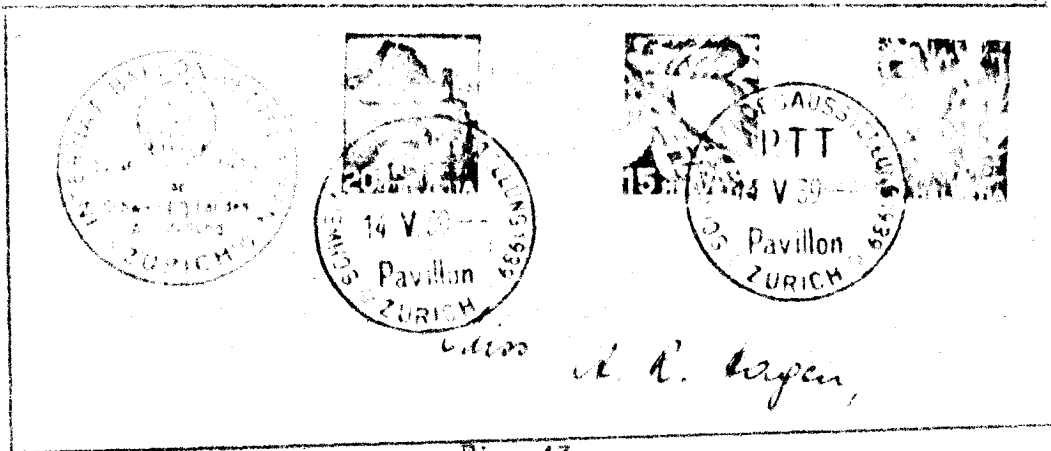


Fig. 43

cancels, for special events such as the Swiss National Exhibition held in Zürich in 1939 (Fig.43), while others in aid of charity have helped causes such as the Pestalozzi Children's Village in Trogen and so on.

THE ZÜRICH POST & ITS POSTMARKS (Cont.)

Airships, too, were being constructed in Friedrichshafen, on the German shore of the Bodensee (Lake Constance) and from 1907 a number of these Zeppelin flights were made across Swiss territory, mail being dropped off at various cities in Switzerland, including Zürich, from 1908 to 1911, such as that shown in Fig. 44.

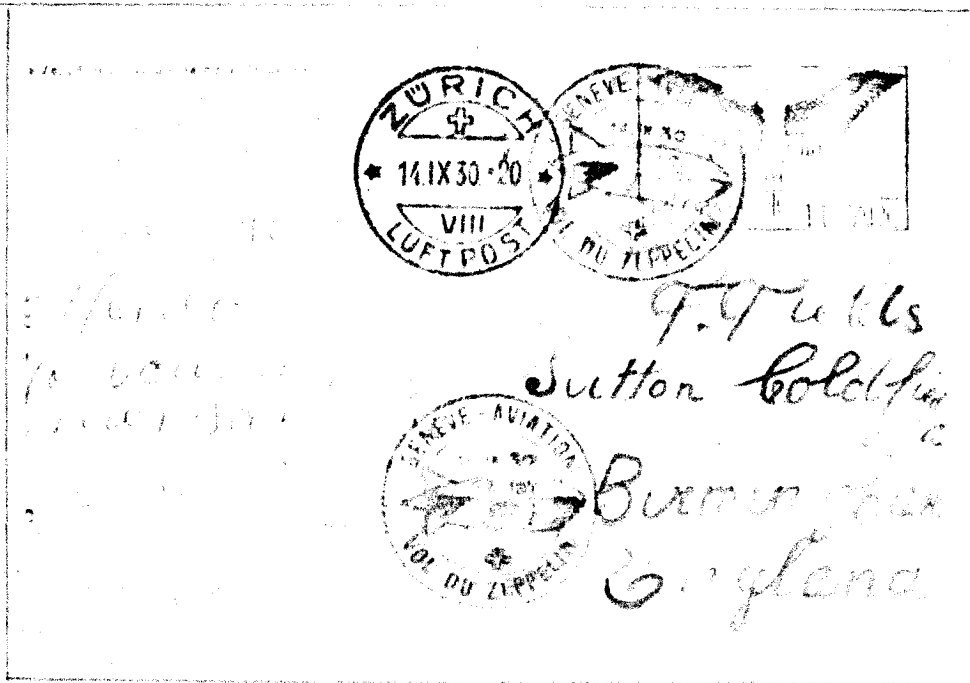


Fig. 44

Having thus dealt briefly with the two major developments in mail services, we can return to the general postmarks which by now were becoming more standardised, except for one type, known as the 'razor-blade' cancels which were in use for a comparatively short period around the turn of the century. These are found with and without the 'nails' at the ends of the shaped date bridge.



Fig. 45



Fig. 46



Fig. 47



Fig. 48

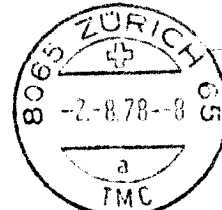


Fig. 49

Barred cancels gave way to the simpler double circle type with small cross in the upper segment and the postal area number - VIII in the case of Zürich - below, which remained in use for several decades and have now been replaced by cancels which include the postal code.

(To be concluded)

MEMBERS' REQUESTS

WANTED: Pro Juventute varieties & plate flaws. Also items pertaining to the Pre-stamp Postal History of City of Bellinzona. Outright purchase or I have a great variety of material for trade. MR. J.F. BARRETT (Sec. AHPS), 1009, Harding St., JACKSON, Miss. 39202, U.S.A.

MR. M. THOMPSON would like to exchange Airmails 9 & 14z, both fine used for Airmails 6a or 6b in same condition. Write to 23, Breckhill Rd, Woodthorpe, Nottingham, NG5 4GP

The 2 PJ Booklets offered in the Dec. HNL at £2.00 each are still available.

MR. A.W. SIZELAND of 16 Mount Street, King's Lynn, Norfolk, would like to hear from any member who may have items of Zeppelin mail for disposal.

NEW SERVICE FOR COLLECTORS

Herr R. Baumann, Kreuzlingerstr. 32, 8570 WEINFELDEN, Switzerland, with the help of the SVP, is starting in January 1979 a NEW ISSUE SERVICE FOR PP CANCELLATIONS, both hand cds and machine. Price 50c. per cover + postage twice a year. For every change of name or post-code the last day & first day will be made.

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Compiled by M. Thompson

NUMBERS ISSUED 1977

AVIATION PIONEERS:

Oskar Bider	40c.	13,858,000
Edward Spelterini	80c.	6,361,000
Armand Dufaux	100c.	6,646,000
Walter Mittelholzer	150c.	6,241,000

<u>EUROPA - CEPT</u>	440c.	29,397,000
	80c.	8,370,000

PUBLICITY II

Cent. of Fed. Factories Act	20c.	9,063,000
Protection of Monuments	40c.	22,198,000
Swiss Footpaths	80c.	6,128,000

PRO JUVENTUTE

	20+10c.	10,925,000
	40+20c.	17,252,000
	70+30c.	3,903,000
	80+40c.	4,118,000

Incl. 349,964 booklets.  
 Figures for Publicity I and Pro Patria not given.

DID YOU KNOW? - Continued

..... that Question No. 79 is about the old PJ Arms stamps, namely the 10c. of 1925 (Z. No. 34) - what does the 'VR' stand for?

M. RUTHERFOORD

**DID YOU KNOW?**

..... that on 31st July 1978 the 'Lemanex' Block was withdrawn from sale at all POs (as had been originally announced), but it is now available again in the annual packs: price SFr.20.- for 18.20 worth of stamps plus 1.80 for the attractive red hard-covered folder, being now 155 x 215 mm. This can be used as a swap booklet etc.

..... that at the same Rölli auction at which K.13 with cloud went for SFr.1600 (rumour has it that this was found by the seller in an English circulation packet for £1 for the stamps on the cover!) the same cancellation went for 10c! In a stockbook lot there were about 500 odd K. cancels of below average quality, but a bidder had seen a perfect K.13 there too, he got the lot for SFr.60.-!

..... that 25 years ago, on 1 Dec. 1953, it was the first time that all Swiss stamps of the year were valid together and could be cancelled on the same cover. I have now 25 such covers, altho now one needs 2 largish covers per year, excluding blocks.

..... that on 4 Dec. 1978 the 9th Philatelic Office was opened in Chur. A special cover was issued, with text in German, Italian and 2 Romansch dialects.

..... that when the main Philatelic Office in Bern reopened in the new Parkterrasse (above the railway station) on 14.5.64 special envelopes were issued in German and French and - what is not known in Switzerland - also in English, for English-speaking standing order customers. I bought one at 'Stampex' some years ago.

..... that a new philatelic Magazine has appeared - 'PHILAPOST' - to come out every 3 months; it will contain articles of interest to the "politically interested collector". whatever that may mean, and for the collectors of Soldier stamps. Printed on art paper the reproductions are very good.

..... that the '79 Europa stamps for all CEPT countries will be devoted to the "History of posts & telecommunications", with Switzerland putting in the Basle Dove postbox (3 still in use) and the Jungfrau-Joch with its highest PC in Europe and a mass of radio and TV relay aeriels.

..... that 1980 will be "Famous People", rather uninspiring, and 1981 "Folklore".

..... that the answer to Q. No. 78 is to my count the number of Swiss heraldic stamps is 56, made up of Defs. 8, PJ 36, PP 12 and of course many cancellations, making an interesting collection.

It is with deep regret that we have to start the new year by announcing the deaths of three prominent members:

MR. J. N. HIGHSTED

A Founder Member of the Yorks/Lancs - later the Northern Group - and Chairman who died on 21st December, and who will be sadly missed.

DR. A. M. MESTON

Vice-Chairman of the N. Group, who died suddenly on 24th December; a member of the Society since 1969 he had become a valuable Group member.

The loss of two Officers at the same time is a great shock to everyone.

MR. S. A. STEWART

of Broughty Ferry, Dundee, who died early in December. He had been a member since 1970.

NEW 'K' CANCELS from 7 & 11th Jan.

7431 ZILLIS - Deckengemalde St. Martin's  
Kirche (k.721)  
8638 GOLDINGEN - Idealer Wander und  
Skigebiet (k.722)

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Germany: Karlsruhe 705 01-750  
Austria: Vienna 1700.512  
Netherlands: 380 17 00

-----oOo-----

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

Some are still outstanding; if there is an 'X' in the box will you please remit by return.

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

At the December meeting members were entertained by a superb display and most interesting talk by MR. G.D. WILSON on the POSTAL HISTORY OF N.W. SWITZERLAND.

He described the early history of the area, giving details of the growth of the postal system and routing of mail both within the region and to France, also listing the wealth of postal markings to be found on early covers and the postal rates for letters routed thru the French exchange Offices. In his display he showed a vast number of early covers in fine condition, all beautifully presented and written up with much interesting information.

At the meeting held in Leeds on 6th January the following Officers were elected to fill the vacancies just announced:

Chairman: MR. D. CAIRNS  
Vice-Chairman: MR. G. D. WILSON  
Chairman Elect: MRS. H. J. DAVIES

An account of the January meeting will be given in the next issue.

## LONDON GROUP MEETINGS

In December members saw a remarkable display, given by Mr. G.S. Holder, of covers to and from Alsace-Lorraine, most having some connection with Switzerland, together with explanations of the many postal markings to be found, not only of the 19th century, but also from the period of W.W.I when parts of the territory were won back from Germany. The range of material was amazing and the interest enhanced by Mr. Holder's mastery of his subject.

The January meeting, the Film Show organised by Mr. Bulstrode, was excellent, marred only by the absence of many members due to the railway strike on Southern region.

The first film, 'PERFORATED PRINTS', dealt with the production of engraved stamps from preparation of designs to the finished product. Then followed films with a railway theme: 'HOW TO BUILD YOUR OWN RACK RAILWAY' - the Brienzer Rothorn railway, and a very new one on 'THE RAILWAYS OF THE FUTURE', a look at the developments envisaged for the carriage of freight and provision of fast suburban services. A thoroughly enjoyable evening.



# HELVETIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Founder: E. H. SPIRO

## NEWS LETTER



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

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Chelmsford, Essex  
CM2 7QF  
Tel 0245 54149

No. 2

FEBRUARY 1979

33rd YEAR

## FEBRUARY NEW ISSUES

The issue of PORTRAIT STAMPS will be the last in the present series and features famous writers and painters who made their home in Switzerland. The stamps have been designed by the well-known painter and graphic artist Hans Erni of Lucerne, who will be 70 this year. Details are as follows:

20 Rp. RAINER MARIA RILKE. German poet, son of an Austrian railway official, born in Prague on 4 December 1875; intended for an officer's career the over-sensitive youth left the military school at St. Polten in 1892 and completed his secondary education under private tuition before going on to Prague University to study art and literature. Periods of free-lance writing in Munich and Paris were interrupted by travels in Italy, Russia and the far North, as well as Spain, N. Africa and Egypt. After World War I Rilke went to live at Muzot Castle near Sierre in Ct. Valais. There he completed his rich and varied works in prose and lyric poetry which include "Das Stundenbuch" (Poems from the Book of Hours), "Neue Gedichte" (New Poems), the "Duineser Elegien" (Duinese Elegies) and the novel "Malte Launds Brugge". Rilke died at Territet near Montreux on 29 December 1926, aged only 51, and was buried in the churchyard of Raron (Valais).

40 Rp. PAUL KLEE. Swiss painter, graphic artist and art theorist, born at Münchenbuchsee, near Bern, on 18 December 1879. Went to school in Bern, where the family moved shortly after his birth. After leaving school the 19 year old went to Munich to study painting. He returned to Switzerland for a time, having travelled in Italy, and in 1906, now married, he settled in Munich. His acquaintance with fellow painters such as Kandinsky, association with the 'Blaue Reiter' group and contemporary French art had a lasting effect on him. On a visit to Tunisia (1914) he received further decisive impulses; exhibitions in Europe and overseas established his reputation, and world famous by the 1920s Klee taught at the 'Bauhaus' (1921-31) and at the Düsseldorf Academy (1931-33), but the Nazis, who thought his work decadent, forced him to resign. His last ten years were spent in Switzerland where the first symptoms of illness became apparent. He died in Locarno on 29 June 1941 leaving a rich legacy of nearly 9,000 paintings and drawings.



Rainer Maria Rilke  
1875-1926



Paul Klee  
1879-1940



Hermann Hesse  
1877-1962



Thomas Mann  
1875-1955

70 Rp. HERMANN HESSE. German-Swiss novelist and poet, the son of a Protestant mission, was born at Calw, Württemberg on 2 July 1877. Intended for the church the 14 year old boy ran away from the Protestant seminary at Maulbronn because he wanted to be a poet or nothing at all. After a year's