

HELVETIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY NEWS LETTER

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Hon. Treasurer:

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London E.17 4JH
Tel. 01 527 6670

Hon Secretary

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Netherwood Street
London NW6 2HD

Acting Ex.Pkt.Sec.

Mr. E. Lienhard
6, Essex Avenue,
Chelmsford, Essex.
CM1 4AQ
Tel. 0245 63613

Hon. Editor:

Mrs. E. J. RAMSLEY, 3 Cranford Gdns, Victoria Drive,
BOGNOR REGIS W. Sussex PO21 2EL

No. 1

JANUARY 1982

36TH YEAR

CONCERNING EXHIBITIONS EXHIBITORS AND JURORS.

By Dr. Marcel Kottelat

Part II

Continuing my comments on the qualities required in the person of a juror there also arises the question of whether a professional philatelist should be part of a jury or not. In Great Britain for example no dealers were admitted in a jury for decades. The opinion was held that dealers were more sharply exposed to the risk of subjective evaluation than were collectors. It is absolutely plausible for a dealer-juror to be willing to judge his exhibitor-clients more kindly than those who have not availed themselves of his services. Apart from this emotional risk may I also proclaim that certain collectors might be able to exert pressure on their supplier-jurors. Therefore I am of the opinion that where the quality of the available collector-jurors makes the appointment of dealer-jurors superfluous, they should fundamentally not be considered.

In the last few years though an inverted trend is to be observed, and even the British have broken away from their restrictive tradition on the selection of jurors. For this there is really a quite simple explanation, namely the lack of suitable people from the field of collectors.

The age of the general collector has gone by. Ferrari, Hind, Caspary, Burrus and others belong to the past. Earlier one only qualified as a collector if one collected the whole world; today there are specialists who have taken into their collecting field only one issue or one single stamp. So collectors turn ever more into specialists who certainly show unbeatable knowledge in their own field but are unsuitable as jurors because of their one-sidedness. Even if it cannot be argued that the professional philatelist is also affected by the increasing specialisation, yet because of his activity, as a rule he remains more broad-based. Only in this can be found the explanation that dealers are called upon more and more as time goes on. Quite simply one needs them.

Also in the assembly of a jury really long discussions should be avoided. It is reasonable that every jury should be aligned on the principle of universality. But here also arises the realisation of great difficulties in reasonable postulates for and against, because the people selected for it are often lacking or they have to be brought from far away. The growing consideration of professional philatelists is certainly one result of this ever-increasing lack.

Since the "universality" of a jury, so the ability to be as just as possible on all exhibited material, achieves such utmost importance, may I dwell on this question a bit longer. It would really be ideal if a jury were to be assembled as a result of the issued announcement. But such a situation is, for reasons of organisation, scarcely achievable. In addition it is well enough known that certain collectors make their participation dependent on the presence

of specific jurors. If the announcement must take place before the assembly of the jury, this would in all probability have a negative effect on the number of registrations.

A simple method of imposing the "universality" of a jury lies in the appointment of advisers to the jury. This assistance is not new, but in my opinion increasing use should be made of it. I am also of the opinion that no jury would lose a jewel from its crown if it called in competent people AD HOC for guidance in specialised areas.

I would promise even more from the following action: Instead of the previous practice of dividing all jurors into groups, each of which has to judge one specific section, of the widely experienced people one special group should be made up whose sole function would be to take over the so-called "horizontal comparison" (see plan). It is reasonable to say that comparison between somewhat similar type objects within one group (vertical comparison) presents no great problem. It is however much more difficult to determine whether the corresponding grading of medals, as they have been determined for various unrelated groups, will stand up to objective examination. The larger part of the miscarriages of justice at exhibitions arise through inadequate horizontal comparison. To cure this must be the task of the related special group.

SCHEMATIC DISPLAY OF THE VERTICAL AND HORIZONTAL COMPARISONS

Classes of Medals	Group I Old Germany	Group II Old Italy	Group III Scandinavia	Group IV E. Europe	Etc. etc.	
Large Gold	→	↔	↔	↔	↔	Horizontal Comparison
Gold	→	↔	↔	↔	↔	-do-
Vermeil	→	↔	↔	↔	↔	-do-
Silver	→	↔	↔	↔	↔	-do-
Bronze	→	↔	↔	↔	↔	-do-
	↑ Vertical Comparison	↑ Vertical Comparison	Vertical Comparison	Vertical Comparison	Vert. Comp.	

The creation of such a special group would however have the result of making the work of the jury somewhat harder and longer. But since it is for juries, owing to the rising flood of social obligations (receptions, cocktails, outings, shows, etc.) ever more difficult to carry out their work in peace, one can hardly show how an additional expenditure of energy can still be added.

If so far we have been dealing with the matter of the judges and their best possible selection, now let us return to the second problem, namely the rules of the game.

The chief rule for every correct assessment, to which in a wider sense the judging of collections at exhibitions belongs, is the establishing of objective truth. One might again object that this is just a truism.

A priori one should actually assume that every juror should be unaffected by personal, national, political, religious or ideological influences and feelings in the execution of his office. Unfortunately it is not always like that. It seems to me that the basis for this can be divided into three categories of nationalistic, emotional and social nature.

It is no accident if I name nationalism as being in the first place as a disturbing influence because of its subjective factor on the work of jurors. Thus I detect in it the chief responsible factor for the countless differences of opinion in international juries.

(To be continued)

FEBRUARY MEETINGS

NORTHERN GROUP: Saturday, 6th February ... MEMBERS' COMPETITION

LONDON GROUP: Wednesday, 10th February: ... V.I.P. NIGHT

when, barring anything unforeseen, we will have the pleasure of welcoming DR. F. GANZ as Guest Speaker

IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS & LETTERS ON SWISS DATE-STAMPS

By M. Rutherford

Part V.

In Table II a number of different aspects are shown, the HQ town of each PK, and postmarks showing in the lower part the cantons of that PK, also for each language of the cantons concerned. This has been a difficult exercise, to find reproducible postmarks of the correct type, not knowing if all even existed. Only Nidwalden does not show the PK No., and I doubt of there is one with 'Baselstadt', even though there are 3 villages on the right hand bank of the Rhine. In PK V is shown 'Laufen' (and in brackets 'Laufon' the name in French) as I could not find a postmark with 'Berner Jura' in the lower part to represent this part of Bern in PK V. Nor could I find AI, only Appenzell. There are also others with the canton shown behind the town name, often abbreviated, but none used here. One can also see fairly accurately which ones were re-engraved to show the PK No., so that one has a representative cross section of the various types of date stamps in use before the new standardised type with postcode number (PLZ) was introduced in 1965 or so. (See Dr. Ganz's articles of 1971.)

If anyone has better examples I would be keen to have them on loan, or good photocopies would be welcome, as these 38 cancellations show the basic layout of the cantons and their languages in the postal region grouping. Any 'strange' ones Members might have I would also be glad to explain, if I can.

In "Tell" Dr. Ganz recently mentioned that from about 1913 to 1924 the cantonal designation "Tessin" was used instead of "Ticino", see Fig. 26, reduced. Also that around 1875 instead of "Bellinzona" the German name "Bellenz" was used (Fig. 27).

Another cds which could puzzle most people is shown in Fig. 28, whereby "Jura" is a suburb of the city of Fribourg, and not a cantonal designation. These are always shown today by 2 letters immediately following the place-name at the top of the postmark. As an example I have taken the first day strike of one of the 4 places which changed the previous 'BE' to 'JU' on the creation of the new canton (Fig. 29).



Fig. 26



Fig. 27

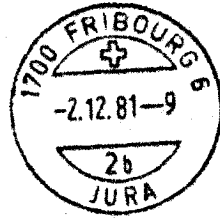


Fig. 28

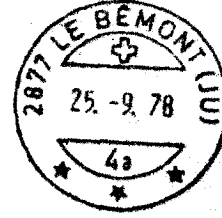
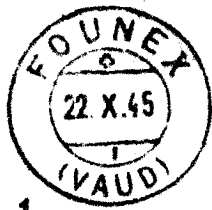
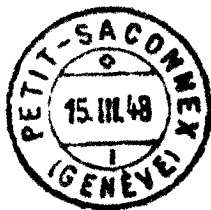


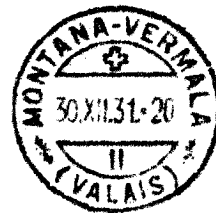
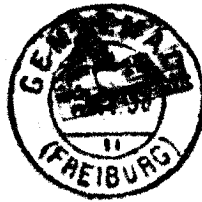
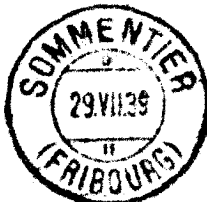
Fig. 29

TABLE II

PK I GENEVE



PK II LAUSANNE



French

German

French

German

PK III BERN



PK IV NEUCHÂTEL



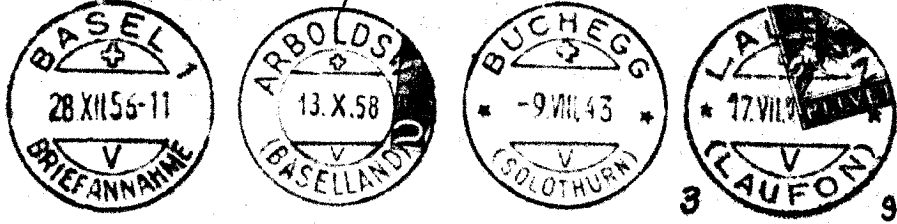
Neuchâtel

2

2

French

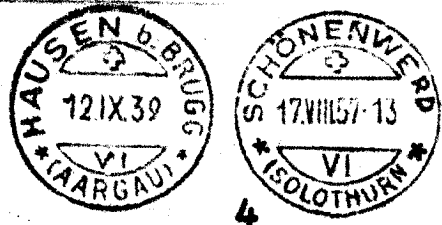
PK V BASEL



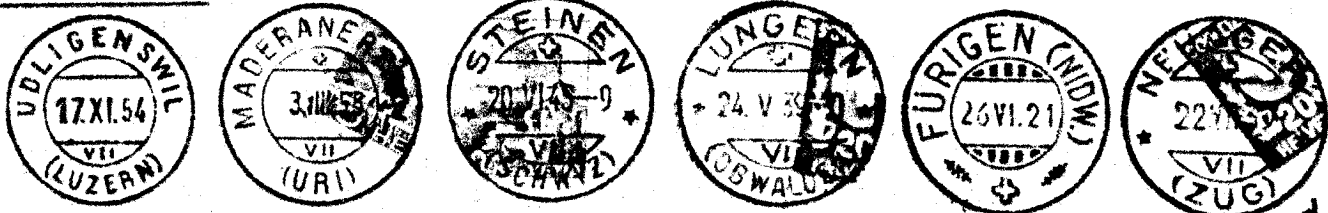
Basel-Stadt

Berner-Jura

PK VI AARAU



PK VII LUZERN



Schwyz

Obwalden

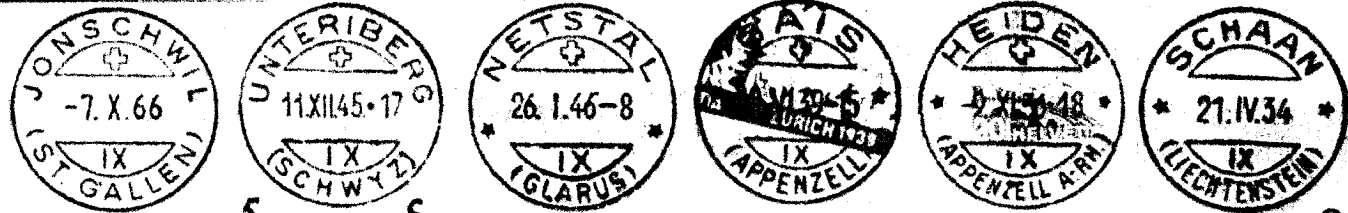
Nidwalden

PK VIII ZÜRICH



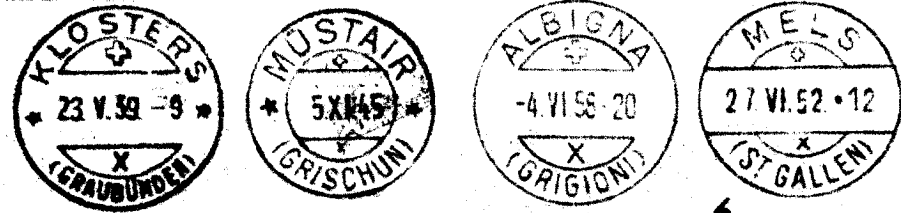
Schaffhausen

PK IX ST. GALLEN



Appenzell I.R.

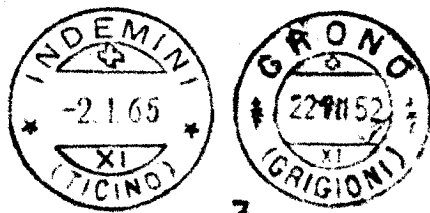
PK X CHUR



Romansch

Italian

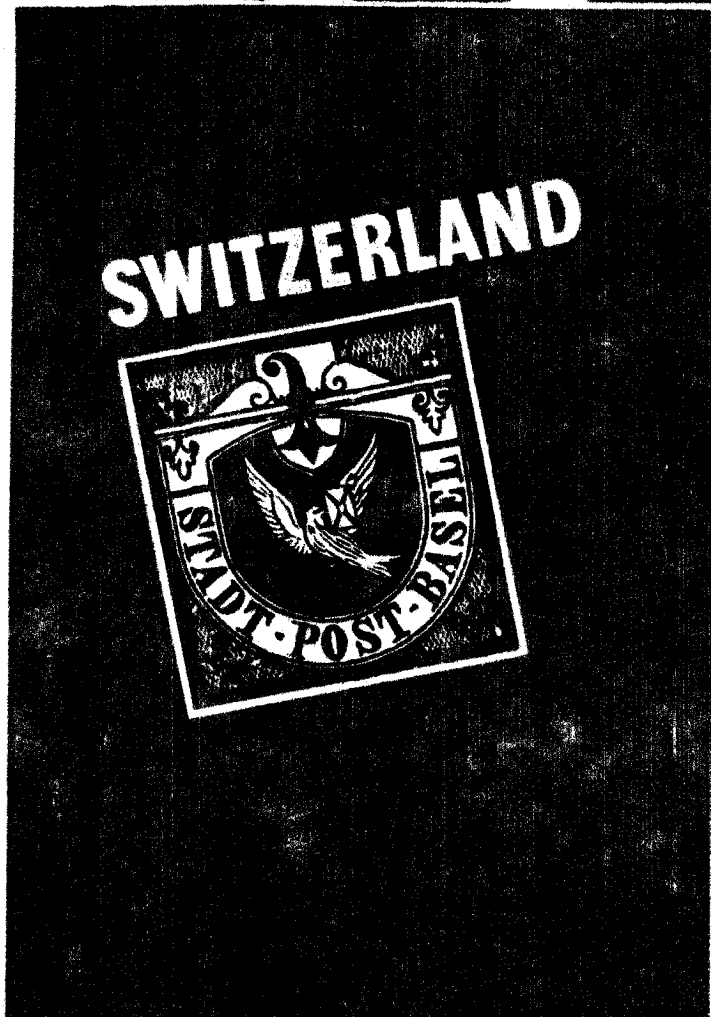
PK XI BELLINZONA



Italian

Note: The numbers 1 - 7 shown refer to those parts of PK borders which are not cantonal (see Part II), and the letters a - g refer to the changes made to the original delineations (see Part III).

(To be continued)



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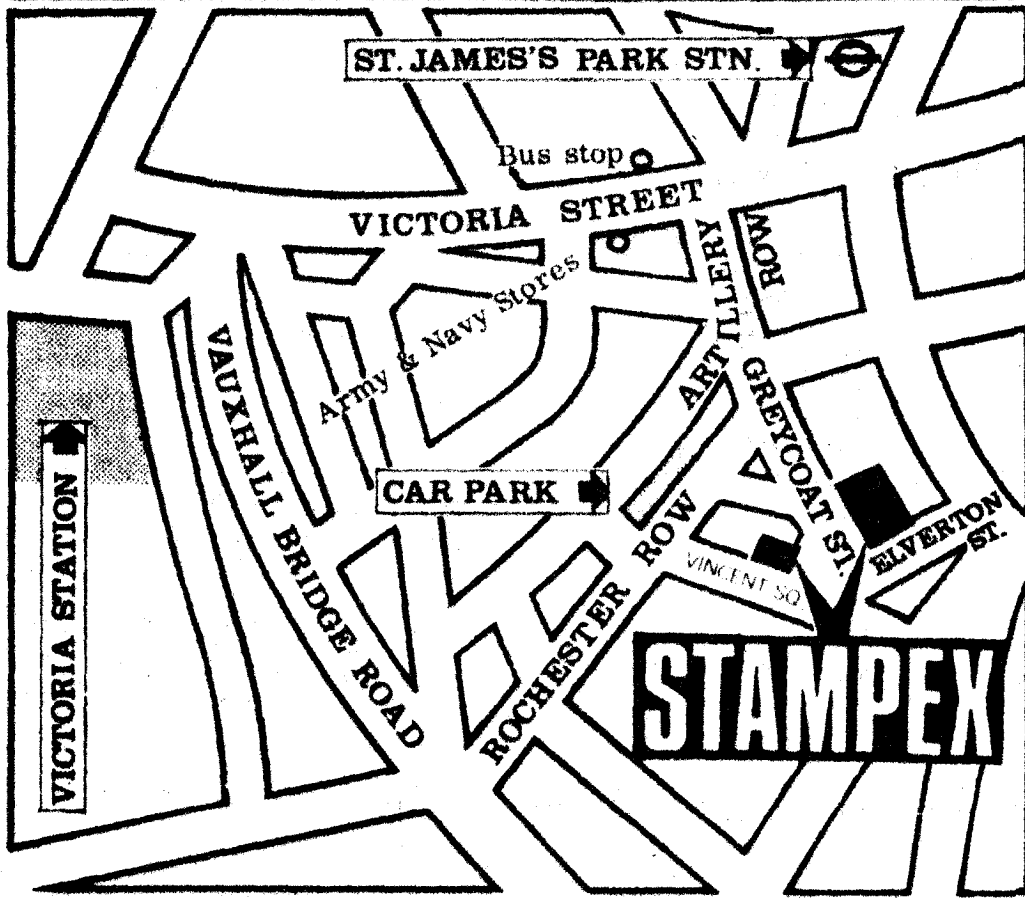
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I must urge every member to assist me by dealing promptly and carefully with the Packets to avoid delays and mistakes. Please post the Advice Note and certificate of posting PROMPTLY.

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E. LIENHARD

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.... that the latest Zumstein Specialised at SFr.42.50, contains a fabulous amount of essential information for all collectors. A welcome addition is 10 pages of tarif details, altho foreign registered seems to have been left out. that 20 pages are devoted to Coil stamps, and also 2 pages to the vending machine labels.

.... that the set of the first 4 such labels, A1 to A4, is catalogued at SFr.110 (mint or used, irrespective of values shown), but Groth finds that SFr.150.- is correct, but he will sell a set of 4 FDGs at SFr.195.- where Zumstein says 400.-. A fact is that Groth is buying (until stocked up) a set of 4 labels at 100.- each.

.... that the new types 4 and 5 (see HNL of Oct. '81) of these labels have settled down - I think - to make the type 5 the rarest, as the paper was changed almost all over before the ink was changed, so that SFr.4.- is being asked by Groth. What price a genuine cover?

.... that many places with a common postcode (PLZ) are now getting their own individual number.

.... that the Swiss graphic artist Rene Baur of Geneva designed the Ettore Bugatti stamp of Monaco (5.11.81). He also runs a philatelic business, is a builder of model cars and a specialist for the stamps of Monaco.

.... that the small sheet of 10 x 40c. stamps for the 100 Years of the Gotthard railway tunnel, to be issued on 18.2.82, are arranged in a peculiar way, in 3 columns. On the left 5 stamps showing a steam loco, in the middle a valueless vignette showing a scene from the Airolo monument, while the righthand column has 5 stamps showing a modern electric loco. Single stamps will be sold over the counter.

.... that the answer to Question No.111 is that a girl of Vaud is shown on the E.J. 10c. of 1916 and 5c. of 1933. The typical hat with its little knob at the top is also shown on the 10c. special stamp of 1935.

.... that Question No. 112 is: Which Swiss stamp shows a mended pot?

M. RUTHERFOORD

M. GROUT Hon. Sec. **R. A. Hoyle**,
6, Limes Ave, Huddersfield Rd, Halifax

At the December meeting in Leeds Mr. Davis from Hull gave a most colourful and interesting display of the definitive issues since 1949 which included mint and used sets, blocks of four, coils, booklets, shade varieties, tête-bêche strips and a large selection of maximum cards, with many sheets being illustrated by post-cards and pictures. Of particular interest were covers showing the changes in postal rates, both internal and overseas since 1949.

Other shorter displays were given by Mr. Eastwood - mint and used sets; Mr. Hoyle - the 20c. Grimsel; and Mr. Vaughan - photographs of scenes depicted on the architectural monument series and Mr. Hope who showed a large selection of covers with the various postal rates.

R.A.H.

PUBLICITY ALOGANS CANCELS

Two recently issued alogans are for:

ROHM - Erholung in der Natur and
SPREITENBACH in use from 4th and 18th January respectively. The latter's publicity cancel K.622 will be withdrawn from 16 January.

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Thank you Members

The Editor and the Treasurer wish to thank the many members who were kind enough to send cards and good wishes for Christmas. They are greatly appreciated and will ensure the continuity of our endeavours to maintain the progress of the Society.

To all our Best Wishes for 1982.

E. J. Rawnsley
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