The Swiss Postal Administration found very early that philately could be an interesting branch of postal work, not only to publicise the country but also as a highly profitable revenue earner. The Directorate of Postal Services decided, in 1907, to allow the sale of postage stamps for collection purposes (PTT Gazette No.18). Again in 1914 all the stamps obtainable were listed in para. 23 of the Gazette. 1921 was the year in which a special philatelic sales counter was opened in the main post office, Bern 1. This was to sell stamps directly, as well as to execute orders by post; this was the beginning of the postal sales service. By 1937, with a re-organisation of the postal services, the sale of stamps for collection purposes returned to the General Directorate and this philatelic counter was closed.

The 15th September 1943 saw the opening of a special service section, called the Philatelic Office of the PTT, at Bollwerk 8, near Bern main railway station. As the office opened in the middle of the second world war business with foreign countries was impossible.

The Philatelic Office introduced its subscription service in 1948 by taking over the list of a private dealer. This had increased greatly by 1959, but the staff were unable to cope and deliveries fell
behind. The Head of the Philatelic Office appealed for help. The computer age was at hand and the Philatelic Office is always keen to introduce the best of whatever technology can offer.

After evaluation the first deliveries to customers, using a punched card system, were made on 21st March 1963 and deliveries to customers quickly improved. (The punching machine was based in Zürich until 1965.)

The following year, on the 15th April 1964, the Office moved yet again to a building above the main railway station, Parkterrasse 10. A larger workroom made it possible to re-organise the whole subscription service. In 1969 a second phase of the punched card system started, but after much planning an on-line computer system was introduced on the 7th December 1981. After some initial difficulties the 23 screens, 4 printers and other hardware became increasingly important for handling all orders.

In 1986 an extensive publicity campaign to win more customers for the attractive special and publicity cancellations standing order service achieved an unexpectedly good result.

A few statistics will illustrate the work of the Philatelic Office. At the end of 1986 there were 185 staff divided as: 55 co-workers, permanent staff; 30 temporary workers, employed four times a year for 6 weeks at a time before a new issue; 100 home workers - women, who prepare the mint stamp sets and stick the stamps on the first day covers.

Revenue - gross receipts, in millions of Sfr. - 1983 - 52.2; 1984 - 58.2; 1985 - 49.05 (but the face value of the stamps was lower).

Shipments - the average number of deliveries during recent years has been 800 000 standing orders, plus single orders of about 1.2 millions per year.

Standing orders - customers living in Switzerland number about 119 000 and those abroad 75 000.

Special tasks of the Office include Sales Counters. In order to increase sales to collectors special philatelic counters were opened in important post offices - 1959, the first counter in Locarno, later moved to Muralto, and Geneva Airport (Cointrin); 1970, Neuchatel 1; 1976, Aarau 1, Zürich 23 Main Railway Station, Zürich 58 Kloten Airport, Schaffhausen, Winterthur and others; 1981, 20th October the Philatelic Office was established at Zeughausgasse 19, in the building where the UPU Convention was signed on 9th October 1874.

As collectors living in large centres needed a local service the Post Directorate decided to open branches with counter sales only in Basel (1962), Zürich (1965), Lausanne (1966), Geneva (1967), Lucerne, Lugano and St. Gallen (1968), and Chur (1978).

The staff of Mobile Post Offices, and special offices for exhibitions and fairs, are always trained by the Philatelic Office so that they are well qualified for philatelic work. The stamps sold in these special offices, as well as all items sold in the branch offices, are supplied by the main office in Bern and sales are included in the philatelic receipts.

Since 1965, starting with the IVA - International Traffic Exhibition in Munich, W. Germany, the Philatelic Office has participated at International Stamp Exhibitions, but only in Western Europe.

This collaboration with the postal authorities of other countries is always very fruitful, with many new ideas originating during discussions with foreign colleagues. These contacts have improved our collaboration with other countries and increased mutual appreciation.
THE SMALLEST TPO IN THE WORLD!

by M A Bulpitt

The van works daily on the 750mm gauge Waldenbergbahn in NE Switzerland collecting and sorting mail on its 13.5 km journey from Waldenberg to Liestal where it connects with the SBB main line from Olten to Basel.

Many metre gauge Swiss private railways have TPOs, but this line has the narrowest gauge of any public line in the country and this vehicle is unique. It was built in the early 1950s when the WB was being modernised after the war and most of it's contemporary rolling stock has now been replaced by 'miniaturised' versions of the standard Swiss 2-car EMUs built for the private railways. How long it will last I cannot guess. The train shown is at Niederhof on a late morning trip down the valley to Liestal in August 1986 and shows the local postman loading-up the morning mail from the village post office. The TPO has a post box but unfortunately had nothing to place in it when I came upon the van in service, on a journey through the area. Perhaps a reader has an item franked on this rare TPO?

A rather strange miniature sheet turned up recently - five fiscal stamps from different 'Gemeinde' or municipalities on a gummed sheet 105 x 127mm. The Gemeinde are Bischofszell, Amriswil and Berneck in Canton Thurgau and Au in St. Gallen.

To have the stamps of four Gemeinde all on one sheet can only be explained by suggesting it was used as a sample by a printer's rep. in the Lake Constance region to try and get orders for similar work. The printer's name is unknown so it can only be surmised that he supplied various municipal authorities. The municipalities naturally preferred to place orders with firms paying taxes in the area, and printers needed this type of publicity material. These points seem to be ignored when considering the many so-called 'Essays' in fiscal collections.

Remember that in 1900 there were not enough collectors of fiscals for it to be worth while for the printers to produce material specially for them. There is, however, an important exception: the printing office of many of the Cantonal fiscal stamps which supplied them 'made to order', imperforate and on various coloured papers, direct to a collector - but that is a different story. (From the bulletin of the Swiss Fiscal Soc.)
A RECENT VISIT TO THE PTT MUSEUM IN BERN

by F Pickard

Any member visiting Bern will be drawn to the PTT Museum with its fabulous displays. Last July my chance came and I hope the following will wet the appetites of others.

RAYONS - one glorious cover, Nachnahme, franked with a block of ten Rayon II, 10 Rp. plus a single Rayon I, 5 Rp. and sent to Locarno. A really splendid item to see and covet.

SOLDIER STAMPS - frames 21 to 28 contained a fascinating range of World War I stamps and covers, addressed mostly to Herr Dr. P Halter in Luzern. The display seemed to cover the entire range of issued stamps.

STANDING HELVETIA - a really remarkable display of this period, written up against the Zumstein numbers and containing many of the varieties to be found in this issue. A truly lovely item was a sheet of 400, in panes of 100, and imperf; a colour trial or printing trial for the 3Fr., but in blue, cancelled with Werthzeichen 22-XI-01.

MACHINE SLOGANS - frames 9 and 10 showed a short, but interesting, range of these pieces, both Swiss and Liechtenstein. It is always good to find the PTT showing material of this type as well as the classical items.

POSTAL STATIONERY ENVELOPES - frames 1 to 6 contained the early envelopes of the 1874 period. Photo enlargements showed the variations found to the watermark, usually around the tail and wing tip areas. Also in the display was a nice cover with the stamp impressed in the bottom right-hand front corner, the 10c in the carmine shade.

SALES AREA - always worth a visit. I found a number of items in the way of postcards of the PTT illustration range. Single copies of the Swiss Classic packet are on sale in a matt-surfaced card as opposed to the glossy finished ones in the packet.

SWITZERLAND YEAR SETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Mint/NH</th>
<th>Fine Used</th>
<th>Mint/NH</th>
<th>Fine Used</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>£4.50</td>
<td>£3.50</td>
<td>£6.00</td>
<td>£6.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>£5.50</td>
<td>£5.00</td>
<td>£6.00</td>
<td>£6.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1972</td>
<td>£6.00</td>
<td>£5.50</td>
<td>£7.50</td>
<td>£7.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1973</td>
<td>£11.00</td>
<td>£7.50</td>
<td>£12.50</td>
<td>£11.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1974</td>
<td>£9.00</td>
<td>£8.50</td>
<td>£10.00</td>
<td>£10.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1975</td>
<td>£10.50</td>
<td>£8.50</td>
<td>£14.50</td>
<td>£14.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1976</td>
<td>£14.50</td>
<td>£10.50</td>
<td>£15.00</td>
<td>£15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1977</td>
<td>£9.50</td>
<td>£7.00</td>
<td>£10.00</td>
<td>£10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1978</td>
<td>£11.00</td>
<td>£8.50</td>
<td>£14.00</td>
<td>£14.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1979</td>
<td>£11.50</td>
<td>£11.00</td>
<td>£15.00</td>
<td>£15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>£13.00</td>
<td>£11.00</td>
<td>£11.00</td>
<td>£11.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>£19.00</td>
<td>£19.00</td>
<td>£15.00</td>
<td>£15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1982</td>
<td>£14.00</td>
<td>£14.00</td>
<td>£16.00</td>
<td>£16.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1983</td>
<td>£15.00</td>
<td>£15.00</td>
<td>£17.50</td>
<td>£17.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1984</td>
<td>£13.50</td>
<td>£8.50</td>
<td>£18.00</td>
<td>£18.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>£11.00</td>
<td>£7.50</td>
<td>£19.00</td>
<td>£19.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1986</td>
<td>£13.50</td>
<td>£11.00</td>
<td>£20.00</td>
<td>£20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1987</td>
<td>£14.00</td>
<td>£14.00</td>
<td>£20.00</td>
<td>£20.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(2) United Nations Geneva only.

H.L. KATCHER
The Amateur Collector Ltd.

"The Swiss Specialists"
P.O. Box 242, London, N2 OYZ, England
Phone (01) 348-0296
NEW 25c COIL STAMPS

As another surprise for 1987 the PTT have produced the new 25c definitive in rolls of 10,000 to feed the insatiable machines of the junk mail producers. The rolls are with the stamps sideways and are un-numbered. Some dealers, but not the PTT, have strips of eleven on sale, one more than can be got from a sheet, to prove they come from a roll. There are, of course, some FDCs, cancelled 11.9.87 in Bern.

Stamps from these coils are automatically cut and applied to covers, which are then cancelled at the printer/distributor with a black two-ring cancel, with a slogan or neutral slug on the left, as described in the Newsletters of 11/84 & 2/85. Bulk mailings of more than 50 items carry a pointed star to show they qualify for the reduced rate, down from 35c to 25c. Usually thousands are so handled and if given in ready sorted in the numerical order of postcode, qualify for a further rebate.

Such 'stamped' covers are considered to have a higher 'open and read' rate than the usual PPIs, and are certainly more attractive to collectors especially as they are so difficult to find.

YOUR COMMENTS!

In April last an item was published in the Newsletter about falling interest in philately and philatelic societies in general. As expected comments from readers were few, and many echoed the same theme 'where are the young collectors?' The following are a selection of the comments from around the world:

- the attitude of two or three members who are always bragging about their latest buys and how much they cost.
- his collection must not be criticised because it is 'the Best in the World'.
- the club is clannish, has little cliques.
- the new issue mint has been played out; they have killed the goose that laid the golden egg.
- look around at your next meeting and see how many of the members relate to the youth of today.
- (in Australia) many of the libraries play host on a Saturday morning to Junior Stamp Clubs where members of local societies give an hour or so of their time perhaps twice a year.
- we avoid waffling members putting juniors off coming to meetings.
- local societies are too general to interest most.
- financial gain is the principal reason, closely followed by the bolstering of over-large egos, which have only become large through deep pockets.
- too much importance is attached to the 'better' collections and as a result there is too much snob appeal and status symbol.
- gone are the days when one collected for fun and pleasure.
- look around the room and where are the collectors under 40?

Thanks to all those who sent comments. Your contributions, suggestions or even grumbles are always welcome, and although they might not get printed immediately, they are not forgotten.
Report of the London meeting 9th December 1987
Postal Stationery, recommended as 'the investment for 1988' in The Times, provided the subject for this meeting. Our Chairman, Mr P Pickard, led the display with private postal stationery, particularly noted were the Roth Bros. reply-paid cards impressed with 5c outward and 15c return. Then through many official items to the Feldpost section of the catalogue. Mrs C Scholey followed with wrappers, exhibition cards and aerograms. Mr L E Stiles, Mrs M O Bidmead and Mr D Houtris added further unusual items to conclude an entertaining and instructive evening.

GWH

Report of the Northern Group meeting 5th December 1987
The Chairman, Mr D Arthur, took members on a railway journey with his display. What started as a holiday souvenir had grown to the present collection covering most of Switzerland. The route passed through most of the well-known tourist regions from Lac Leman to the Vierwaldstattersee all most beautifully presented. He concluded with a trip forming a recent study from the Bodensee to Basel.

RAH

YOUR VOTES PLEASE for the Chris Rauch Literature Award 1987
Your vote is urgently needed to enable this award to be announced before the end of the season. The award is intended to be for the contributor who, in 1987, has done some new or additional research. Look at the issues for last year and, in your opinion, who should receive the award this time? Do send in your vote to the Hon. Secretary NOW!

SPRING STAMPEX '88
Due to circumstances beyond our control the Society's display at the spring Stampex has been postponed. Make a note to meet on the Wednesday by the Amateur Collector stand, No. 45. See you there.

The PTT have provisionally announced the following new issues for 1988: 8th March - five publicity stamps and a special Pro Aero; 24th May - two Europa and four Pro Patria; 13th September - four more publicity stamps and one each for the BIT & UIT; 25th November - combined Franco-Swiss issue and four Pro Juventute. Cost 19.35Fr.
DID YOU KNOW?

- that two new Federal Councillors have been elected to join the team of seven. One is Herr Adolf Ogi, the sports-minded member of parliament who forced through the 50+20c Sports stamp in 1986. He wanted a set a year, now he is in a better position to get his way.

- that the 'Bahn 2000' project was accepted by the voters in December and will lead to an even greater integration of the rail system and the PTT.

- that more and more articles are appearing in the philatelic press on the advantages of using a home computer for philately. In the SVP the alphabetical and numerical lists are being fed into a PC for the next K Handbook supplement, to come out about Easter 88, for the years 1985, 6 & 7. The illustrations will be as before.

- that until 28th February '88 the display in the PTT Museum in Bern will be '100 Years of Stamps' by T Haefeli of Corseaux. The first part has all the Jubilee stamps issued in 1940 and the second part covers all the stamps in use at that time in 190 countries and regions of the world.

- that a new book on soldier stamps has come out, reminiscences more than a catalogue, 96 pages, 32 colour plates, in German. The authors are given as: Prof H R Kurz, military historian, Dr Massarotti, ex army staff and H Sulser, editor of the well-known soldier stamp catalogue. The stamps alone cannot be exhibited at an official affair, but on cover, with postage stamps, used, they can form an interesting addition to many special collections. Sfr.59 from Ott Verlag Thun.

- that in 1988 France and Switzerland will issue a combined stamp for the Swiss-French artist Tinguely (Europa 1987, 80c). At some future date Switzerland will print a stamp for France in

- that every month the PTT Library issues a list of all philatelic articles which have appeared recently. From the Dec. issue I see, among many items of interest, a publication by the PTT & BID Bern on Hotel Posts in Switzerland, two parts each some 300 pages long. Books loaned cost nothing. Photocopies of articles are made, as well as free searches.

M Rutherfoord

NEXT MEETINGS

London
10th Feb Thematics, all members.
2nd Mar Stampex, meet Stand 45.
9th Mar Airmails, all members.

Leeds
6th Feb Annual Competition.
5th Mar Railways of the Jungfrau region, Mr R A Hoyle.
26th Mar A G M.

Sussex Group
20th Feb Miniature sheets, Mr A J Pollard & International Offices, Mr J R Harben.

23rd Apr Straight-line cancels, from 1870, Mr B S Clapsho

MRS E J RAWNSLEY

- wishes to thank Members for the very many cards and good wishes received at Christmastide and which are greatly appreciated.

Our member Mr K Reeves won a Silver Medal for his Swiss Air Mail entry at the South Wales Federation Philatelic Convention. He attributes much of his success to useful articles on the subject in the Newsletter by Messrs D Cairns and L Dutton.

Would YOU like all Swiss stamps on individual PTT or official covers with matching cancellation, either cds or machine? Send for details. M Rutherfoord, Hürdackerstrasse 40, CH-8049 Zürich.

NEXT MONTH - Review of the new Zumstein-Pen catalogue 1988
HEIMAT Collections are a more recent form of collecting which consists of making a detailed study of stamps, covers, documents and other items from a particular city, town, village or favourite holiday resort. It offers a very wide scope following the postal history from early to modern times.

As an example the rapid expansion in Zurich during the mid-1800s led to the incorporation into the city post of many of the outlying areas, first in 1893 and later in 1934.

Postal stationery cards are a fruitful source of cancellations with a) the original name, then b) with the name at the top and Zurich below, and finally c) with the two names reversed.

Further changes were made when each office was assigned a number, and again in 1947 when certain of the early ones had their numbers 'increased' by 20, so both examples must be sought.

E J R

Any members who collect in this field are invited to write it up for the newsletter, or why not start a new collection of somewhere you visited, not forgetting old postcards as well.

ZUMSTEIN-PEN KATALOG 1988

of the Swiss Special & Mobile PO Cancels

* 75 pages with more than 3500 illustrations
* explanatory text in four languages
(German, French, Italian, English)

NEW * price by each illustrated cancel for easy reference
* for thematic collectors a clearly arranged summary of individual cancellations. More than 65 different themes
* Summary of Contents: Day of the Stamp; World Meteorological Congress; Table of temporary & special cancels; ILO Conferences; BIE Conferences; UNESCO; Altdorf Tell Festivals; Motor Shows; Musical Weeks; Balloon Festivals; Special machine cancels.

Please order from your local dealer or from our agent, Vera Trinder Ltd., 38 Bedford St, Strand, London WC2E 9EU or direct using PO Giro account No. Bern 30-334-1, thank you.

Zumstein Propr. Hertsch + Co., PO Box 2585, CH-3001 BERN

Do you know our monthly magazine the 'Berner Briefmarken-Zeitung'? We will be pleased to send you a specimen copy free of charge.

Published by the Helvetia Philatelic Society of Great Britain
Printed by BPM Reprographics, Chichester, 28
16 2/3 AND 33 1/3 GOLD CENTIMES TO PAY

by Stuart R MacKenzie

I was interested to read David Dixey's article on this subject in the Newsletter last July. I have collected the Tax marks of Switzerland for many years and have always found the section on the other 'T' charges most interesting. As was pointed out these markings are very elusive and relatively unknown. The 1924 Stockholm Conference brought about new Gold Franc conversions due to the currency variations in the aftermath of the First World War. Until new handstamps were prepared mail was endorsed by hand. From the covers I have it is evident that both hand and stamped charge marks were used up to the outbreak of the Second World War and were probably phased out due to the interrupted mail service at that time. I do have one exception, a censored cover to France in 1942 which was returned and the charge used in reverse!

Fig. 1

Figure 1 shows part of a 10c PS card from Thalwil, 61125, with large T and 16 2/3 just visible under the Italian stamps.

Fig. 2

Figure 2 is a cover posted in Zürich, 2IV42, re-directed to France and a large T 16 2/3 added, refused in France and returned to sender.
Figures 3 & 4 show my earliest manuscript mark and the only handstamp I have found to date. It is identical to the 16 2/3 one shown by David Dixey and it seems likely these were issued to offices handling large amounts of international mail; Fig. 3 is Chambery, 21VIII25, with large T and 33 1/3 by hand while Fig. 4 from Zürich, 3IV29, has handstamp 33 1/3.

Fig. 3

Champery. It is Chever chen, je ne le pas le temps de l'écriture sur une large lettre. Maintenant, mais je la sanctione de la tache. Je ne surement qu'un韧ement bien maintenant comme l'heure. La quantité de jouet est renue, nous avons fait l'annuaire des lots d'blanches/mei. Monseigneur.

Fig. 4

The Geneva boxed 'T' illustrated by David Dixey can be further extended in use to 191139 as shown in Figure 5, part of a PS card to Vienna. A new mark is that in Figure 6, a single circle type 'T 16 2/3' in violet on a cover from Lausanne to Italy in 1939.

Fig. 5

Fig. 6

I look forward to reading about other examples that members may have in their collections.
25 c. Centenary of Swiss Women’s Benevolent Society  

The Swiss Women’s Benevolent Society, Switzerland’s oldest national women’s organization, was founded at Aarau in 1888. It has as its headquarter, the serving president’s place of residence—currently Lyss. The constitution describes its purpose broadly as ‘supporting welfare work’. The Society aims to contribute to the solution of economic and social problems confronting women, families and society as a whole, and to strengthen the solidarity of women. Promotion of vocational training, care of the elderly, health education, running creches and kindergartens, counseling mothers and assisting with adoptions—are just some of the Society members’ tasks and part of their daily work. Where the State cannot help, the 294 branches with a total membership of 80,000 step in to provide whatever assistance and support is needed. — The stamp design by Mrs Bernadette Ballis of Zurich features an artistic rendering of the Society’s emblem.

35 c. Centenary of Swiss Master Hairdressers’ Association  

The constituent meeting of the ‘Swiss Hairdressers’ and Surgeons’ Association’ took place in Bern on 25 June 1888; 27 delegates represented the seven founding branches. Only ten years later it was decided to drop the word ‘surgeon’ as this was increasingly being taken to mean a ‘medical doctor’. The national association now consists of ten cantonal associations, 78 branches and about 5000 members. Its permanent office in Bern aims to protect the interests of the hairdressing trade and the Association members and to ensure the provision of efficient services. It also offers training and follow-up courses, issues directions about knowing conditions, organizes the placement system and acts as an information and public relations centre. An illustrated journal, ‘Swiss Hair’, is published quarterly, and the latest hair styles are shown during a Spring tour. — The stamp design by Vreni Wyss-Fischer of Winterthur shows a typical scene in a ladies’ hairdressing salon.

50 c. 600th Anniversary of the Battle of Naefels  

In connection with the Sempach War, the men of Glarus destroyed the Antrach-Windegg at the entrance to Canton Glarus. They also occupied the villages of Niederurnen and Filzbach and with the Swiss Confederates captured the town of Weesen. They took advantage of the brief peace that followed to draw up the first laws of their own on 11 March 1387. The Habsburgs’ power-political intervention in the Walensee and Glarus areas was not new, therefore. As early as the end of February 1388 the Austrians regained possession of Weesen through treachery and a large number of the Confederate occupiers were massacred. A mighty Austrian army again gathered there and on 12 April 1388 it set off to conquer the Linth valley. Below Naefels the enemy quickly broke through the defensive wall which was held by a weak Glarus force. While the Austrians immediately began to plunder, the main body of the Glarus force, led by the Rauti, strengthened by allies from Uri and Schwyz, then rushed the enemy and put them to flight after fierce fighting. In the subsequent peace treaties the Habsburgs had to give up their territorial rights in the Glarus region. Every year the people of Glarus commemorate their victory and their dead at the ‘Naefels Procession’, which takes place on the first Thursday in May. — For this design the Zurich graphic artist Hanspeter Paoli chose the St Fridolin banner and part of a manuscript by Aegidius Tschudy (1505-1572) recording that this banner was carried into the battle at Naefels.

80 c. European Countryside Campaign  

For 1987–88 the Council of Europe is organizing an international campaign drawing attention to the problems of Europe’s rural areas. These are undergoing a radical transformation; the effects of which are not all positive. Both the environment and the traditional way of life are under threat; disadvantaged regions are suffering from economic decay and depopulation while rapidly developing ones are endangered by uncontrolled agricultural and industrial development; other areas are threatened by natural phenomena such as erosion and earthquakes. The European Countryside Campaign therefore aims to demonstrate to the public the need for healthy development and the importance of rural life as the preserver of tradition. At the same time it is to promote exchanges of information and experience between members states. 

The stamp design by Arnold Wintner of Gunzwil shows typical pre-alpine farming country (view from the Beromünster radio tower) against an outline map of Europe.

90 c. 50 Years of Lucerne’s International Music Festival  

Long before the Music Festival was established, leading composers and musicians had drawn attention to Lucerne’s suitability as a festival centre. It was thanks to the efforts in 1937/38 of the then Mayor of Lucerne, Dr Jakob Zimmern, and Ernest Ansermet, founder and head of the ‘Orchestre de la Suisse romande’, that the International Music Festival came into being. At the opening on 18 July 1938, Ansermet conducted the first of a series of concerts. However, the inaugural highlight was provided by Arturo Toscanini with the famous festival choir in the park of the Villa Trichtenberg on 25 August 1938. This concert was intended as a tribute to Richard Wagner, who had lived there from 1866 to 1877. In the years that followed, close relations were established thanks to the efforts of City Councillor Walter Strübi between Lucerne and the great figures of the music world, giving the Festival an inner consistency and leading to new successes regularly. Today the International Music Festival is not only a permanent part of Lucerne’s cultural life but also an outstanding event in Europe’s summer festival season.

A girl playing the Shawn features on the stamp design, which is by the Lucerne artist Hans Erni.

50th Anniversary of Pro Aero Foundation  

It was on 19 May 1938 that the Aero Club of Switzerland, with the support of the Federal Aviation Authority, set up the Pro Aero Foundation, based in Zurich. On the same day a nationwide collection was started, donors being promised that their money would be spent properly and usefully. Two government ministers, Minger and Pfitz-Golaz, who were responsible for making the appeal respectively, made a public appeal and the PTT organized a special stamp for chartered flights. The appeal for funds came at the right time, for the storm clouds gathering over Europe roused public awareness. — The aim of the Pro Aero Foundation is the promotion of national aviation by creating understanding and enthusiasm among the population, especially the younger generation, at the same time taking into account of current environmental problems. Funds are made available for training pilots of powered aircraft, gliders and balloons as well as for parachutists and the building and flying of models. — The Junkers Ju-52 aircraft shown on the stamp was commissioned by the Swiss Air Force in 1939 and withdrawn from service in 1981. Completely restored, it can now be chartered for private flights. The stamp design by Hans Hartmann of Köniz shows the Ju-52, as the
RARE FLIGHT COVERS

1913 PIONEER AIRMAILS

I AARAU on Official card, superb £ 358
II BASEL superb on Official card, scarce blue cancellation. Signed by pilot, Oskar Bider. £ 335
IV BURGDORF Official card, Luxury. £ 540
V HERISAU Official card, Luxury. £ 540
VI LANGNAU card, Luxury. £ 660
VI LANGNAU slight discolouration on the envelope but stamp perfect and superbly cancelled. £ 500
VII LAUFEN (Type IV) on superb cover, rarely seen so fine. £1050
VII LAUFEN (Types II & III) on Official card with TWO copies of this stamp. Such double frankings are most unusual and very rare. Signed by pilot, T.H. Borrer. £2000
VIII LIESTAL superb on Official card. £ 525
VIII LIESTAL very fine on Official card. £ 450
VIII LIESTAL on Official card, one minor perf. fault. £ 350
IX LUGANO Official card, signed by pilot Attilio Maffei, with the rarely seen BLUE cancellation. Stamp has the well known "z" variety. £1650
X SITTEN on Official card, signed by pilot Oskar Bider. Stamp faulty but superb cover (Cat.£1150). Only £ 325

ZEPPELIN FLIGHTS

1930. (May) South American flight, superb cover with Airmail No. 12 in centrally cancelled block of four, etc. Official Lakehurst arrival cancel (Cat.Fr.800). £ 260
DITTO on Pictorial postcard with Nos. 14 & 2 x 15, Seville drop (Cat.Fr.565.-). £ 200
1930 (Oct.) Basel flight on cover with Nos. 4, 2 x 5 & 13 (Cat.Fr.387.-). £ 130
1930 (Oct.) DITTO on Pictorial postcard with No. 11. £ 45
1930 (Oct.) DITTO on Pictorial postcard with No. 11 but RARE ERROR ARRIVAL CANCEL OF ZURICH (Cat.Fr.210.-). £ 70
1931 (July) Polar flight Pictorial postcard with Nos. 10 & 11 (Cat. Fr.315.-) £ 100
1931 (July) DITTO cover, rare drop in Arctic on to icebreaker Malyguin (first "intourist" expedition) with Nos. 7, 12 & 2 x 13. (Cat. Fr.580.-) £ 200
1931 (Aug.) cover First South America flight, Cabo Verde drop; with Nos. 12, 2 x 13 and 15. (Cat. Fr.655.-) £ 200
1931 (Sept.) cover Second South America flight, Cabo Verde drop; with Nos. 4, 12 & 2 x 13 (of which one has corner fault & zero counted). (Cat.Fr.307.-) £ 100
1933 (Aug.) postcode 5th South America Flight with Nos.11,16,17 & 18 (Cat.Fr.315.-) £ 120

OTHER FLIGHT COVERS

1924 (June 2nd) rare First Flight Geneva/Lyon; only 243 flown! (Cat. Fr.750.-) £ 275
1924 (Dec.18th) Zurich/Teheran First Flight; pilot Mittelholzer, superb (Cat.Fr.250) £ 85
1927 (Sept.) registered cover from Interlaken, flown Berne/Basel; franked with complete set Nos. 3 - 12. £ 135
1938 (Sept.21st) Aarau Exhibition Balloon Flight with rare corner block of four 8z. £ 135
1947 (Aug.10-12) First Swissair Flight from South Africa to Switzerland, Khartoum stopover (Sudan customs cancellation). ONLY 20 COVERS FLOWN! Outstanding rarity (Cat. Fr.500.-). £ 160

WE ALSO CARRY GOOD STOCKS OF PIONEER STAMPS OFF COVER.
(Inland clients kindly add 15% VAT to all prices.)

H.L. KATCHER
The Amateur Collector Ltd.
"The Swiss Specialists"
P.O. Box 242, London, N2 OY2, England
APS, PTS, RPSC Phone (011) 348-0286
THE ZUMSTEIN-PEN CATALOGUE 1988

This new edition of the well-known Pen catalogue of the Special and Mobile Post Office Cancellations of Switzerland has been published by Zumstein for the first time as Pen himself died in 1982 after a long illness.

Switzerland and collectors of Swiss material are well catered for with catalogues and handbooks covering practically all types of cancellation. This is largely due to the enthusiasm of pioneering philatelists like Pen, a graphic artist by profession, who in 1960 issued the first catalogue of Special cancellations. This was followed by that for MPOs in 1963, also fully illustrated and priced. Many other specialised catalogues followed.

PTT Records of early cancellations are scarce to non-existent so Pen had to feel his way, with the help of discoveries by others. His individualistic approach led him into a few dead-ends, which still annoy some aero-philatelists, as he does not include the later 'air' cancels, these, however, are given in the Luftpost catalogue. Otherwise, with a wealth of detail, all known cancellations since 1874, or from 1850 if a dozen odd non-postal ones are included, are shown and priced.

With 75 pages, perfect illustrations and clear presentation, the new editor Christoph Hertsch has taken care to preserve the best of the previous editions, but has made many improvements. As before all the explanations are in four languages, German, French, Italian & English, and have been extended. Not only the various lists of the Special repeat cancellations have been extended but they are now incorporated in the main part. All UN cancels are included.

It is not well-known that Pen (a pseudonym by the way) designed a number of FD cancels for the UN, and also some Swiss K-cancels.

A major addition, which would have pleased him, is the grouping (by number only) of those cancels of interest to thematic collectors.

This catalogue is an essential tool for all collectors of Swiss stamps and covers. If you find a cancel which is not mentioned then it is most likely to be non-postal, but send a photocopy to Zumstein, it might be a real winner! M Rutherfoord

LONDON MEETING 9th March - Airmails, all members.

NORTHERN GROUP MEETING - 5th March, Bahnen der Jungfrau Region, R A Hoyl

STAMPEX - Meet on the Wednesday at the Amateur Collector Stand, No 41.

HELP - our member A H T Clayton wants to find the following Swiss Railway Vignettes: 5001a & 5001b, Arth-Rigi Bahn 75 Jähr e 1875-1980, black on silver or gold; S147, Montreux-Oberland Bahn (MOB) 75 Jähr e Aus 1976, multicolour; S280. 75 Jähr e SBB/CFF/FSS 1977, multicolour; 7142, Vitznau-Rigi Bahn Erste Bergbahn Europas 1871-1971; 7248-7251, 125 Jähr e Schweizer Eisenbahnen 1847-1972. (Reference numbers from the Pen Catalogue of Publicity Vignettes.) Write direct to him at 15 Whitecourt, Uley, Glos. GL11 5TG if you can help.
Report of the London meeting held on 13th January 1988

The largest attendance since the Postal History display by Mr G Wilson on 12th December 1984 - excluding AGMs - set the scene for what can only be described as a superb display of Censor Markings by Mr J G A Latham.

Mr Latham, like most of us, has been fascinated by Censor marks ever since reading Mr Dutton's article in the Newsletter which ran from 1974 to 1977. His display was based on this research and covered the six main periods of censorship. All the 'peculiar' markings that can be found on these covers were on display. Predominately British and German markings plus Irish, American, Australian and others were shown. The blue 'wash' marks to check for secret writing were of German origin, whereas the British equivalent was in grey. Censor marks did not start with the outbreak of war or stop with the cessation of hostilities. A cover of 1938 was censored in Eire, and after the war covers were censored in Austria (1946), the British Army in Germany (1947) and the US Forces in 1947.

The vote of thanks was given by Mr G Hodges, a rare visitor, who said 'this was the finest display seen for many years. It is the first time he has deliberately set out to meet the member and see the collection, very many thanks'. (There were even FDCs with censor marks!)  

G W H

Report of the Northern Group meeting held on 9th January 1988

Northern Group members were entertained by Mr and Mrs Gilchrist at their home at Pool-in-Wharfedale.

Mr Gilchrist presented a short display of what he called 'Bits and Pieces' although in reality they consisted of superb and interesting items. Included in his display were sheets of Strubels on cover, a selection of airmail covers, soldier stamps on cover, items from his Red Cross collection, trial prints etc. For the rest of the afternoon members took the opportunity of looking through Mr Gilchrist's extensive stock with many interesting and tempting items on view.

R A H

ANNUAL CUP COMPETITION and MOORE TROPHY will be held on Wednesday 13th April 1988 in the Victory Services Club at 6.45 p.m.

The competition is in two sections and is open to ALL members, one entry in each section. If you are unable to bring your entry yourself then send it to the Hon. Secretary to arrive by Monday, 11th April.

Judging will be by the popular vote of all those present, on a points system, so that everyone can gain some experience of judging.

HELVETIA SILVER CUP - entries between eight and twelve sheets can be of postage stamps, charity issues, airmails, specials, postage dues, officials, miniature sheets, flown covers, or anything except postal history. Thematic entries will be judged as part of the Cup competition.

To be judged for: a) Philatelic knowledge and study, 30; b) Importance and special features, 20; c) Condition (including rarity), 30; d) the Presentation and arrangement, 20.

The Cup is awarded annually, to be returned by competition night. If won three times in succession by the same member it shall become his or her property and the Committee shall provide a new cup for the next year.

MOORE TROPHY - entries of nine sheets on any aspect of Postal History, to be judged for: a) Knowledge and study, 40; b) Originality & importance, 25; c) Condition (including rarity), 15; d) Presentation & arrangement, 20. Awarded annually, to be returned by competition night.

Get working on your entries now, and come and help judge as well!
Did you know?
- that to celebrate it's Centenary the monthly magazine SBZ has a golden cover this year and it seems more colour is used inside.
- that, rather belatedly, I have found yet another surprise in the fluor saga. The red ink used for business franking machines has had a fluor-reaction chemical added. This is cheaper than using phosphor and is the basic reason for the change due to the increase in such machines. The earliest date I have is 24.4.85, a few in 1986 and many more towards the end of 1987. It is only occasionally visible under ordinary light as a brighter pink.
- that in the latest SBZ Jakob Gnaegi of the PTT reveals the plans for the new PTT Museum just south of the present one. This has been used since 1936, although founded in 1907, and in 1949 telephone and telegraph were added to the original 'post only' coverage.
- that I have on occasion mentioned a foreign stamp or postmark commemorating a Swiss or Switzerland. Now the Swiss Thematic Society have published a booklet (No.23) with all these items, some 200 persons or firms, collected together. In German, Sfr. 19-.
- that the artist Alex Diggelmann has died in Zürich. He designed five Swiss stamps, the 5 & 10c of the 1948 Olympics at St. Moritz, the Piz Palü in 1970, and in 1971 the pair of Youth and Sport.
- that about 800 small places in Switzerland will get individual post codes, as they were in groups before. This means that about 90 K-cancels will be re-issued with a new number and many will take the opportunity to use a new picture. The change will be on 30th May and will affect all the handstamps as well as registration and other labels.
- that a 72 page brochure has been issued by the Cultural (No.43) on the history of the posts.

A previous brochure covered the stamps of Schwyz.
- that late in 1987 the PTT publicised a new item on their programme and invited standing orders, Year Set Type E they called it, without any descriptions, but with UN Offices stamps. Now I have discovered, that for export only, such sets were also available for 1985 & 6, but no one here knew of them. M Rutherfoord

If you have been awarded a cross you have not yet paid your SUBSCRIPTION!

Thank you all who sent me Xmas and New Year Greetings L E Stiles

BOOKLETS REQUIRED

Booklets of stamps and older covers, NOT MODERN COVERS, are required for the 1988/9 season. We will especially need low value booklets of stamps £3 to £20 total value.

Please send to the Packet Secretary before the end of June 1988. The first batch will go out in August 1988.

BACK NUMBERS

of the Newsletter

Complete year sets are available from the Hon. Sec. for the following years only: 1981 & 1982 (1 set of each); 1985, 1986 & 1987 (several sets of each). These cost £2.50 including post and packing. Cheques, made out to "The Helvetia Philatelic Society", should be sent with your order direct to the Hon. Secretary.

CONGRATULATIONS

- to our sister society in the USA, the American Helvetia Philatelic Soc. who celebrate their 50th Anniversary.

Leo Baersch celebrate their 25 years with a move to new premises at 110 St. Martins Lane, Trafalgar Square, London WC 2.

Corinphila have moved across the lake in Zürich to a modern 'pyramid', and "Kornmark has opened in Lugano."
A - Z OF SWISS PHILATELY

INTERNATIONAL OFFICES With the start of the League of Nations in Geneva in 1922 Swiss stamps were overprinted 'Société des Nations' in three lines; in 1933 with a small circular print 'Service de la Société des Nations', followed by other types. At the same time (1932) the International Labour Office was set up with its own overprint.

The work of the Société gradually incorporated separate offices for Health, Education, Refugees, Meteorology, IPU, Telecommunications, and Intellectual Copyright. Occasional issues were made until the mid-70s, since when fewer issues have appeared now more as commemoratives.

Finally in 1960-70 the Geneva Office began issuing special stamps covering every aspect of international work, all of which provide an interesting subject.

Another interesting item is that in the last century I and J were often used as alternative spellings, even on stamps. You can find Interlaken spelt Interlaken, as on old maps. E J R

ZUMSTEIN-PEN KATALOG 1988

of the Swiss Special & Mobile PO Cancels

* 75 pages with more than 3600 illustrations
* explanatory text in four languages
  (German, French, Italian, English)

NEW * price by each illustrated cancel for easy reference
* for thematic collectors a clearly arranged summary of individual cancellations. More than 65 different themes
* Summary of Contents: Day of the Stamp; World Meteorological Congress; Table of temporary & special cancels; ILO Conferences; BIE Conferences; UNESCO; Altdorf Tell Festivals; Motor Shows; Musical Weeks; Balloon Festivals; Special machine cancels.

Please order from your local dealer or from our agent, Vera Trinder Ltd., 38 Bedford St, Strand, London WC2E 9EU or direct using PO Giro account.No. Bern 30-334-1, thank you.

Propr. Hertsch + Co., PO Box 2585, CH-3001 BERN

Do you know our monthly magazine the 'Berner Briefmarken-Zeitung'? We will be pleased to send you a specimen copy free of charge.

J. S. ARMSTRONG
POSTAGE STAMP DEALER

Recent articles in the Helvetia Newsletter have indicated some of the many sidelines which can be explored.

If your interests lie in this direction, or if you prefer to keep to more straightforward collecting, you still need the benefit of being able to look at material in your own home, with the time to search for those items which best fit in with your own studies.

Let me, therefore, send you selections on approval or against your Want Lists.

485 MARINE ROAD,
MORECAMBE LA4 6AF
Phone (0524) 414055

NEW
Spiral bound Sfr 47-
in 4-ring binder 60-
postage extra 8.50

Published by the Helvetia Philatelic Society of Great Britain
Printed by RPM Reprographics, Chichester Ltd., Chichester, GB
Help! - your assistance would be appreciated by Allen Payne

I would be grateful to receive clarification or otherwise in connection with the undermentioned covers. My information so far has been taken from previous articles on 'Mail in transit from Switzerland to France' by the late Chris Rauch and Mr. G.D. Wilson.

The first cover (Fig.1) dated the 14 October 1836 posted in Lucerne and addressed to Lyon in France. Handled at Basel where the Swiss exchange office applied its stamp and correctly indicating a charge of 8 kreuzer "L.B.8.K" in red as far as the French exchange office. The French office in Huningue applied its entry mark "SUISSE/PAR/BELFORT" in red and the number '3' also in red indicating that the charge so far was equivalent to 3 décimes. Manuscript '9' i.e. a final charge of 9 décimes - 6 décimes for the stage Belfort to Lyon plus the 3 décimes to be collected for reimbursement to Basel. Manuscript 9 in black. Backstamp arrival mark of Lyon.

What is the red manuscript 4 which appears to have been added before the manuscript 9.
The second cover (Fig.2) dated the 7 January 1845 was also from Lucerne to Lyon. It was handled at Basel where the Swiss exchange office applied its boxed stamp correctly indicating a charge of 8 kreuzer in red as far as the French exchange office. The French office in Huningue applied its circular "Suisse - Belfort" dated 8 January 1845 (Fig.3) in red and the number '3' also in red indicating that the charge so far was equivalent to 3 decimes. Manuscript marks '2' and '7' in black making '9' i.e. a final charge of 9 decimes - 6 decimes for the final stage Belfort to Lyon plus the 3 decimes to be collected for reimbursement to Basel.

It has been suggested that the 2 & 7 is not 9, but 27 due to possible weight, but one would not have thought it would make that much difference. What is the reason and what are the initials - top lefthand corner (Fig.2).

Why the manuscript 10 in red (Fig 2) and what appears to be 5/8 (Fig.3)?

As both covers are from Lucerne to Lyon - even though of different dates, i.e. nine years apart, and the suggested weight of the cover - it still would not account for the difference of the 18 decimes charge.

If any member can help me with these queries I would be most grateful.

Any help or suggestions can be sent to Mr Payne via the Hon. Secretary or the Hon. Editor, thank you.
PHILATELY AND LUMINESCENCE

by Fred R Lesser

When the PTT quietly released 5 million of the definitive 2.50 fr. Weathercock of Solothurn's St. Ursen Cathedral on non-phosphorescent paper toward the end of June 1984, little did the Swiss philatelic market expect the 'variety' bonanza which surrounded it after its discovery 29 months later, and which still continues.

With the PTT's unannounced deviation from a previously established norm in the preparation or treatment of a paper surface the collector is faced with a novel problem. Does a chemical treatment alone come under the category of a stamp's physical variation in terms of philatelic appreciation?

To start a technical examination of the paper treatment process and its operative implications may be in order. The term in German for a substance creating a luminescent effect is 'Leuchtstoff', and when applied to paper it becomes 'Papier mit Leuchtstoff'. The term in English 'phosphor paper' is not only misleading but also wrong when the substance contains no trace of phosphor. A substance or chemical composition capable of producing a luminescent effect converts short-wave light frequencies below the band of visible light into longer frequencies discernible to the eye as part of the visible light spectrum. Luminescent chemicals can be divided into two categories, the phosphorescent and the fluorescent. The light energy converting or phosphorescent effect was first observed with the discovery of the element phosphorus in the 17th century, it is though a radioactive and highly poisonous substance.

There are various other chemicals such as zinc sulphide, zinc fluoride and zinc selenide, as well as oxides of calcium, zinc and manganese, which when combined and activated by certain salts of other metals produce similar phosphorescent or energy-converting characteristics. The category of fluorescent substances will be referred to later.

When the PTT first introduced their electro-optically operated equipment for automated sorting and cancelling of envelopes and postcards, primarily for domestic postal traffic, at Expo '64 in Lausanne, the equipment was demonstrated with stamps coated with phosphorescent substances. This coated paper first came into use with the reissue on 3rd October 1963 of the 1960 definitives 'Postal History Motifs & Architectural Monuments'(without the 2fr. value). The PTT made it quite clear that the substances used in the treatment of the paper would not contain any trace of phosphorus and would be totally safe from any radioactive or poisonous effects. As is known to most collectors of Swiss stamps an error occurred during the reprinting whereby sheets of the 10, 20, 25 & 75c values were printed on the non-phosphor side of the paper, i.e. the phosphorescent coating was on the gummed side. When the PTT changed to phosphorescent paper it made an exception with the high value Evangelists series, first issued in 1961 and reissued in 1984.

As most stamp collectors already know phosphorescence can be detected with an ultra-violet (UV) light source such as a quartz lamp. With the non-phosphorescent 'Weathercock' stamp another observation was made; when a specimen of this stamp on phosphor paper is placed in water it tends to drop to the bottom, whereas a non-phosphor stamp will float on the surface. For obvious reasons the test cannot be done with mint ones. Any visual inspection of the two papers is totally unreliable for the purpose of detecting any difference in paper treatment.

Without going too deeply into the technological aspects of how stamps printed on phosphorescent coated paper respond to the scanning processes in automated sorting and franking machines, it may be sufficient to
bear in mind that the surface area of the coating on the stamp relates directly to a specific voltage measurement or reading. Therefore, any emanating signal from the coated surface is functional to the masking or obliterating effect created by the design of the stamp or overprint. Basic dye colours and their pigments also play a role in the determination of the desired signal value or reading.

Phosphorescent substances have the well-known capability of retaining light energy after shut-off or removal of the UV light source, i.e. they display an after-glow. Opposed to this phenomenon is the energy conversion process or capability of fluorescent materials where the energy conversion or transmission will only last as long as the material remains exposed to the UV light source; fluorescent substances have no after-glow.

Although the PTT's experiences with automated scanning and franking equipment based on phosphorescent paper proved quite successful, the inability of the equipment to accept machine-franked mail reduced the overall efficiency of the programmes by 20-30%. Three years ago the PTT decided to change to fluorescent-treated paper while still continuing with phosphorescent paper qualities. Fluorescent substances offer some considerable advantages over phosphorescent materials; they are more energy conversion intensive and enable the design of scanning and franking equipment to be more efficient. Fluorescent materials can also be mixed into printing inks and allow for easier 'overprinting' or coating of ordinary paper already treated with a phosphorescent coating.

Another great advantage of these fluorescent materials is that their superior energy conversion capability favours reduced signal generating areas, which means that fluorescently-treated surfaces can be limited to stripes or bars for appropriate value coding.

The question as to whether different treatments of postage stamp paper by chemical substances to match more advanced sorting and franking machinery design should fall within traditional interpretations as to what represents a stamp 'variety' may remain debatable; we know the PTT's point of view. Considering that the philatelic market already experiences an extraordinary escalation in the discovery of microscopically minute printing flaws and their acceptance under the 'variety' category, any difference in the luminescent coating process or change in the chemical composition of the substance may eventually lead to a chemical analysis investigation which, in the writer's opinion, goes beyond any philatelic appreciation process. Philately should remain a visually enjoyable hobby and not be turned into a technological research effort.


NEW CANCELS FROM THE PTT

Needless to say we shall not have sufficient space to publish all the revised K-cancels which are due to be issued on 30th May. If possible photocopies will be available to members who are interested, more later.
Report of the London meeting held on 10th February 1988

Three years have elapsed since the last display of Thematics given by our President, Mrs A Lee; it was now the turn of the members to see how they had translated her good advice into their own themes.

Mr A Balmforth, a keen collector of all things dealing with the Red Cross, selected his Swiss section, he freely admitted that it was difficult to arrange in any logical order. However, he started with an 1870 Frank stamp and followed with a range of Franchise items for the Red Cross. Proofs, Slogans and FDCs as well as anniversaries followed, and finished with Soldier Stamps and the Samaritan Alliance. Mrs E J Rawnsley showed her Heraldry exhibit with hand-traced replicas of all the 23 Cantonal arms from the Robert Mader book, and followed on with stamps including fiscals. Mr V J Mitchell chose a mountain theme which included the Tell Essays and the Tell Legend. Mrs J Salmen, who collects for pleasure, selected the St. Gotthard theme with many excellent postcards depicting street scenes, railways and topography. Mr F Pickard concluded with an Advertising theme; starting with a printer's card informing of their activities (private postal stationery), Labels, Official cards, Philatelic label, Publicity stamps and slogans were all shown to end a fascinating evening.

Mrs Lee was asked to comment on what she had seen and maintained that collecting is a hobby for pleasure and that is the main point, but if anybody wished to exhibit then the rules must be followed. Club shows can be 3-D, but are not acceptable in Exhibitions. The way to start is to prepare a plan that will restrict the collector to a story. It is essential that one should ensure when using stamps from another country that the motif depicted is correct. The Blue Cross of 1977 issue was used as an example, animal welfare in the UK, but not quite the same thing in all other countries.

Northern Group Report

On February 6th in Leeds, Northern Group members held their annual competition. The results, which were decided by popular vote, were as follows:

Thematic and winner of the Highstead Cup: Mr D Cairns with a display about the Lake of Lucerne.
Postal stationery and winner of the Moore Bowl: Mr D Cairns, Prepaid cards for inland use.
Philatelic: Mrs V Davis, the Small Landscapes.
Postal History: Mr D Hope, International arrangements for postage due.

Postal History: The next INTERPOSTAL is to be held in Central Hall, Westminster on 5th & 6th May. From this year it will have an exhibition associated with it, taking the form of Postal History exhibits only, competing for an annual Rowland Hill Gold Medal.

NEXT MEETINGS

Northern Group AGM is on 26th March.
London Group members will show to London Transport PS at 55 Broadway, Ldn. SW1 on 7th April; Volunteers required please.
13th April is the Annual Cup Competition & Moore Trophy. ALL MEMBERS.
Sussex Group meet on Saturday 23rd April for a display by Mr B S Clapshc.
Special Offer

OLD CHEQUES & BILLS OF EXCHANGE

Most of these are from the Canton of Lucerne, with REVENUE STAMPS. They date from the 1870's through to about 1910. Those carrying stamps are priced at between £5 and £9 each, without stamps £3. These cheques are not only scarce but also highly interesting from the banking point of view - they show numerous endorsements and cancellations: Some of the firms' insignia are beautifully engraved and attractive. We recommend a few of these not only to Revenue collectors but also as a sideline to Postal History.

On purchases exceeding £50 we can allow a discount of 15%.

Our Great Strength Is The Ability To Supply Items Other Dealers Cannot

H.L. KATCHER
The Amateur Collector Ltd.
"The Swiss Specialists"
P.O. Box 242, London, N2 OYZ, England
182-186 BIRSEY RD.
Phone (01) 348-0966
Did you know?

- that the PTT made a record profit in 1987, to be reflected in lower phone charges but no postage reduction. At least we know it won't be going up soon.
- that the exhibition in the PTT museum from 1st March to 12th June will be the well-known top collection of classic stamps that has always been exhibited as 'Winkelried'; worth a trip.
- that at this year's Mustermesse there will be a follow-up of the TV series in that at Mubaphil youngsters, and others, will be taught the basics of philately.
- that there was a TV talk recently about Women on Swiss Stamps, only four, against 94 men. This leaves aside Helvetia and other folklore figures. The speaker then presented a list of candidates; we will see what the PTT does now.
- that Joseph Schalch has issued a supplement to his ATM (Frama) catalogue (Sfr.13.). Very useful as it has a new, unified and simplified numbering, a compromise between his and Zumstein.
- that on 9th November Wohlen, Aargau opened their new PO and produced a 24-page booklet on their history, complete with all handstamps used but no machine dies. Free from KPD CH-5000 Aarau I.
- that the PTT have issued a new postcard, with a 50c frank impression, to advise recipients of a gift payment into their phone account. But perverse philatelists will find the card suitable for machine and other cancellations. Perhaps because of this experience with the previous card this one is 210mm long, i.e. not suitable for putting on an album page. The fluor bar is to the left of the frank.
- that the quarterly "Der Aushang" originally only for Zug PS members, is now available on subscription from the editor, Thomas Galliker. The title translates as the advertising poster and covers all sorts of things. M Rutherford

SUBSCRIPTIONS

There are still a number of subscriptions outstanding and we regret to have to advise those members that this is the last Newsletter they will get if their subscriptions are not paid by the time the April issue is ready.


Fiscal collectors will not be disappointed. This 2nd volume provides new information on laws and dates of usage researched at the local archives. Prices are the judgement of the author, or what he paid for the item. In deciding what to include in a catalogue common sense has been used. Colours are kept to a basic shade, despite the many variations existing. An example concerns the 1884 Bourse Stempel from Zürich, over 100 types of the value figures have been seen, the collector is left to make the decision on how far to split shades and types. Mr Kelly has produced a very useful 2nd volume and the writer looks forward to the remaining three to come. One minor comment concerns the binding, the research published deserves better. F P

A member in DENMARK wishes to correspond with members who collect prephilatelic treaties 1828-45 between Switzerland & France - write to Mr P Olsen, c/o the Hon. Secretary.

YOUR VOTES PLEASE for the Chris Rauch Literature Award to the Hon. Secretary as soon as possible, do it NOW!

Können Sie folgendes lesen?

Sind Sie bereit kurze Texte -300/500 Worte- aus dem Deutschen ins Englische zu übersetzen um neue Forschungsarbeit zu fördern und auch zweideutige Texte die in Katalogen erscheinen? G W Hubbard, Sekretär.
A-2 OF SWISS PHILATELY

J - Two smaller sections come under this letter.

The first stamps to be used on the railways were for the Jura Industrial Railway in 1874, probably for administrative purposes, followed in 1884 by the Tramelan-Tavannes Railway.

The Federal Railway adopted a similar method in 1913 which was in use over a wide area and lasted until 1960. Still to be found on railway documents.

JUBILEE CANCELS - You may see reference to these and wonder about them. In recent years many places have commemorated their foundation by means of special pictorial cancels which include the date.

Unlike the more popular 'K' cancels they are not listed under this subject but form a separate group, mainly because the period of their use is usually limited to one year. At the end of this period the special date is erased and the cancel then becomes a normal publicity cancel.

EJR

ZUMSTEIN-PEN KATALOG 1988

of the Swiss Special & Mobile PO Cancels

* 75 pages with more than 3600 illustrations
* explanatory text in four languages
(German, French, Italian, English)

NEW * price by each illustrated cancel for easy reference

* for thematic collectors a clearly arranged summary of individual cancellations. More than 65 different themes
* Summary of Contents: Day of the Stamp; World Meteorological Congress; Table of temporary & special cancels; ILO Conferences; BIE Conferences; UNESCO; Altdorf Tell Festivals; Motor Shows; Musical Weeks; Balloon Festivals; Special machine cancels.

Please order from your local dealer or from our agent, Vera Trinder Ltd., 38 Bedford St, Strand, London WC2E 9EU or direct using PO Giro account No. Bern 30-334-1, thank you.

Propr. Hertsch + Co., PO Box 2585, CH-3001 BERN

Do you know our monthly magazine the 'Berner Briefmarken-Zeitung'? We will be pleased to send you a specimen copy free of charge.

ZUMSTEIN PEN KATALOG 1988

of the Swiss Special & Mobile PO Cancels

* 75 pages with more than 3600 illustrations
* explanatory text in four languages
(German, French, Italian, English)

NEW * price by each illustrated cancel for easy reference

* for thematic collectors a clearly arranged summary of individual cancellations. More than 65 different themes
* Summary of Contents: Day of the Stamp; World Meteorological Congress; Table of temporary & special cancels; ILO Conferences; BIE Conferences; UNESCO; Altdorf Tell Festivals; Motor Shows; Musical Weeks; Balloon Festivals; Special machine cancels.

Please order from your local dealer or from our agent, Vera Trinder Ltd., 38 Bedford St, Strand, London WC2E 9EU or direct using PO Giro account No. Bern 30-334-1, thank you.

Propr. Hertsch + Co., PO Box 2585, CH-3001 BERN

Do you know our monthly magazine the 'Berner Briefmarken-Zeitung'? We will be pleased to send you a specimen copy free of charge.
HUNT FOR THE ONE CENTIME

by Stuart R MacKenzie

The 1c value of any country's postage dues has always been an elusive value to find properly used. Most covers you find are philatelic and especially during the early part of this century. I have treated this as a light-hearted article which may spur some members to join the hunt for the one centime.

1894 printed card from St. Antoni-Ueberstorf showing the make up of the 3c postage due with a single 1c and a single 2c.

1895 letter from Lugano to Luzern noted for 1c postage due by the manuscript 1 in blue crayon. The single 1c used and collected.
A study of the catalogue shows fifteen 1c postage dues were printed, sixteen if you include the 1916 provisional surcharge 10c on 1c, which is another elusive value to find used correctly. The illustrations here show the 1c used singly and in multiples; to date I have not found any examples of the 1910 Cross and Jungfrau 1c value used singly.

1897 - This cover, posted locally at Wil, St. Gallen, might be philatelic. There are the remains of a partly-removed 2c cross of the Federation stamp under the top right-hand dues. The cover is noted for 10c postage due and ten 1c values have been used to collect it.

1897 cover from Bury St. Edmunds to Bevaix noted for tax with the London boxed T. Converted at Bevaix to 10c and a block of ten 1c values used to collect it.
BLANK FORM PRICE TAGS

by Gene Kelly

According to the laws in Kanton Zürich most blank forms had to be bought from the Kanton, and were produced by the Kantonal printers with the price tag already printed on them. Hand lettered forms had a price tag impressed in the upper right-hand corner, and blank forms printed by a private printer had the price tag applied with a rubber stamp, many with violet ink, but a few examples are known in black.

On A4 and A5 size forms the price is usually in the upper right-hand corner. On "filo" size documents (8½ to 9½ inches wide by 13½ to 14½ inches long, they have to be folded before they are filed) the price is usually found on the outside of the document after it is folded. These illustrations are of blank form price tags from A4 and A5 size documents.

A blank form for a sales contract of 1901 had the price tag impressed in the upper right-hand corner.

and the tax stamp applied with a rubber stamp in the lower left.

The following are all from A5 size documents dated between 1919 and 1956:

rubber stamp printed

The following are from filo size documents with the different price tags printed on the document; any tax stamps are on the inside of the documents:

The illustrations are taken from the 'Catalog of the Fiscal Stamps of the Kantone & Gemeinden of Switzerland, Vol II, Kantone of Basel' reviewed last month.
## PAIRS WITH INTER-SPACE

### SUPERB MINT:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S 1</td>
<td>£220.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S 3</td>
<td>£8.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S 4</td>
<td>£45.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S 5</td>
<td>£8.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S 6</td>
<td>£8.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S 7II</td>
<td>£300.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S 7III</td>
<td>£52.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S 8</td>
<td>£20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S 9</td>
<td>£30.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S 11</td>
<td>£16.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S 12</td>
<td>£90.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S 13</td>
<td>£52.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S 14</td>
<td>£5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S 15</td>
<td>£10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S 16</td>
<td>£9.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S 17</td>
<td>£3.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S 18</td>
<td>£9.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S 20</td>
<td>£9.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S 22</td>
<td>£160.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S 23</td>
<td>£150.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S 26</td>
<td>£36.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S 27</td>
<td>£5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S 28</td>
<td>£220.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S 29</td>
<td>£1300.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S 30</td>
<td>£13.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S 31</td>
<td>£5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S 32</td>
<td>£220.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### INLAND COLLECTORS PLEASE ADD 15% VAT TO ALL PRICES

### KOCHER STAMPS

#### 2 Centimes:

Nos. Ia, b, c & d complete set (including the outstandingly rare Ib) superb mint. ... ... ... ... ... £1900.00

#### 5 Centimes:

No. IIa fine mint. ... ... ... ... ... £40.00
No. IIb unmounted mint. ... ... ... ... ... £50.00
No. IIc unmounted mint. ... ... ... ... ... £50.00
No. IIId unused. ... ... ... ... ... £20.00
No. IIId horizontal pair, misplaced print on one stamp, superb used. ... ... ... ... ... £100.00

#### 10 Centimes:

No. IIIa, slight gum disturbances, mint (Cat. £175). Only £85.00
No. IIIb superb mint ... ... ... ... ... £175.00
No. IIIId (Cat. £240.00), slight crease, mint Only £100.00

## BUNDESFEIER (NATIONAL FESTIVAL) CARDS

FINE SELECTION NOW AVAILABLE INCLUDING THE RARELY SEEN CARDS OF 1938 TO 1960. PLEASE ASK FOR APPROVALS

### H. L. KATCHER

**The Amateur Collector Ltd**

The Swiss Specialists

P. O. Box 242, London N2 0YZ, England

Telephone: 01-348 0296

---

Our Great Strength Is
The Ability To Supply
Items Other Dealers Cannot.
ANOTHER UNUSUAL COVER

This cover was posted in Steckborn on May 26th 1970, bearing a Pro Patria stamp which was not valid until the 29th of May. Instances such as this could occur quite often since issues are available from the PTT about a week before validity. It will be noted that the stamp was 'circled' and the current definitive was used as a Due and cancelled with the large open 'T' of Baden. Then to make sure that the Charity stamp was not used for postage again, the Post Office in Baden cancelled it on June 2nd 1970!

YOUR EXCHANGE PACKET

The chance to clear some of the duplicates from your stockbook is now. Booklets of stamps, and older covers, are required for the new season. Take the opportunity provided by this bad weather to make up some booklets, especially of low value stamps between £3 and £20 per booklet. Once the sun shines and dries out the ground we shall all be out there digging! Send your booklets to the Packet Secretary before the end of June. The first packets will go out in August.

NEW CANCELS FROM THE PTT THIS MONTH
Report of the London meeting held on 9th March 1988

Airmails was the subject for an all members display that started with Mr B Hoddinott showing First Flights, Special Flights and Censored Flights. Great interest was shown in a cover of 1942 that went by train through Vichy France to Lisbon, then via BOAC to Bristol.

Mr V J Mitchell showed some early flights with vignettes together with some early balloon flights. Mrs C Scholey followed with mainly commercial flight mail, with the emphasis on airmail labels and registration marks from the airfields.

Mr A Newall finished the evening by filling in what the others did not show. Basically the 1923 series used, mint and on cover, with a specialised display of the Icarus issue. However, by far the most important item on display was the 35c Pilot Head Proof used on cover – the only one known to exist.

Mr C Mistely gave the vote of thanks explaining that every aspect of Airmail material had been shown and praise must be heaped on the people who do the research to pass on to others.

(Please let the Editor have your research for publication!)

Northern Group Report

On March 5th Northern Group members were entertained by a talk and display on the Railways of the Jungfrau Region by Mr R A Hoyle. In his talk he described the journey he made from Interlaken to the Jungfraujoch on August 1st last year, the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the Jungfrau Railway.

His display included many new and old postcards, cancellations and photographs taken of the railway on August 1st, and also many of the new tourist complex 'Top of Europe' at the Jungfraujoch.

Sussex Group Report

A disappointing attendance of only seven members at the February meeting of the Sussex Group causes some concern. Unless things improve it may become too difficult and uneconomic to arrange future meetings.

The final meeting until the autumn will be on Saturday April 23rd at 3 p.m. in the Church Parlour of All Saints Church, Patcham, Brighton.

DON'T FORGET - Annual Cup Competition on April 13th, all members!

On May 5th a team of members will be showing to the Hastings Philatelic Society, if you live in the area turn up and support them and also see things you might not see otherwise.

May 11th at the Victory Club it is 'Odds & Ends', members queries and new acquisitions. Come and make the most of your chance to show.

Anyone interested in Swiss Railways may like to know that there is a 'Swiss Railways Society' in GB. Details from the Secretary: J Jesson, 27 Cambell Road, Croydon, Surrey CR0 2SQ.

A member asks what those little five-pointed stars are that appear on some postmarks – have they any special significance? Comments to the Editor for passing on to the member.
DID YOU KNOW?
-
that it has taken 70 years for a philatelist, a Herr "St in W", as one says in Switzerland, to discover a new stamp variant.
Max Hertsch in the March issue of the BBZ reports at length on this important new find. In Oct. 1918 25c stamps were on sale at the Langnau (Bern) PO with light green toning instead of light blue! Probably caused by a sheet of a previous printing of the 30c, 50c or Fr.1.- value, having the first sheet of a run for the 25c being printed with the uncleaned colour roller of a previous run of either the 30c, 50c or Fr.1 value which used light-green toning. Only four such errors have been found so far. The LH illustration shows the block used for the dark blue of the picture, the RH that of the light blue toning; Z No. 109 of 1908.
-
that Ernst Müller (founder of the firm) now about 83, has given to the City of Basel his unique reconstruction of all 1040 stamps of all the printing plates of the Rayon II.
-
that the 3rd Supplement to the SVP Handbook of Local Pictorial Datestamps (K-cancel) is now available. In German & French, 17 double-sided pages with clear illustrations of all 224 cancels of 1965 to 1987, inc. a few of 88. About £7 from Vera Trinder, or via the Secretary.
-
that by coincidence the SMV (Thematics) have also just issued the 3rd booklet in their series to cover, in German, a description of the places shown on each K-cancel. This is No. 23 and costs SFr. 25.-. I think Nos 3 and 15 are in the Library.
-
that of the 800-odd places that are taking a new postcode at the end of May, 95 have a K-cancel in addition to their ordinary datestamps, but only four of these have a new picture. Only these 4 will be illustrated in the PTT Gazette (and in the HNL). There are also two places having 'Leihkronen', i.e., their town die is actually used in the machine of a nearby, larger, place. Usually for the floods of tourists' postcards, sometimes for business mail as well.
-
that Charles LaBlonde and I visited the PTT Museum in February and found, among many other items, that some new publications had appeared. A new set of postcards, 12 old posters showing postal coaches, and a colourful 62 page brochure, in German, on the old posts of Luzern.

M Rutherfoord

REGIONAL MEETINGS
As many members find it difficult to get to the London or Leeds meetings, and some have never been to a specialist Swiss display, it is hoped to arrange a one-day seminar in or around April 1989 on a Saturday. The first is proposed in the Bristol Bath area, within easy distance of the motorway, to enable members from the Midlands, London and the South West to attend. We are hoping for two or three speakers of very high calibre, but to do this we need your support. If you are interested, or have any comments, send them to me via the Editor. W Lamble

The Swiss PTT are prepared to send all members the new issues news if they do not already receive it. The Committee would like comments from members on this as, unless you do not want to receive the details, the PTT will be able to incorporate the list of members in their computer. Let the Committee know what you want as soon as possible, either to the Editor or the Secretary.
 Commemorative cancellations have been used for a very long time, but in May 1942 the PTT began to pursue a new idea; the use of large pictorial cancels to promote tourism, which in due course became known as 'K' cancels. The first designs were quite simple but it did not take long to realise the possibilities and now many are miniature works of art.

From 1942 to August 1964 the cancels bore the normal town or village names, but with the introduction of numbered post coding in 1964 the majority were re-issued to include these and both versions should be collected. Also in the course of time some designs have been changed and the scope has widened.

For the thematic collector they can be of great interest as they can draw attention not only to historical events but also illustrate many subjects such as castles, churches, monuments etc., the list is endless and if linked to stamp issues can add variety to a page.

ZUMSTEIN-PEN KATALOG 1988

of the Swiss Special & Mobile PO Cancels
* 75 pages with more than 3600 illustrations
* explanatory text in four languages (German, French, Italian, English)

NEW * price by each illustrated cancel for easy reference
* for thematic collectors a clearly arranged summary of individual cancellations. More than 65 different themes
* Summary of Contents: Day of the Stamp; World Meteorological Congress; Table of temporary & special cancels; ILO Conferences; BIE Conferences; UNESCO; Altdorf Tell Festivals; Motor Shows; Musical Weeks; Balloon Festivals; Special machine cancels.

Please order from your local dealer or from our agent, Vera Trinder Ltd., 38 Bedford St, Strand, London WC2E 9EU or direct using PO Giro account No. Bern 30-334-1, thank you.

Do you know our monthly magazine the 'Berner Briefmarken-Zeitung'? We will be pleased to send you a specimen copy free of charge.

Published by the Helvetia Philatelic Society of Great Britain

Printed by RPM Reprographics Chichester Ltd., Chichester, GB
Can any help be given in the usage of the Bern D B handstamp as seen on these three E Ls?

According to the French version of Winkler it was in use from 1842-1850 (figure 279; figure 449 in the revised German version). Paul Heinegerin his book 'Streiflichter aus der Bernischen Postgeschichte' shows it twice - figure 61, in use 1842-52 and again figure 202, no dates, but the date on the handstamp is 17 March 60. Winkler's book only goes up to 1850 which accounts for the discrepancy between 1850-52, although on letter No. 3 it is 1853.

I bought letter No. 1 at BP/Stampex 1987 when a foreign gentleman on my left said "That is good, you only get that with that" pointing in the direction of the date stamp and the franco. Unfortunately I was interrupted by someone on my right, when I turned back to ask more, the foreign gentleman had gone. Anyway, being curious, I acquired the letter. Various people, with Swiss interests, whom I met there and since, have not been able to help.

Later, at an exhibition in Strasbourg, in one of the exhibits, I saw another example, from the Police Authorities of Bern to their opposite numbers in Strasbourg. Date 1844, 20 Nov. MS Franco with PE in circle.
No. 2 I found in a dealer's stock in Paris, and No. 3 came from a small dealer at the Camberley 3 Counties Stamp Day.

Letter No. 1 is actually written at Lindau, so presumably it was carried personally and put in the post in Bern for on the reverse it shows 2 kr. paid - local rate, MS franco.

Letter No. 2 has PD in circle confirming the MS franco, and A.E.D. as well. 26 has been paid, on the reverse.

Letter No. 3 has PD confirming the MS franco, and also the London Paid arrival. On the reverse 65 paid.

The French version of Winkler, on page 64, has:

Un autre timbre à date de Berne, utilisé de 1842 à 1854, porte dans le bas les initiales DB, séparées par un cor postal. Ces initiales signifient vraisemblablement «Distributions Bureau». Nous avons vu cette estampille au recto d'une lettre ordinaire affranchie du 4 janvier 1844. On retrouve d'ailleurs les mêmes initiales en 1876, dans le timbre à date du Bureau de distribution des lettres («BERN BR. + DB.»). Comme le dit cachet est également frappé au recto d'envois contre remboursement (par exemple en 1848), les lettres DB pourraient aussi faire allusion au Bureau de distribution des chargés («Chargés-Distributionsbureau»). La question n'est pas tout à fait claire.

My German is hopeless, but as far as I can tell, and assisted by others, a similar paragraph is not in the revised German edition.
New cancels announced by the PTT this month, including the Ks

Five-pointed stars - the request by a member last month has so far only produced these six-pointed stars which were first mentioned in the DYK column in January 1987; they indicate discount bulk mailings. The first shows the four language design for the covers to be used on 30th May. The second is from a printed envelope from Zürich. The stars with five points about which the member was enquiring are those shown in the Steckborn cancel (page 29, last month). Are these just to fill up the space or do they have some hidden meaning? If you know then please let the editor know and he can publish it for all members to broaden their knowledge.
WE HAVE JUST BOUGHT 4 OF THE RARE GAZZETTA TICINESE NEWSPAPER FRANKED WITH SITTING HELVETIA No. 29. WE HAVE OFTEN HAD TO TURN DOWN ORDERS FOR THIS ITEM BECAUSE OF THE DIFFICULTY IN ACQUIRING IT. TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO ADD ONE TO YOUR COLLECTION. PRICES RANGE FROM £135 - £200 (PLUS VAT).

APPROVALS OR PHOTOCOPIES AVAILABLE ON REQUEST.

********************************************************

"STOP PRESS"

WE HAVE RECENTLY PURCHASED AN EXCELLENT STOCK OF HOTEL POST MATERIAL, INCLUDING MULTIPLES. A SHORTAGE OF TIME DOES NOT PERMIT US LISTING AT PRESENT. PLEASE ASK FOR APPROVALS. PRICES RANGE FROM £12.50 TO SEVERAL HUNDRED POUNDS.

H. L. KATCHER
The Amateur Collector Ltd
The Swiss Specialists
P. O. Box 242, London N2 0YZ, England

Our Great Strength Is
The Ability To Supply
Items Other Dealers Cannot.

Telephone: 01-348 0296
Swiss Minnesingers

700 YEARS OF ART AND CULTURE

"700 Years of Art and Culture" is the theme of the new four-year series starting in 1988 and ending with the Swiss Confederation's Jubilee in 1991. The first set features Swiss minnesingers. The stamps are subject to a surcharge, of which 90 percent goes to the National Day collection in aid of various cultural organizations. The remaining 10 percent will be spent on special cultural or social work of national importance.

Count Rudolf of Neuchatel  Count Rudolf of Neuchatel deserves special attention as the link between the art of the troubadours and the early German minnesong. Living on the French/German language border, he made use of the rules and ideas of Provencal poetry of the late 12th century, thereby achieving great success. Whether he was Count Rudolf II (attested 1182 to 1196) or Rudolf I of the Neuchatel-Nidau line (died 1258) has not yet been clarified beyond doubt.

Rudolf von Rotenburg  Rudolf von Rotenburg came of a family of estate officials, the Lords or Bailiffs of Rotenburg, who as representatives of the Habsburgs were in possession of the mighty castle and borough outside Lucerne. The inhabitants of Lucerne regarded this stronghold as a potential threat and destroyed it in the winter of 1385. This provocation of the Austrians was one of the causes of the Sempach War (1386). Girded with a sword, the knight is portrayed about to depart. Attached to the saddle of his horse are his arms (Or two pallets Gules charged with three chevronels Argent). As a parting gesture the minstrel receives from his lady a splendid garland, as worn by young lords and ladies to keep their hair neat and tidy. She leans far out over the castle battlements, thus expressing her ardent affection.

Master Johannes Hadlaub  Master Johannes Hadlaub, burgher of Zurich and documented as such in 1302, is one of the few well-known commoners included in the Minnesang volume of song manuscripts. He is also the only one given two illustrations showing scenes from his songs. The upper picture shows the episode in which the hitherto unheard poet is allowed, on the intercession of high-ranking gentlemen, to approach the object of his affection. But as he will not let go of the hand profèrred to him, the lady bites his. In the picture it is a dog who administers the bite on her behalf. In the lower illustration, showing Hadlaub's coat of arms (Argent a squirrel rampant Sable), we see the poet disguised as a pilgrim. At dawn he approaches the lady on her way to matins and, not daring to speak to her, attaches his love letter to her cloak with a fishhook.

The Hardegger  "The Hardegger" (probably Heinrich von Hardegg) was not, at first, included among Switzerland's minnesingers. However, as the coat of arms on this miniature (per fess Sable and Gules with a less Argent) corresponds exactly to that on the 1388 seal of one Hans von Hardegg, it can now be said with certainty that (The Hardegger) did belong to the Abbey of St Gallen's family of estate officials hailing from the lower Rhine valley. The minstrel, who lived in the mid-13th century, stands with folded hands in front of two stylishly arrayed gentlemen with fashionable headgear. They seem to be exchanging expert opinions on a song which Hardegger has just sung, while he listens to them patiently.

EUROPA CEPT

Means of Transport and Communication  The European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) has invited its members to devote the 1988 Europa stamps to the common theme "Means of Transport and Communication". Switzerland's two values feature symbolic designs by the Berne graphic artist Stephan Bundi.

50 c.  The map of Europe in "natural colours" symbolizes physical transmission of objects. The arrows pointing in different directions indicate movement and transport while the green routes suggest environmentally acceptable conveyances.

90 c.  The map of Europe in "unnatural colours" symbolizes the non-physical transmission of messages. The computer circuit diagram with the green connections shows modern electronic communication as environmentally compatible.
Report of the London meeting held on 13th April 1988

The Helvetia Silver Cup Competition this year saw six entrants with displays of: Booklet Stamps, Helvetia Issues, Provisional Issues, Geneva Fiscals, Pro Juventute Entires, and Newspaper Wrappers.

The Moore Postal History Trophy attracted exhibits of: Mail by Special Messengers - Telegraph Deliveries, Early Postal Markings of Switzerland, and Postal Markings of Geneva.

As in the past the winners were judged by popular vote and the results were:

Silver Cup Winner - Mr A Payne, with his Provisional Issues.
Runner up - Mr R F Bulstrode, with his Pro Juventute Entires.

Moore Trophy Winner - Mrs E J Rawnsley, with her Early Swiss Markings.
Runner up - Mrs M O Bidmead, with her Postal Markings of Geneva.

The remainder of the evening was spent discussing the sort of programme that members would like to see for the 1988/9 season. This year would seem to be somewhat different in that no specific subject was requested, speakers of known ability was the order of the day and your secretary will endeavour to produce a suitable programme.

Apologies for absence were received from Mr C Mistely and Mr & Mrs Salmen.

The Chris Rauch Literature Award was won by Mr R S Johnson for his work on German Script, which is of great use to those members who are turning to Postal History.

NEXT MEETING - May 11th at the Victory Club is 'Odds & Ends', members queries and new acquisitions so come and show what you have.

Northern Group Annual General Meeting on March 26th 1988

At the Annual General Meeting the following members were elected as Officers for 1988/9: Chairman Mr P Vaughan, Vice Chairman & YPA Delegate Mr D Arthur, Chairman Elect Mr D Cairns, Treasurer Mr J A Eastwood, Secretary, Librarian & Press Secretary Mr R A Hoyle.

The first meeting of the season will be on September 17th and details will be published of the season's meetings nearer the time.

In the meantime the group are having a 'Swiss Stand' at the 42nd Yorkshire Philatelic Convention at York on June 18th. It will be held at Tattersalls Stands at the Racecourse, York and is open from 10.00 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. There will be about 30 dealers and society stands with further displays by the York society. Refreshments and bar facilities. Any member who would like to make the trip to York will be made most welcome and an invitation is extended to meet members of the Northern Group who will be at the stand throughout the day. Anyone wanting further information should contact Mr R A Hoyle, 8 Rhodesia Avenue, Stafford Road, Halifax HX3 0FB.

LITERATURE - The lead article in the editorial of the SBZ this month draws readers attention yet again to the importance of literature in the building of a collection. Much of the literature on Swiss philately is supported by the Fund for the Encouragement of Philately, for which we should be grateful. Many of these books are available from the society library and even through your local lending library. If you are visiting Switzerland you would enjoy a visit to the PTT Museum and Library where there are many interesting displays.
DID YOU KNOW?
- that the PTT pays the SBB more than SFr.100m annually to draw their TPOs around the country and to take their postbags in SBB baggage wagons. The actual figure is not published.
- that in Egg (near Zürich and pronounced 'Eck') a special exhibition was held over the weekend 30th April/1st May on 'Philately and Literature', with the PTT Library taking part. A special show was devoted to '100 years SBB'. Also various philatelic subjects such as 'Heimat' collections of the Zürich region etc.
- that the definition of a philatelist is someone who is not interested in philatelic material!
- that instead of updating Winkler's classic the tendency is to have a comprehensive definitive book on the canton or area. A start was made with the Cancellations of Chur, and now such a book has appeared on 'The Posts of the Canton Schaffhausen', in German, covering not only Thurn and Taxis era, but also the connections to Zürich. SFr.59-, written by Rudolf C Rehm, 312 pages with numerous illustrations and 25 covers shown in colour, up to the end of the 19th century.
- that the PTT is losing staff at a great rate. With unemployment practically zero, and the government's policy on wages for its staff, the PTT and SBB cannot replace leavers. This is particularly serious in Geneva and Zürich. Poor service to philatelists and poor postmarking is becoming noticeable.
- that Dr Jann Etter has issued a xeroxed catalogue on the black private franking marks. This is a valiant attempt to catch a moving target of unrecorded data. Vital for an heroic band

FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITY * * * * * * *
Our member, W R Morrison, having already disposed of his collection has the following literature for sale.
Helvetia Newsletters from No. 4 of 1951 to the latest 1988 issues (37 years) virtually complete!! (This is now unobtainable and must be worth at least £30- Ed.)
Amateur Collector's 'Swiss Philatelist' from issue 1, 1951.
Zumstein small Switzerland/Liechtenstein catalogues for the years 1951-68, complete.
Zumstein Specialised catalogues, volumes 12 (1949), and 14 (1957) to 23 (1982) complete.
Zumstein 1975 Postal Stationery catalogue.
He says he really wants to cover the costs of posting/parcel delivery and hopes they find a good home; he is not expecting to make a profit. (If you do not have this literature then this is the time to get it; such chances only come once! Ed.)

EXCHANGE PACKET (Again)
Booklets of stamps are urgently required before the end of July 1988. Booklets must be size 5" x 8" (we have had several larger that have been returned to members). Why not spend 10p on proper ones? Without your booklets with stamps/duplicates etc. the exchange packet cannot function. Please help me to help you!

D Slate
LAKE STEAMER CANCELS - With so many lakes in Switzerland it is not surprising that they have been extensively used for the transmission of mail as well as cargo and passengers. From early times it was a far safer method of transport than the roads. It is true that the earliest records on some lakes are scanty and early examples hard to find.

The lakes of Brienz and Thun operated a summer service from around 1828, while on Lake Maggiore it was long in use, providing easier transport to Switzerland and even to France. Probably Lake Lucern is the best known and has served both inhabitants and the tourist industry for many decades.

Mail carried on Lake Constance (Bodensee) is more complicated since at first five countries were involved: Germany, Bavaria and Wurttemberg - until the two latter were absorbed into the German Empire - Austria and Switzerland. The use of mixed frankings became too popular and were stopped. Can form an extensive collection.

E J R

Recent articles in the Helvetia Newsletter have indicated some of the many sidelines which can be explored.

If your interests lie in this direction, or if you prefer to keep to more straightforward collecting, you still need the benefit of being able to look at material in your own home, with the time to search for those items which best fit in with your own studies.

Let me, therefore, send you selections on approval or against your Want Lists.

485 MARINE ROAD,
MORECAMBE LA4 6AF
Phone (0524) 414055

ZUMSTEIN-PEN KATALOG 1988

of the Swiss Special & Mobile PO Cancels

* 75 pages with more than 3500 illustrations
* explanatory text in four languages
( German, French, Italian, English)

NEW * price by each illustrated cancel for easy reference
* for thematic collectors a clearly arranged summary of individual cancellations. More than 65 different themes

* Summary of Contents: Day of the Stamp; World Meteorological Congress; Table of temporary & special cancels; ILO Conferences; BIE Conferences; UNESCO; Altdorf Tell Festivals; Motor Shows; Musical Weeks; Balloon Festivals; Special machine cancels.

Please order from your local dealer or from our agent, Vera Trinder Ltd., 38 Bedford St, Strand, London WC2E 9EU or direct using PO Giro account No. Bern 30-334-1, thank you.

Do you know our monthly magazine the 'Berner Briefmarken-Zeitung'? We will be pleased to send you a specimen copy free of charge.

Published by the Helvetia Philatelic Society of Great Britain
The landscape stamps

1936

by F. PICKARD

The illustrations above of an essay and the issued stamp will serve to introduce a series of articles on this issue. When starting to research information it soon became clear that finding information in English was not going to be easy. Searches are extending to other writings in German and French, but for a start it seemed best to proceed with the information in English. I would welcome correspondence from others interested in this particular issue. Remember that over half a century has passed since the stamps first appeared.

The most recent article appears to be by Dr. J.R.G. Turner of the USA. In January 1974 a four-page article appeared in Gibbons Stamp Monthly dealing mainly with the common plate flaw Pf.9 on stamp Z.202y. There is a wealth of other useful information in the article and it is well worth finding a copy of that issue of GSM. Dr. Turner has produced a sound example of the true meaning of philatelic research.

Another most helpful source is the booklet 'Die Bilder zu den Franko-Marken den Ausgaben' 1936-1941 by Hans E Gaudard, Department Head of Printing and Stamps of the Swiss PTT. An English version was published in 1945. This deals with the essays for the 1936 issue, as well as the Historical issue of 1941. The PTT gave permission for the illustrations to be reproduced to accompany this article. I have drawn heavily upon the text for information but urge reading of the booklet itself.

Collectors are familiar with the earlier 1934 Landscape design and its method of printing. Typography did not do justice to the subject matter, there was a crudeness to the finished stamp. The method of typography for printing had been in use for some considerable time but obviously its limitations became clear.

A new recess printing machine known as the SSR1, was purchased from the Goebels Company in Darmstadt and installed at the Swiss Mint in Bern.
The letters SSR stand for Stahlsich Rotations Presse meaning steel engraved rotary press. This method of printing represented a departure from the old copper plate method previously used in the Federal Typographical Works.

The earlier 1934 Landscape designs by Eugen Jordi provided the basis for the new series. Karl Bickel was engaged by the Swiss PTT and by examining his work for the 1932 St. Gotthard issue and some of the Pro Juventute stamps it is easy to understand why he was chosen. Bickel was an engraver of superb skill and he brought to the subject of the Landscapes a freshness that delights the eye. The essays present a splendid opportunity to watch him develop the ideas up to the finished stamp.

Z.201 VALLEY OF LAUTERBRUNNEN
3 Centimes Olive

Compare the treatment of the skyline on the essay to the issued stamp. Alterations were made to the lower foreground by adding a church and cow hut. The rock formation on both sides was strengthened to provide more feeling of perspective.

Z.202 Mt. PILATUS
5 Centimes Green

Of particular interest is the way that the engraver chose to experiment with the position of the value figure. Obviously it was this stamp that provided the answer to the question for all values. Placing it at the base allows the eye to focus upon the whole scene. Bickel chose to reduce the number of trees in the foreground to one. Note too the introduction of a steamer.

To be continued.
Hastings and East Sussex Philatelic Society - Mr A Balmforth, writing from Tunbridge Wells sends the following report of the displays given by Mr G E Wileman and himself on behalf of our society to the H&ESPS. "We were cordially received by the President and Secretary of the host society in their very comfortable meeting room and about 25 other members were present. I gave the first display which I had entitled 'Swiss Definitives - the first 100 years'. There followed a virtually complete showing of the issues from the Orts-Post and Post-Locale to the landscapes of 1949, noting the frequent changes of colour, control- and water-marks, paper and perforations to be found. Examples were also shown of the specially-printed sheets for booklets, together with booklet panes, the se tenant and tete-beche pairs resulting therefrom.

After a break for coffee Mr Wileman gave a very detailed display of 'T' marks, the 'Ungültig' and 'Annulé' cancellations, illustrating the many different types in use, some of which had been provided directly by the PTT in return for an international reply coupon. He also showed examples of the 'Affranchissement au Verso' mark as used, in particular, on picture postcards. He concluded with brief displays of Miniature Sheets, Trial Prints, Pro Juventute and Pro Patria issues, pointing out to non-Swiss collectors that these latter were a fruitful source of thematic material. In the vote of thanks that followed the speaker remarked that he now understood why Switzerland was such a popular country with stamp collectors!"

Are we irreversibly DAMAGING OUR STAMPS and covers by bringing them into contact with modern day substances asks Steve Weston, Editor of Tell in the latest issue? Yes we are, he says, and most of us are unaware of the damage we cause. Take the lowly wooden pencil. All pencils were equal at one time; their leads were composed of clay and carbon. When we pencilled a catalogue number on a stamp or cover it did little damage and could be cleanly erased. Modern pencils are mechanical affairs using thin 0.5mm 'leads' composed of plastic binders and plastic carbon. I can't get a clean erasure and those thin leads leave a permanent track.

Add ballpoint pens, vinyl sheet protectors, tape, sulphite papers, and poly sleeves to the list of damaging substances. And don't forget to pre-tone the stamp you are applying to a cover using your just-sipped-coffee tongue. Add a fingerprint to that stamp you are mounting by touching your nose and then the stamp. Don't forget forget the cake crumbs and icing..... Tell Vol.XIV, No.3, p85.
TO ALL OUR INLAND CLIENTS

SENSATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENT

As from today, ON A PURELY TEMPORARY BASIS, but until further notice

NO V.A.T.!!

will be payable on purchases from us. This important step requires explanation as we would like our inland clients to know exactly why, FOR THE TIME BEING, we are making this concession (obviously we have to pay the VAT to the government but you do not pay it to us):

It is no longer news that the $ has weakened drastically against the £ and as a very large part of our sales are to the $ area we had to cushion the exchange rate shock by allowing a fixed rate of £1 = $1.60 on most purchases made from us (subject to certain conditions). As the $ exchange rate hovers between $1.85 and $1.90 this represents a discount to our American clients of approximately 15%. We feel it is only fair that our inland clients should also benefit.

An important point we must make is that this is not a concession we are going to offer indefinitely. However, you will be informed of any change, giving at least 14 days notice before we resume charging VAT again.

We trust you will not let this opportunity pass without making use of it. The four reasonable conditions listed below, which apply to our American clients, must also apply to our inland clients.

(1) It can only apply to items in stock (if we have to obtain something specially for you our profit margin would be insufficient to allow the discount).

(2) Because of the uncertainty of the situation, credit must be limited to 30 days, but credit cards can be used.

(3) Orders or Approval purchases must be over £25.

(4) It cannot apply to currently outstanding balances.

Yours sincerely,

H.L. KATCHER
Managing Director

H. L. KATCHER
The Amateur Collector Ltd
The Swiss Specialists
P. O. Box 242, London N2 0YZ, England
HELVETIA'S CONVENTION AT SEPAD WILL MARK ITS 50th ANNIVERSARY

The American Helvetia Philatelic Society will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the original US organisation for collectors of Switzerland when it holds its national convention at SEPAD in King of Prussia, PA, October 21st to 23rd, 1988.

At a special luncheon Helvetia will honour Mrs Sophie Buser, the only living founder among the nine who organised Helvetia in Philadelphia in 1938. President and editor of the original society in 1951-52, she is still an active member of the current society.

Helvetia's 10th Convention since its reorganisation in 1975 will also include Swiss and Liechtenstein exhibits competing for the society's grand award, a public slide programme surveying Swiss stamps and Postal History, a special cacheted and postmarked cover commemorating 50 years of organised Swiss collecting in the United States, and a society booth to distribute Helvetia's bimonthly journal 'Tell' and membership information.

Helvetia is Affiliate No. 52 of the American Philatelic Society, is a member of the Union of Swiss Philatelic Societies, and maintains close relations with the Helvetia Philatelic Society of Great Britain. Its nearly 500 members, primarily in the United States, also live in Canada, England and Switzerland.

Membership information is available from the secretary, Richard T Hall PO Box 666, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266, USA.

FIVE-POINTED STARS - Mr J Holman writing from West Sussex with regard to the query as to the purpose of stars with five points in postmarks, says that Dr Felix Ganz made the following statement in his series of articles published in the Newsletter in 1971, entitled "20th Century Circular Town Cancellations of Switzerland":

"Decorations: Depending on the length of the town's name, one to three stars, of five points each, are featured as part of the cds. They have no particular meaning, except to balance the canceller better, both aesthetically and weightwise."

Sussex Group Meetings - We have a good nucleus of members who never fail, and, in fact, we have been encouraged to have friends from Hampshire and even Dorset as well. Apart from Seaford, we seldom have anyone from further east, nor from over the Surrey border, however. Brighton is quite accessible, in the middle of the county's coastline, and we do always lay on a tea, to which members are invited to contribute a small cake offering. We find that it helps if two or more can arrange to travel together - as does the contingent from Bognor. We are aiming to have four meetings in the 1988-9 session, of which the first is billed to be in two parts, with Mr B S Clapshoe completing his display of Straight-line markings, combined with All-Members Contribution to Odds & Ends, Finds and Queries.

J R Harben

REVENUES - It would seem that Swiss Revenues are fast becoming a collectible item again. Volume 2 of member Gene Kelly's catalogue was in the Cardinal Spellman Philatelic Literature Fair in April, and has also been accepted for Finlandia 88 in Helsinki in June, congratulations.
Report of the London meeting held on 11th May 1988

The final meeting of the season was the ever popular 'Odds & Ends' and, as usual, brought out many fine examples falling into the category of either a query or an oddity.

Mr R S Johnson started off with a postcard marked "Imprimé", posted from Chiasso to UK but with a Swiss 5c stamp and an Italian 5 centissimi both of 1911 vintage; the natural question was why, and was unanswered. Mr Redmill showed what seemed at first to be a straightforward Airmail cover - but all the stamps had 'squares' of blue crayon around the perfs; another query unanswered. Mr A Payne produced four replies to his query as published in the March newsletter - the results will be sent to the editor for publication. Mr R F Bulstrode showed, among other items, a PJ cover to Austria with a label attached stating "Must be shown to the Customs". The two questions were, who made the label, and why? An interesting cover of the 1988 Pro Aero showed two first day cancels - one bilingual and the other trilingual!

Mrs M O Bidmead showed some very interesting Postal History items. A batch of early 19th century covers with "SS" marks - answers required please, they only seem to have been used from 1817 to 1819. Help was also needed on postal rates from USA to Switzerland in the 19th century, USA members please! Mr A Balmforth displayed Nachnahme covers showing the different rates of commission, but pointed out that not all covers have 'Nachahmen' cancellations. Mr Kuriger showed some Fiscals and Advertising labels that he had found when sorting through his Grandfather's odds and ends. Mrs E J Rawnsley showed "Festival" cards, some printed by the PTT and some under query (but PTT approved), these were for Shooting Festivals and the Festival to mark the end of winter.

Mr D Slate showed a collection of covers he had posted to himself to acquire 'T' cancels; these were all cancelled in purple at the delivery office (Witznau), some 'T' in circle and some T with fraction bar. Finally Mr F Pickard put up a collection of covers showing the "PP" and star cancellations used only on internal "junk" mail. The stars are not always to be found in the same position and it follows that most of these covers are thrown away.

A most enjoyable evening was had by all who attended and Mr Pickard wished it to be placed on record that members were pleased to see Mr R Lee back after his recent stay in hospital.

G W H

Now please read the report again and if you have any answers to the queries then please let the editor know for publication to help others.

HONORARY TREASURER and HONORARY LIBRARIAN

The present holders of these important posts have indicated their wish to hand them over to others by the next AGM in November. Both Mrs E J Rawnsley and Mr L E Stiles have given splendid service in these posts and now is your chance to do the same for your Society.

From a membership of 300 or more members I do not expect there to be difficulty in members coming forward. Do not leave it to somebody else; if you think you can do the job then please write to the Honorary Secretary in the first instance.

A report of the response to this appeal will be given in the next Newsletter. As Chairman I trust you will put me in the position of informing you the posts are filled.

F Pickard
Did you know?

- that many are asking 'is an over-franked Last Day Cover worth as much as 29 000.- SFr?' Apparently yes, when it has a set of the UPU 1900 Anniversary stamps, all type C, is registered and in auction at Rölli in Luzern.
- that the SBB has laid 60 000 tons of granite blocks between Erstfeld and Bodio to prevent the floods of 1987 being repeated.
- that this year the number of pages in the weekly PTT Bulletin devoted to 'Situations Vacant' has risen to record levels.
- that someone in the philatelic column of the local Zürich paper has calculated that the ratio of men to women on Swiss stamps has shown a steady trend toward unity lately, and more than other countries, especially Austria which has an opposite tendency.
- that also in the same issue is the suggestion that this year should be celebrated 50 years of Swiss Publicity stamps, as the first to appear for a forthcoming event were those of 1938 for the National Exhibition of 1939.
- that since the 15th of May a new type of sorting system has been operating in the Zürich Main PO, for large covers only; I do not yet have full details. A number of girls operate in parallel, reading off the postcode, typing it into the electronic memory, then putting the cover on to a conveyor belt. When it reaches the appropriate slot it drops into the bag for that place. No coding of the covers themselves is needed. Supplied by AEG-Telefunken.
- that a new slogan running on a Zürich cancelling machine has the text shown. Note the Swiss-German 'Fäscht' and not the German "Fest". In any case they both mean "Festival", with fireworks from barges on the lake.
- that all makers of private can-

A member has written from Ipswich to say he has a 2 1/2c Tell Boy on buff paper (Z 169) overprinted for the Société des Nations and with a cds of Lugano 1, 14th December 1928. He says he is informed that the cancellation is rare and can any member give an indication of its value. In "Les timbres SDN et BIT" published in 1943 is given: 'At Lugano from 10th to 15th Dec. 1928 a circular cachet "53e SESSION D. CONS. D. S.d.N., LUGANO" was applied to envelopes for collectors. It was not considered by the PTT as an official cachet; the stamps were cancelled with two different cds by the post office of Lugano 1: "LUGANO 1" and "LUGANO LETTERE".'
**Military (Soldier) Stamps.** Switzerland maintained its neutrality during both World Wars but the Army, based on the militia system, lost very many men while guarding the frontiers through illness or accidents.

In June 1915 Oberleutnant Fredk. Siere, a Bernese artist, designed the first 'Soldier Stamp' to help raise funds for benefit purposes. The idea proved a success; famous artists and printers produced the stamps and the PTT sanctioned their use on cards and covers provided that military cancels were used, thus giving them a certain official status.

During World War II the same scheme was speedily adopted; remaining stocks from the earlier war were overprinted with new dates until new ones could be obtained, while with the modernisation of the Armed Forces over the years many new sections were incorporated, particularly for the Air Force and mechanised sections. Many were issued in the form of small miniature sheets and can form a most interesting collection. E.J.R.

---

**Zumstein-Pen Katalog 1988**

of the Swiss Special & Mobile PO Cancels

* 75 pages with more than 3600 illustrations
* explanatory text in four languages
  (German, French, Italian, English)

NEW * price by each illustrated cancel for easy reference
  * for thematic collectors a clearly arranged summary of individual cancellations. More than 65 different themes
* Summary of Contents: Day of the Stamp; World Meteorological Congress; Table of temporary & special cancels; ILO Conferences; BIE Conferences; UNESCO; Altdorf Tell Festivals; Motor Shows; Musical Weeks; Balloon Festivals; Special machine cancels.

Please order from your local dealer or from our agent, Vera Trinder Ltd., 38 Bedford St, Strand, London WC2E 9EU or direct using PO Giro account No. Bern 30-334-1, thank you.

Do you know our monthly magazine the 'Berner Briefmarken-Zeitung'? We will be pleased to send you a specimen copy free of charge.

Published by the Helvetia Philatelic Society of Great Britain

Printed by RPM Reprographics, Chichester Ltd, Chichester, GB
SWISS OFFICIAL OR SERVICE CANCELS

by Marc Guillon

In response to requests from members the following information is offered, taken from my own collection as well as published sources.

The Large Handbook of Swiss Cancellations, 1969, shows as Group 2 a number of blind cancellations in the form of one, two or three circles.

Gruppe 2

These cancellations, called 'd'annulation', were made of wood. First used in the 1880s some are still in use. They were used to cancel all uncancelled stamps or indistinctly cancelled stamps coming from abroad or internal. In order to standardise the way in which such stamps were treated the PTT introduced special wavy line cancellers. Since 1948 most principal PTT offices have had these cancellers, made of metal and more durable than previous ones. PTT regulation B21, No 4454 states: "Forwarding or receiving offices cancel with their date stamp Swiss stamps which are not sufficiently cancelled. Uncancelled stamps on letters from abroad shall be cancelled with a wavy line canceller. If they do not have this then they shall use another or cancel them with a pen."

There exist two types of this canceller, each with three wavy lines but different dimensions. The most common one is 16.5mm x 11.5mm; the second and rarer one is 13mm x 9.5mm. The difficult thing is to find these cancellations on Swiss stamps as the wavy line can easily be confused with a machine or parcel cancellation. In practice it is not unusual if the wavy line canceller is missing to find the stamp has been cancelled with the edge of an ordinary date stamp.
These comments have been received from David Dixey: I do not fully agree with the remarks about 2nd World War phasing out. Manuscript gold franc charge markings are found through the war and after; however some underpaid covers were not always marked, and 'Taxe reclamée' handstamps were used to collect underpayments from senders whose names were on the letters. I have examples of Genève and Zürich between 1941 and 1953.

UPU Conferences: the 30 gold centimes minimum, which equated to 25 Swc, was established at the 1920 Madrid Conference. Ernst Fluri (BBZ 5/8 '80) says this minimum on foreign mail incoming was reduced to 20 Swc in mid 1924, although PTT documentation does not establish an exact date, and was further reduced on 1 Oct 1925 to 10c, and on 1 Jan 1935 to 5c. (Note these dates refer to incoming, whereas we are looking at outgoing 16 2/3 gold centimes. However, Swiss incoming changes were as a result of UPU regulations and should therefore be kept in mind.)

Fractions do exist earlier, I have a 37½ dated 6.V.24 but is the year correct on the card in Fig 1? Could it be 1926? Also the P/S card is the 1925 issue (Z 94 II) although I do not know the exact date of issue.

However, the year is important due to the 1 Oct 1925 date mentioned above. Stuart's cover is the earliest 16 2/3 I have seen whatever the year is, but a check is required.

Figure 2 is a most interesting item as it is a correctly paid 10c local letter within Zürich which was forwarded to France; it was therefore underpaid 20c, but as it was not the fault of the sender the underpayment is only charged at the single rate with 20c Swiss to make up the external letter rate of 30c. A most interesting item, but I feel it needs to be explained more fully.

Figures 3 & 4 - why 33 1/3? This appears to break the postcard rules and be liable to letter rate, to which the London FS has added the boxed cancel. It was paid at 20c, the correct postcard rate when at that date it was liable to 30c, deficiency 10c which, doubled, I would have expected to be charged 16 2/3 gold centimes, yet was marked at twice the amount. I am not sure what the UK conversion rate of gold centimes was in 1925, but my 37½ in 1924 was charged 2d. But E Keith Parker (Stamp Col. p705 13 Apr 1976) indicates that ½d was the minimum charge until 1.10.25 in the UK. So I am not entirely certain how the London FS dealt with what could well be an overcharge of PD; this is far from clear.

Figure 4 is a correctly paid 1st weight step foreign letter with what looks like a 2 to the left of the slogan crown indicating a 2nd weight step. As such it is underpaid 20c and liable to the equivalent of 40c at the double rate = 33 1/3 gold centimes.

Figure 6 - the rate for this letter? It is paid at 40c, the 1st weight step to Italy was 30c, the 2nd required a further 20c. I think this is underpaid 10c, which when doubled gives 16 2/3 gold centimes to pay. I have this circular T 16 2/3 on a letter from Saas-Fee to London on 28.12.35 paid at the domestic rate of 20c instead of the foreign rate of 30c and charged 1½d in London.

(Could the 16 2/3 in circle have been applied in Lausanne? This would have been the transit point for letters going to England from postal district II. Ed.)

Any further comments and remarks, as well as photocopies of covers, will assist the research in this interesting field. Look through your collections now to see if you have anything that might be relevant. (I have just found a Taxe reclamée mark from Zürich dated 18 IV 39. Ed.)
HUNT THE ONE CENTIME (concluded) by Stuart R MacKenzie

The year 1883 saw the colour change of the postage dues, but it was not until 1897 that the first 1c value appeared. The lapse of fourteen years is a mystery. The last 1c value of this series was 1910.

To date I have never recorded the use of a single 1c value used on a cover postally or manufactured, but generally covers bearing 1c values are few and far between.

1905 Ladies envelope used locally at Basel showing three single 1c values to make up the postage due.
(Note the address: Miss Louise Vogt, Teacher Here!)

The craze of manufacturing covers showing the same sequence of day/month/year was still evident up to the outbreak of World War I. the 1911 cover below shows a nice example of a block of ten of the last 1c value used in 1910 at Buron. (See DYK this month as well, Ed.)

Also in 1910 the new design of postage dues appeared, the Cross of the Confederation with the Jungfrau. Again a 1c value was included, but this was the last time that this value was to be used. Again I
have not recorded the use of a single value being used on cover. Correct use of this value can always be found used on the 3c wrappers, as shown by the 1921 3c Tell Boy wrapper used locally at Bern. (Shown below.)

Although the 1c value mentioned above was the last to be issued, a nice tailpiece is the 10c provisional surcharge on the 1c value of the 1916-24 issue, an elusive little stamp to find on cover. The 1925 cover below from Burgdorf to Luzern shows a single value used with a 5c making up the postage due as endorsed.

BERN D B Cancellations - Mr Ed C Walton, writing from Scarborough, Ont. points out that the H Jäggi-Weber work gives D B as Diligence-Bureau in the list of abbreviations and suggests this as a further explanation of D B. His comments have been passed to Mrs Bidmead who will be reporting further on this subject in the newsletter.

This book, Die Postmarken der Schweiz 1843-1862 is available from the Society's Library. Published in 1930, German and English, weight 300g. Contact Mrs E J Rawnsley, 3 Cranford Gardens, Victoria Drive, Bognor Regis, West Sussex PO21 2AR.
AN INTERESTING COVER from Geoff Hubbard

This cover dated 16 XII 58 is correctly franked at 30c for registered mail but has been re-directed. This produced a 10c due, the 20c fee for registration is not affected. However Frau Kämpf had moved on so the due was cancelled 'ungültig' (fee not collected). At the next address another 10c stamp was used as a due and cancelled with a straight-line 'Niedergösgen' measuring 36mm x 5mm. The question is where did this canceller come from and when was it used? My copy of Emmenegger has no answer, although it may be in the revised edition published in eight volumes by Müller & Lipp in 1969. As we do not have a copy in the Society Library can anyone help please?

CATALOGUE SEASON - The 1988 Michel Switzerland Spezial Catalogue is just out priced at £12. It is available to members at a 10% discount, post free anywhere in the UK direct from: Safe Albums (UK) Ltd., 180 Dukes Ride, Crowthorne, Berkshire RG11 6DS.

(One day the editors of all the catalogues might get together to make the numbering systems standard for Switzerland, let alone the rest of the world. But then I have yet to see a pig fly. Ed.)

'La ronde continue' - Several members have advised us that yet again the "auctioneers" are wrongly describing Swiss material and attempting to get high prices for it by over-valuing! This despite recent court cases for mis-representation by the Trading Standards.

PTT specimen items, available free from the PTT against a reply coupon, are again being offered at funny-money prices as 'scarce'!

The Paris prints of the Standing Helvetia have turned up again as "fine proof blocks of four" - how many more will be printed from these plates to trap the collectors? Do not get caught yourself!
TO ALL OUR INLAND CLIENTS

SENSATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENT

As from today, ON A PURELY TEMPORARY BASIS, but until further notice

NO V.A.T.!!

will be payable on purchases from us. This important step requires explanation as we would like our inland clients to know exactly why, FOR THE TIME BEING, we are making this concession (obviously we have to pay the VAT to the government but you do not pay it to us):

It is no longer news that the $ has weakened drastically against the £ and as a very large part of our sales are to the $ area we had to cushion the exchange rate shock by allowing a fixed rate of £1 = $1.60 on most purchases made from us (subject to certain conditions). As the $ exchange rate hovers between $1.85 and $1.90 this represents a discount to our American clients of approximately 15%. We feel it is only fair that our inland clients should also benefit.

An important point we must make is that this is not a concession we are going to offer indefinitely. However, you will be informed of any change, giving at least 14 days notice before we resume charging VAT again.

We trust you will not let this opportunity pass without making use of it. The four reasonable conditions listed below, which apply to our American clients, must also apply to our inland clients.

(1) It can only apply to items in stock (if we have to obtain something specially for you our profit margin would be insufficient to allow the discount).

(2) Because of the uncertainty of the situation, credit must be limited to 30 days, but credit cards can be used.

(3) Orders or Approval purchases must be over £25.

(4) It cannot apply to currently outstanding balances.

Yours sincerely,

H.L. KATCHER
Managing Director

Reminder!

H. L. KATCHER
The Amateur Collector Ltd
The Swiss Specialists
P. O. Box 242, London N2 0YZ, England

Telephone: 01-348 0296

Our Great Strength Is
The Ability To Supply
Items Other Dealers Cannot.
Did you know?

that the PTT are considering re-introducing limited validity for all special and definitive postage stamps, but are meeting with great resistance, luckily. It is likely that they will make only the oldest stamps of the '30s and '40s invalid, i.e., the 1938 high values, 1941 medium values, perhaps the 1949 low values, and, of course, the postcards of 1935 and the Edelweiss newspaper wrapper of 1938.

that as the Post and the Railways have always been combined in the same Ministry in Bern they were always mutually dependent in many ways. When the Railways introduced Central European Time about a century ago, with morning (a.m.) times in Roman figures and afternoon (p.m.) times in Arabic, then the Post had to do the same. When the railway timetable changes from Winter to Summer, and vice versa, all sorts of postal changes are also implemented, only some of which are noticed by the collector. This year postmark collectors have certainly noticed the change of postcode in 900-odd places on the 30th May, i.e., when the Summer Railway Timetable came into force.

that the present exhibition in the PTT Museum is combined with that in the Alpine Museum in the same building, for 125 years of the Swiss Alpine Club, a British idea. The well-known Winterthur thematic collector, Max Walter, is showing his Gold Medal collection, The Alps, until Oct 2nd.

that on the 8th of August there will be all hell let loose in a tiny village, Heiligkreuz, east of Sargans, all because of its postcode - 8888. Special covers will be available and a K-cancel will make its debut.

that we have a very nice small sheet for 50 years Pro Aero (for the protection of Switzerland from you know who) but the stamp shows the German JU 52, the paratroop plane. Anyway Zumstein in the 3BZ now asks why 75 years of the first airmail of 9th March 1913 has not been celebrated, at least with a cancellation, and they blame themselves for not noticing it before. Those first flights were also made to finance the purchase of military aircraft, for the same reason.

that the PTT have just announced stamp sales figures for various issues from the '70s with the following of particular interest:

- 2.50 Weathercock 47 823 000 with phosphor, 5 017 000 without phosphor;
- 50 + 20c Pro Sport 13 001 000;
- 50 + 50 Floods Fund 8 278 000.

YOUR EXCHANGE PACKET

We regret to say that there is a 'switcher' among the recipients. Steps are being taken to deal with this nuisance. In the meantime please check everything carefully.

ADDITION TO THE LIBRARY

With some difficulty, as it is now hard to find, the Society has been able to acquire a copy of the German-English Philatelic Dictionary, published by the Germany Phil. Soc. Inc. of America. First issued in 1969, this 2nd ed. is double the size and was published in 1979 as No. 5 of their Library Booklet series.

This superbly produced volume of 164pp must cover every possible word or abbreviation needed when dealing with postal history, early covers & military terms. It is invaluable for those not well aquainted with the German language.

Small additional listings cover the translation of colours, auction terms, abbreviations of the German postal service and military terms for quick reference.
**National Fete (Pro Patria).** Following the success of the Pro Juventute stamps the PTT decided to commemorate on or around 1st of August each year the National Fete (Bundesfeier).

From 1938 when a single stamp appeared, appropriately depicting Tell's Chapel on Lake Luzern, the number gradually increased to series of 4. They also carried a surcharge devoted to charitable purposes both at home and abroad.

Historical events were used as designs until 1944 and thereafter many series which usually covered a period of 4 years. A great variety of subjects have been shown: typical Swiss houses, traditional sports, lakes and rivers, minerals, old coins, ceiling paintings from Zillis, architectural treasures and many more.

In the last few years many delightful aspects of Swiss life have appeared: old musical instruments, inn and trade signs and ceramic stoves are a few which are of great interest.

E.J.R.

---

**ZUMSTEIN-PEN KATALOG 1988**

of the Swiss Special & Mobile PO Cancels

* 75 pages with more than 3600 illustrations

* explanatory text in four languages (German, French, Italian, English)

NEW * price by each illustrated cancel for easy reference

* for thematic collectors a clearly arranged summary of individual cancellations. More than 65 different themes

* Summary of Contents: Day of the Stamp; World Meteorological Congress; Table of temporary & special cancels; ILO Conferences; BIE Conferences; UNESCO; Altdorf Tell Festivals; Motor Shows; Musical Weeks; Balloon Festivals; Special machine cancels.

Please order from your local dealer or from our agent, Vera Trinder Ltd., 38 Bedford St, Strand, London WC2E 9EU or direct using PO Giro account No. Bern 30-334-1, thank you.

Do you know our monthly magazine the 'Berner Briefmarken-Zeitung'? We will be pleased to send you a specimen copy free of charge.

---

**J.S. ARMSTRONG**

POSTAGE STAMP DEALER

Recent articles in the Helvetia Newsletter have indicated some of the many sidelines which can be explored.

If your interests lie in this direction, or if you prefer to keep to more straightforward collecting, you still need the benefit of being able to look at material in your own home, with the time to search for those items which best fit in with your own studies.

Let me, therefore, send you selections on approval or against your Want Lists.

485 MARINE ROAD,
MORECAMBE LA4 6AF
Phone (0524) 414055

---

**ZUMSTEIN-PEN KATALOG 1988**

Spiral bound Sfr 47-
in 4-ring binder 60-
postage extra 8.50

---

Published by the Helvetia Philatelic Society of Great Britain
Printed by RPM Reprographics Chichester Ltd., Chichester, GB
THE SWISS POSTAL AGENCIES ABROAD

by Adriano Gervasi

In 1848 the Swiss Postal Service was brought together under the Federal Government. Until this date the postal services were operated by the individual Cantonal Authorities. This was the starting point of the history of the Swiss Postal Agencies Abroad, i.e., in Italy, France, and after 1848 with Austria. The Swiss postal service carried a large number of passengers in addition to the carriage of letter and parcel mail. The passenger service continued until the opening of railway lines, after which the post coaches were suspended. The following report describes briefly the main routes and mail exchanges operating from Switzerland into the three countries mentioned above.

ITALY

The Simplon Pass - Postal coaches were drawn by horses. The first diligence travelled over this pass in 1805. The route began in Lausanne and ended at Arona. Between 1860 and 1906 some sections were replaced by the newly-constructed railways, and the postal passenger service finally ended in 1906.
The St. Gotthard Pass - One of the most famous horse-drawn postal coaches is that which carried the passengers over the St. Gotthard Pass. The diligence started in Flüelen (Canton Uri), reached a height of 2111 m above sea level (about 6924 ft) on the Pass, and rolling down through the Canton of Ticino, reached the town of Camerlata in Italy. The pass road was open in winter and was a very expensive part of the service during this season.

The Splügen Pass - The route connected Chur (capital of the Grisons) with Chiavenna (Italy) passing through the village of Thusis, the Via Mala, the village of Splügen and then climbing to the Splügen Pass, at a height of 2117 m (6943 ft) before descending to Chiavenna. The Maloja Pass - Starting from St. Moritz, this route crossed the Maloja Pass at a height of 1811 m (5936 ft), descended the valley of Bregaglia (Bergell, Gr.) and ended in Chiavenna, the same point as that reached by the Splügen line.

The Bernina Road - This connected the Engadine with the Valtelline in Italy, rolling through the valley of Poschiavo (Gr.). The height of the Bernina is 2309 m (7573 ft).

The Italian Government asked the Swiss Postal Administration to also operate the Italian line from Colico (Lake of Como) to Bormio. The Swiss Postal Service also operated the lines from Mendrisio to Varese, and from Locarno through the Centovalli to Domodossola.

Mail Service - Of course, in addition to passengers, the Swiss Postal Service also carried mail, both letters and parcels. The mail was passed to the foreign Posts at fixed places and times. For this purpose the Swiss Postal Administration made agreements with the authorities of the foreign countries. For Italy at this time it was the Kingdom of Sardinia, and the first arrangement covering all acts of exchange of mail and passengers was signed on 21st October 1850, and a second one on the 28th August 1854.

A list of the Swiss Agencies Abroad is given in the table, indicating the start and duration of the postal service. Switzerland also used post cancellations and the authorised postmarks are also shown. Note: not all the agencies had the use of a postmark. The stamp was needed not only to cancel Swiss postage stamps but also for validating the passenger's tickets.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Locality</th>
<th>Post Dist.</th>
<th>Operated from - to</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Arona</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>1.VIII.1861-1.VI. 1883</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Baveno</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>1861-1.VI. 1883</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Bellagio</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>1869-1875</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Bellano</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>1.I. 1868-1875</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Bolladore</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>1.V. 1874-31.XII. 1876</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Bormio Bagno</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>15.VI. 1875-31.XII. 1876</td>
<td>Open only during bath</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Bormio Borgo</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>15.VI. 1859-31.XII. 1876</td>
<td>Operated together with MERZARIO agency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Camerlata</td>
<td>XI</td>
<td>1852-1869</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Camerlata

To be continued
THE LANDSCAPE STAMPS 1936

by F Pickard

The Essays - Part 2

Z.203 Castle Chillon and Dents du Midi
10 Centimes Purple

Bickel experimented with the effect of morning and evening sunlight upon the scene. Sunset highlighted the castle walls facing the lake and produced too many light areas on the mountainsides. The morning light was chosen and this allowed the centre scene to dominate. Illustrations 12 and 13 are of interest, 12 shows the vineyards spreading across the lower part of the stamp while 13 tries a pair of sails. After stamp issue opinion felt the detail was too fine and the plate was redrawn. In 1939 a fresh die was cut and this emboldened the whole stamp. The mountain outline was lowered.

1939 Fresh Die

Z.204 Rhone Glacier
15 Centimes Orange

The shade of orange presented the engraver with a difficult task. It is a simple thing to produce a two-dimensional result as with the 20c Standing Helvetia, but to attempt a scene calling for the three-dimensional effect was a hard task. It was necessary to engrave deeply and examination of the issued stamp showed the strong ink ridges brought about. Essay 18 showed the Furka road on the right but this was left out. The introduction on the left of the support wall to the Grimsel road strengthens the composition.
FROM A SPECIAL PURCHASE WE OFFER AT EXCEPTIONALLY LOW PRICES

**SITTING HELVETIAS**

★★ IN SUPERB NEVER-HINGED MULTIPLES ★★

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OUR CAT.NO.</th>
<th>BLOCK OF FOUR</th>
<th>¼ SHEET OF 25</th>
<th>½ SHEET OF 50</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30f</td>
<td>8.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32c</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>35.00</td>
<td>62.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32f</td>
<td>5.00</td>
<td>25.00</td>
<td>44.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38d</td>
<td>5.65</td>
<td>37.50</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38f</td>
<td>11.00</td>
<td>47.50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40c</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>31.50</td>
<td>52.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44</td>
<td>0.80</td>
<td>3.75</td>
<td>6.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44c</td>
<td>1.25</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>0.30</td>
<td>1.60</td>
<td>2.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45b</td>
<td>0.60</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46</td>
<td>4.40</td>
<td>20.00</td>
<td>31.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46b</td>
<td>4.40</td>
<td>20.00</td>
<td>31.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47</td>
<td>9.25</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48</td>
<td>0.60</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>5.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48a</td>
<td>1.10</td>
<td>5.50</td>
<td>10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49</td>
<td>0.30</td>
<td>1.60</td>
<td>2.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>0.60</td>
<td>2.80</td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50a</td>
<td>1.10</td>
<td>5.50</td>
<td>10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51</td>
<td>23.50</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52</td>
<td>23.50</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The quality of this material is as if printed yesterday, not over 100 years ago!

The above prices are, at present, inclusive of V.A.T. if orders are above £25.

LES TIMBRES FISCAUX CANTONNAUX DU VALAIS by Denis Gainon - This, the fourth catalogue on fiscal stamps of the Swiss Cantons, deals with the Valais and has 25% more issues than the 1950 Schaufelberger listing. Background details of the relevant laws for the issues are given in easy to understand French. Specialised listings and helpful figures make this a most useful publication. Available direct from R Hürlimann at Grünweg 2, CH-2502 Biel/Bienne, Switzerland for SFr.8. -
Z.205

Gotthard Railway

20 Centimes Scarlet

The mixture of road, river and railway lines was a difficult scene to portray. In reality the view is better than the issued stamp. Difficulty can be seen in creating harmony between the value figures and the railway arches. Examine the treatment at the top of the essays of the mountainsides and the bridge. In 1938 a new die was needed and the opportunity was taken to alter the scene to one from the Ticino region (see 205A).

Z.205A

San Salvatore (new scene)

20 Centimes Scarlet

Without doubt Karl Bickel enjoyed himself trying out ideas for this new design. Being a well-known tourist region there was much to choose from. Melide on 28 could be the forerunner to the 25c value of the 1949 Landscape set. On 29 the Castello Uri of Bellinzona is seen. The engraver returned to Lake Lugano and achieved true balance between the church on the Gandria road and the mountain of San Salvatore in the background.

To be continued.
Yorkshire Philatelists honour Mr J A Eastwood

At the 42nd Annual Convention of the Yorkshire Philatelic Association Mr J A Eastwood of Halifax became the seventh member of the Northern Group to sign the Register of Distinguished Yorkshire Philatelists.

Mr Eastwood was a founder member of the Northern Group of Helvetia and has held the office of secretary, chairman on three occasions, and is the present treasurer of the group. Since the group was founded in 1950 he has been one of its most regular attenders and has given many displays. I am sure readers everywhere will join with Northern Group members in extending congratulations to Mr Eastwood on this well deserved honour.

Also at the Yorkshire Philatelic Convention Haydn Vaughan, the eldest son of Mr P Vaughan of Bolton, won the G W Dyson Cup in the junior competition. This is the third year running that Haydn has won an award with a Swiss entry and I am sure all members will join with your reporter in extending to him many congratulations and very best wishes for the future.

The first meetings of the new season are nearly here. Northern Group members should start looking now for material to display at the meeting on September 17th - Members Displays. If you are anywhere in the area on this Saturday then turn up at the Leeds Institution for the Blind & Deaf, Centenary House, North Street, Leeds for 2 p.m. Take this chance to meet other members of your society and you will be sure to benefit from it.

London Group members, and others, should make a note of the following dates now: October 12th, Letter 'C'; November 9th, AGM & Auction; December 14th, Small Landscapes 1934-48, Discussion led by Mr F Pickard with all members invited to show. 1989 meetings will be published in the December issue or as a card.

POSTAL ACCEPTANCE STATIONS - M. P Guinand of Morges is compiling a list of the cancellations of these temporary offices and asks whether any of our members have any for the years 1940-50. He would be glad of a photocopy and details of the dimensions of those made by rubber stamp. Mr R S Johnson will be glad to receive this information at 36 Burnham Way, London W13 9YA and will send it on to M. Guinand.

New ‘K’ cancels

![Image of various 'K' cancels, including those from Bussy, Rüti, Törbel, etc.](image-url)
Did you know?

- that on the 8th September, that is 5 days before the FD of the Specials II stamps, a new style of Fr.5.- booklet will appear. As sales of the present Folklore booklet have dropped to nearly zero (too many odd values) the PTT now has a double strip of 5, i.e. ten 5c stamps showing the usual postman, but with cut edges, and glued in as in UK and Sweden, with the strip folded over. The cover is white with PTT adverts. Being thinner more can be stocked in the machines.
- that in the PTT Museum (see last month's DYK) there is also a unique display by Walter Grob of photos, cards and private cancellations of all SAC huts.
- that someone has found that the original of the security background used for all Frama labels is that of the luxury tax stamps used during the last war. Now ridiculous prices are being asked for such 'forerunners'.
- that on the 2nd July the new building housing the Air Force Museum, next to the military airfield in Dübendorf, was opened, with a special flight to Munich of a Swiss JU 52. Now on 2nd August a publicity slogan will be used in Dübendorf 1 cancelling machine for the first time, and will be used for alternate months in future. Shown are a Swiss fighter prototype of 1918 the DH 4 (not to be confused with De Haviland), the Mirage III and the JU 52. The old K-cancel of Dübendorf 2, near the museum, shows a 31eriot.

AN ANSWER? - the query from the member in Ipswich regarding the value of the cachet '53e Session...' on page 47 of the newsletter is in the recent Zumstein PEN catalogue, page 5, which gives SFr.110.- for either cancel. Perhaps there are other views in other catalogues? R S Johnson

I G STAMPS

P O Box 27
Otley
West Yorkshire
LS21 1JB

I wish to BUY

Large collections or single items of quality.

Please contact me if you have anything in SWISS philately to sell.

There will be no list during the summer but I look forward to receiving your WANTS LISTS.

Ian Gilchrist
A - Z OF SWISS PHILATELY

OVERPRINTS  Most countries have at some time found it necessary to use overprints on stamps. While some mark special events those of more importance and interest have been issued because of a sudden need to revalue currency and, therefore, the postal charges such as the collapse of the German currency during the First World War.

New stamps were usually required in a hurry, so surplus stocks of low value or discontinued values which were to hand were overprinted with new values to meet the emergency.

Four series of stamps were involved: the Helvetia bust of 1907, certain values of the long-standing Tell Boy and Tell, and Helvetia with Sword; these were produced at intervals between 1915 & 1930.

Inevitably due to haste a number of errors can be found and many misplaced figures. These with covers combining original and overprinted values can be built up into a most interesting study.

E J R

J. S. ARMSTRONG
POSTAGE STAMP DEALER

Recent articles in the Helvetia Newsletter have indicated some of the many sidelines which can be explored.

If your interests lie in this direction, or if you prefer to keep to more straightforward collecting, you still need the benefit of being able to look at material in your own home, with the time to search for those items which best fit in with your own studies.

Let me, therefore, send you selections on approval or against your Want Lists.

485 MARINE ROAD,
MORECAMBE LA4 6AF
Phone (0524) 414055

Buy the new
ZUMSTEIN CATALOGUES 1988/89
available beginning of September 1988

ZUMSTEIN EUROPE in four volumes (72nd edition)

Prices: Postal fees for Europe:

| Volume 1 EUROPE North | SFr. 23.-- | SFr. 8.-- |
| Volume 2 EUROPE Middle | SFr. 23.-- | SFr. 9.-- |
| Volume 3 EUROPE South | SFr. 23.-- | SFr. 8.50 |
| Volume 4 EUROPE East | SFr. 41.-- | SFr. 11.-- |

ZUMSTEIN SWITZERLAND/LIECHTENSTEIN 1988/89
in colour, german/french
NEW: with price tendencies!

| paper cover | SFr. 12.-- | SFr. 7.-- |
| spiral binding | SFr. 14.-- | SFr. 7.-- |

Please apply to your local stamp dealer or to our Agent in Great Britain: VERA TRINDER LTD., 38 Bedford Street, Strand, London WC2E 9EU

For direct orders to Zumstein, please use our postal account: Berne 30-334-1 for prepayments. Thank you!

ZUMSTEIN + CIE, propr. Hertsch + Co.
P.O. Box 2585, CH-3001 Berne/Switzerland
Phone: 031 222215, Telex: 912035 ZFIL CH

Do you know our monthly newspaper the "BERNER BRIEFMARKEN-ZEITUNG"? We send you gladly a specimen copy free of charge, with no obligation whatsoever.
STANDING HELVETIA?

by Geoff Holden

As a collector of Swiss stamps living some 10,000 miles away from that country it can sometimes be difficult to obtain information which is more readily available in the northern hemisphere.

The following of Swiss philately is very small in Australia, shown by the fact that I am the only member of the Helvetia Society in this country, and at that, living in Perth, the most isolated Capital City in the world. The associated problems are sometimes outweighed by the benefits that lack of support brings; lack of interest causes lack of knowledge. A New Zealand dealer on a trip to Perth offered me the Lunaba sheet First Day of Issue for 3 dollars "Do you collect Swiss labels?" I assured him that I did and to help him out would be glad to take it off his hands. This is not an uncommon occurrence and because of this I have been fortunate in obtaining a large quantity of the Standing Helvetia series. This has led me into investigating these issues, and this is where I have experienced problems with regard to obtaining information. These circumstances have prompted me to put pen to paper to ask for help from the membership of the Helvetia Society. Among such an esteemed selection of Swiss philatelists there must be an untold wealth of information only waiting to be shared with the rest of the members, but what can be done to unlock the floodgates?

I have decided to raise a number of questions to put to the members with the hope that it will prompt answers to these in the form of comments, articles or even snippets of information which will help us all understand the series more clearly.

Firstly let us consider the so-called 'Libertas' essays which abound in various colours, with and without perforations, and in values 50 c and 1 Fr. I have seen these in blue, lilac, black and grey.
What can members tell us of the reasons behind all these variations? Can they explain how the retouches can be identified? Many of the recurring faults have been listed, along with plate flaws, in books only published in German. Can anyone give us details from these sources of information?

What is known in regard to the colour changes in the series? Were some of these to conform to UPU regulations concerning quick identification?

Is it true that the Federal authorities employed a 'secrets clerk' to make sure that all the official changes were made with the utmost confidentiality?

Essays and colour trials of the 25c and 40c appear in many colours, shades and on various thicknesses of paper and card. Many of these seem to be too readily available not to have some dubious origins. Can anyone explain how the printing plates came to be 'lent' to a printer in Paris while in the hands of Max Giradet? It is obvious that a lot of these 'trials' came from this source, but how do we differentiate between these and 'genuine' items? Lack of knowledge apparently led to a US auctioneer offering Standing Helvetia 'marking aids' as 'Essays' at $100 est. They were withdrawn when this was discovered. (Was this due to our friends of the American HPS?)

to be continued
## THE SWISS POSTAL AGENCIES ABROAD

Continued from August

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Locality</th>
<th>Post Dist.</th>
<th>Operated from . . to Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Campodolcino</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>1862-1918</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Campodolcino</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mess. Svizzere</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Canobbio</td>
<td>ii</td>
<td>1871-1886</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Only passengers book.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Castasegna Dogana</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>1884-1921</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Chiavenna</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>1861-1 IX. 1921</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Colico</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>1874-7II. 1886</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1861-1873 parcels service MERZARIO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Como</td>
<td>XI</td>
<td>1.1. 1874-1884</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Only passengers book.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Domodossola</td>
<td>ii</td>
<td>1849- still open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Depend from the Post</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3900 Brigue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Domodossola</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mess. Svizzere</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Gravellona</td>
<td>ii</td>
<td>1.VI.1871-9.IX. 1888</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>After 1881 was called</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Gravellona-Toca*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Grossotto</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>1869-31.XII. 1876</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Intra</td>
<td>ii</td>
<td>1.IVI. 1883-29.VIII.1888</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Intra</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Messagerie Svizzere</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Iselle</td>
<td>ii</td>
<td>1864-1920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Isella</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Diligences Suisses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Lecco</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>1.I. 1868-1875</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

continued overleaf ...
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Locality</th>
<th>Dist.</th>
<th>Operated from - to Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Luino</td>
<td>XI</td>
<td>1857- 1940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Milano</td>
<td>XI</td>
<td>1857- 1860 + 1868- 1.VII. 1893</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Monte Spluga</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>16.XI. 1922- 1940 Only passengers Service.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Morbegno</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>1869-31.XII. 1876</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Ornavasso</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>1862- 9.IX. 1888</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Pallanza</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>1871- 1883 + 1.VI. 1883-29.VIII.1888</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Pianazzo</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>1.III. 1886- 1.X. 1918</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Ponte (S.Carlo di Ponte)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>1874-31.XII. 1876 Removed at San Carlo 1875</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>San Giacomo Filippo</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>1.V. 1908-1.X. 1918</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Santa Maria Maggiore</td>
<td>XI</td>
<td>1.VII. 1908-1.XII. 1916</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Sondrio</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>1.1. 1864- 1.VI. 1883</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Stresa</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>1862- 1869</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>Tirano</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>+15.VI. 1869-30.VI. 1908</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Tresenda</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>1.V. 1874-31.XII. 1876</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>Vareena</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>1.1. 1868- 1875</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>Varese</td>
<td>XI</td>
<td>1868- ? Date not given</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>Villa di Chiavenna</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>1879- 1884</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>Vogogna</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>1861- 9.X. 1888</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To be continued
The Essays - Part 3

Z.206 Via Mala Gorge

25 Centimes Brown

After the various experiments with the 25c stamp of San Salvatore, Bickel settled quickly on to the Via Mala view. The problem was to express clearly the rugged nature of the scene. From the essays the changes are minor and subtle. Most evident is the time spent in changing the size of the water at the base of the view. Use was made of the two fallen trees half way up the right side to emphasize the ruggedness of the gorge.

Z.207 The Rhine Falls Schaffhausen

30 Centimes Blue

In total contrast to the stillness of the Via Mala Gorge the sheer energy of the falls dominated the whole scene. A cataract of immense power required its constant movement to be conveyed. Water is not easy to express in such a miniature view but Bickel has succeeded. Observe the gradual change of the bridge and the altering skyline. Great care was taken to obtain a balance between rock, tree and water.
NEW SEASON'S MEETINGS - Sussex Group meet on 1st October in the Church Lounge, All Saints, Patcham, Brighton with Mr Clapshoe completing his display of straight-line markings, followed by all-members contributions to Odds & Ends, finds, and queries.

The Northern Group have Members' Displays on 17th September as notified last month.

London Group members should get letter 'C' ready for the 12th October at the Victory Services Club.

Stampex is from 27th September to 2nd October; the Editor hopes to be there on the Thursday.

CONGRATULATIONS to Gene Kelly whose Fiscals Catalog gained a Silver-bronze at both Finlandia 88 and the 12th Cardinal Spellman Literature Fair. His news sheet, the Revenue Philatelist, also gained a bronze at Cardinal Spellman.

WANTED - a complete set of the Helvetia Newsletter (from No. 2) to prepare an index, as was done for our sister publication 'Tell'. Anyone who has a set please contact Dale R Eggen, P O Box 2948, Warminster PA 18974 2948, USA, or talk to him at SEPAD, Philadelphia.
DID YOU KNOW?

- that the great event of 8.8.88 was celebrated in 8888 Heiligkreuz with champagne and full media coverage and a team cancelled 200,000 items in the space of a week or so; a record for a K cancel first day. The attractive special cover had to be reprinted twice, making 30,000 in all, and a rarity value of 0!
- that the high court has decided that Purchase Tax, at 6.2% retail and 9.3% wholesale, must be charged on all philatelic material, e.g., stamps for collectors, FDCs and auctions. The complications are untold, more to follow. Starts on 1st January 1989.
- that the newest PTT service is called Telegiro. From your home or office you can make payments direct by phone. More useful for firms as not many homes have the interconnection facilities, it is one computer talking to another.
- that four important collections have been given recently to the PTT Museum by collectors, making a total of 33 since 1943. They will be on show in the new building in a year or so.
- that Georges Schild has pulled another plum out of his historical researches, namely covers sent by doctors of the Red Cross team sent to help Finland in 1940. No stamps but a 5-line cachet stating the origin. Details in the Sept. BBZ.
- that in the same BBZ Walter Eigenmann reveals some new factors of the 'Postage Free' stamps of 1927 & 1934. Fascinating for specialists.
- that collectors are getting tired of the unimaginative centenary issues with which we have been blessed, and are to be totally immersed next year. The trouble is that once started with A then B, C & D have also a 'right' to the same privilege, and most have the political muscle to get it. But does the result please anyone? The attractions of a holiday in Switzerland, say?

- that the usual flood of beautiful auction catalogues, and order forms for the annual catalogues, is upon us. (Sign of autumn? Ed.)
- that Hans Schwarzenbach (Postgeschichte und auctions) notifies a change of address to Oberdorfstrasse 8, CH-8001 Zurich from the 1st of October.
- that Alfred Müller of Bern died on the 23rd June. A remarkable collector, he is perhaps best known for his work on the Handbuch der Abstempelungen, and for his Ambulant works.

M Rutherford

NPS - Entry Appraisal A new scheme has been instituted by the NPS for potential entrants over 18 who have never competed at national level. A panel of qualified National Judges will appraise exhibits and then discuss them with their owners, giving recommendations on how to enter the major national event in the autumn. Send now for details as the closing date is 25th November. S.a.e. to NPS, 107 Charterhouse St., London EC1M 6PT. Remember that first time entries need be only 16 sheets.

I G STAMPS
P O Box 27
Otley
West Yorkshire
LS21 1JB

I wish to BUY

Large collections or single items of quality.
Please contact me if you have anything in SWISS philately to sell.

There will be no list during the summer but I look forward to receiving your WANTS LISTS.

Ian Gilchrist
A - Z OF SWISS PHILATELY

PRO AERO Aviation in Switzerland got off to a slow start and was mainly for military purposes. The hazardous nature of the mountainous country presented many problems and funds were urgently required for promotion and research. These were, from 1913 onwards, largely raised by the holding of sponsored Flight Meetings and Pioneer Flights when some mail was carried bearing special semi-official 'stamps' and commemorative cancellations. These are now highly prized.

As aviation became more advanced the 'PRO AERO FUND' was set up and a special stamp - or stamps - have been issued at intervals from 1938 to date.

The earlier ones depict types of early aircraft and the four very fine stamps commemorating the most famous of the Pioneer Airmen are a worthy tribute in 1977. All of these will provide a collection full of interest. E J R

J. S. ARMSTRONG
POSTAGE STAMP DEALER

Recent articles in the Helvetia Newsletter have indicated some of the many sidelines which can be explored.

If your interests lie in this direction, or if you prefer to keep to more straightforward collecting, you still need the benefit of being able to look at material in your own home, with the time to search for those items which best fit in with your own studies.

Let me, therefore, send you selections on approval or against your Want Lists.

485 MARINE ROAD, MORECAMBE LA4 6AF
Phone (0524) 414055

Prices:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Volume</th>
<th>Europe North</th>
<th>SFr. 23.--</th>
<th>SFr. 8.--</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Volume</td>
<td>Europe Middle</td>
<td>SFr. 23.--</td>
<td>SFr. 9.--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volume</td>
<td>Europe South</td>
<td>SFr. 23.--</td>
<td>SFr. 8.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volume</td>
<td>Europe East</td>
<td>SFr. 41.--</td>
<td>SFr. 11.--</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Postal fees for Europe:

- North: SFr. 23.--
- Middle: SFr. 23.--
- South: SFr. 23.--
- East: SFr. 41.--

ZUMSTEIN SWITZERLAND/LIECHTENSTEIN 1988/89

- In colour, German/French
- NEW: with price tendencies!

Paper cover: SFr. 12.--
Spiral binding: SFr. 14.--

Please apply to your local stamp dealer or to our Agent in Great Britain: VERA TRINDER LTD., 38 Bedford Street, Strand, London WC2E 9EU

For direct orders to Zumstein, please use our postal account: Berne 30-334-1 for prepayments. Thank you!

ZUMSTEIN + CIE, propr. Hertsch + Co.
P.O. Box 2585, CH-3001 Berne/Switzerland
Phone: 031 222215, Telex: 912035 ZFIL CH

Do you know our monthly newspaper the "BERNER BRIEFMARKEN-ZEITUNG"? We send you gladly a specimen copy free of charge, with no obligation whatsoever.

Published by the Helvetia Philatelic Society of Great Britain
Printed by RPM Reprographics Chichester Ltd., Chichester, GB
HELP for Allen Payne

I would like to thank those of you who so kindly responded to my plea in the March issue concerning the two transit covers. To help explain the queries I have been lucky enough to obtain a further cover between Lucerne and Lyon, Figure 4.

Each of the three covers falls into a different successive weight band, the first (fig 1) falls within that which is less than 7½g, being the basic rate as stated in the Swiss postal treaty of 1828/9 with France. The new cover (fig 4) has a manuscript 10 in black in the top left indicating the weight as 10g. The third cover (fig 2) has in the top left the numeral 20 (not initials as I suggested, so obvious isn't it) indicating the weight as 20g. The 5/8 (fig 3) is apparently 5/8 ounce (= 20g) entered by the Lucerne postal authorities. As yet I do not know what the weight bands are.

The red manuscript figures 4 (fig 1), 6 (fig 4) and 10 (fig 2) show the amount due in kreuzer to the Lucerne PO for the distance from Lucerne to Basel by the Basel PO. The 6 and the 10 are 1½ and 2½ times the basic rate.

To summarise the manuscript numerals on all three covers let me start with figure 1. This was within the single rate band which necessitated the black 9 for the final postal charge of 9 decimes. The second cover (fig 4) came in the second (double) rate band, that is 2 x 9 = 18, two times the basic rate, i.e. 6 decimes to Switzerland and 12 decimes to France. The third cover (fig 2) came within the third (treble) weight band, that is 3 x 9 = 27, three times the basic rate, i.e. 9 decimes to Switzerland and 18 decimes to France. This is a summary of the information received which answers the original queries, but a question...
still remains which I feel will not be answered until I am able to see a table showing the external postal rates applicable to the period. Perhaps someone has this information? Bearing in mind the three rate bands involved, why are the red numerals 6 & 10 (right-hand side of figures 4 & 2) not two and three times the basic rate 9? A Payne

STANDING HELVETIA by Geoff Holden (continued from September)

Most collectors are aware that the series in its 25 year life was printed by three firms. It was subjected to four perforation changes, two types of impressed control mark and one watermark were used. Two values were re-designed, plus the colour changes. These events alone provide a wealth of study without the varieties caused by wear on the plates and the subsequent retouches and replacement of cliches as seen below.

Did I read that a member of HLK's staff discovered a 72c while on holiday? Is it correct that there are only five known copies of this stamp in existence, two pairs and a single, all postmarked in Solothurn?

Can Mrs Rawnsley tell us anything applicable to the series from her extensive research into the Cross & Numeral series which was under consideration for the design of the whole series originally? Can we persuade Mr Bulstrode to let us into some of his secrets on Proofs & Essays? For example the two-coloured essay designed and engraved by Berthold & Co. of Berlin, more fussy than the issued one shown here.

Is this enough to get you reaching for your pens? I sincerely hope so because it is you, the members, who keep the Newsletter alive and to us overseas members the only contact we have with the Society.

If you do not wish, or have enough information, to write an article about writing to me in Australia with your thoughts, ideas and remarks. These can be correlated to form another article, with suitable recognition to the source. If you decide to do this, I promise to send all correspondents a bag of sunshine and a bottle of Indian Ocean Surf!

Geoff Holden lives at: 40 Carawatha Ave., Armadale, W. Australia 6112, or the editor can forward contributions.

(What happened to the printing plate for the Die II 25c found in 1961 and from which prints were made by the Amateur Collector?)
THE LANDSCAPE STAMPS 1936

The Essays - Part 4

Z.208 Klus In The Jura With Neu-Falkenstein
35 Centimes Green

The grandeur of the Jura is shown on this stamp. Essays 44 and 45 show the first attempts using the north to south view of the gorge of the Lobisei. The final scene chosen rewards the engraver by enabling him to display the strong geographical features of this region. A balance was struck between the ruins of the castle of Neu-Falkenstein and the houses above the lettering. Note the reduction in scale of the tree between the castle and right hand edge of the stamp.

Z.209 Lake Of Seealp With Mt Saentis
40 Centimes Grey

Great tranquillity is obtained by contrasting the light and shade of the view. The gradual change from essay 49 to 52 illustrates the search of the engraver for total perfection. Note the change in pitch of the roof angle above the letter A. Essay 50 is interesting in its cross hatching of the sky. As with previous skylines Bickel decided upon a clear space behind the mountain peak. A claim has been made by some people that the angle of the rock face in the centre can be interpreted as a man's face with a moustache; but that is best left to the reader.

This third part brings to an end the essays. It is hoped to continue with contributions on other aspects of this fascinating issue. The 1936 Landscape stamps offer a wide scope for study and members of this Society have the chance of filling in the gaps for future collectors. Please do not be backward in suggesting areas that need further research; amongst the membership someone has the information needed to enlarge our knowledge. Let the Editor have your comments.
To: THE AMATEUR COLLECTOR LTD. (H.L. Katcher)
P.O. Box 242, LONDON, N2 0YZ.

NAME__________________________
ADDRESS________________________

Kindly send me_________copy/copies of your
1989 Catalogue for which I enclose__________

* Price (incl. post and packing):
£7.50 or U.S. $12.50

Important: Please keep Catalogue orders strictly separate from all other transactions. This will avoid mistakes and delays as different departments are involved. We thank you in advance.

★ REFUNDED ON FIRST PURCHASE OF £75.
In accordance with the Society's rules NOTICE is hereby given that the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held on WEDNESDAY, November 9th 1988 at 6.30 p.m. prompt at the Victory Services Club, Seymour St., Marble Arch, London WC2.

AGENDA
1 Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on November 11th 1987
2 Matters arising from the minutes
3 Chairman's Address
4 Hon. Secretary's Report
5 Hon. Treasurer's Report and Statement of Accounts
6 Hon. Packet Secretary's Report
7 Election of Officers & Members of the Society's Committee for 1988/9
8 Motions and Resolutions
9 any other business

NOMINATIONS
Nominations for the Election of Officers and Members of the Committee, i.e. President, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Editor, Hon. Librarian, Hon. Auditor, and (not exceeding) TWELVE Members of the Committee, should be sent to the Hon. Sec., Mr G W Hubbard, IN WRITING, to reach him not later than Monday 7th November 1988.

RESOLUTIONS
Any member desiring to move a Resolution or Motion at the Annual General Meeting must give notice IN WRITING, enclosing the text of the Resolution, to the Hon. Sec. before the opening of the Annual General Meeting.

22nd September 1988
G W Hubbard (Hon. Sec.)
F Pickard (Chairman)

All Members who can are asked to attend this meeting, when they have the opportunity to criticise the running of the Society and to put forward suggestions for future policy. After the business session, which is expected to last an hour, there will be an auction.

NORTHERN GROUP MEETING on the 5th November is Postage Dues by Mr G W Hubbard. On the 3rd December it will be the Chairman's Display.

LONDON GROUP MEETING on the 14th December is a discussion evening led by Mr F Pickard with all members invited to display.

SUSSEX GROUP MEETING on the 3rd December in the Church Lounge, All Saints, Patcham.

NEW from the FTT

COMMENTS ON AN INTERESTING COVER - Concerning the cover shown on p 53 with the straight-line 'Niedergoggen' used to cancel a definitive used as a due, my thanks are extended to Felix Ganz for an explanation. One reason for the original due being cancelled 'ungültig' is that Frau Kampf may have asked for her mail to be re-directed. The somewhat difficult to read town name is 'Gösgen', which is served by Niedergosgen. It would seem that all Swiss post offices have straight-line cancellers, mainly for use on blank registered labels in an emergency, or to stamp forms and in-service reports. It would appear that the normal 'T', either in a circle or the large open variety, was mislaid and therefore the straight-line was used instead.

Now one wonders if there are any other examples of straight-line cancellers used in this way?

G W Hubbard
New PTT booklet (see DYK, opposite)

Briefmarkensammler!
Verlangen Sie am Postschalter die Broschüre über das Neuheiten-Abonnement der Schweizer Post.

Philatelisten!
Demandez au guichet postal la brochure concernant l'abonnement aux nouvelles émissions de timbres suisses.

Collezionisti!
Chiedete allo sportello l'opuscolo concernente l'abbonamento alle novità filateliche delle poste svizzere.

Mein Konto ist gelb.
Das Postcheckkonto.

Mon compte est jaune.
Le compte de cheques postaux.

Il mio conto è giallo.
Il conto corrente postale.

1988
Markenheftchen - Carnets - Libretti

25 x 5 Fr. = 125 Franken

Dafi nicht vor 8.9.1988 verkauft werden
Ne pas vendre avant le 8.9.1988
Non vendere prima dell'8.9.1988

Inhalt nachprüfen - Vérifier le contenu
Controllare il contenuto
Did you know?

- that the Purchase Tax problem is becoming a little clearer. Liechtenstein stamps will follow Switzerland, as they are in a common customs area. UNO Geneva position is not clear. Cancelled modern stamps, cancelled and mint non-valid stamps, FDCs, sheetlets etc. will be liable to tax; all foreign stamps too. An 8-page 'clarification' is available.
- that the SBB has issued two new sets of postcards, on new locos, and on the Brüning railway. About Sfr.11- each; order direct.
- that the PTT postal coach office in Bern has just published a new map of all their routes, large size with text in four languages, including English. Posthorn tunes are given for saying in advance how many horses need to be changed at the next stop, for instance.
- that the new booklet which came out on 8.9.88 poses some queries, which I have not yet been able to answer. Fig 1 shows outside view of opened booklet, same size as before. Fig 2 inside view, without pane of stamps, also white. Note marks, type B, LH on cover, RH on selvedge, which is not perforated through. Fig 3 is of an opened-out booklet, type A, no marks. Figs 4 & 5 show partially opened FD cancelled booklets, types C & D, with LH & RH marks on the card at the edge of the selvedge; laying up marks? Fig 6 is the green slip at the top of each packet of 25 booklets.
- that the PTT gave out this postcard free at the special show at this year's Comptoir Suisse in Lausanne. The picture side is black and yellow. It does not need to be cancelled, as it is 'PP', but if it goes in the new coding system, at present on test in Lausanne, it gets the reddish bars which prove postal usage.
A to Z of Swiss Philately

QUESTIONS & QUERIES - There are many questions for which authentic information would be most welcome.

One of the most intriguing concerns the second issue of the 'Sitting Helvetia Perf.' of 1867 when there were some colour and value changes.

The new 2c value, formerly grey, appeared in a distinctive red-brown shade which was apparently quickly changed to a light olive. Why?

No catalogue, not even the large Zumstein, nor any other book gives a reason or a date for this sudden change. As a result it has become a most desirable item, especially on cover.

Another later query asks how a letter dated 21st June 1831, was addressed to IFERTEN, a name which will not be found in the 'Ortsverzeichnis'. It is, in fact, the PTT official name in German for YVERDON, but how did it come to be used in 1831 and was delivered without question?

These are puzzles which make our hobby so fascinating. E J R

J. S. ARMSTRONG
POSTAGE STAMP DEALER

Recent articles in the Helvetia Newsletter have indicated some of the many sidelines which can be explored.

If your interests lie in this direction, or if you prefer to keep to more straightforward collecting, you still need the benefit of being able to look at material in your own home, with the time to search for those items which best fit in with your own studies.

Let me, therefore, send you selections on approval or against your Want Lists.

485 MARINE ROAD,
MORECAMBE LA4 6AF
Phone (0524) 414055

Buy the new
ZUMSTEIN CATALOGUES 1988/89
available beginning of September 1988

ZUMSTEIN EUROPE in four volumes (72nd edition)

Prices:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Volume</th>
<th>Europe North</th>
<th>SFr. 23.--</th>
<th>Postal fees for Europe:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Volume 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>SFr. 8.--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volume 2</td>
<td></td>
<td>SFr. 23.--</td>
<td>SFr. 9.--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volume 3</td>
<td></td>
<td>SFr. 23.--</td>
<td>SFr. 8.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volume 4</td>
<td></td>
<td>SFr. 41.--</td>
<td>SFr. 11.--</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ZUMSTEIN SWITZERLAND/LIECHTENSTEIN 1988/89
in colour, german/french
NEW: with price tendencies!

| Paper Cover | SFr. 12.-- | SFr. 7.-- |
| Spiral Binding | SFr. 14.-- | SFr. 7.-- |

Please apply to your local stamp dealer or to our Agent in Great Britain: VERA TRINDER LTD., 38 Bedford Street, Strand, London WC2E 9EU

For direct orders to Zumstein, please use our postal account: Berne 30-334-1 for prepayments. Thank you!

ZUMSTEIN + CIE, propr. Hertsch + Co.
P.O. Box 2585, CH-3001 Berne/Switzerland
Phone: 031 222215, Telex: 912035 ZFIL CH

Do you know our monthly newspaper the "BERNER BRIEFMARKEN-ZEITUNG"? We send you gladly a specimen copy free of charge, with no obligation whatsoever.

Published by the Helvetia Philatelic Society of Great Britain
Printed by RPM Reprographics Chichester Ltd., Chichester, GH
Schoolchild. The second set in the four-year «Development of the Child» series is devoted to the schoolchild. The designs are by Harriet Höppner of Zurich. Ten percent of the premium on the stamps sold by the PTT is allocated to national youth welfare work; the rest goes to the Pro Juventute Foundation.  

35 + 15 c Reading The ability to read gives the child access to a new part of the adult world. Learning to read is an adventure needing concentration and perseverance by the child and patience on the part of its parents.  

50 + 20 c Making Music By making music the child can express its feelings and moods. Music embraces listening as well as the child's pleasure at producing its own pleasant sounds.  

80 + 40 c Arithmetic We may be living in the computer age, but when children start school their fingers are still an important aid in learning how to do sums; initially concentration is not enough.  

90 + 40 c Drawing Being able to draw what they have experienced is of great importance to children. Their drawings often impress us adults by their power of expression and their intensity.  

Joint stamp issue Switzerland–France

In a first-time venture, the Swiss PTT is issuing a stamp jointly with a foreign postal administration. Continuing its well-known Art series, France is releasing simultaneously with Switzerland a stamp identical in all respects except for the denomination in the national currency and the name of the country. The common subject is the work of Swiss artist Jean Tinguely of Neyruz. Called «Métamecanique», it is described as a representation of a variety of movements in search of coincidence. The stamp has been produced by the French postage stamp printing works at Périgueux. On the day of issue, the postal services in Paris and Basle will operate jointly staffed special post offices. Although various philatelic items – see list below – are available with both stamps, our standing-order customers will automatically receive only items bearing the Swiss stamp. It should be noted that stamps will be cancelled only with the postmark of the country concerned. The below-mentioned articles can be obtained at PTT philatelic salespoints as well as the special post office in Basle (on the day of issue). Orders in writing should be sent to the PTT Philatelic Office, Parkterrasse 10, 3030 Bern.
REPORTS OF MEETINGS

The Northern Group held their first meeting of the new session in Leeds on September 17th. For some years now this first meeting has consisted of short displays by members and has always proved most popular.

The following members provided displays:

Mrs Davis. The Simplon Line from Lausanne along the Rhone valley, with sheets on the Grand St. Bernard and Simplon passes, and also of Zermatt.

Mr Hope displayed Frama labels and the Geneva UN stamps.

Mr Gilchrist. Postal Stationery, perforated Sitting Helvetia, varieties of the 1953 10c Mobile Post Office stamp, and the 5c of 1955. He concluded with some cancellations of the Swiss Agencies in France and Italy.

Mr Vaughan showed the Tell and Tell Boy stamps, the 1914 and 1928 high value definitives, and the 1924 Shield and Emblem issue.

Mr Eastwood showed items from his Pro Patria collection.

Haydn Vaughan showed his winning entry in the Yorkshire Philatelic Association Competition on Lausanne.

Mr Hoyle showed photographs taken of his recent visit to the Monte Rosa Hut telling the story of the journey from Rotenboden on the Gornergrat Railway and the walk over the glacier.

The subject for study at the meeting in Leeds on October 1st was 'Franking, Right or Wrong'.

Mr Arthur introduced the subject by distributing a translation of the section in the Zumstein catalogue on postage rates. Six members, Mrs Davis, Mr Arthur, Mr Cairns, Mr Gilchrist, Mr Proctor and Mr Vaughan then displayed a vast number of covers and cards relating to Swiss postal rates, both correctly and under and over franked, covering the many changes in rates which had taken place over the years. Topics covered included Air Mails, printed matter, Nachnahme, express, registered, postage due and the Tell and Tell Boy overprints.

Many problems and questions were raised which members helped to solve and everyone agreed that this was a most interesting subject which should be studied further at a later date.

R A H

AUTUMN STAMPEX

The following members gained awards this time and many congratulations are in order:

Mrs E J Rawnsley, 'The Transit Marks of Switzerland' gained a Silver medal and the H L Katcher Trophy.

Mr D Houtris, 'Sitting Helvetia Perf' gained a Bronze medal for his first time entry.

Mr F Pickard, 'The Reply-paid Cards of Switzerland' gained a Bronze medal.

Mr T C Woodham, 'The various issues of Switzerland' gained a Bronze-silver in the Class D section of the Melville Youth Competition.

Mrs J A Shepheard MBE, 'Postal development in Kent, 1840-1890' also deserves a mention for her Bronze-silver award.

Congratulations are also in order to our member Mr J Giblin who has just been made the 4th President of the Austrian Stamp Club of GB. He takes on this position to go with that of the Editor of the quarterly magazine 'Austria' - a job which he has held since 1966.
THE SWISS POSTAL AGENCIES ABROAD

by Adriano Gervasi

Continued from September

FRANCE

The Swiss Posts also operated the service with France, but the volume of work was limited to six agencies only. Contrary to the arrangement with Italy, the postal service between France and Switzerland was limited to the exchange of mail, letters and parcels. The parcel service in France was, and still is, operated by the railways and not by the Posts.

An unusual detail must be mentioned; on the railway lines from Neuchatel to Pontarlier and from Vallorbe to Pontarlier, Swiss Posts operated the management of the service, although the line belonged to the French railway Society Paris-Lyon-Méditerranée. The two French villages of Gare des Verrières de Joux (Doubs) and Gare des Hopitaux-Jounge (Doubs) were managed by the Swiss Posts travelling office. The letters franked with French postage stamps were cancelled with the linear cancellation on the back only, and not on the stamps.

AUSTRIA

The three Swiss Agencies in Austria operated only to book passengers: no special cancellations were used.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>X (whether a linear back cancellation was used)</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bois-d'Amont</td>
<td>1. IX. 1877- 4. IX. 1884</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Celle</td>
<td></td>
<td>1852- 1856</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divonne</td>
<td></td>
<td>1876- 1. X. 1905</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morez</td>
<td></td>
<td>1. V. 1876-31.XII.1913</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Les Rousses</td>
<td></td>
<td>1. V. 1876-31.XII.1913</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pontarlier</td>
<td></td>
<td>1. XI. 1855-31.XII.1862</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1. VII. 1889- 1940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1. VII. 1889- 1940</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Today only the Swiss Agency in Domodossola is operating, all other offices being closed as shown in the table. Domodossola is an exchange office, not open for customers. It takes care of the exchange of letter and parcel mail from Switzerland and other countries to Italy and transit. In the reverse direction it handles mail from Italy and other countries for Switzerland and for onward transmission. The agency in Domodossola is controlled from the Swiss post office of 3900 Brigue and is in the postal district of Lausanne. The post code is CH-3907 Domodossola (Italia).

Foreign Postal Administrations operating on Swiss territory

Only two foreign postal administrations operated in Switzerland, Baden (Dukedom of, earlier independent, now Federal Republic of Germany), and France.

Baden - An arrangement was signed between Switzerland and the Dukedom of Baden as the Baden railways travelled into Swiss territory. The postmarks known to have been used are reproduced below.

France - On the 14th December 1846 a French post office was opened in Basle. It operated from 1st January 1847 until 1st October 1965 when it was moved to Mulhouse. The French office exchanged the letter mail coming from Switzerland, Baden and Austria. The following cancellations were used.

The above is a small contribution to Swiss Postal History, with an indication of the special cancellations used in the different foreign agencies. They are of course, a jewel of philately and stamp and cancellation collectors will be keen to acquire examples.

NEW from the PTT
Report of the London Meeting held on 12th October 1988

The first meeting of the season was entitled 'The letter C'. Many different interpretations were anticipated and we were all enthralled by the inventiveness of the exhibitors. Members who showed included: Mr D Pashby, Mrs C Scholey, Mrs M Bidmead, Mrs J Salmen, Mr R S Johnson, Mr L E Stiles, Mr B Hoddinott, Mrs E J Rawnsley, Mr R F Bulstrode, Mr V J Mitchell and Mr G W Hubbard.

The letter 'C' stood for: Cards and Cachets, Campione, Customs and (Bundesfeier) cards, Charity cards and covers, razorblade Cancellations, Ceilings, Chiasso strikes, Cancellations of philatelic exhibitions, Comic and Curious cards with (machine) cancels, Commemoratives of note, Commerce covers (advertising), Commemoratives of the 25th anniversary of the UPU, and Cancellations indicating postage due.

The UPU exhibit was particularly well laid out and showed all the values and varieties of the Type B plate. The Charity covers showed the small covers with the F.I.V. symbols in the lower left corner, not often seen. The Ceilings showed not only the stamps but also large photographs to enhance the display. With the Commemoratives of note a good selection of the 1914 high values were shown with the hard to find deep violet shade. Finally the Commerce show by Mr Bulstrode was shown by Mr Pickard on his behalf, just to prove it is difficult to keep a good philatelist down.

The vote of thanks was given by Mr M Salmen, who summed up the evening as one of the most entertaining seen for some time with works of art and deep research both side by side.

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs C Mistely and D Slate.

Geoff Hubbard

ACID ADHESIVES ON SWISS COVERS by Henry Ratz

Seldom has an invention created so much harm to philatelists as the introduction of self-sealing envelopes. Patented as 'Autofix', Swiss patent No. 168455, by Goessler of Zurich in the late 1930s, it is in my opinion one of the most self-destructive materials ever introduced into Swiss philately. It is a disaster of the greatest magnitude and smacks of total irresponsibility. The adhesive must have been brewed by the same guys who created DDT!

These covers are still around, with or without modified adhesives, and were used extensively for FDCs and special events by collectors, societies, and the PTT. As any sample shows, by now the acid in the adhesive has oxidized severely, creating a dirty brown stain and then starts to bleed through to the front if you leave the flaps closed. In another 30 to 50 years you or your descendants will be able to throw away all these nice covers. (The adhesive is a latex base which eventually decomposes to form lactic acids. Ed.)

I urge you in your interests and those of future philatelists, to find these covers and remove their backs. Take a razor blade, a steel straightedge, two deep breaths, and lower the boom on them. Never mind the old myth that covers without backs are worthless, if you do not do this now, time will ravage them far worse.

(Reprinted from our sister journal 'Tell' with permission.)

(Your editor has experimented and finds it is possible to remove the offending flap without removing the whole back. What other horrors are there lurking in our collections?)
Switzerland:

The 1907-1950 "Classics"

1907 2c. TELL BOY, imperf. colour trial (issued stamp Zum.101).
1909 PRO JAYNITUTE 10 Rp. Germain Forerunner superb used, on post card.
1912 PRO JAYNITUTE 10 Cts. French Forerunner superb used.
1913 PRO JAYNITUTE 10 Cts. Italian Forerunner, fine mint.
1914 MILITARY AIRFORCE complete set of 6 values used, with Airforce cancellations.
1918 KRIEGSWIRTSCHAFT (War Economy Section) the rare double circle overprint in superb mint complete set of 8 values. Only 100 sets issued!
1921 PROVISIONAL 2ic. on 3c. (Zum.146) DOUBLE OVERPRINT, fine used. With certificate.
1924 ARMS TYPE Fr.1.50 the extremely rare smooth chalk paper (Zum.165y) superb used. With certificate.
1933 AIRMAIL on grained paper (Zum.4z-13z) set of 8 values in complete sheets of 25, superb mint. With certificate.
1938 PRO AERO (Zum.26) mint with "SPECIMEN" overprint. With certificate.
1945 PAX Fr.10. - in superb centre-cancelled block of four.
1949 TECHNIC AND LANDSCAPE 20c. (Zum.301) the very rare DIE I, superb mint and perfectly centered. With certificate.
1950 UNITED NATIONS Fr.10. - (Zum.20) partial DOUBLE PRINT, superb mint.

| Price (incl. post and packing): £7.50 or U.S. $12.50 |

Our Great Strength Is
The Ability To Supply Items Other Dealers Cannot

H. L. KATCHER
The Amateur Collector Ltd.
The Swiss Specialists
P.O. Box 242, London N2 0YZ, England
Telephone: 01-348-0296
DID YOU KNOW?

- that Zumstein has used a new idea in their 1989 catalogue in that adjacent to every price change there is a little arrow to indicate if the change is an increase or a decrease. Most of the high items have come down. The additional Fr. 2.- for the spiral binding (to 14.-) is well worth it, as the pages lie flat when opened.

- that from the coding bars on letters date stamped in Zürich it is clear these have been sorted either in Bern or Basel, as Zürich does not yet have a sorting machine, but due to shortage of staff they cannot cope with the mail. Most pillar boxes are being emptied only once a day, instead of 2 or 3 times at least. Parliament will not agree to an increase in wages, so staff are leaving in droves in Genève, Lausanne and Zürich. The private mail couriers are glad to take them.

- that the SVP have issued the first supplement to their 1983 Handbook of Swiss Machine Cancellations. Only the new issues are illustrated, including town dies, but no corrections are made. Price is SFr. 21., post free in Europe, or from Vera Trinder.

- that the next exhibition in the PTT Museum in Bern is by the well-known specialist Karl Probst, who shows his unique collection of coil stamps, perfins etc., for roughly the last 100 years. From 4th October to 18th December.

- that the 50c Sport stamp of 1986 brought in 2,345m SFr for the promotion of sport generally in Switzerland. However, 67% of the 13m stamps sold were bought by sports clubs.

- that the SBB/CFF have computerised the numbering of their locos now, to line up with the coaches and wagons. Instead of Re4/4 IV 10101 for instance, it is now 440 101.

- that as there are more AIDS victims in Switzerland per capita than anywhere else in Europe, extreme measures have to be taken. A machine slogan, No. 4.6.215, is to be used in each of the three language areas, but uniquely each one has the text in English too.

M Rutherford

I. G. STAMPS
P O Box 27
Otley
West Yorkshire
LS21 1JB

I wish to BUY

Large collections or single items of quality.

Please contact me if you have anything in SWISS philately to se

There will be no list during the summer but I look forward to receiving your WANTS LISTS.

Ian Gilchrist
A to Z of Swiss Philately

Railway Cancels - One of the most popular side-lines of Swiss philately is the collection of the marks of the TPO cancels, where a watch is necessary since the early ones are frequently on the reverse of covers with stamps of the first perforated issue.

The stations also have their own cancellations, for the SBB/CFF mostly of a rectangular type, while the private railways have many types and sizes - rectangular, circular, square etc. Each cancel has a station number, and periodically these appear to be renumbered, and so the hunt goes on.

For various events and commemorations there are special covers or cancels, all of which add to the interest.

R L - Rayon Limitrophe. In the 1850s & 1860s there was a system whereby mail consigned to places within certain distances into a neighbouring country was charged at a reduced rate and marked 'R L' signifying 'limited zone'.

E J R

Buy the new
ZUMSTEIN CATALOGUES 1988/89
available beginning of September 1988
ZUMSTEIN EUROPE in four volumes (72nd edition)

Prices:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Volume</th>
<th>Price North</th>
<th>Price Middle</th>
<th>Price South</th>
<th>Price East</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Volume 1</td>
<td>SFr. 23.--</td>
<td>SFr. 23.--</td>
<td>SFr. 23.--</td>
<td>SFr. 41.--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volume 2</td>
<td>SFr. 23.--</td>
<td>SFr. 23.--</td>
<td>SFr. 23.--</td>
<td>SFr. 41.--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volume 3</td>
<td>SFr. 23.--</td>
<td>SFr. 23.--</td>
<td>SFr. 23.--</td>
<td>SFr. 41.--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volume 4</td>
<td>SFr. 41.--</td>
<td>SFr. 41.--</td>
<td>SFr. 41.--</td>
<td>SFr. 41.--</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Postal fees for Europe:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Price North</th>
<th>Price Middle</th>
<th>Price South</th>
<th>Price East</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SFr. 8.--</td>
<td>SFr. 9.--</td>
<td>SFr. 8.50</td>
<td>SFr. 11.--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SFr. 8.50</td>
<td>SFr. 9.50</td>
<td>SFr. 9.50</td>
<td>SFr. 11.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ZUMSTEIN SWITZERLAND/LIECHTENSTEIN 1988/89
in colour, german/french
NEW: with price tendencies!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Price cover</th>
<th>Price binding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SFr. 12.--</td>
<td>SFr. 14.--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SFr. 7.--</td>
<td>SFr. 7.--</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please apply to your local stamp dealer or to our Agent in Great Britain: VERA TRINDER LTD., 38 Bedford Street, Strand, London WC2E 9EU

For direct orders to Zumstein, please use our postal account: Berne 30-334-1 for prepayments. Thank you!

ZUMSTEIN + CIE, propr. Hertsch + Co.
P.O. Box 2585, CH-3001 Berne/Switzerland
Phone: 031 222215, Telex: 912035 ZFIL CH

Do you know our monthly newspaper the "BERNER BRIEFMARKEN-ZEITUNG"? We send you gladly a specimen copy free of charge, with no obligation whatsoever.
THE SENSATION OF THE YEAR by M Hertsch

(Translated by John Barrett from the Berner Briefmarken Zeitung, with permission from the publisher.)

I call it 'sensation' although it would require a more sensational title because it is an extraordinary find and a big surprise.

Imagine, a "Mr St. in W" sends you six letters. They are obviously a business correspondence, all addressed to Rumania during a time of economic and political difficulties, and, because the postal services at the end of World War I were chaotic, the letters were returned to the sender marked 'For Return. No possibility for delivery'. The sender being a cheese exporting firm in Langnau, Emmenthal.

The letters were franked with the 1908 25c blue/light blue of the Helvetia with sword issue, which was the standard fee for normal foreign letters. But stop! How is this listed in the catalogue? Blue/light blue - but four of the stamps from the letters, clearly seen, are blue/light green. Blue/light green is, however, not to be found in the Special Catalogue. I need the old Handbook, maybe I will find the solution to the riddle in there!

There are a lot of interesting things about this issue: all values were in two-colour printing; the Helvetia and the value numbers are brighter and the background and shadings are in a darker colour. The printing was done on fibrous paper by the federal Mint in sheets of 200, in two halves of 100 stamps in 10 rows. The production of the plates was made by a photographic transference of the original on to a brass plate sensitive to light, in which the depressions were not made by engraving but by etching with acid. In each case four of these brass plates, each with 25 stamp cliches, made up one printing plate. After use it was taken apart and, during a later printing, could have been re-assembled incorrectly. So it is possible that the blocks could have been re-arranged.

In practice the brass etching was very difficult as each cliche/bloc!
had to be etched in exactly the same way. The etching needed only a few seconds more or less, so that the printing became a little finer or blurred, whereas all blocks should be the same. To prevent differences in the quality of the stamps from 1910 onwards, the printings were done again from the original etching plates, and all the printings are the same as the originals.

The printing was done on a modern (for 1908!) two-colour fast press on which the stamps were printed simultaneously in both colours.

For this two-colour printing two plates were needed, an outline plate and a picture plate. The outline plate contained the whole background, the drawing and the hatching of Helvetia; the picture plate printed the background of the figure, the value figures and the margins.

Back to the mysterious stamps on the letters: for this first issue in two-colour letterpress the following colours were used for the background: yellowish-20c, 40c (type I & II), 70c and 3Fr; light blue-25c; light green-30c, 50c, 1Fr; light orange-35c, 60c, 80c.

This discovery clearly shows a light green background instead of a light blue one. Similar backgrounds had been used for the 30c, 50c and 1Fr, but the shade of the green differs slightly. The shade of the 1Fr stamp is a bit more intense than that of the 30c, but because the variations during the long period of use of the issue and the huge numbers printed, nobody can draw a definite conclusion whether these 'errors' have slipped through with the background of the 1Fr or of the 30c stamp. For both stamps examples can be found with an intense colour as well as a light colour for the background.

With a two-colour machine which prints both colours in a single run, the colour has to be very carefully removed between the printing of different values. This cleaning of the plate was not exactly the most desirable chore and was usually done by assistant helpers. The print master, who was responsible for the quality of the printing, was mostly occupied with preparing the new plates for the next issue and, therefore, was involved with the numerous proofs while the machine was readied for the next printing run.

While one group was carrying out a particular task, the assistant helpers were cleaning the machine. If in the case that the printing plates were set and locked-in, then adjustment could begin - but if the second group had not finished their cleaning then some of the background colour remained. The print master allowed the machine to produce a few test sheets with the old colour in order to stabilize the print quality, but these sheets were mistakenly placed with the finished ones instead of in the waste bin - then it had happened, a new 'error' of a Swiss stamp!

In view of the fine colour differences of the background, which are very difficult to see in artificial light, it is possible that one or more sheets with the wrong colour shade slipped through. Such a sheet must have been delivered to Langnau as all four stamps came from the same correspondence, used on the same day (15X18) and have the same return backstamp (17X18) as the service to Rumania had been suspended.

It has taken 70 years to discover this error! It is still worth your examining cheap and normal stamps. This one will be in the next Specialised Catalogue under Z No. 109/A9: Error showing blue/light green instead of blue/light blue.

(Berner Briefmarken Zeitung, 3/88, pages 49-52, German & French.)

Earlier this year one cover fetched £3760 at auction!
MINUTES of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, held on 9th November 1988

There were 21 members in attendance and apologies for absence were received from Mr R F Bulstrode, Mr R A G Lee, Mr P Hobbs, Mr A Payne and Mrs C M Scholey.

1. In order to save time it was suggested by the Chairman, Mr F Pickard, that copies of the 1987 minutes be circulated for members to read at their own speed. This idea was accepted, but for next year the onus of reading the minutes will lay on the members and they will be taken as read. The adoption of this method was proposed by Mr D Houtris, seconded by Mr B L Hoddinott, and carried.

2. Matters arising from the minutes. The Secretary was asked if there were any further developments about a possible change of venue. The Secretary stated that the alternative was a move to Charterhouse St, but a Wednesday meeting was out of the question. Since this day had been set aside for more than 40 years it was not considered wise to change. The Secretary was also asked if Mr Ian Gilchrist was encouraging his clients to join the Society; it was confirmed this was so.

3. Chairman's Address. Mr Pickard stated that the Society had been well represented at Stampex and came away with many medals and the H L Katcher Trophy. He emphasised that more members should be encouraged to exhibit; if there are too few exhibits of Swiss material then the H L Katcher Trophy could be lost forever. Two visits were made during the season - to the London Transport PS, and the Hastings and East Sussex PS. Special mention should be made of the Northern Branch which is a member of the Yorkshire Federation. This year their Treasurer, Mr J Eastwood, was asked to sign the Roll of Distinguished Yorkshire Philatelists and so joins their Secretary, Mr R A Hoyle. Mr D Arthur was made President. Mr Hoyle also ran a stand to publicise Swiss philately. The Chairman explained that the Library Fund shown in the Balance Sheet refers to an amount set aside for the purchase of books for the Library, as agreed by the Committee at their last meeting. The need to search for new members is still uppermost and every possible encouragement must and should be given. In conclusion the Chairman thanked Mrs E J Rawnsley for all her hard work as Librarian and Mr L E Stiles in his capacity as Treasurer. As Mrs Rawnsley was already an Honorary Member, it was proposed to make Mr Stiles an Honorary Member also; this was quickly seconded by Mr C Mistely, and carried unanimously.

4. Hon. Secretary's report. Membership had now dropped to 301 - a loss of 18 - due mainly to old age, some deaths, and non-payment of subs. On the credit side there were five new members during the season. The attendances at the London meetings averaged 18 (19 last year). The best attended meeting was that on Censors when 24 members turned out; it is hoped that the special displays this year will encourage similar attendances. The Sussex Group report was similar with fewer members turning up. It was suggested this was mainly because members in the area were mostly retired and could not always attend. Those who used to come from Dorset seemed to have dropped off. Finally on this section the fact that too much Postal History was shown was blamed and it is hoped that soon Standing Helvetia and Tell with Tell Boy can soon be shown. The Northern Group seems to be the example we should all try to follow. Average attendance is still the same as it has been for a number of years. However, members living within easy reach of Leeds do not all attend - even letters do not seem to encourage them - the half-time tea and home-made cakes do not seem to be an incentive either.

5. Hon. Treasurer's report. The decision to increase the subscriptions
was a wise one as shown by the Profit & Loss account. Briefly, subs were up but income from the exchange packet was down, due largely to the loss of one of the main contributors. The increase in printing was caused by the purchase of a further supply of headed notepaper - this will last for many years. The Library Fund of £100 was taken from the General Fund and a new Committee Meeting will decide by how much to increase this sum or to add annually the cost of purchases to keep the fund intact. Adoption of the accounts was proposed by Mr D Houtris, seconded by Mr G Hine, and carried.

5. Hon. Editor's report. The Editor would like to thank those few members who, over the last year, have sent in their material for publication. As from January the Newsletter will have to be reduced to one or two pages unless members put pen to paper and write something. The alternative is to publish only when there is enough material to justify the expense of printing and posting to members. The answer lies in your hands as your Editor is sure you would not like to see old material, which is now out-of-date, published just to fill up the pages. It is after all your Newsletter with all that it implies. PLEASE use it as such, I cannot believe that 99% of the members are just 'completest' and fill up the spaces in printed albums.

In response to this report, it was suggested that newer members had not had the chance of reading some of the older material - even though it is in the Library. Another point raised was to ask members what information they needed, then knowledgeable members would be approached to write the necessary articles. It was also suggested that some of the older articles had not been updated or even researched for 20 or 30 years to the knowledge of the members present.

7. Hon. Exchange Packet Secretary's report. 419 booklets were submitted with a total value of £19 344.27 - 42 packets were circulated. The cost of insurance cover was £455.26 but it must be mentioned again that most societies charge 1% or 1½% on the total value of material submitted to help towards this cost - we do not. Modern FDCs do not sell; some letters still arrive without cheques; occasionally letters are addressed to the Society. Small amounts can be paid for in current GB stamps.

Two packets have been lost; it is imperative that a Certificate of Posting is sent with the advice note or you could be responsible! So far this season 198 booklets have been received and are in circulation (value about £10 700). This is 48% fewer than this time last year, which included 130 booklets from Mr D R Beak - none this year. More material is wanted and the more unusual the better it sells. Booklets must be in by early January for full circulation. In conclusion Mr Slate said that he had now been doing the job for 6 years and that he was under increasing pressure at work, which cuts down the time that can be spent on the packet. Really the job requires someone with the time to send out the returned packets for a 'second' round, which at the moment he may not have time to do. If anybody would like to take over for this end of season work only, it would be worthwhile for the revenue of the Society.

7. Election of Officers and Committee for 1988/9. Two resignations had been received, Mr L E Stiles (Treasurer) and Mrs E J Rawnsley (Librarian). Two volunteers to replace these Officers were added to the list, which is as follows:

- President: Mrs A Lee
- Treasurer: Mr M J Kuriger
- Chairman: Mr F Pickard
- Exch Pkt Sec: Mr D M Slate
- Vice-Chairman: Mr G Mistely
- Editor: Mr P Hobbs
- Secretary: Mr G W Hubbard
- Librarian: Mr H Hafner
Committee: Northern Group Mr R A Hoyle, Mr J A Eastwood
London Group Mr D Houtris, Mr R S Johnson.
Adoption of the full list of Officers and members of the Committee
was proposed by Mr M Hewson, seconded by Mr V J Mitchell, and carried.
8. Motions and Resolutions. None received.
9. Any Other Business. The Secretary was asked if any response had been
received for translators. He stated that only two members had offered
their services, Mr R S Johnson and Dr J Barrett. Other names were
acquired from members present and we now appear to have a good selec-
tion of translators. One for Italian, five for French, and four for
German. Further investigation will be made into the Copyright laws for
translations. Another point raised was the possibility of producing an
Index for the Newsletter. The American Helvetia PS had done one, but
it was suggested that a full index of everything that relates to Swiss
philately would be ideal - if only a dream. This would assist researchers
in locating information that has not been published in the newsletter.
An up-to-date Library List was also requested, and hopefully this is
a job Mr Hafner could tackle when he takes up the post of Librarian.
Finally, it was suggested that updates of earlier articles could be
undertaken and published - perhaps a new translation of parts of the
Zumstein catalogue, which was produced by Mr Chapman and Mrs McMahon
in the 1970s.
There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.38 p.m.
There followed a small auction where just over £100 changed hands.

NORTHERN GROUP REPORT - At their meeting in Leeds on 5th November
members were delighted to welcome Mr Geoff Hubbard from London with
his collection of Postage Dues.
He introduced his subject with a short talk on the origins of the
postage due system and the introduction of the first stamps in 1878.
He then proceeded to display some 300 sheets from his outstanding
collection. His display was divided into various sections, the blue,
green, watermarked stamps, and the new designs from 1910, with speci-
mens, colour trials, mint and used, blocks and a wealth of shades.
These were followed by various types of T marks.
Throughout his display he showed a large number of covers showing
the usage of stamps and T marks, all most beautifully presented and
written up.
The large number of members agreed that this had been a memorable
afternoon and wish to extend to Mr Hubbard their thanks and congratula-
tions for a subject so expertly researched and presented. R A H
All the knowledge about Swiss Stamps at your fingertips - IN ENGLISH!!

Principal Contents

* Acmeal Issues
* Blocks of Four, Mint & Used
* Bundesdruckerei Cotation
* Coil Stamps
* Covers
* Federal Tax First Day C.
* Franco Vigil
* Frank Stamps
* Hotel Posta Internationale
* Inter-Space Sheet
* Linguistic Dos Datas
* Military (Soldie, Miniature Shee

THE AMATEUR COLLECTOR LTD. (H.L. Katcher)
"Household Name for Swiss Stamps"
P.O. Box 242, LONDON, N2 0YZ.

Printed by Manson Graphic Limited,
Unit 4, Marnel Road, Havelock Estate, Hertfordshire.

THE AMATEUR COLLECTOR LTD.
S W I T Z E R L A N D
CATALOGUE
1989
(Edited by R.F. Bulstrode, O.B.E. and H.L. Katcher)
PLACE YOUR ORDER NOW FOR THE 30TH EDITION
PUBLICATION DATE 17TH OCTOBER 1988
* After nearly 2 years of careful planning THE MOST REVOLUTIONARY EDITION WE HAVE PUBLISHED.
* Some 14,000 prices recalculated (and, taking account of our large stocks of modern material, many reduced by 10%-40%) - for as long as these stocks last.
* Italic type used to indicate "Guide" rather than Net prices for items (predominantly 19th century) where quality is variable and plays an important role. This innovation permits realistic assessment of value and enables the collector to choose his preferred price range. A "Bull's Eye" for our catalogue!
* Bold type used for prices which indicate the cheapest stamps in a specialised group.
* Standing Helvetias re-grouped and partly re-numbered to conform with the latest research in this fascinating field.
* Still more information added and more shades and varieties listed.
* This edition puts all earlier ones hopelessly out of date!

By far the most informative English language Catalogue published. Indispensable to the collector of Swiss stamps who thirsts for Information (and once again there is more in this years edition!)

While other Catalogues cater more for the casual collector, this Catalogue/Handbook is a "MUST" for the true philatelist.

ORDER FORM
To: THE AMATEUR COLLECTOR LTD.
P.O. Box 242, London, N2 0YZ, England.

NAME

ADDRESS

BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE)
Kindly send me copy/copies of your 1989 Catalogue for which I enclose

Price (incl. post and packing):

£7.50 or U.S. $12.50

Important: Please keep Catalogue orders strictly separate from all other transactions. This will avoid mistakes and delays as different departments are involved. We thank you in advance.

★ REFUNDED ON FIRST PURCHASE OF £75.

The Directors and Staff of The Amateur Collector Ltd. would like to wish their clients a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.
Did you know?

- that, although not directly philatelic, it is a sign of up-to-date PTT thinking that I now have a Postomat (Automatic Teller machine) 'Plus' card with which I can pay in three - at the moment - supermarkets. By inserting it in the machine at the checkout I can have the amount directly charged to my Giro account. In 1990 the PTT plan to equip all retailers in Biel with this system, perhaps with a slogan for philatelists.
- that I was wrong to mention last time that letters from Zürich were being sorted in Bern, as shown by typical Bern coding. The truth is that Zürich now has two Telefunken OCR machines, so that letters with machine-readable addresses are now coded with the same 'desk' number, 28, as in Bern.
- that this was not the only surprise. Since about January 1988 Basel also has an OCR machine as an addition to its 12 video desks, and when Lausanne opened its KLO in September it also had video desks and an OCR machine. Geneva will get one in October next year, and one is planned for Luzern too! The confusing thing is that all five OCR machines use the desk number '28'. This fooled me.
- that an article is under way, as promised to two editors, on this subject at last.
- that the 45c is the least-used of the present definitives, closely followed by the 60c. Both can be used alone only for some of the printed matter steps. Stamps of the old Folklore series are still to be found at smaller 20s, a long time after the FD of 10th March 1987 of the present Postmen series.
- that ten times more postcards are sent inside Switzerland than letters; to foreign countries there are 20 times more. The inland cards are, I guess, more answers to competitions on PTT cards than picture postcards. Inland rate is 50c for both cards and letters.

- that the 'Verband' of Swiss Philatelic Societies have issued an A4 loose-leaf book, in colour, for those taking part in a course of philately, either as an adult or teenager. All facets of philately are divided into 13 categories.

Very good effort to get more members.

- that on the 12th December Thundorf (Toondorf; Th as in Thames) will celebrate 1100 years of recorded history. The name suggests that in all likelihood it was founded in the 8th century by settlers from the north in Charlemagne's time, as many -dorf villages in northern Switzerland were started like that, but only much later recorded in writing. Thundorf has nothing to do with Thun (BE), as it lies in Canton Thurgau, just east of the capital, Frauenfeld. The special cancel(see p 93) will run until the end of 1989, a record.

M Rutherfoord

DON'T FORGET - Subscriptions are now due, get out your cheque book.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS
London Group on January 11th.

Just room for the Seasons’ Greetings to all our readers!

I. G. STAMPS
P 0 Box 27
Otley
West Yorkshire
LS21 1JB
England

I STILL WISH TO BUY

COLLECTIONS or SINGLE items, particularly POSTAL HISTORY

Please contact me if you have anything in SWISS philately to sell.

For the time being my Lists will not be circulated in the News Letter. Existing subscribers will receive lists. If you would like to receive FREE LISTS please let me know. WANTS LISTS always welcome

Ian Gilchrist.
A to Z of Swiss Philately

STRUBEL'S. The first definitive issue of Swiss postage stamps, the imperforate 'Sitting Helvetia', issued in 1854, has long been one of the most popular. It did not find favour with the general public who likened the seated figure of Helvetia to that of 'Shock-headed Peter'.

Also among a number of innovations, the imperforated stamps required cutting for separation, a method which was soon found to be too slow, and for philatelists needs care to find copies with complete margins.

Further, to guard against forgery silk threads of various colours were inserted into the paper during preparation - an idea that came from John Dickinson in England, and the second time Switzerland adopted an idea from this country.

The first issue was printed in Munich in pale matt colours and the later ones in Bern.

A great deal of research has been done on this issue and recorded for the benefit of collectors.

E J R

J. S. ARMSTRONG
POSTAGE STAMP DEALER

Recent articles in the Helvetia Newsletter have indicated some of the many sidelines which can be explored.

If your interests lie in this direction, or if you prefer to keep to more straightforward collecting, you still need the benefit of being able to look at material in your own home, with the time to search for those items which best fit in with your own studies.

Let me, therefore, send you selections on approval or against your Want Lists.

485 MARINE ROAD,
MORECAMBE LA4 6AF
Phone (0524) 414055

Buy the new
ZUMSTEIN CATALOGUES 1988/89
available beginning of September 1988

ZUMSTEIN EUROPE in four volumes (72nd edition)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prices:</th>
<th>Postal fees for Europe:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Volume 1 EUROPENorth</td>
<td>SFr. 23.--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volume 2 EUROPE Middle</td>
<td>SFr. 23.--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volume 3 EUROPESouth</td>
<td>SFr. 23.--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volume 4 EUROPE East</td>
<td>SFr. 41.--</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ZUMSTEIN SWITZERLAND/LIECHTENSTEIN 1988/89
in colour, german/french
NEW: with price tendencies!

| paper cover                | SFr. 12.--              | SFr. 7.-- |
| spiral binding             | SFr. 14.--              | SFr. 7.-- |

Please apply to your local stamp dealer or to our Agent in Great Britain: VERA TRINDER LTD., 38 Bedford Street, Strand, London WC2E 9EU
For direct orders to Zumstein, please use our postal account: Berne 30-334-1 for prepayments. Thank you!

ZUMSTEIN + CIE, propr. Hertsch + Co.
P.O. Box CH-3000 Berne 7/Switzerland
Phone: 031 222215, Telex: 912305 ZFIL CH

Do you know our monthly newspaper the "BERNER BRIEFMARKEN-ZEITUNG"? We send you gladly a specimen copy free of charge, with no obligation whatsoever.