

HELVETIA
PHILATELIC SOCIETY
NEWS LETTER

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No. 1

JANUARY 1983

37TH YEAR

FIRST NEW ISSUES OF 1983

To be issued on 17th February will be three more values in the 'Zodiac' definitives, four 'Publicity' stamps - Series I - and a most attractive postcard for the International Thematic Stamp Exhibition 'TEMBAL' to be held in Basle from 21 - 29 May. Details are:

1. DEFINITIVES - SIGNS OF THE ZODIAC

Fr.1.70 CANCER - the Crab - and the WETTERHORN. Cancer, the first astrological sign of the summer months, and the Wetterhorn, a well-known peak in the Canton of Bern, seem to beckon one towards the sunshine of the high Alps. Here the mountain is seen from Hasliberg, above Meiringen.

Fr.1.80 LEO - the Lion - and the AREUSE GORGE. Leo, king of the beasts, and the wild Areuse gorge in the Jura mountains of Neuchatel, are not an inappropriate combination, for each in its way occupies a dominating position.

Fr.2.00 VIRGO - the Maiden - and the ALETSCHE GLACIER. The entrancing view over the Aletsch glacier from the Aletschwald in the Valais Alps - a scene of virginal purity, and thus a fitting illustration for Virgo, the late summer sign.



Values & Designs: Fr.1.70, Fr.1.80 and Fr.2.00 - as above

Designers: Eugen & Max Lenz, Zürich

Engravers: Fr.1.70 & Fr.1.80 - Karl Bickel Jr., Walenstadt
Fr.2.00 - Pierre Schopfer, La Chaux (Cossonay)

Printing: Rotary line engraving by the PTT Stamp Printing Works, Bern

Paper: White with luminous substance, without coloured fibres

Form Cylinder: 4 sheets (1 - 4) of 50 stamps each. Stamp size: 24 x 29 mm.

Special covers: 4 specially designed covers, each with a different vignette will be available, one for each value and one for the set. Also collection sheets and folders.

(Continued)

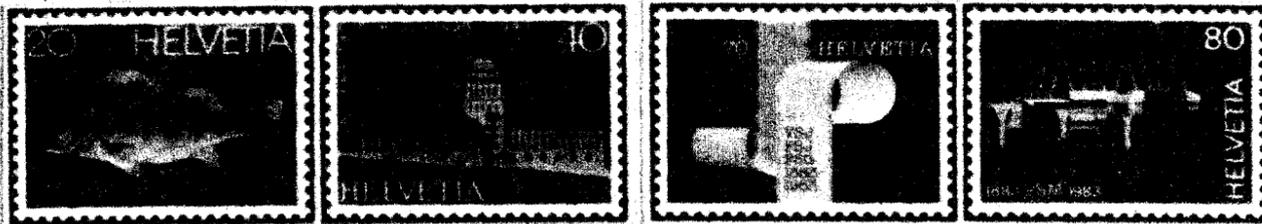
2. PUBLICITY ISSUE - Series I.

20c. CENTENARY OF THE SWISS FISHING & PISCICULTURE FEDERATION. This Association was founded in 1883 in Zürich as an informal grouping of scientists, anglers and naturalists. It was not long, however, before the vital need to protect rivers and lakes became apparent. In 1958, upon its 75th anniversary, the Association was formally reconstructed as a federation. Based in Meggen, Ct. Lucerne, the Federation to-day constitutes an umbrella organisation with over 50,000 members - anglers, professional fishermen and fish farmers - grouped into cantonal federations and societies. Their common aim, then as now, is to keep Switzerland's lakes and rivers clean and to promote fishing and pisciculture. The stamp design shows a perch, one of Switzerland's popular game and food fish. As with other inhabitants of lakes and rivers, the perch depends on unpolluted water for its survival.

40c. 150th ANNIVERSARY OF ZÜRICH UNIVERSITY. The University was founded on 29th April 1833. Initially housed in the Fraumünster Abbey, it later moved to the Hinteramt in Augustiner-gasse - part of the former Augustinian monastery, in 1864 it moved again to new - albeit still provisional - accommodation in the south wing of the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH), and finally in 1914 it was given its own building, designed by Curjel and Moser in the South German 'Jugendstil'. Despite renovations and extensions this building still largely retains its original striking appearance. Commencing with a total of 159 students in 1833, it grew to 436 after 50 years, and to 2033 at the time of its centenary celebrations. To-day the student population numbers around 15,000, the largest of any Swiss university. The University building as shown on the stamp is one of the city's familiar landmarks.

70c. CENTENARY OF THE SWISS JOURNALISTS' FEDERATION. This federation, known until 1976 as the Swiss Press Association, is one of Switzerland's oldest professional organizations. It encompasses 16 affiliated sections and groups with a total of 3000 members. This cantonal and regional structure keeps the Federation's members informed about technological developments affecting the media, in the past few years, with electronic media growing in importance, the need to adapt has taken on a new significance. In the stamp the tape symbolizes the tools of the trade - teleprinters are often used by journalists for receiving and transmitting reports. The loop represents the processing of the information by the editors before it is made public through the various media. The letters J and P formed by the tape stand for Journalism and Press.

80c. CENTENARY OF THE SWISS MACHINE MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION. This Association, now celebrating its centenary, has almost 500 member firms with more than 200,000 employees between them. The Association's continuous involvement in economic and trade affairs, and particularly in export problems, is attributable to the fact that the machine-building and metals industries account for over 45 per cent of Switzerland's exports. In its centenary motto "People and electronics - with people, for people", the Association seeks to stress that the fact of technological progress does not entail man's being pushed into the background. The stamp shows a micrometer, representative of the precision instruments used in the machine-building industry. Also visible is a cycloidal computer drawing which might be seen as pointing to the assured future of Swiss precision engineering.



<u>Values and</u>	20c., 40c., 70c. and 80c. -	Designs as described above.
<u>Designs.</u>	20c. Ernst Witzig, Pully.	40c. Eugen & Max Lens, Zürich
<u>Designers:</u>	70c. Roland Hirter, Bern.	80c. Roger-Virgile Geiser, Lausanne.

(Cont. overload, Col. 1)

BELGICA '82 By F. PICKARD

When originally conceived there must have been a fair degree of scepticism about an international exhibition devoted entirely to postal history, postal stationery and aerophilately.

Dr. Jacques Stibbe, President of the Belgian Federation, is on record as saying the concept provided a splendid opportunity for those who hesitate about displaying at exhibitions. By taking out the stamps it really gave the specialist the chance to compete on more equal terms. How right he was. Entires comprised 1200 frames of postal history, 700 frames for aerophilately and 400 frames for postal stationery.

It gave us a magnificent opportunity to see exhibits, not only of high standard and quality, but in depth.

For Swiss interests the attention focussed on postal history and the strong impact of the display by Paul Heiniger of the Canton of Berne. Instead of the usual standard page size he had mounted onto a card equal in size to 4 of our normal pages. This gave a splendid chance to introduce better layout, coupled with not having to worry too much about the size of items upsetting the balance of the page. I wonder how this would go down with British judges!

Postmarks of Glarus by Paul Gleser were of magnificent quality. The cancels must have taken years to find; and yet you felt each one was sufficiently different in design so as to enhance the item. There was a lovely cover with mixed franking: a Fr.1.- Strubel, with 10c. + 3c. perfed Sitting Helvetia.

Tax marks were seen in great number amongst the pages shown by Kurt Pahls, Herbert Getzlaff and Jaqueline Niquille.

There were two lovely exhibits among the aero displays. Most of you will recall the exciting discovery in 1980 or thereabouts of proofs of the propellor overprint on Tell Boy 2½ & 3c. stamps. Since only 34 copies are known it was exciting to see one page with both red and black overprints. And what about se-tenant pairs with the overprint on one stamp only!

Among air letters were a number of items of 1920. These used the propellor overprint stamp for postage coupled with sets of Pro Juventute stamps of 1920. Since PJ stamps were only accepted as postage stamps by a few countries at that time, in truth they must almost fall into the categories of vignettes ... or do they?

Sad to relate there were no postal stationery exhibits of Switzerland. But among the postal history pages there was a delightful piece, a No. 1 card with the 1871 Gratis label in lilac, used by the interned French Army at that time.

The one item that will remain with me as a memory of the 1982 'Belgica' must be the entire from Neuchatel dated 4 Nov. 1550!!

NEW ISSUE NEWS (Cont.)

Publicity stamp details - cont.

Printing: Rotogravure by Courvoisier SA

Paper: White with luminous substance

Size: 36 x 26 mm.

Form cylinder: 2 sheets each of 50

Covers: Special covers with appropriate vignettes will be available, one for each value and one for the set. Folders and collection sheets will also be issued.

C. PICTURE POSTCARD FOR 'TEMBAL'

Designed by the Bernese graphic artist Klaus Oberli, to commemorate the International Thematic Exhibition to be held in the Basle Muster Messe (Exhibition Halls) from 21-29 May.

The picture side of the card is a reproduction of a copperplate engraving

by Matthäus Merian the Elder (1593 - 1650), showing a view of Basle Cathedral with the terrace of the 'Pfalz' (whose name recalls the former bishop's palace) with the Rhine in the background. On the address side the 40c. imprinted stamp is based on a late 15th century forest warden's coat-of-arms from Basle.

The card, which will cost 70c., is to be in offset multicolour printing (with luminescent band) by the PTT Stamp Printing Works in Bern.

CONGRATULATIONS

Our member, Mr. I. Tillen, visited the Birmingham P.S. in December on their Competition Night and won the 'GRINDALL CUP' with a 12 page entry on 'HOTEL POST STAMPS'.

He last won this Trophy in 1966 for a Postal History entry.

SWISS STAMPS — for the — Discriminating Collector

STAMPEX 1983

Visit us at STAND 42 where you will see an unrivalled display of fine Swiss material from Classics to Modern. Please come and discuss your Swiss Collection and needs with our expert staff.

Should you make purchases at our stand the cost of your entrance ticket will be refunded as follows: First Day of the Exhibition on minimum purchases of £20 - on all other days on minimum purchases of £10.

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In Being Able To Supply
Items Other Dealers Cannot.*

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sale at £4.95 post free
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copy of our magazine THE
SWISS PHILATELIST.



The Amateur Collector Ltd

"The Swiss Specialists"

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SUPER STAMPEX 1983
FEBRUARY 15-FEBRUARY 20
 BRITAINS NATIONAL STAMP EXHIBITION

BOTH HALLS *Royal Horticultural Society*
 Greycoat Street and Vincent Square London SW1

Tuesday	1 pm to 8 pm
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday	10 am to 8 pm
Saturday, Sunday	10 am to 8 pm

First day all £1.50. other days £1.00 (after 4 pm 50p)
 Children and O.A.P's 50p (after 4 pm 25p)

IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS & LETTERS ON SWISS DATE-STAMPS

By M. Rutherford

Part XIII

We now move into the third part of our study, i.e. the Postcode, always ahead of the town name in to-day's postmarks. This is 'Postleitzahl' in German, but I will use PLZ to simplify matters, and not 'Postal Direction Number' which is rather cumbersome, although the correct translation.

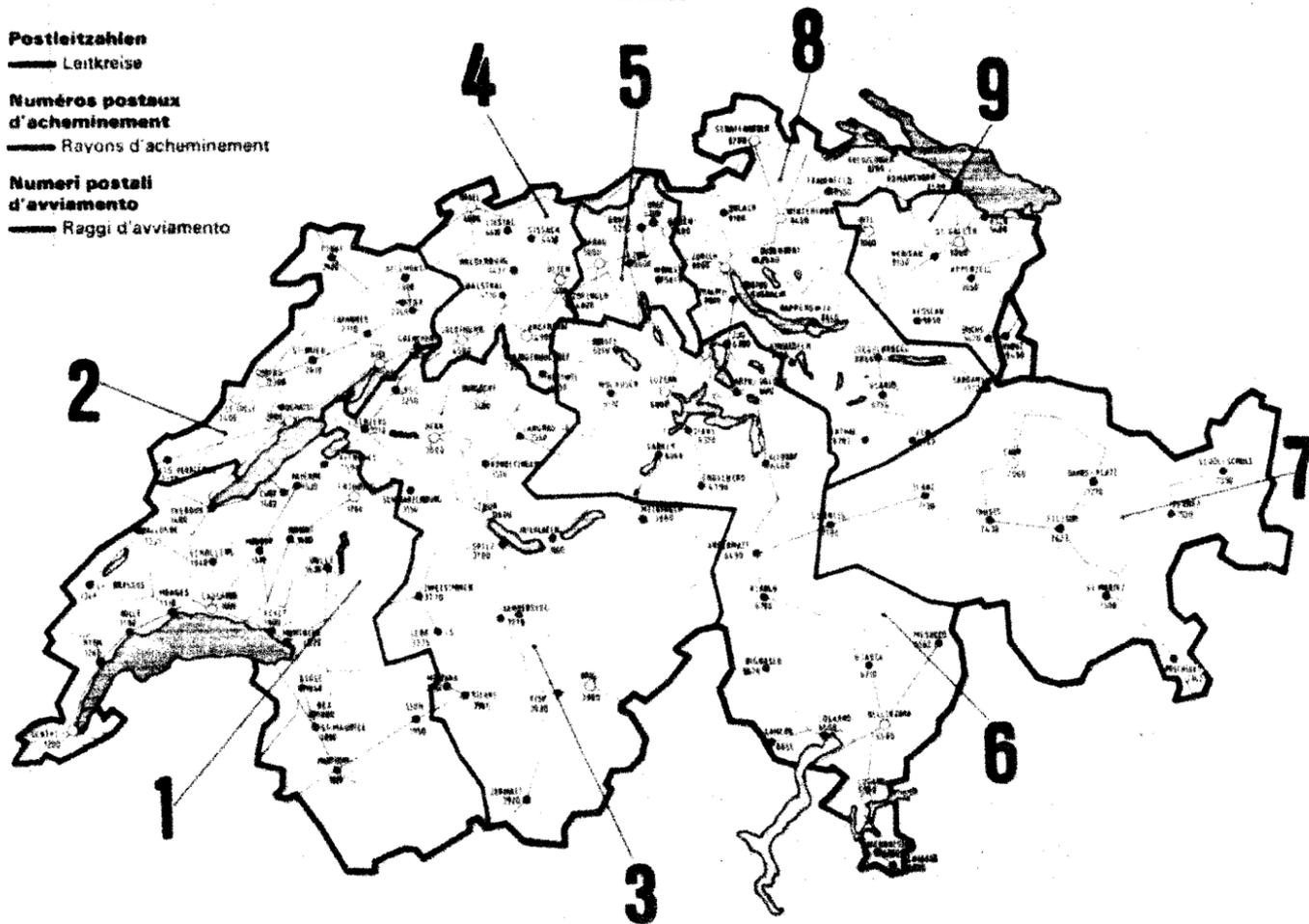
Postcodes, that is something shorter than the town name, which can be used to help sort the mail, was one of Sir Rowland Hill's ideas, but it took about 20 years before he could actually introduce it for London in 1857. He used a suffix N, SW etc., to indicate which part of London the letter was destined for, thereby the sorters did not have to know which sub-office would handle the mail for a particular street. In March 1917 the 8 main districts of London were further divided up and each sub-office was given a number WC2, SW4 etc., to allow sorters with little knowledge of London to sort the mail quickly and accurately.

Other than a similar system for Birmingham, Manchester etc., and other places in the world, nothing further was done until the Germans in about 1943, for the same reasons, introduced a numerical zoning, 1a, 22b etc., where not even the name of the town had to be recognised, as the number gave the main route for sorting by totally unskilled persons.

This system persisted until the early 1960s when the Germans introduced a system using 1 digit for the largest cities, 2, 3 and 4 digits for the smaller places. (The 1 for Berlin has now become 1000, etc.). Switzerland followed suit in 1963/64 with a 4 digit system, starting with 1000 and going up to 9999. Every place, even the smallest PO, had a number. Sometimes this was the same for a group of villages, but these are now being changed wherever possible to individual numbers. Sorting is now entirely by numbers, not only for letters, but also for all packets and parcels, mail bags etc.

Naturally the postcode system is only of use if the sender puts it on each letter and also in his address. Correct publicity is, therefore, vital. The Swiss PTT sent a booklet to all households, explaining the system and containing a list of all places with the new number. They also threatened, nicely, that letters and parcels without the number would not be delivered as quickly as those with the correct number. This was enough, within a few months 90% of letters were correctly addressed, and is now almost 100%.

MAP 2.



As can be seen on MAP 2, the country is divided up into 9 zones, roughly the same as the 11 Postal Regions of 1849. The 'roughly' is the catch, and this is what we will look at in detail, for which you should study the first parts of this series to understand how the PK regions were laid out, and how the compromises were dictated by geography, to modify the cantonal political boundaries. As 9 goes into 22 (the number of Cantons) even less than does 11, the differences are greater, and in 1963 the individual political feeling of each Canton was less than in 1849, more postally directed decisions could be taken without a riot.

The PTT decided that, following the German system, all postmarks should have the PLZ, to indicate that they were serious about it, and to be used if necessary by the recipient on his reply envelope. The very first such postmark was a local Publicity cds (Fig. 69) for Bütschwil, dated 28.11.63, and was the first of 18 such cds with the PLZ below the name. There were also 5 machine town dies with the PLZ at the bottom, but generally the tests showed that it was better to put the number ahead of the place name, just as it should be on an address, being more prominent in that position. This meant that thousands of cancellers had to be newly made in 1964/65/66.



Fig. 70 shows the last place to get a new canceller for a very peculiar reason. This village, "Dürngraben" had been

Fig. 69

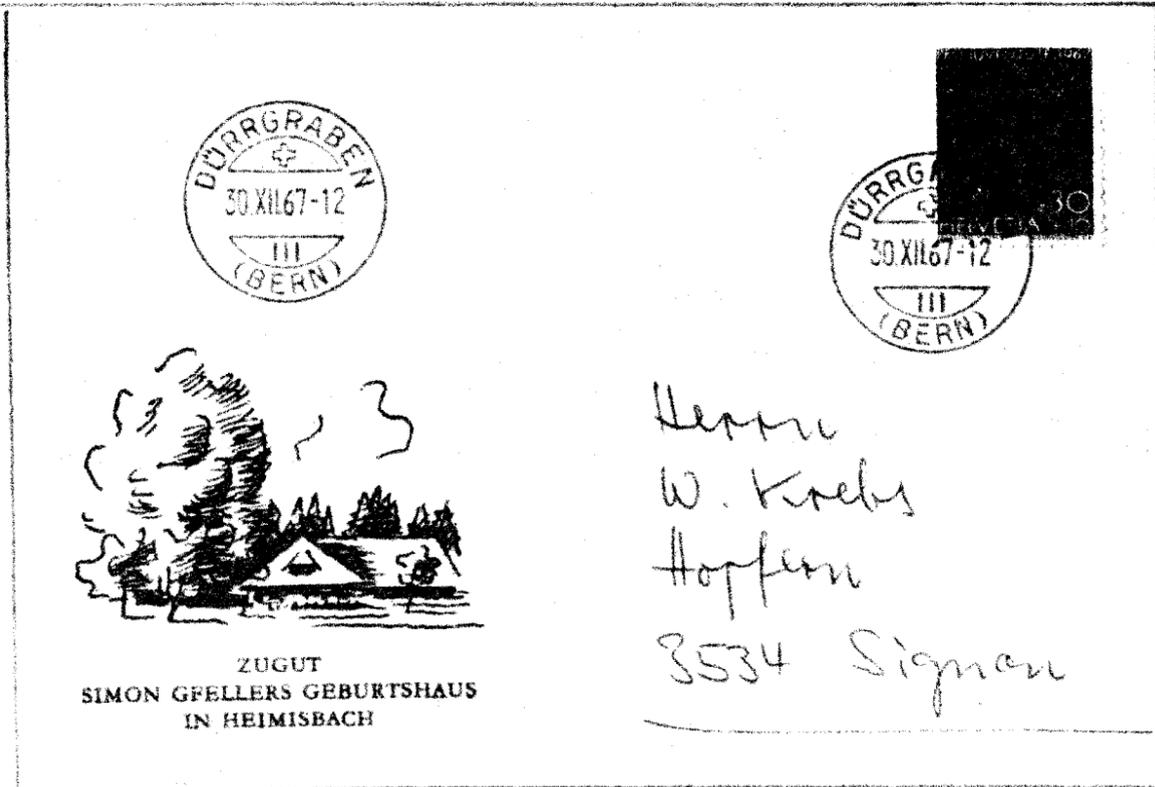


Fig. 70

the source village for a book written by Simon Gfeller, about a fictional village he called "Heimisbach", in the 19th century. In the 1960s it was decided by the local inhabitants to rename their village. But this took time politically, and therefore, the new canceller with the name 3453 Heimisbach could not be issued until well after all its neighbours.

(To be continued)

A NEW YEAR will this lead to new interests ?

There are many subjects in Swiss Philately that lend themselves to study, whether it be postmarks, interesting covers or thematics.

I will be happy to help you.

If, however, you keep to the more conventional aspects of collecting, there again I am able to supply material on Approval or against Wants Lists.

J. S. ARMSTRONG

485, Marine road, MORECAMBE,
Lancs LA4 6AP.

OBITUARIES

It is with the deepest regret that we have to announce the deaths of several members in recent weeks.

MISS N. CHAPBURN of Bradford. A member since 1962 and recently elected Chairman of the N.Group, who will be sadly missed.

MR. A. E. VOIZEY of Margate, member since 1965.

MR. P.A.G. MILLIGAN of Folkestone - member since 1966

MR. A. WALKER of Edinburgh - member since 1969

MR. P. G. CUTHBERT of S.Africa - member since 1960

MR. R. FIELDEN - who joined only last year

From Mr. Rutherford, a personal friend of Mr. Walker, we learn that during World War II he was one of the pilots who at great risk shot down so many of the VI Flying Bombs, operating from a temporary airfield near Dungeness.

APPRECIATIVE THANKS and sincere good wishes to the many members who were kind enough to send Christmas Greetings, which are heartily reciprocated.

G. W. HUBBARD L. E. STILES
E. J. RAWNSLEY

FROM THE SECRETARY - An amendment to the Minutes of the AGM is necessary in that Mrs. A. Lee was referred to as a 'Member' of the Royal - she is, of course, a 'Fellow'. My sincere apologies for this error.

G. W. HUBBARD

FROM THE TREASURER - May I remind you that subscription renewals became due on 1st January 1983. They are coming in very well but there is still some way to go, so please dig out those reminder slips and let me have them, with your cheques, as soon as possible. £4 - U.K. & Europe; £5 - overseas by airmail.

Two points:

1. Please do not mention the name of the Society when addressing envelopes to me (or to other Officers).
2. My postcode is E17 4JH - J H - for Harry .. not J M for Mother!

L. E. STILES

DID YOU KNOW (Cont. from Col. 2)

.... that Question No. 124 is: from a recent book by Dr. Schweighart of Austria on all the stamps of the world illustrating ploughs, of the 273 stamps shown which came from Switzerland?

M. RUTHERFOORD

DID YOU KNOW?

.... that the 3 'figure only' coil stamps, 2.Nos. 483,484,485 of 1970 are now being made on the new SSR 3 printing machine in the PTT's own works in Bern, as the original recess machine of 1936, the Goebels, or SSR 1, is now definitely pensioned.

.... that this means the number on reverse of every 5th stamp is no longer upside down. Before this was generally known some smart dealers were selling such 'errors' for SFr.25.- a piece. So far only the 20c. has been seen, but the 10c. and 50c. will apparently soon follow.

.... that because the new cylinder diameter is larger it seems that now every 16th stamp has perhaps a narrow or wide 'correction' tooth, instead of each 12th as before, but I have not yet seen this myself.

.... that the next NABA will be held in Zürich from 22 June to 1 July 1984, just 50 years after the first one. National Exhibitions are every 6 years in Switzerland.

.... this year the 'TEMBAL' for Thematic collections will be held in Basle from 21 - 29 May, another date not to miss.

.... that to send a wall calendar from Switzerland to UK, 400g., without commercial advertising, cost 38p, but the same calendar sent from UK to UK addresses costs 50p, but has less chance of damage.

.... that Fred Dolder is now 85 and still flying gas balloons all over the place, 570 so far, mainly today to raise money for children's charities, by taking special covers along for philatelists and others.

.... that Liechtenstein now gets 12% of its state income from philatelists via its sale of stamps. Which countries are now trying to do the same?

.... that I was not quite correct last month in saying that there are now 6 Philatelic Counters in Ct. Zürich, as noted in the press on the occasion of the opening of such a counter in Winterthur, as it should have said "in the Postal Region VIII Zürich". The 6 are (in addition to the main office in the Fraumünsterpost, 8022 Zürich), Zürich Airport, Zürich Main Station, Glatt Zentrum (Shopping Centre), Winterthur Main PO, Schaffhausen Main PO, and in Ct. Thurgau Kreuzlingen Main PO.

.... that the answer to Question No. 123 is that roses are shown on Swiss stamps on the PJ of 1964, and 4 times on PJ issues of 1972, 77 & 82; in 1971 the 20c. commemorative showed a stylised rose as well, making 14 in all.

Cont. in Col. 1