FIRST NEW ISSUE OF 1971

The 1971 SPECIAL (Propaganda) POSTAGE STAMPS will be issued in two series, the first of which, due on the 11th March, will consist of 5 values.

10c. YOUTH & SPORTS The new Article in the Swiss Constitution on gymnastics and sports was approved with a clear majority by the people and cantons in the vote of 27 Sept. 1970. Its purpose is to encourage gymnastics at school and young people's sports activities, both sexes receiving equal treatment. The design shows, on two stamps, groups of young gymnasts, one female, the other male. Exceptionally, these stamps have been printed as so-called twin values, showing a checkered arrangement on the stamp sheet, but can also be obtained as single stamps.

20c. CHILDREN OF THE WORLD: A special stamp has been devoted to the International Child Welfare Organisation (Enfants du monde) for promoting its benevolent work. It depicts a stylised rose, pointing to the charity drive of the organisation, to be undertaken in Geneva in the summer of 1971 during the 'Semaine de la rose'.

50c. SECOND DECADE OF DEVELOPMENT AID: The stamp is designed to call the attention of the Swiss public to the growing urgency of technical development aid, which enters its second decade this year; it represents a rising spiral, symbolising the close partnership between Switzerland and the developing nations.

80c. INTERNATIONAL SPACE COMMUNICATIONS CONFERENCE: On 7th June 1971 a 6 weeks conference is scheduled to begin under the auspices of the International Telecommunications Union (UIT) whose purpose is to regulate the allocation of frequencies for communication via satellites. The most advanced of these satellites, 'Intelsat IV', has been used as an appropriate central motif.

Other details are:

Colours: 10c. (a) Gymnasts (female) - 4 colours: grey-cl/grey/blue/brown
(b) (male) - 3 colours: grey/yellow/brown
20c. Stylised rose - 4 colours: dk.grn/grey-brown/or-red/red-violet
50c. 'Rayon II' Federal stamp of 1850 and basilisk - 4 colours: red/yellow/green/dk.blue.
80c. Communication satellite - 5 colours: red/blue/yellow/violet/dk.

Designers: 10c. Alex Diggelmann, Zurich
20c. Heiner Bauer, Liebefeld
50c & 80c. Adolf Flischiger, Rosshüusern
50c. Hans Hartmann, Küniz
FIRST NEW ISSUES OF 1971 (continued)

Printing: Rotogravure by Couxvoisier S.A., La Chaux-de-Fonds

Stamp size: 36 x 26 mm. (33 x 23 mm)

Paper: White with luminous substance, lightly coated, violet fibres.

Form cylinder: 2 sheets (A & B); No. of stamps per sheet: 50

Sales: On sale from 11th March from PTT offices & philatelic bureaux as long as stocks last, but not later than 30th Sept. 1971. Validity unlimited.

First Day Cover: Special covers will be available for each value (10c. a + b in pairs) and one for the set of 6 stamps. A special First Day cancellation will be used on March 11th. Collection sheets and folders will also be available.

NABA' 1971, BASEL - Souvenir Miniature Sheet

The exhibition will be held from 4-13 June, 1971, in the halls of the Trade Fair in Basel. At the request of the Organising Committee and the Union of Swiss Philatelic Societies, the Swiss PTT will mark the occasion by the issue of an unperforated souvenir sheet. The net proceeds from the sale of this sheet will be used to meet exhibition costs and to promote philately.

Values: 4 x 50 c. stamps = 2 Fr. + 1 Fr. additional charge = 3 Fr.

Design: Reproduction of the 'Rayon I' stamp of 1850 in the form of a four stamp block with types 1, 2, 5, & 10.

Designer: Erwin Schnell, Basel.

Colours: Front: 4 colours: blue/red/black/grey; reverse: text in grey

Sheet size: 61 x 75 mm. Stamp size: 19 x 24 Er4

The stamps of the souvenir sheet are not perforated, but they may be cut out and used individually.

Paper: White with luminous substance, lightly coated, violet fibres.

Lettering: Front: 'NABA 1971 BASEL' in 5 languages and number 

Reverse: Designation of type, price and date of issue.

The souvenir sheet will be obtainable during the period of sale (11th March as long as stocks last, but not later than 31st July 1971) from post offices and philatelic bureaux, and the special post office at the exhibition. At all philatelic bureaux, entire series of souvenir sheets, numbered 1-30, will be available at the price of Fr. 90 - in addition a special First Day Cover will be issued, together with collection sheets and folders. The First Day cancellations will be the same as for the series of special stamps.

Advance purchases of uncancelled stamps and sheets can be made from 8th March, by written orders to the Philatelic Office of PTT, 3000 Bern (postal cheque a/c 30-6456). Orders and payment for the NABA miniature sheets to be made separately from the stamps, and all orders will be treated in strict rotation.

HAVE YOU SENT IN YOUR RENEWAL SUBSCRIPTION YET? NOW 20/- P.A. (£1) EARLY PAYMENT WILL BE APPRECIATED.

H.L. MATCHER THE AMATEUR COLLECTOR 151, Park Road, St. John's Wood, LONDON NW8 7JL Telephone: 01-586-0616
The third section of the ZUMSTEIN SPECIALISED CATALOGUE, translated (with permission) by MRS. N. MACNAHON & MR. H.E. CHAPMAN.

As before illustration numbers refer to those in the Specialised Catalogue.


Designer: Prof. Hasert, Engraver: Burger, Bern
Typography: Stämpflí & Cie, Bern
Validity: To 31st December 1924.

Grade 1 (broad form) Perforation: 11½

Additions to the basic price of the normal stamps are justified according to the rarity of the continually recurring varieties i.e.,

1. Interrupted lines, coloured or colourless areas (cliché faults)
2. Double or thickened marginal lines
3. Colour flecks or light areas
4. Background of the cross more or less filled in. (Illus., 58/A4)
5. Blind perforations
6. Rucking
7. Misplaced control marks
8. Impression: light - clear - very clear

WHITE PAPER

No.53. 2 c. olive-brown

Colour Shades
(a) olive-brown (b) light olive-brown

No.54. 6 c. brown-lilac (Illus.)

Colour Shades
(a) brown-lilac (b) light brown-lilac

Varieties
9. Left side double perforation, one blind
10. Horizontal double perforation
11. H, with hyphen at top

Plate Flaw 1)

1. Lower left margin interrupted.

Note 1) If the recurring cliché errors of the surface-printed stamps of 1882-1906 are referred to as 'plate flaws', in analogy to the recess printed stamps, in normal philatelic parlance, it must be realised that in the case of the surface printed stamps, one is not dealing with 'plates' but with a printing 'forme', which is made up of 200 individual printing blocks bound together.

No.55 10 c. pink

Colour Shades
(a) pink (b) light pink, dull

Plate Flaw
1. Right hand bar of cross broken

No.56. 12 c. ultramarine

Colour Shades
(a) grey-ultramarine (b) light grey-ultramarine

Worn Plate
1. Damaged frame right

No.57. 15 c. Yellow

Colour Shades
(a) Yellow (b) light yellow
CROSS & VALUE FIGURE (continued)

Variety

9. Double perforation lower left.

Of this stamp one example is known where apparently the value figure is missing; it would appear that through some secondary cause the paper in this area was imperfectly coloured.

1862, 1st April

1) Blue and red granite paper. Control mark I or II

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>50. 2c. olive-brown</th>
<th>1869/99 - Colour changes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>59. 3c. grey</td>
<td>64. 15 c. lilac (1899)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60. 5c. brown-lilac</td>
<td>65. 5 c. green (1899)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61. 10c. red</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>62. 12c. blue</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63. 15c. yellow</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

At the time of the general of the control mark printing plate in 1893, the shape of the cross was changed in accordance with the Federal resolution of 12th November 1889. The new control mark therefore, has a narrower cross and double oval. (See article Dipl. Archt. Ritter, 1882, No.4/1897).

The differences are small and not always readily established. In doubtful cases the cheaper variety must be agreed upon.

1) Date stamps before April 1882 result from false insertion of the year date in canceller.

So far only two unusual copies of the 3 c. grey in pale grey on white paper with watermark large cross have been seen.

Parallel coloured lines outside the stamp picture originate from projecting cardboard or paper strips, which were probably inserted to even up the disparity between the individual printing blocks. These qualify for a price increase.

Catalogue: by Control Marks, Colour Shades and Varieties

Control Mark I, Wide form (1882)

No.55A 2c. olive-brown (issue: 207,100,000) 1).

Colour Shades

(a) light olive-brown 1882 1890 (a) deep olive-brown 1893
(b) olive-brown (d) reddish olive-brown 1884

Varieties

9. Double control marks
10. Double Perforation
11. With coloured sheet margin
12. Part of the stamp unprinted (sheet corner turned down)

Plate Flaw

1. Broken margin lines, in various places (81) (81) (81)

1) Number issued. As the records of the PTT do not allow for separation of the white and granite papers, the figures given for No. 55A and 60-63 also comprise the issues of Nos. 53-57.

2) The double control marks are mostly next to one another. Those 1 mm. or more from another misplaced double control mark are rarer and valued higher. This applies to all varieties.

No.59A 3c. grey (issue: 205,000)

Colour Shades

(a) pure grey 1882 (o) brownish-grey 1890 3)
(b) pale grey 1893 (d) dark brown-grey 1894

Plate Flaw

1. Broken margin lower centre (H4)
The metal blocks used for the printing wore very badly (broadened, coloured lines running into each other). Therefore, they were re-sunk (freshened mechanically under pressure of the master die) producing again fine, clear prints.

No. 60A. 5 c. brownish-lilac (issue: 410,525,000)

**Colour Shades**
- (a) light brownish-lilac
- (b) brownish lilac 1802
- (c) deep brown-lilac 1883
- (d) reddish brown-lilac

**Varieties**
- 9. Obverse double print
- 10. Double control marks
- 11. Coloured sheet margin
- 12. Tete-beche (printing error) (see BBZ 5/6 1958)

**Plate Flaws**
- 1. Indented margin lower right and left (HL) (67)
- 2. Colourless streak, diagonally from top towards right or horizontally left from the value shield diagonally through 5.
- 3. Lower left margin corner broken (HL)
- 4. Upper left or lower right corner slanted off.

Some pieces are known of No. 60A from the lower sheet margin, where the print is divided into two paper parts because of the turning over of the margin (specialist value) (Illus.).

No. 61A. 10 c. carmine (issue: 455,203,000)

**Colour Shades**
- (a) pale-pink
- (b) pink
- (c) carmine-rose
- (d) rose-carmine
- (e) deep Carmine
- (f) water soluble

**Varieties**
- 9. Strong translucent print on the back
- 10. Left side double perforation
- 11. With coloured sheet margin
- 12. Double control mark

**Plate Flaws**
- 1. Colourless defect in the left lower corner shield (G2) or upper right
- 2. Margin lines upper right split twice, opposite one another (D8)
- 3. Broken margin line lower right (D8.7)

No. 62A 12c. ultramarine (issue: 20,132,000)

**Colour Shades**
- (a) grey-ultramarine 1862
- (b) light ultramarine 1897
- (c) ultramarine 1890
- (d) dark ultramarine

**Varieties**
- 5. With coloured sheet margin

**Plate Flaws**
- 1. Frame defect lower left (HL)

No. 63A 15 c. yellow (issue: 17,662,000)

**Colour Shades**
- (a) yellow 1882
- (b) pale yellow 1885
- (c) orange yellow (light, dark)
- (d) yellow-orange 1888
- (yellowish or greenish tones)

**Varieties**
- 8. Smearred print

**Plate Flaws**
- 1. Cliche defect; strong colourless line from lower left through to right margin (G1,2)

(To be continued)
Some 25 members attended Mr. H. L. Katcher's 'AT HOME' and, as always were treated to a thoroughly enjoyable evening. When they settled down expectantly to see what was in store, Mr. Katcher said it was not always easy to find items of outstanding interest to show or discuss, but on this occasion he was able to produce some new and very unusual material.

Among many superb stamps shown was a dark blue Rayon I with framed cross, but the frame is forged, which is common on the Rayon II but rare on Rayon I. It also has a rare cancel of Conceboz. This is a luxury copy of an expensive stamp with a good postmark, so why should anyone wish to 'improve' it? It is thought it may have been done in Paris.

Some fine 'Strubel's included the 10 & 15 Rp. of the first Munich prints with their very distinctive colours. Mr. Katcher said that the identification of the 'Strubel's is still extremely tricky. For example there are 2 sections which are not mentioned in any catalogue and new discoveries have recently come to light: (a) on cartridge paper; from every angle these should be in the 'B' section, first Bern printing, but the paper can only be likened to the thick paper of 'G' or 'H', but has green threads and heavy embossing. (b) A 10 & 10 Rp. on the very thin paper of the 'B' or 'C' series, but the 10 Rp. is in the wrong colour for 'B' and the silk thread is green. Therefore, these must belong to the 'G' section and constitute a category not yet listed. The stamps were sent to the expert, Hunziger, who stated that he himself had only one example of each of these items, which are undoubtedly uncatalogued at present. More of these hitherto unknown types may be hidden away in collections and may eventually be found and studied.

There was some discussion on the merits of good stamps which have been changed by the addition of, for example, postmarks. Mr. Katcher said that many such items had become more 'respectable' following the sale of the Burrus collection. The question of coloured impressions on the back of stamps was also brought up. Under certain conditions, if a number of stamps are washed together, or even dried in a blotter, some colour may be lost, and it can happen that if two come together the colour may be transferred from the front of one stamp to the back of another adhering to it.

To conclude the evening Mr. Bulstrode showed some of his superb proofs and essays; the Libertas Heads, Standing Helvetia in two colours, Cross & Figure, and colour trials of the 1914 Tell Heads, of which one was on white paper and justified Kiebling's insistence on the use of tinted paper.

Alltogether a splendid evening, much appreciated by the members, and rounded off by the election of Miss Dominici, Mr. Katcher's invaluable assistant as an Honorary Member of the Society.

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**SWISS POST OFFICES ABROAD**

Helvetia members might care to know of an anomaly which has recently come into being with the opening of the Swiss Post Office at Basel Airport, CH-4030, and any collectors of Swiss post office abroad markings ought to include this office in his collection, since it lies wholly and absolutely in France, even though by an international agreement, a connecting fenced-off road makes its way northward from the Swiss frontier near the Basel Psychiatric Hospital Friedmatt, through French territory of the communes of St.Louis and Hegenheim, to the airport complex. The airport's actual and official name is Basel/Mulhouse, and it contains a French section, exist, customs and probably post office? since the new terminal facilities were inaugurated in the Spring of 1970, as well as a Swiss section with similar facilities, including a tax free shop. On intra-Swiss flights, say from Basel to Zurich or Geneva, a Swiss citizen leaving from Basel airport must go through Swiss customs both on departure and arrival! Rather curious, but true. Thus the Basel 30 Airport office is a strange thing indeed. Since July 7 it possesses a pictorial canceller showing a plane in flight; and one regular cds. also exists which are shown here. Anyone interested in obtaining these should send stamped envelopes (50c. franking value if returned as printed matter, 90c. as a letter, 90c. or Fr. 1.20 if registered either way) to Postfach CH-4030 Basel 30 Flughafen and ask for the cheek(s) desired.

F. GANZ
TELL HEAD OVERPRINTS
by E.H. SPIRO

Because of sudden changes in postal rates in 1915 and 1921, three 'Tell Heads' were overprinted with new values and used as provisionals in common with some of the 'Tell Boy' values and two 'Helvetia with Sword' stamps.

Although there exist only three 'Tell Head' overprints, they provide a wide and interesting field to the specialist because owing to the hurry with which the overprints were made, a large number of varieties resulted.

The first to be overprinted was No.134, the 12 c. brown of 1914 (No.127) a value which had become redundant in February 1915 and was to be replaced by a 13 c. stamp. The definitive issue was made in September (No.139) but because there were large stocks of the 12 c., 4,550,000 copies were overprinted and remained valid until the end of 1932. The overprint, consisting of the figure '13' and three horizontal bars defacing the old value, was applied in typography in black ink. But because the printers had not sufficient figures of the same type, they used two or three slightly different '1's, some with curved, others with a straight, horizontal upstroke. These different '1's appear, of course, on the same sheet in various fields, so that one can show pairs and blocks in one's collection with the different '1' next to one another. Also, owing to heavy or insufficient inking, the overprint appears either very thick, showing 'fat', 'black', or 'thin' figures. There are many positions of the overprint, the most drastic 'shifting' occurs almost in the middle of the stamp, across Tell's eyes and leaving the old value free. I have two or three double overprints but all of them are rather weak. A number of sheets show recto-verso overprint traces ('Abklatsch').

By January 1, 1921, the 13 c. olive was overcome by the same fate as the 12c. of 1914, and was overprinted with the value of 10 c. mainly in order to comply with the U.P.U. colour regulations which demanded that the stamp required for the postal rate in question should be green. The 13 c. (No.139) was nearest in colour to green, and being redundant anyway, was turned into a 10 c. value by applying a similar 3-bar overprint as in 1915, becoming No.149. Of this stamp there are many interesting and rare varieties, caused by shifted, and double overprints. Thus, there exist overprints showing the figure '10', '110' and also thick and thin overprints. There are also two distinct colours of the red overprint, one being of a Carmine, the other of a brown-red tint.

As in the case of No.134, but much more frequently, we encounter 'broken bars' or 'interrupted bars' and some bars, particularly the middle one, often shorter than the two others. Recto-verso and mirror prints also occur on the back of these stamps.

Finally we have the 20c. on 15c. overprint (No.150 on No.128) of which about 2,500,000 were produced. The overprint was executed also in January 1921 and was made in two printing works - 1 million at the Federal Mint and 1,500,000 at the Post Office printing works. The first was in black, the second in deep blue. Among the varieties we find again shifted, thin and thick overprints, and in both colours there is a double print, left and right of the Tell Head which is peculiarly applied in No.1908 (blue overprint). Again there are recto-verso mirror prints. Because the postal authorities ordered all post offices to return all available stocks of the 15 c. for overprinting, some small offices sent back a few sheets of the remaining 15 c. dark (blackish) violet No.128c. These were only overprinted and provided a great rarity which exists in but a few surviving pieces, (catalogued by Zunstein in 1966 at Fr.1,000).

Another rare overprint consists of a 'double' showing the figures '2020' or '0202' because of shifting and doubling.

Even if one cannot aspire to include these rarities in one's album, the Tell Head overprint varieties can provide an interesting page or two by assembling 'thick', 'thin' and 'short' and 'broken bar' varieties, which may often be found among one's duplicates.
Whether you collect according to the Catalogue, or have extended your collection to include Postal History, or any of the many 'side-lines' which are now so popular, you will still need to see material at leisure.

Whatever the aspect - stamps, miniature sheets, covers, etc., there will be something of interest for you. So send your Want Lists - or ask for selections on approval. You will not be disappointed.

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**THE EXCHANGE PACKET**

Further booklets are urgently required by mid-February. There is sufficient in hand for only 4 packets, a great drop on last year.

Please look out your spare material and send it in as soon as possible (in decimal currency of course) to:

Mr. C. Rauch,
353, Baddow Road,
CHELMSFORD, Essex.
Tel: (Chelmsford) 0245-54149

**NORTHERN GROUP; Hon. Sec. R.A. HOYLE**

6 Lanes Ave, Holdensfield Rd, Halifax.

At the January meeting in Bradford, numbers were treated to a display of early postal markings given by Mr. Moore.

Beginning with a letter of 1450 from Geneva to Venice, he dealt with the history of Switzerland and its various period, displaying a wide variety of Helvetic Republic and early Cantonal covers and markings, all in wonderful condition. Also shown were tax and transit marks, Ry marks and many kinds of postal abbreviations, Ticino ovals etc. The display concluded with a study of the various postal markings of Chur.

This most interesting material together with other items produced by Messrs. Eastwood, Hoyle, Ritchie and Wilson provoked much discussion and for most of the afternoon Mr. Moore's extensive knowledge of early postal history was put to the test by members' questions. Some (including your reporter) will doubtless be spending the next few evenings re-writing their collections as a result of information gained and mistakes discovered.

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**The Zumstein Catalogues 1971**

The Zumstein catalogues can be ordered through Harris Publications Ltd., 42 Maiden Lane, London, W.C. 2E.

**ZUMSTEIN SWITZERLAND/LIECHTENSTEIN**

Pocket Size: Price 6/- postage 10d.
Registered Mail: 3/- 10d.

**ZUMSTEIN EUROPE**

Price 70/- post 60/- 6/-

**RARE CANCELLATION**

From 4 January - 7 February Montreux will use a special cancellation reading:

"3025 MURREN - date - ARLECH KANDAHAR-ROMANDEN."

**NEW PICTORIAL SLOGAN**

From 7 January Lugano will have a new pictorial slogan cancellation:

LUGANO - vacanze al sole. The cancel put into use in 1942 will be withdrawn as from 31st December 1970.

Whether you collect according to the Catalogue, or have extended your collection to include Postal History, or any of the many 'side-lines' which are now so popular, you will still need to see material at leisure.

Whatever the aspect - stamps, miniature sheets, covers, etc., there will be something of interest for you. So send your Want Lists - or ask for selections on approval. You will not be disappointed.

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**J.S. ARMSTRONG**

14, Low Lane, Torrisholme, MORECAMBE, Lancs.
II. The bar-less town strikes of ca 1926 - 1967

While covering the current type cds of Switzerland in the first instalment, it was pointed out that the period preceding 1964/5, and reaching all the way back to Pre-World War I, was one of tremendous overlapping and simultaneous use of the most diverse types of circular date strikes (ods). This, among other things, was a boon to unscrupulous individuals and crooks, because they could fabricate, with the help of an often unsuspecting postal employee, back-dated cancellations which transformed certain cheap mint stamps into very expensive 'used' items, such as the 1881 granite paper 'Seated Helvetias', certain earlier 'Pro Juventutes' and the like. In fact the last 1880-type cancellations were not modified at all until the late 1930s (or possibly even later.)

If cancellers were modified, it happened for a variety of reasons: (a) those of larger post offices had a change made from previous hour reels of I - XII (A.M.) and 1 - 12 (P.M.) to one in all-Arabic: 0 to 24; (b) in the late 1920s and early 1930s almost all older type Swiss ods were made to include by excising all or part of the bars in the semi-circles above and below the date bridge, the postal district (I - XI) in the lower semi-circle (or, rarely, in other places); (c) almost all those ods that featured no Swiss cross were, also from around 1934, meant to include that signet; and (d) in the mid 1940s all Romanish speaking communities in the Canton of Grisons were given re-cut cancellers, with the town name either completely in Romanish, or in both Romanish and German. In most instances cited above the old dies were reworked, sometimes by scrapping everything except the outer and inner circles and the date bridge. A few examples of this procedure must be shown so that a reader can understand how extremely difficult it becomes to 'date' any ods by its general shape or size. This cannot be done, and the only way to proceed is to investigate each individual town's ods over a period of 60 or more years.

Whether or not complaints by philatelists had anything to do with the eventual elimination of all bars from Swiss ods, this writer does not know; but he suspects that such was indeed one of the reasons for their disappearance, resulting in cleaner cancellations. Overleaf are shown examples of changes which have occurred in the cancellers of some localitites, and these few examples must suffice; they already show the enormous number of possible variants if one multiplies their number with the over 4000 post offices that have existed in Switzerland since about 1900! No wonder no-one seems to have a complete collection!! The task of these instalments thus will have to be a careful inspection of all basic types, from the newest to the oldest; and in each case all possible...
20th CENTURY CIRCULAR TOWN CANCELLATIONS (Cont.)
changes (or rather, known ones) to which the basic type was subjected, will be recorded as that type's sub-types.

Three Olten strikes of same cds: 1. with bars top & bottom and hour reels for Rom & Arab numbers; r. Roman num. reel excised, V in place of lower bars, town name cut to Olten 1. An intermediate form, only with Rom. num. reel excised, may also have existed.

Two Olten strikes of same cds: 1. with bars top & bottom and hour reels for Rom & Arab numbers; r. Roman num. reel excised, V in place of lower bars, town name cut to Olten 1. An intermediate form, only with Rom. num. reel excised, may also have existed.

Three Tinnzen strikes with progressive changes: 1. 1880 type cds used in 1929; c. bars excised, cross & X added (1943); r. Tinnzen changed to Romansh Tinisong and Canton name excised. A fourth version may have existed as for a brief time 'Tinizum' instead of 'Tinisong' was official PIT spelling, as proved by a rectangular temporary cancel with that spelling.

Two Olten strikes of same cds: 1. with bars top & bottom and hour reels for Rom & Arab numbers; r. Roman num. reel excised, V in place of lower bars, town name cut to Olten 1. An intermediate form, only with Rom. num. reel excised, may also have existed.

Two cds from the same Hinterrhein canceller: the first unchanged (1938) from the 1920s; the second modernized by eliminating bars and adding an 'X'.

IIIa The open bridge types (without ever having had bars in circle segments)
1) (a) with shaded cross; (b) with unshaded cross in upper semicircle.
2) with Roman district number in lower semicircle.
3) (a) with town name and star(s); (b) with town name, stars and Canton or other closer identification; (a) with town name and Canton or other closer identification, but without stars; (d) with town name but without star(s); (e) with 'bouquet'-like decorations.
4) (a) with relatively close, or normal spacing of letters; (b) with rather wide-spaced, more modernistic looking letters.
5) (a) with Arabic day, Roman month and Arabic year date; (b) for larger offices the hour (time or day) follows the year, in Arabic; (c) or in very early examples of these types there may be I-XII and 1-12 hour reels.
6) Exceptions and/or adaptations.

Now mix these ingredients freely, and the result will be about 20 basically different sub-types, most of which are shown in the following sketches:-

1) shaded cross 2) unshaded cross
1a) shaded cross 1b) unshaded cross 2) Lower cds segments with Roman district numerals (all exist from I to XI)
A full identification of the four following, completely reproduced cds., thus would have to read as follows: (all arc Type III, open date bridge):
All this is rather complicated, and it does not even take into consideration any of the following: 7) thickness (or thinness) of the outer circle; 8) size (diameter) of the cds, which can vary by as much as 3 or 4 mm., 9) shape and size of the cross (large or small) aside from being shaded or unshaded; 10) size and type of numbers in the date bridge; 11) periods or no periods in date etc. But the chosen distinctions will have to do until someone else comes along with an infallible system of considering all differences by groups and sub-groups. Until then any student of Swiss commately may now start typing his or her holdings.

Not at all considered here are 'Feldpost' cds (since they are not true town strikes) nor official cancellations from the various district headquarters, nor the PP cancels (which are to be treated in a separate installment). Also left out are all special cancellations, even if they conform in size and type to the cds discussed here, Ambulant/Bahnpost cancels, Ship cancels and Automobile office cancels, as well as all machine cancellations.

The latest of all these 'open bridge' IIA cds to appear were the 4b types, with more modernistic, skinny, and usually wide-spaced letters, very thin outer circle, unshaded cross, and without stars. These cds began to appear in the very late 1950s or earliest 1960s, and the majority of them saw very brief and limited use only, since all these types were replaced, the last by 1967/8, by Type I cds with postal direction number. Therefore, many are quite scarce. Exceptions (lit. 6) occur on a few cds for large cities, such as Basel or Zurich inasmuch as the Roman Postal district numeral is replaced by a letter that detailly identifies a specific cds. Very few of these seem to have been manufactured.

The earliest appearance of Type IIA open bridge cds (aside from 'Feldpost' cds that occur as early as the beginning of World War I) seems to be towards the end of World War I, the earliest type 3bi dating from January 1916 (AARAU NACHNAHMEN) and the earliest type 3ei dating from October 1917 (FRIEDRICH LENTHER and GENEVE EXP LETT.) Whether these cds were new dies, or whether they were recuts, by excising part of the inner complete circle of very similar cds types in use since about 1908, is not known, but in any case they are the first open bridge, bar-less town cds of Switzerland.

Talking of recuts, there are undoubtedly, among the cds of Group IIA, some that were transformed into 'open bridge' types from types that had originally contained complete double circles. When the bars were taken out, in a few instances that part of the inner circle to the left and to the right of the date bridge was also excised, resulting in a Type IIA cds. The rather small Type IIA of LUNESCIO, reproduced here, quite undoubtedly was of the type of the first TINZEN cancel shown previously; but in recutting it for insertion of cross and district number, part of the rim may have fallen out, whereupon it was decided to recut it in the Type IIA style. In some other instances it may have happened that part of the inner circle disappeared from daily use or abuse and not by excision... hard to tell.

As far as the Swiss cross is concerned, it seems that the earliest IIA types had unshaded crosses. The shaded crosses were 'in vogue' from the mid-1920s to about 1940, when another period of unshaded crosses set in.

(To be continued)
Part II

1889

15th December

Colour Change

No. 64A 15 c. purple  
(issues: 13,754,000)

Colour Shades

(a) dull purple 1889  
(b) dull purple (dark)

Plate Flaws

1. Upper margin line interrupted (A 2)
2. Diagonal colourless line through FRANCO (A 4)
3. Notched lower margin line

1894

Control Mark II - Narrow Form

No. 56B 20 c. olive-brown  
(issue: 429,986,000)

Colour Shades

(a) Light olive-brown 1894  
(b) olive-brown

Variety

9. Double control mark

Plate Flaws

1. Interrupted margin; upper left (A 1) upper centre or right (C 7); (5 different)
2. O of upper FRANCO half defective
3. Upper bar of the cross broken
4. Diagonal colourless lines in margin; upper left (A 2), lower left (A 1) and right (11th stamp on sheet)
5. Large defect (colourless) by the A of HELVETIA
6. Fracture through lower margin.

No. 59B 3 c. grey  
(issue: 6,556,000)

Colour Shades

(a) black-grey 1895  
(b) brownish-grey 1896  
(d) dark brown-grey

Plate Flaws

1. Interrupted margin; bottom centre (H 4) or lower left
2. Indented lower margin (H 1)
3. Diagonal colourless lines in lower right frame (H 6)

No. 60B 5 c. brownish-lilac  
(issue: 319,685,000)

Colour Shades

(a) light brownish-lilac  
(b) brownish-lilac 1894  
(d) deep brownish-lilac

Varieties

9. Double control marks  
10. Without control marks

Plate Flaws

1. Interrupted margin; upper right, upper centre and lower left (H 1)
2. Corner slanted off, upper left or lower right.

No. 61B 10 c. carmine  
(issue: 777,766,000)

Colour Shades

(a) carmine 1893  
(b) pink carmine  
(d) vermilion (dark)

Varieties

9. Very strong blurred print
10. Strong translucent print on the back
11. Double control marks
CROSS & VALUE FIGURE (continued)

Plate Flaws
1. Interrupted margin lines: upper, lower (4 different)
2. Slanting corner, upper or lower right
3. Defect in left lower triangle (2 ½)
4. Coloured fleck in the old plate defect upper right
5. Colourless diagonal line upper left, coloured border line of the inscription band over second E interrupted, vertical bars of the cross interrupted
6. Coloured dot after H
7. Coloured line on the A of FRANCO (A 3)

No. 628 12 c. ultramarine (issue: 36,571,000)

Colour Shades
(a) greenish-blue 1897
d (dull blue 1898
(e) violet-blue/
ultramarine

Varieties
9. Parts of margins right or left smeared. 10. Double control marks

Plate Flaws
1. Interrupted margin lines: upper left, lower right
2. Triangular eruption in margins below upper left
3. Slanting or defective corners
4. Strong indentation right (E 7)
5. Diagonal colourless lines through L of HELVETIA, in left frame (A B 6, 7 lower E 2, 3)
6. Colourless lines in plate fault of left triangle.

No. 643 15 c. lilac (issue: 59,370,000)

Colour Shades
(a) brown-lilac (dull)
(b) brownish-red-lilac
(c) dark brown-carmine (d) deep brown-lilac

Varieties
9. Double offset

Plate Flaws
1. Interrupted margin lines: upper, lower (5 different)
2. Indented margin lines or corners, colourless dot in margin upper right or in upper left triangle
3. Diagonal colourless lines above through FRANCO or colourless streak in right frame under 15. (Illus.)
4. Interruption of upper margin diagonally as far as right margin
5. Half-moon shaped notch at beginning of 'tail' of 5 (E 4) (78th stamp)

COLOUR CHANGE (1899)

No. 658 5 c. green (issue: 667,308,000)

Colour Shades
(a) yellowish-green
d (b) green, light-dark 1899
d (c) dark green 1900

d (d) deep green 1900

Varieties
9. Blurred print, part of left margin blurred
10. Double perforation, missing perforations
11. Double control mark, rectangular connection

Plate Flaws
1. Interrupted margin lines, upper, lower, left, right (6 different)
2. Margin strongly broken into (4 different). (Illus)
3. Colourless streak right lower frame throughwhole figure frame
4. Colourless streak through margin line and upper F
1971 NEW ISSUE PROGRAMME

The following is the preliminary announcement of proposed new issues:

11th March - SPECIAL STAMPS - SERIES I

**MINABE 1971**

- **Miniature Sheet**
  - 1 x 4 x 50 c.
  - (Described in detail in the January issue)

5th May - EUROPA (CEPT)

- 2 x 30 c.
  - 50 c.
- 0.60

27th May - PRO PATRIA - Contemporary stained glass

- 4 x 10 + 10 c.
- 20 + 10 c.
- 30 + 10 c.
- 50 + 20 c.
- 1.50

23rd Sept. - SPECIAL STAMPS - SERIES II

- Swiss Alps - Les Diablerets
  - 2 x 30 c.
- 40 c.
- 0.70

1st Dec. - PRO JUVENIS

- Native Birds
  - 4 x 10 + 10 c.
- 20 + 10 c.
- 30 + 10 c.
- 50 + 20 c.
- 1.20

UNITED NATIONS IN GENEVA

A special stamp in Swiss currency was issued on 25th January to mark the 'Peaceful Uses of the Seabed'.

- **Value:** 30 Rp. - 2 colours: green/brown
- **Design:** Graphic representation of the seabed and sounding instruments.
- **Designer:** P. Rahikainen, Finland
- **Stamp Size:** 26 x 36 mm.
- **Printing:** Rotogravure by No. issued:
- **Setalipino, Helsinki**

A similar stamp of 6 c. value will be issued by the U.N. in New York.

The U.N. emblem and inscription: "1211 GENEVE - PREMIER JOUR 25.1.71 - ADMINISTRATION POSTALE DES NATIONS UNIES".


**WATCH OUT FOR STAMP COLLECTING!!**

Although present circumstances make it difficult to give precise information or dates, we would like to mention that by invitation of the Editor of 'Stamp Collecting', the most popular philatelic journal in this country, a special Swiss Issue is in preparation.

This will contain a number of articles by members of the Society and we hope that it will prove of interest to all Swiss collectors.

More news as soon as possible.

---

**STAMPDEX 1971**

We look forward to meeting you at STAND 27


The Exhibition hours are:

- Mon. 1st Mar. 1 p.m. - 9 p.m.
- Tue.-Fri. 2nd/5th Mar. 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.
- Sat. 6th Mar. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

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There are several points which need mention this month, first of all an unsuccessful effort to beat the postal strike with our January issue caused me to omit the inclusion of my grateful thanks to all those members at home and abroad, who sent Christmas Greetings - more than ever this year - all much appreciated and an encouragement to continue to keep the interests of members in mind at all times.

It is, therefore, a matter of great regret that the New Year should start so badly with the postal strike - at the time of writing in its 5th week and with no immediate prospect of a settlement - which has prevented the dispatch of the January News Letter'. It is to be hoped that at least by the time this issue is ready it may be possible to despatch both issues together. It is very much a case of 'normal service will be resumed' as soon as this unfortunate and unnecessary disruption of the post is over. Meanwhile, our apologies to all our members and particularly those overseas.

As if all this was not bad enough, an enforced appointment with the Gas Board, lasting 2½ days, while my home was converted to natural gas - an experience I hope never to have to put up with again, - made it impossible for me to attend the February meeting of the Society, when the subject was "FLAWS & VARIETIES - post 1920".

It is reported, however, that 5 members provided material for display and discussion: Messrs. Lienhard, Meinhart, Redmill, Short & D.M. Slate, with the honours going to Miss M.W. Muselwhite who presented such a wide range of modern varieties that it amazed even the most advanced collectors, thus proving that one need not yearn for the early issues in order to find interest and research, but just relatively common stamps, keen eyesight and much patience.

We are also temporarily - we hope - without news of the activities of our Northern Group and our sources of information from Switzerland, but hope these may be to hand before long.

E.J.R.

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FORCOMING MEETINGS

NORTHERN GROUP:
Sat. Mar. 6th: ANNUAL COMPETITION
Thur. Mar. 25th: VISIT TO WAKEFIELD
LONDON GROUP:
Wed. 10th Mar. SOLDIER STAMPS & MILITARY MAIL

Talk & Display by Mr. H. Sheldrake
Members are invited to bring along additional material.

SUISSE PHILATELY continues to grow in popularity and elusive items will become increasingly scarce.

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NEW ISSUES FOR LIECHTENSTEIN

The following stamps were issued on 11th March:

1. Commemorating the opening of the new Liechtenstein National Museum
   - 25 Rp. - Bronze boar - epoch of La Tene: 3 colours: blue-grey/violet-black/blue
   - 30 Rp. - Roman Ornament (peacock) - 2nd cent. - 3 colours: grey-green/green/brown
   - 75 Rp. - Engraved metal plate - 1st half of 13th cent. - 4 colours: yellow/ochre/brown/green

   **Designer:** Louis Jäger, Vaduz
   **Printing:** Helio gravure by Courvoisier S.A., La Chaux-de-Fonds
   **Paper:** White with brown fibres

2. Special Stamps - Liechtenstein Flowers - Series II
   - 10 Rp. - Cyclamen - 5 colours: yellow-green/blue/brown-ol./red/green
   - 20 Rp. - Rue - 4 colours: yellow/blue/greenish-yellow/brown
   - 30 Rp. - Pink - 4 colours: rose/green-ol./green/brown-ol.
   - Fr.1.50 - Columbine 5 ovl: yellow/green/brown-ol/blue-green/blue

   **Designer:** Georg Malin, Mauren
   **Printing:** Helio gravure by Courvoisier S.A.
   **Stamp Size:** 26 x 36 mm, in sheets of 20 stamps
   **Paper:** White with brown fibres

   First Day covers were available and a special postmark was available, depicting the peacock from the 30 Rp. stamp and reading: 'Vaduz - Ausgabeetag 11 Mrz 1971'.

For the first time Liechtenstein is participating in the International Philatelic Exhibition 'INTERPEX' in New York from 12-14 March.

A special cancellation was used depicting the 'Interpex' emblem and reading 'NEW YORK - 12-14 March 1971 - Leichtenstein Off. Philatelic Service Vaduz'.

NEW POSTAL DIRECTORY IN MAY

The PTT announce that the 1971 edition of the 'ORTSVERZEICHNIS' - the Postal Directory - will be published on 23rd May at the price of 1 Fr.

It contains some 7000 place names with details relating to post, telephone and telegraph facilities, together with railway, ship and automobile links.

Orders will be accepted from 5th March. This compact guide is invaluable to the Postmark Collector.
Once more we are in business after a 7 week gap as the postal strike had virtually put a stop to the activities of the Exchange Packet. The only exception was for a limited number of members where a 'by hand' circuit was maintained. In this connection I wish to thank those members - some of whom travelled many miles - who have taken extraordinary measures to keep Packets on the move. I am also grateful to those who have kept me informed by telephone of the whereabouts of Exchange Packets.

At the time of writing these notes, I am trying to trace all the Packets to get them on the move again, since we have lost 7 weeks in an already short enough season. Packets being insured for a period of 5 months, the 7 weeks are significant. PACKETS AB to AN are NOW OUT OF INSURANCE COVER, and anyone still holding one of these must return it to me immediately by REGISTERED POST.

So that as many people as possible can see the material that has been sent to me for circulation, will you please help as follows:

1. Pass on Packets promptly, using FIRST CLASS mail service to minimise the time that Packets are in transit. If you can deliver by hand more promptly all the better. The receiving member must sign the Advice Note so that I have evidence that it has been passed on.

2. Advice Notes and payments for purchases are coming in very slowly. I hope these notes will act as a reminder to members who have not forwarded these in respect of purchases made before and during the strike period.

3. I am still receiving material which members had prepared for me to receive during early February, as originally planned. This material will be circulated - but must go round quickly (see 1 above). Even then some Packets will be on circuit at the end of June/early July. It is essential that I know when members are away from home - business or holidays, so that Packets can be re-routed and do not lie in members letter boxes.

4. As a final reminder if you move house, please let me know at once. We have lost 1 packet this season because a member changed his address and failed to advise the Society's Officers. The next occupier of your house or flat may not be as honest as you think.

C. RAUCH

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dues to vanish?

One of our members, Mr. P. Hobbs, at present working in Geneva, sends us the following note from a German language philatelic magazine, 'PHILATELICA' for March 1971:

"Machine surcharge to replace stamps"

If tests, which are being carried out by the PTT in Bern are successful, 1"t" due obliterated stamps will be replaced by machine obliterations. If successful the scheme will be extended to other large centres, and 17 machines of this type have been ordered."

Mr. Hobbs comments further that this news is quite likely to cause an upsurge of interest in these items, with a subsequent hardening of prices.

So far the highest value stamp with "T" overprint that he has found is 2Fr. Although listed on stamps up to 20 Fr. he has not yet come across any such items.

If you have any interesting observations to make or have come across any items in the philatelic press that may be useful, please let us know.

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We were delighted to meet so many 'Helvetic' members at 'S T A M P E X'!

Now that the post is again functioning normally, do not forget that our APPROVAL SERVICE is fully at your disposal.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: The recent postal chaos and various domestic upsets, all occurring simultaneously, have unfortunately, been extended to the 'News Letter'. A confusion in the titling caused the introductory section to the new article by Dr. Ganz to be omitted; it is given now and should precede the section in the February issue.

SWISS CIRCULAR DATE STRIKE CANCELLATIONS
OF MORE RECENT VINTAGE

Swiss Circular Date Strike Cancellations does not contain, a retrogressive study, in instalments by FELIX GANZ

Andres and Emmenegger's famous 'Handbook of Swiss Cancellations' in its original edition, listed everything known in Swiss postmarks and cancellations up to about 1885 (officially 1881), while the new appearing re-issue of the same work will list anything up to about 1907. That leaves three-score and some years open to investigation and in the instalments that may follow this initial and your correspondent will be swimming backwards until he may meet, some day, with the tallied listings of the new handbook's chapters on circular town cancels. Some important footwork has been done for some individual cantons, such as the mimeographed lists for the Grisons (Graubünden) by Karl Gebert (unfortunately out of print) and probably some others too, but an overall view in this writer's knowledge, has never been presented yet. Thus, this series of articles may well be an initial effort, and thus it may not only be incomplete, but may contain all sorts of errors, the correction of which will be the task of that part of Helvetia Society's membership that occupies itself with Swiss 20th Century Postmarks and town strikes.

If, as it happened between 1964 and 1968, all Swiss town Postmarks (cds) would have been retired periodically - say every 25 years - it would be extremely easy to give listings of types; but since the thrifty PTT often recut and re-recut cancelling dies to incorporate a variety of changes necessary, in their view, for better postal administration, the period between 1872 and 1964 is one in which such a wealth of different types of circular town strikes co-exist, that the subject must be approached with tender and patient care...

1. CDS SINCE 1964: WITH POSTAL DIRECTION NUMBER

The current, and latest, type of Swiss cds is easily distinguished from its predecessors, because of the inclusion of a four-digit number (pdn), or postal direction indicator (Postleitzahl, numero d'acheminement), in front of the canceller's town name or (most infrequently) below the town name. Two basic sub-types, to be discussed in more detail below exist:

a) in the lower semi-circle appears only a letter;
b) in the lower semi-circle appears a number and a letter.

In looking at such a basic type cds with pdn, we find that it contains the following postal information:

1. Postal Direction Number: It has four digits and is based on the regional division of the country (plus Liechtenstein and Swiss postal agencies abroad) into pdn numbering regions (while retaining the alpine postal districts and regional administrations), 1000 to 1999, for instance, comprises the Weschninz part of the country: Geneva, Vaud, part of Valais and most of Fribourg plus some others; or 8000 to 8999 which serves the area of Zurich, Schaffhausen and most of Thurgau as well as parts of Aargau and Solwys.

It may be seen that these pdn-s cut across cantonal boundaries, across rivers and mountain chains, and across the boundaries of the existing postal districts. Just one example: Sangernboden, a tiny hamlet belonging to the Canton of Bern, is postally served from 1716 Pfaffolen (Fribourg), because it lies beyond a high mountain chain from Bern in a valley that opens into Fribourg; therefore, its postal number is 1711, while administratively it belongs to postal district 3 - Bern. The pdn numbering system thus really grew out of a need to speed up postal services. The first number denotes the regional division, the second the sub-region, and the third and fourth still more detailed sub-routings and/or individual towns. Larger cities have direction numbers ending in at least two, or three zeros (although their branch offices may be assigned different numbers); routing centres have a pdn with at least
SWISS CIRCULAR DATE STRIKE CANCELLATIONS (cont.)

one zero at the end, individual, larger towns and villages have pdns ending in 2, 3. In very small depots, agencies or offices, individual numbers end in 1 or 9 (unless they are given the same pdn which the p.o. has from which they directly depend).

Not all numbers between 1000 and 9999 are utilized (yet); and quite often differently named post offices carry the same pdn as their head office, if they are directly dependent branches; 7500 St.Moritz, with the towns of Goppenstein, Ferden, Kippel, Miler, Blatten, and Fafleralp, for example, was given pdn 3903 because all the towns are small and are served by the same postal bus (except the seasonal p.o. Fafleralp where the bus will go over the new road only by 1971 and which is currently served by Switzerland's last mule pack route). Complicated? - not really - and anyone interested may request, free of charge, from the GD-PTT the booklet "Verzeichnis der Postleitzahlen" with addenda sheets, which was distributed to all Swiss households back in 1965 to speed acceptance, by the public, of this enormously time-saving system. In a few instances, the pdn has been changed since 1964 for various reasons and new ads were issued.

2. Town Name: The cancellation represents the postally official name of a town (even though any Swiss may address his mail in German, French or Italian, if a city or town does have a different name in a different language, e.g. Bern/Berno/Berna; Basel/Bale/Baalen; Geneva/Genf/Ginevre; Avenches/Wiffilsburg; Biel/Bienne; Ypsig/YSg etc., etc., but this confusing nomenclature becomes irrelevant if the pdn is written ahead of the town name - another reason why the PTT wanted the system to be accepted). If further identification is needed, there appears a Canton or valley etc., name behind the town name: e.g., OBERHOFEN AM THUNERSEE, OBERHOFEN (AG); VUISTERNENS-EN-OGOZ, VUISTERNENS-DEVANT-ROMONT; ROVERDO (TI), ROVERDO (MOSOCCCHI) etc., In the course of cutting all the new type cancellations, the German firm which was entrusted with the task produced a few cute, briefly used and then retired, and now very rare erroneous spellings, such as OSTERMUNDEN instead of OSTEMUNDIGEN (in use only for a few hours), or CHATEAU DE ST.CROIX instead of CHATEAU DE STE-CROIX (in use almost a year, but from such a tiny office that very little mail is ever seen from there).

3. Swiss Cross: All Swiss cds with pdn feature, in the upper semicircle, an unshaded Swiss Cross, while the new Liechtenstein postmarks show, in its stead the Liechtenstein coat-of-arms - a novelty since 1966.

4. Date Bridge: All Swiss cds with pdn have an open date bridge. It shows in Arabic numerals exclusively, and from left to right: day, month and year (two numbers only). Larger towns also incorporate the time of day (-0 to 24) at the righthand side of the date bridge.

5. 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.

5a. Branch offices or larger towns and cities feature, in place of these stars or sometimes separated by one star each left and right from the town name proper, the branch office's name in the bottom part of the cds, such as 4000 BASEL 3 -- SPALEN; 1000 LAUSANNE 11 -- JORDER; 6503 BELLINZONA 3 -- CARASO etc.,

5b. cds of regional head post offices, in the same manner as under 5a, may show the office's postal division, such as 3002 ZURICH 22 -- BRIEF-ANNAHME, or PAKETANNAHME, or GELDPOSTANT, or MEER etc., (Letter acceptance, parcel window, money division, lock boxes etc.).

6. Postal District Number and cds Identification Letter: The item appearing in the lower semi-circle has a double duty:

A. The Arabic number corresponds to the town's postal district (of which there are eleven; these were shown, in earlier type cds, in Roman numerals). Very large towns or postal district 'capitals' do not show this Arabic district number in their cds. Thus 3000 ZURICH 7 -- KOENIGS features only small letters, and no number in the lower semi-circle although it should rightfully show a '7' as well. But for a while in 1964/5, close to
1000 ods with pdn were put into service at smaller and smallest post offices, also without the postal district number, and that created such havoc, especially in the postal cheque centres that all of these 'letter only' types of small offices with types of small offices with 'number plus' letter types. Needless to say these "letter-only" ods thus are scarce to very rare - some having been in use for a few months at the most. By late 1970 all seemed to have been withdrawn except for a few seasonal, non-accountable agencies atop mountains, such as RUTHENS KUUM or SCHYNIGE PLATTE. Why the havoc? Well, take the previously mentioned example of 1711 SANGENBODEN. It belongs and is accountable to postal district 3 Bern; but glancing at its pdn 1711 one could think that it is part of district 1: Geneva or Lausanne. Thus only the inclusion of a '1' in the lower semi-circle would eliminate possible confusion. In the case of large cities, however, there is no doubt.

B. The lower case letter, also in the lower semi-circle, is nothing but an easy means to spot the clerk, or the division in a larger office. Agencies depots and small offices have but one ods, with letter 'b' while regular sized post offices may have two or three ods with letters 'a', 'b', and 'c'. In large offices, each clerk, or division, has its distinctly lettered (and thus recognizable) ods. This is obviously copied after German use, where the same practice has been in effect for decades. Very large offices may have letters all the way up to 'z' and even beyond, when doubling starts: 'aa', 'aq' etc., beyond 'as' (Bern 1) I haven't seen any.

VARIATIONS:

(i) Since 1962 or thereabouts, smaller towns with a large volume of mail have been assigned new type cancelling machines that have a large crown which is identical in size to the regular ods hand strikes. To the left of these machine strikes appears a slogan, or a dumb obliteration flag, or 'PP' etc., but even with the slogan flag cut off, these machine strikes are distinct from the hand ods because they look, in the lower semi-circle, number as well as letter; or they feature only a number, but no letter.

(ii) Franking machines of private firms also use new type ods with pdn. They are easily recognised because they are required to cancel in red ink; but even so, their ods can be distinguished inasmuch as they feature an 'M' (for machine probably) in the lower semi-circle.

(iii) Roller handstamps of the newest type are also of identical shape and size as the regular hand ods; but they, too have either no letter or number in the lower semi-circle, or only the number, but no letter. In addition, of course, they have heavy lines to the left and right of the ods.

(iv) pdn below the town name: That, to this writer's knowledge occurred only on very few town propaganda postmarks (not discussed here) and on the GD-PTT Philatelic Agency ods of 1964/5 where the '3000' appears below the date of the ods. Regular town ods are not known to exist in this manner.

COLOUR: All hand ods must be struck in black. Exempt are only postal district headquarters and the GD-PTT whose official mails are cancelled mostly in blue.

Here follows the first part of '20TH CENTURY CIRCULAR TOWN CANCELLATIONS OF SWITZERLAND' from the February 'Helvetia News Letter'. (To be continued....)

THE POST STRIKE

The strike which lasted for 7 weeks from 15th January, is now over and we are endeavouring to get back to normal. We regret the unavoidable delay in the despatch of the 'HELVETIA NEWS LETTER', particularly to our overseas members. The January & February issues have been sent out together and we trust by now they have reached members safely.

Overseas mail did not start coming through until mid-March and is being dealt with as quickly as possible.

E.J.R.
A MYSTERY CANCELLATION

On Page 15 of the January S.B.Z. is an illustration of a 2 Rp. 'Cross & Figure' stamp which is something of a puzzle to the expert, Herr Liniger. It is only granite paper (Z.58) with a cancellation of AMMERSWYL of 28.12.89.

This cancel, however, with year date, is so far unknown and it is thought that perhaps the '89' of AMMERSWYL was erased and the year figures '89' inserted. Without the year date the cancel was in use from 23 Dec. 1870 to 28 Feb. 1893, but as Herr Liniger states, nothing is impossible, and the following question is posed:

Does anyone possess examples of this cancellation of AMMERSWYL - with or without year date - for the period between 28.12.1889 and 28.2.1893?

If so, will they be good enough to send them - or a photograph - to Alfred Itel, Gempenstrasse 74, 4053 Basel. Due care will be exercised and return as soon as possible.

Helvetia members should check their stamps and may turn up some useful information.

UNITED NATIONS IN GENEVA

A. On 12th March 1971 a special stamp was issued for International Aid for Refugees.


Designer: Dr. Kaare Nyguard & Martin J. Weber, U.S.A.

Offset by Joh. Enschede & Zonen, Holland. Stamp size: 33.4 x 25.4 mm. No. issued: 1,900,000.

Two similar stamps of 6 & 13 c. will be issued on the same day by the U.N. in New York.

A First Day cancellation was used at the special P.O. of the U.N. in Geneva. It depicts the U.N. emblem and has the inscription: '1211 GENEVE - PREMIER JOUR 12.3.71 - ADMINISTRATION POSTALE DES NATIONS UNIES.'

B. On 13th April 1971 a special stamp will be issued on behalf of the World Food Programmes.

Value: 50 Rp. An ear of corn against a globe of coloured mosaic; violet/yellow/green/gold.

Designer: Olav S. Mathiesen, Denmark. Photographs by Horacio Matta, Spain. Stamp size: 26 x 36 mm. No. issued: 1,500,000.

A similar stamp will be issued by the U.N. in New York, 19c. value.

A special cancellation will be in use in Geneva on 13th April, using the same cancellation as for '81 but with date 13.4.71.

A special cancellation will be in use in Geneva on 13th April, using the same cancellation as for '81 but with date 13.4.71.

RECENT SLOGAN CANCELLATIONS

Bis keine mehr hungert - Swissaid - Various 7 Feb.- 13 Mar.

Pour que chacun mange a sa faim - Swissaid - Various 7 Feb. - 13 Mar.

Affinche piu nessuno soffra la fame - Swissaid - 6900 Lugano 7 Feb. 15 Mar.


Settimana europea del cuore 21-25 febb., 71 - 6500 Bellinzona 1.


Suisse-Chaux-de-Fonds 50 Jahre fur den guten Film - 4000 Basel 2 & 9000 St. Gallen.

Cinema scolaire et populaire suisse 50 ans pour le bon film - 1200 Geneva 3, 2300 La Chaux-de-Fonds.

Cinema scolastico e Popolare svizzero - 30 anni per il buon film - 6830 Chiasso 1.


Ligue des-JAMS pour votre cure d'hiver - 1200 Geneva 1.

LEUKERBAD - für Ihre Winterkur.

REMEmBER the ANNUAL COMPETITION will be held on Wednesday 12th May.

Full rules etc., in next month's issue.
THE MARCH MEETING IN LONDON

A large and attentive audience welcomed MR. H. SHELDRAKE of Westcliff-on-Sea at the March meeting, when he presented some unusual facets of SWISS SOLDIER STAMPS AND MILITARY MAIL.

He recounted how 3 years ago he knew nothing about this subject, but being intensely interested in military covers he became 'biten'. Studying the stamps of World War I it became apparent that not only were the first soldier stamps designed by Oberl. F.Bieri, but so also were a very large proportion of the stamps issued during World War I, and called up again in World War II, he then designed a further 9 stamps.

After some sleuthing, contact with Herr Bieri was eventually achieved and it was found that not only had he lived in England until 1906, when the family returned to Switzerland, but that from 1903-1906 he had served in the London Rifle Brigade.

Herr Bieri's intimate knowledge of the whole subject has been willingly shared with Mr. Sheldrake and as a result members were privileged to see many unique items, such as original designs, proofs, colour trials etc., all beautifully arranged and written up with the fullest details. One special item which Mr. Sheldrake had on loan was a 'Scala', a booklet containing colour prints of the various stages of production of a stamp, which enables the colours to be matched for successive printings.

Mr. Sheldrake then went on to deal with one particular aspect of the military saga, so-called 'Guard Trains' - the relief trains which in 1919/1920 were sent across devastated Europe to Poland and Roumania, which countries were desperately short of many essential supplies. The train carried food, medical supplies, wounded personnel, internees and sometimes re-immigrants returning to their homeland. Because the journeys took two weeks, sometimes even months, it was necessary to provide military protection, which duties were undertaken by the neutral Swiss. Among these relief trains No.10 to Roumania were commanded by Capt. Bieri. From these mutual reminiscences and a tremendous amount of help from Herr Bieri himself, Mr. Sheldrake has built up a chronicle, complete with maps, postcards, photographs, covers and stamps from these and other journeys. Covers usually carried a special franking such as 'WARSAWA Juli 1919 - Escorte commerciale Suisse'.

So fascinating was the display and the accompanying commentary that it was impossible to take adequate notes. It is the earnest wish of the Helvetia members that having amassed this authentic account of a little known but very important episode in post-war history, Mr. Sheldrake will now put it on permanent record and thus ensure its preservation for the future.

STAMPEX 71

Despite the postal strike and a sudden and unexpected return of arctic weather 'STAMPEX' was once more an event not to be missed by the enthusiast.

We offer our heartiest congratulations to W.C.R.B.F. BULSTRODE O.B.E. who, most deservedly was awarded the H.L. Katcher Trophy for his truly magnificent exhibit on 'SWISS PROOFS & ESSAYS' among which were many extremely rare items. Once more we are delighted that it has been won by a Helvetia member.

Several other members also achieved awards: MR. J.H. SHORT (Silver Medal) for 1862-82 Sitting Helvetia issues, with colour trials, varieties, postmarks and covers. MR. R.A. HOYLE - Bronze-silver - for Standing Helvetia issues, a study of the causes and types of varieties and their subsequent retouches. MR. H. DIXON - Bronze - for a fine selection of early covers carried by steamers on the lakes of Maggiore, Zurich, Constance and Brienz, and MR. I. TILLEN - Bronze - for Swiss Travelling Post Office cancellations a detailed study of all known types from 1858 - 1870.

We are also pleased to hear from our member ER. J. LEMON, of Belfast, that at the January meeting of the North of Ireland Philatelic Society, he was awarded the Greer Cup for an entry of Swiss Airmails.
SPECIAL CANCELLATIONS

1. **WORLD ICE-HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIPS**
   From 5-14 March and from 19 March - 3 April 1971, the World Ice-Hockey Championships will be marked by the use of a special cancellation showing a globe and text: 3000 GENF 1 - date - EMPIRE U.M.A. TURNE ERUFNUNGSTAG

2. **SWISS B-747 DEMONSTRATION FLIGHT**
   The first flight of the regular air-route Zurich-Geneva-New York by Swissair B-747 (Juribo-Jet) will take place on 1st April 1971. Mail carried on this flight will be cancelled with a special commemorative cancellation depicting the plane and reading either:
   0650 ZURICH 50 FLUGHAFEN - ERSTFLUG B-747 - 1.4.71 or
   1215 GENEVE 15 AIRPORT - Premier vol B-747 - 1.4.71.

3. **INTERNATIONAL MOTOR SHOW IN GENEVA**
   To be held from 11-27th March in the Palais des Expositions in Geneva. A special cancel will be used reading: '1211 GENEVE - date - Salon de l'Auto'.

4. **6th WORLD METEOROLOGICAL CONGRESS**
   This will be held in the Palais des Nations in Geneva from 15-30 April. During the period mail posted will be franked with a special cancellation depicting the U.N. emblem and reading: '1211 GENEVE - date - Congres meteorologique mondiale'.

The

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At the Feb meeting in Bradford Mr.Hoyle displayed 300 sheets from his collection of the 'Pro Juventute' issues. As well as mint and used singles and FDC, mint and used blocks and blocks on cover were shown together with varieties and a large selection of photographs and cards illustrating the subjects. Also shown were many large cards with the stamps superimposed on a map and covering such themes as costumes, coats-of-arms, flowers etc.

Mr.Hoyle also described how it was the 'Pro Juventute' issues which first attracted him to the stamps of Switzerland when he visited that country in 1949 with a school party.

The March meeting was Annual Competition Day for Northern Group members, who welcomed Mr.J.S.Armstrong from Morecambe as Judge. The results of the various sections were:

**Postal History**
1st Mr.R.A.Hoyle
2nd Mr.D.Wilson

**Postal Stationery**
1st Dr.G.Ritchie
2nd J.N.Highsted

**General**
1st Mr.D.Wilson
2nd equal Mr.R.A.Hoyle & Mr.G.Ritchie

**Thematic**
1st Mr.R.A.Hoyle
2nd equal Dr.G.Ritchie & Mr.D.Wilson

The Northern Group are again having a Helvetia stand at the Yorkshire Philatelic Association Convention to be held on Saturday, May 8th at the Snapethorpe High School, Wakefield from 1.30 p.m. and as usual any Helvetia members who will be in this part of Yorkshire are welcome to attend and meet Bradford members.

The Northern Group are again having a Helvetia stand at the Yorkshire Philatelic Association Convention to be held on Saturday, May 8th at the Snapethorpe High School, Wakefield from 1.30 p.m. and as usual any Helvetia members who will be in this part of Yorkshire are welcome to attend and meet Bradford members.

The articles in your 'HELVETIA NEWS LETTER' frequently deal with less-known aspects of Swiss philately.

If you propose to follow up some of these and thus enhance your collection, let me help by sending, on approval, selections of suitable material.

Whatever your requirements, whether for regular issues or such 'side-lines' write to:

J.S.ARMSTRONG
14, Low Lane, Torrisholme, MORECAMBE, Lancs.
Two new issues are due for release next month: 2 EUROPA (CEPT) stamps on May 3rd and 4 values in the PRO PATRIA series on May 27th. Details are given as follows:

1. EUROPA - Adaptation of the common picture subject - a chain symbolising the close association and joint efforts of the European peoples in the postal and telecommunications fields.

   Design: Chain of 9 links with the words 'EUROPA CEPT' incorporated in them:
   - 30 c. - 2 colours: brown-red/yellow
   - 50 c. - 2 colours: blue/yellow

   Designer: M.H. Hafidason, Reykjavik, Iceland - adapted by Werner Mühlimann, Bern.
   Engraver: Albert Tezzen, Buchandens
   Stamp Size: 29 x 24 mm. (26 x 23 mm.)
   Printing: Two colour line-engraved intaglio by the PTT Stamp Printing Office, Bern.
   No. of Sheets: 4 (Nos. 1 - 4) : 50 stamps per sheet
   Period of sale: From May 3rd, as long as stocks last but not later than 30th November, 1971.

   A First Day Cover will be available and the special First Day cancellation shows the letters 'CEPT' within links and reads: '3000 Bern - EUROPA - 3.5.71 - AUSGABETAG'.

2. NATIONAL DAY STAMPS - PRO PATRIA 1971 - consisting of 4 stamps which will terminate the 'Stained Glass' sequence in the 'Arts & Applied Art' series. The stamps reproduce stained glass of sacred motifs by contemporary artists. With one exception the design adorn church windows in western Switzerland and are examples of the high standard of modern artistic work often found in small rural churches.

   50% of the proceeds from the additional charge will go to the National Day Collection 1971 to promote National Health. The remaining 50% is intended for the furtherance of cultural and social work.

   Design: 10+10 c.
   - Window in Roman Catholic Church of Courgenay (St.Bern) by Jean-François Comment, Porrentruy. Abstract composition of colour, forms and lines conveying a religious feeling. 3 colours: violet/red/blue/yellow/black.
   - Part of window of the Reformed Church of Fecy (St.Yvoz) by Jean Prud'hom, Rivaz. The cock in bright yellow and blue is a symbol of the Christian religion & of vigilance and fertility. 5 colours: dk-green/blue/yellow/red/black.
   - Privately owned glass painting by Kurt Volk, Basel. Shows a fox of modern design on a multicoloured background. 3 cols. brownish red/blue/red/yellow/black.
   - The Roman Catholic Church of Vloques (St.Bern) has two...
W.Cdr. R.F. Bulstrode Visits Bradford

At the April meeting of the Northern Group, members welcomed W.Cdr. R.F. Bulstrode from London and were privileged to see much of his unique collection of Proofs, Essays and Hotel Stamps.

Beginning with a page of Sperati Forgeries, there followed essays, proofs and forgeries of many of the imperforate issues, with examples of issued stamps including reconstructed sheets of the Rayon I & II and a fine mint block of 4 of the Rayon I with full gum. Proofs and colour trials of the 'Sitting Helvetia' perf., were followed by 'Legiatrix' essays on oval mounts, Mattioli essays, the first unissued types of 'Standing Helvetia' die proofs from the 1904-6 issues, two pages of Paris proofs and a magnificent double perf. variety and offset, 'Tell' and 'Helvetia Bust' issues included many die proofs and colour trials and examples of the Sempach essay, with the 1908 & 1909 special prints on thick paper for presentation purposes; the 1900 UPU issue was covered by a page of proofs of the Fr.1.20 in blocks of 6 and a mis-printed block of 15 of the Fr.2.

Other items shown were die proofs, both with and without value figures, of the 1912 Disarmament issues, essays and colour trials of the postage due issues, with a trial plate of the 5 c. Among the dies were plate proofs of 1924 on colours of, but with different inks to those issued, while the Pro Juventute issues included proofs of the 1916/9/20/21 arms issues with a large essay of the 1925 10 c. arm of Aargau.

Mr. Bulstrode then displayed his magnificent collection of Hotel Stamps with many blocks, covers and essays, including the only known specimen on card of the Engadinhof Hotel. He concluded with examples of the Red Cross stamps of 1870/1 a page of 'Kocher' stamps, cards showing the use of refused labels and pages of PTT printing trials.

It is impossible in this short space to do justice to the many items shown, but with his flying visit Mr. Bulstrode provided Bradford members with a memorable afternoon's philately and their thanks are extended to him for the opportunity to see so many rare and unusual items.

R.A.H.

NEW ISSUES IN MAY (continued)
rows of stained glass windows by Bernard Schorderet, Fribourg, which symbolises in abstract design the glory and the Passion of Christ. Colours: dk. blue/lt. blue/red/yellow/black.

Stamp Design: Celestino Pinti, Basel
Stamp Printing: Rotogravure by Courvoisier S.A., La Chaux-de-Fonds
Stamp Size: 29x33.5 mm. (50x30.5mm)
Paper: White, phosphor lightly coated with violet fibres.
No. of Sheets: 2 (A & B) of 50 stamps each.
Period of Sale: From May 27 to August 31, 1971 at Post Offices; at PTT Philatelic Offices as long as stocks last, but not later than December 31, 1971
Validity: Unlimited
First Day Covers will be available while the First Day cancellations have a tiny replica of the fox of the 30 c. stamp with 'AUSGABETFABRIKATUR' and 'AUSGABETAG 27.5.71' beneath, and round the edge '13000 BERN BUNDESPOSTMARKEN'.

Collection sheets and folders for both issues will be available from the PTT Philatelic Offices.

The article by Dr. F. Ganz on 20th Century Cancellations will be resumed next month.

Price: 75p. + 5p. post & packing
Editor's Note:

There was a time, because of the sale of remainders, when this issue was rather neglected, almost ignored, by serious collectors. Probably because of this neglect, philatelic research has not been as thorough as with other early issues. Nowadays, the 'Sitting Helvetia Perf.' is very popular and even at this late date, leaves scope for further discoveries into the origin, printing processes and reasons for various errors.

Periodically we receive letters from members in many parts of the world seeking further information or offering suggestions which might explain these errors and we propose to publish these further contributions in a series over the next few issues of the 'Helvetia News Letter'.

Let us begin by quoting a letter from Mr. J.H. Short of Reading, who was for many years the Society's Exchange Packet Secretary. He writes:

"I have recently been remounting my collection of perforated 'Sitting Helvetia' 1862/82, and have been intrigued regarding the varieties catalogued by Zumstein (followed by A.C.) as 'Doubly embossed, once inverted'. Surely this description is somewhat of a misnomer and should be 'Double impressed, once inverted', referring, of course, to the printing plate and not to the stamps themselves. In the case of these stamps I prefer the designation given them by S.G., i.e., 'Whole design double impressed on plate, once inverted'. This seems to be the truth. But how did it happen? Since thinking about it I have remembered an article which I read some 10 years ago when I was not particularly interested, and I will give details of this later."

"In the meantime, what information could I find? Going through back numbers of the HNL, I found in that for Sept, 1965, remarks attributed to the late Dr. Pulpius in which he rather airily dismisses the whole business as being caused by sheets being out through the embossing process twice, sometimes upside down! Surely this would produce a sheet of 100 errors, if it produced any at all. Our varieties occur only once in a pane of 100.

"Then I came across the article by our President, Mr. L. Moore, in HNL for May 1967. Mr. Moore discusses the question of the master die being in several parts, and I will agree that the corner figure plugs were probably interchangeable. But why the top and bottom panels - they are the same right through the issue. Mr. Moore's suggestion seems to be that at some time the die parts were wrongly inserted in the master die before making one of the 100 separate gaunrons of cliche's, the soft copper face being wrongly impressed and then impressed again correctly in the hope that this would obliterate the error. But surely when making 100 of these cliche's there would have been some spare ones available, and it would have been so easy to make a new and correct one? By inference Mr. Moore suggests that it is only the 4 corner figures and the two panels that are doubled. But this is not so. I have 6 copies of the varieties on granite paper, and all of them show the oval outline of Helvetias shield towards the top left of the central vignette. Furthermore, Zumstein's illustration of No. 30 Pf., distinctly shows this, so that the whole design was impressed twice. Also, by inference, Mr. Moore is apparently suggesting that the faulty cliche's were embodied in the original plate. Zumstein rather refutes this as, taking the 50. on white paper, this was issued in 1862 and the variety is dated 1878, 16 years later.

"Well, I had to go back to HNL for May 1950 and the article by the late Col. de Watteville to find a good description of the printing and embossing of these stamps. And here Col. de Watteville hints at just what the writer of the old article mentioned above said had happened. I should mention here that it is generally accepted that the 'plates' were made up from 100 separate cliches locked in a frame and wedged with cardboard, etc., where necessary. Presumably the embossing plates were constructed in the same way.

"Now for the old article, which I read in an old bound volume of Gibbons Monthly dated about 1907-8 or 91. In it the writer stated that during printing one of the embossing cliche's fell out, and was replaced inverted in error. On continuing printing there would have been a slight rocking as pressure was put on the inverted cliche, and the operator probably noticed it and corrected it. What the operator did not notice was that the pressure of the hard embossing cliche on the soft copper printing cliche left distinct traces of its design behind it, inverted. So that the subsequent printings perpetuated the variety. I think it is quite reasonable to suppose that under pressure it would be the leading edge of the faulty cliche which would make the greatest impression on
the printing plate, and then the pressure would be thrown on to the trailing
rubbish to the experts; but if so, can they please explain the errors differ-
ently?"

Mr. Short sportingly suggested that his article be submitted to Mr. Moore
before publication. The President however, already had letters from other
members on the same and further relevant points regarding this issue, and he be-
lieved that if the whole of the correspondence could appear in the 'News Letter'
it would not only be of interest to the membership generally, but it might
bring forth something of value from some of our real experts who hitherto
have not expressed their opinions. Here then is Mr. Moore's reply to Mr. Short:-

"Apart from my rather unscientific observations of items in my own and
other people's collections, most of my information on this issue comes from
everything (I thought) that has ever been written on it. I confess I had not
known of the 1906 article in Gibbons Magazine! and we should be grateful to
Mr. Short for bringing it to our notice. Like him, I have no knowledge of the
technology of printing beyond that which every collector 'picks up
and agree the danger of the proverbial 'a little learning'.

The explanation given in the Gibbons article sounds reasonable and it might
have been easier to reverse the whole of the design rather than a part of it.
All my copies of the 5 c., on granite paper clearly show the doubling (inverted)
of the 'FRANCO' and the oval and cross of the shield at upper left just as
described. It is difficult to discern actual double reversal of the side
decorative panels, but certainly they are not as clear aut as the normal stamps
adjoining the variety.

"It should be remembered that my 'article' was really a condensation of a
'Paper' presenting a display of the whole issue, so that reference to the double
inverted impressions was brief and I probably laid emphasis on the changeable
corner figures to introduce the mention of them in the later section on proofs,
ones which exist with different figures in each of the four
sections, especially those used in the printing of a century ago. Our member Mr.
Chapman, and Mrs. McMahon have performed for us a most valuable service in their
translations from Zumstein, on this issue and now the 'Cross & Figure' and we are
all grateful to them. I notice they have translated literally and as I should
think of them as being embossed stamps. I believe that 'grün' can mean
any kind of stamping or impressing, but Mr. Short is right in suggesting that we
should call it 'double impression' (meaning on the 'plate' and not on the paper).

"The Fulpius article would probably be from his French but he would have got
his information from earlier writings in German! An interesting translation of
the Zumstein 1909 'Handbuch' was published in English by the 'Philatelic Record'
in 1910. The relevant section reads: 'An explanation is necessary with regard
to the origin of the 5 cts with doubly impressed figures in the four corners.
The original steel die in high relief consisted of Helvetia with the four portions
of the frame and the four figures of value, which latter were interchangeable.
For the preparation of the galvanos the original die was pressed into a soft
metal plate and 400 such impressions built up a plate of four sections each with
100 designs. After the impression of the 5, 10, 25 and 50 cts, it was found that
in each section one design was inverted. These were carefully rectified, the
inverted impression being obliterated by powerful re-pressing, not altogether
as we have seen, with success!' (Then follows an account of the double impression
- right way up - of the 1 Fr., spear and arm on the 1 Franc). In the listing
of the catalogue section, the only mention of double inverted impressions is of
the corner figures. So we have progressed since those days!

"In Philately, as in other fields, knowledge is never complete, and after
all, we are a Study Circle, and one reason for our existence is to exchange
information and to pass on the results of our research. I mentioned my 'display'
but/
THE SIXTEENTH ANNUAL COMPETITION

To be held at the KINGSWAY HALL, W.C.2, on WEDNESDAY 12th MAY 1971 at 6.45 p.m.

RULES

1. The Competition, open to all members resident in Great Britain, will comprise two sections:

(a) For the HELVETIA SILVER CUP: Entries of not less than EIGHT and not more than TWELVE sheets, comprising any postage stamps, charity, airmail, special, postage dues, official or other items, miniature sheets, flown covers etc. (Note: Thematic entries are not excluded, although more difficult to assess in comparison with more philatelic entries).

(b) Postal History Competition for the MOORE TROPHY: Entries of NINE sheets on any aspect of Swiss Postal History.

Members may submit one entry in each section.

2. Entries sent by post (preferably Registered) should be in the hands of the Competition Organiser: Mrs. E. J. Rawnsley and sent c/o Ethelbert Gardens, Gants Hill, Ilford, Essex, not later than Monday 10th May. Members attending the meeting may, of course, bring their entries personally.

3. All entries will be covered by insurance during the period from receipt until return to their owners.

4. A Jury appointed by the Committee of the Helvetia P.S. shall judge entries and award the Trophies to the owners of the entries which they shall select as most worthy.

5. Entries will be judged by a system of points based on the general headings:

HELVETIA SILVER CUP

(a) General Philatelic Interest .. 30
(b) Philatelic Knowledge .. 30
(c) Presentation & Condition .. 25
(d) Originality .. 15

MOORE TROPHY

(a) Subject Knowledge .. 40
(b) Presentation & Condition .. 40
(c) General Interest .. 20

6. The Helvetia Silver Cup, awarded annually, shall remain in the possession of the winner for 11 months and then be returned to the Competition Organiser named by the Committee and then awarded to the next winner. If the same person wins three successive Annual Cup Competitions the Cup shall become his or her property and the Committee shall provide a new Cup for the next Competition.

7. The 'Moore Trophy' will also be held by the winner for 11 months and then be returned to be competed for again.

E.J.R.

DER GANZSACHE-SAMMLER - THE POSTAL STATIONERY COLLECTOR

Until recently the publication 'Der Ganzsachen-Sammler' was distributed only to members of the Schweiz. Ganzsachen-Sammler Verein - The Swiss Postal Stationary Collectors' Society, but it has now been decided to include non-members on a subscription basis.

This small but well printed journal is published in German and French 3 or 4 times per year and is devoted primarily to Swiss postal stationery, postal forms and cancellations.

The subscription to the journal is U.S. $2.00 (Sw.Fr.-8150) for 4 consecutive issues, and two one-dollar bills may be sent to the publisher: Mr. J. Debrunner, Juraweidstrasse, CH-5023 Biberstein, Switzerland. If payment is made by personal check, please add 50 c. for banking charges.

Members in the United States may be particularly interested since some find that information on forthcoming special cancellations is not received in time to obtain these easily, and such non-members may also participate in

(a) a New Issue Service to supply newly issued postal stationery on a worldwide basis, especially strong in European and British Commonwealth issues, and

(b) A Special Cancellation Service - the only direct source of supply for Swiss special and slogan cancellations and Swiss automobile post offices.

The President of the Society, Herr Robert Pfister, of Brühlstrasse 43, CH-2500 Biel/Bienne, Switzerland, will be happy to send detailed information on both the services mentioned to anyone interested.

E.J.R.
in the Yorkshire 'Helvetia' we do not have displays, but "Joint Studies," when one or other of us volunteers, or is 'impressed' as Discussion Leader, and presents a paper and runs on a display, which is augmented by other members present. I recall that our two printer members were present when I read my paper regarding the double (once inverted) impressions, and I hope they may now be stimulated into giving us their ideas as to how they arose."

(The next instalment will deal with queries received regarding the papers and the gum used on this issue. So).

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**NEW POSTAL RATES FORECAST**

Our member, Mr.M.B. Young, who has contacts in Switzerland, sends us the following snippets of news:

1. The 'NABA ' 71' slogan in use since 1/4/71 is tri-lingual.

2. The 30c. UN 'Peaceful uses of the sea' was sold out by mid-Feb.

3. Postal rates are scheduled to be increased from 1/7/71 as follows:

<table>
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<th>Rates</th>
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<td>Letters</td>
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<tr>
<td>(20 g.)</td>
<td>60c. (to 50 g.)</td>
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<td>(to 100 g.)</td>
<td>Fr.1.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(to 100 g.)</td>
<td>Fr.1.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postcards</td>
<td>40c. (5 words - 30 c. surface mail)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printed matter</td>
<td>20 c. (50 g.) 40 c.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
   | Airmail (Printed matter/Packets): inclusive rates 20 g. 40 c. each additional 20 g. 10 c. Minimum fee for small packets 60 c. Registration fee 70 c. (unchanged) Express delivery Fr.1.50 letters Fr.2.30 parcels

There is no current 40 c. value, so a 40 c. 'Les Diables' will be issued in September. The only 'current' is, of course, the 'Zytglogge' Bern.
THE HELVETIA COMPETITION 1971

Those attending the May meeting - the occasion of the Society's Annual Competition and the last meeting of the current season - welcomed as Adjudicators Miss A. GRUNBERG who, this time, was able to view the entries with the critical eye of a Judge instead of the anticipation of a competitor, and MR. J. DAWES, Vice-President of the Middlesex Federation.

The number of entries was down on last year; postal entries were doubtless affected by the present scandalous postal charges and many now members appeared to be hesitant of entering.

As always the general high standard and variety of subjects covered made the final choice more difficult, but finally the results were given as:

SILVER CUP - MR. R.P. BULSTRODE (London) for a very fine entry on "HOTEL POSTS"
Runner-Up - MR. I. TILLEY (Birmingham) for his study on the "TRAVELLING POST OFFICE"
MOORE TROPHY - MR. G.D. WILSON (Leyton) for an excellent entry on "MAIL IN TRANSIT TO FRANCE 1910-60"
Runner-up - MR. H. SHELDON for an unusual entry on "PRIVATE POSTAL STATIONERY!"

In commenting on the entries Mr. Dawes said he had come in some trepidation in case he was faced with a large number of entries in the 'Classics' and was, therefore, relieved to find the majority to be subjects in which he himself was interested. He was particularly impressed by some on aspects entirely new to him.

For the guidance of competitors he made the following suggestions: When planning an entry it would be helpful to consider more closely the scale of marks under the separate headings, which could often influence a decision; some competitors tend to spread the subject too widely for entries of 9 or 12 sheets and would do better to concentrate on a shorter period which would have greater emphasis; likewise, the amount of writing should be adequate but concise, bearing in mind that judges do not have time to read each page in detail.

Miss Grunberg endorsed these comments and said that they had each judged the entries separately, then combined the results with remarkably close agreement.

The Chairman, Mr. Slate, thanked both Adjudicators for coming along and hoped they had not found the task too arduous. Their helpful comments also could well be borne in mind. Not all the entrants can win and he hoped that members would enter again on future occasions.

During the judging members adjourned to the next room. A small auction was held at which considerable interest was displayed in modern airmail covers, as well as some other better items, including two examples of 'Kocher' stamps, which are now becoming very elusive.

The programme for the 1971-2 season is well under-way and will be published shortly. Meanwhile best wishes for the holiday season were extended to all.
After an interval of 4 years the XXth edition of this catalogue will be published at the end of May and has been eagerly awaited by advanced collectors.

The editors have used this interval to revise many of the important sections e.g., the 'Standing Helvetia' issues. New features have been added such as coils and the United Nations issues for Geneva.

An abundance of new issues obliges many collectors to restrict their hobby to certain issues only, in which they specialise in every respect. This trend has heavily influenced the prices for rara varietas, plate flaws and retouches which in many cases have been raised by more than 100%.

The serious collector cannot afford to be without this most up-to-date volume. In Britain it is obtainable from Harris Publications Ltd., 42 Maiden Lane, Strand, London W.C.2. The quoted price, however of £3.25 plus postage, may have to be adjusted in view of the recent currency changes.

NEW TOURIST PROPAGANDA CANCELS:

from 12th May:
3983 MURTEL - Sonnenterrasse Mural - Breiten K.552
3454 SULISWEIDE K.553
3457 WARDEN IM EMMENTAL - Wander und Skifahren K.554
2016 CONSILLIUM K.555
8197 RAPZ K.556
8103 UNTER_MODULEN K.557
8104 WINTERWEG (ZH) K.558
from 22nd May:
7351 VALCHAVA - Talmuseum - Parliamnet bein Nationalpark K.560

NUMBERS ISSUED: The following figures have been released:

Publicity Stamps 1970 - Series I:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
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<tr>
<td>30c.</td>
<td>12,302,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50c.</td>
<td>12,245,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>20,125,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>30c.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>50c.</td>
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Europa 1970:

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<tr>
<td>50c.</td>
<td>13,292,000</td>
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Pro Patria:

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<tr>
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<td>10-10c. 6,187,000</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20-10c. 7,666,000</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30-10c. 7,785,000</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>50-20c. 5,095,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SWISS FRANCS RE-VALUED

Swiss stamps bought in Switzerland will now cost 7% more. Over a period of time this will apply also in England and North America. The period of time will be long for us where our stocks are large - six to twelve months where we carry normal stocks and only weeks for items in short supply and for classics. Let us help you before the Continental Dealers have got the bargains in London and New York!!

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Telephone: 01-586-0616
A GOOD LOOK AT Z 301A- the 'Grimsel Dam' stamp
by D.S. TRIVILLION

To say that stamp collecting is an expensive hobby is perhaps stating the obvious when one considers the steep rise in the catalogue value of stamps - particularly those of Switzerland. But philately is not merely the accumulation of vast numbers of postage stamps, or even the almost impossible goal of collecting all the issues of one or more countries. However much we would like to have a collection starting with a 'Zurich 4!' there are very few of us who would not have more pressing things to do with the thousand pounds or so we would need to acquire one of these highly desirable items. Obviously, we all try to make our collection as complete as possible and add to it when opportunity and the necessary cash are available. New issues are rightly prized and gaps filled, and there comes a time when one possesses most of the stamps one could reasonably hope to come by. When this stage has been reached, one discovers the need to specialise. And this is when one has suddenly been transformed from a stamp collector into a philatelist.

It is not to be denied that specialisation can also be an expensive business; it depends on how we specialise and on our attitude to stamps as a whole. If we go in for the rare issues, we will either have to spend a lot of money, or suffer much frustration. On the other hand, it is possible to specialise in stamps which are easily come by and which can be obtained at very little cost. One such issue is the 20c. brown-carmine 'Industry & Landscape' definitive of 1949. Its catalogue price in Zumstein is one centime - and one cannot get anything cheaper than that!

At the outset some mention should be made of colour shades. There are a number of these and are of interest to the specialist, but here we are mainly concerned with two basic stamps: the brown-carmine from sheets and the brown-lilac from rolls. These shades are very distinctive and can be seen at a glance. Some of the varieties which we will be discussing occur in both, some in the former only and some in the latter.

In an article of this nature, it is not possible to go too deeply into the causes of the varieties which will be described and illustrated. Basically, they are due to the faulty inking of the printing plates, damage to the plates and 'foreign bodies' such as dust, collecting ink during the printing process. However they may have arisen, the numerous varieties are of great interest and can form a very nice specialised collection. All you need is a large supply of 'worthless' 20c. stamps and plenty of midnight oil.

One of the more common varieties is what may be called 'cloud formation' and can be seen without the need for a magnifying glass. The 'clouds' appear in the sky above the range of snow mountains; they occur on stamps from sheets and rolls. The following drawings show the position and appearance of the 'clouds'. They have, in fact, no outlines, but appear as light patches in the surrounding dark sky. (Figs. 1-3).

Another fairly common variety occurs in stamps from sheets only. This can be called the 'broken dam' variety, as some of the shading lines of the dam face are either broken or so faintly printed as to be virtually non-existent. These show up very clearly against the rest of the shading. (Figs. 4 - 6).
A GOOD LOOK AT Z.301A (Cont.)

There are many examples of wobble or broken shading lines on various parts of the stamp, such as in the lake to the left of the road and below the hospital rock, and in the lake above the dam. These are smaller than the 'broken dam' variety, but show up distinctly as small pools of light color against the general background. It would be very difficult to make drawings of these, but the reader should have no difficulty in spotting them.

Now we come to the varieties which we have to search for with a magnifying glass (although some can be seen without one). The search can be very rewarding, as will be seen from the following drawings: (Figs 9 - 14).

These examples are only a small sample of 'Broken Line' varieties; many more are to be found. In fact they are too numerous to be described in detail in an article such as this. But it does not mean that every stamp has an 'error' - by any means.

The varieties we have dealt with so far are mainly (though not always) caused by ink failing to adhere to the paper during printing; there is another type of variety where the ink is deposited where it ought not to be. This is referred to by Zumstein as 'coloured dots, spots or lines', and the following are some examples: (Fig.15 - 23).

The brown-lilac stamps from rolls contain some interesting varieties, including a slightly toned paper. Zumstein 301A, Pa 1, is listed as 'Worn plate showing in body of stamp (stamps from rolls) white mountains'. In some copies this is particularly noticeable in the mountain tops which appear much lighter than the shading lines of the peaks being faint to non-existent. On one copy the shading lines of the central mountain range are faint in patches, giving the effect of an avalanche.

Some of these stamps show vertical streaks (probably smudging due to the stamps being printed in continuous rolls). One copy has a number of red lines which appear to extend the shading lines of the cliffs on the right into the lake. Another shows several streaks down the front of the dam, so that it looks as tho it were leaking. The printing of these stamps is generally more fuzzy than that of stamps from sheets, and the inking is heavier. This means that white patches are more likely to have been caused by worn plates than poor inking. (Figs. 24-26).

Although it would be nice to be able to say that the double-printings listed in Zumstein as Pf.1-6 can be found if one searches diligently, it must be confessed that they are very elusive indeed. The writer often thought that he had won the jackpot, but had to conclude that the 'error' was due to excessive inking rather than double printing. Excessive inking has the effect of making letters look as though they have been shaded. This also applies to other parts of the stamp; often the sky behind the mountain range appears darker than usual and the ink runs over the edge of the mountain peaks making them slightly distorted. It is not possible to illustrate this type of variety, as the duplicator . . . (continued on Page 36)
Our member in Geneva, MR. P. HOBBS has sent us some more interesting comments:

1. The book 'Alt Schweitz' - 'Swiss Classics - Facts not Found in Catalogues' is now available in French text from the PTT at Fr. 5.

2. An automatic machine in Geneva has been issuing mis-cut coil stamps. The shift per pair of stamps seems to be 0.35 mm, and so would appear to need 68 pairs to return to normal before cutting incorrectly again. Local residents have ignored it and have classified Mr. Hobbs as a 'Faux Anglaisman' for his interest. Although re-filled, the machine was still providing mis-cut stamps at the time of writing.

3. He has found a copy of the 1966 Pro Patria 20+10c, with a line of white dots running vertically down the main background of the picture between the 'A' of Patria and the '11' of 1966. It may be a scratch or line on the screen used to make the printing plate. Has anyone come across it?

4. The attached illustrations would appear to provide material for another little sideline. How many different types of inscription exist, or their period of use is not precisely known at the moment and if any member can add any information it will be welcome.

FROM THE EDITOR: We trust that members enjoyed the special Swiss issue of 'Stamp Collecting' and would like to express our appreciation of the almost overwhelming response to the suggestion to participate in the project. More contributions were received than could be used - to the great disappointment of those whose efforts have been held over for future publication. Nevertheless, this in itself is complimentary in that so many good articles were submitted that they are still required.

As a result of this publicity there has been a large number of enquiries about the Society which together with the Competition has made much work. It is regretted therefore, that owing to this and other circumstances, Dr. Gans's article has again had to be held over. Normal service will be resumed next
A GOOD LOOK AT Z.301A - cont.

would not show the different gradings of ink, but a search reveals numerous examples of this type of 'error'. The writer lays no claim to having written a comprehensive treatise on Z.301A. But an attempt has been made to show that this is a very interesting stamp that deserves closer examination.

Finally, a word about mounting your specialised collection of Z.301As. As in many cases the varieties or 'errors' are not easily discernible without the use of a magnifying glass, it will be necessary to indicate the flaws etc., on the individual stamps so as to avoid having to search for them over and over again. One way of doing this is by the use of small arrows (obtainable at most stamp dealers), placing them so that they point to the varieties on the actual stamps. However, there is a better way, namely the use of facsimiles like those printed for Zumstein for some of the earlier issues such as the Standing Helvetia and 1900 U.P.U. Issues. These facsimiles can be prepared very easily by sticking a number of stamps on a sheet of yellowing photo-stat copies made, taking care that the copies are not too black. The resulting facsimiles are then cut out and one placed next to each stamp. The error or flaw can then be marked on the copy in black ink.

Zumstein

The now XXth Edition of the ZUMSTEIN SWITZERLAND/LEICHTEISIEN CATALOGUE SPECIALISED will be ready in May 1971, obtainable from Harris Publications Ltd., 42 Maiden Lane, London WC2B 7LA.

Price £1.25 + 25p. postage *

Still on sale: ZUMSTEIN SWITZERLAND/LEITCHSTEIN 1971 Pocket Size: Price 8/- + 10d. postage: Registered mail: 3/10d.

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*Note: prices quoted may require adjustment.

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ZUMSTEIN & CIE

(Pmpr. Herstch & Co.)
STANDING HELVETIA 1882–1904

With this issue we commence the translation of the section on these issues from the 1968 Specialised Zumstein Catalogue by MRS. N. MACMAHON and H.E. CHAPMAN

As before, because it is not possible to reproduce the numerous illustrations referred to, the numbers only are quoted and it is recommended that the text be studied in conjunction with the Catalogue.

Design: Mulhaupt & Sohn, Bern

Engravers: Mulhaupt & Sohn, Bern. From 1886 - Max Girardet, Bern; from 1907 - Benziger & Cie, Einsiedeln

Validity: Until 31st Dec, 1924

Table for the issues of Standing Helvetia:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Control Mark I</th>
<th>Control Mark II</th>
<th>White Paper</th>
<th>Granite Paper</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>66 A-D 46,000,000</td>
<td>66 D-E 55,000,000</td>
<td>86 A-C 15,300,000</td>
<td>94 A 7,700,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67 A-D 150,000,000</td>
<td>67 D 106,000,000</td>
<td>87 A 9,600,000</td>
<td>95 A-B 25,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>68 C 2,800,000</td>
<td>68 D-E 32,000,000</td>
<td>88 A 9,600,000</td>
<td>96 A-B 15,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69 A-C 27,000,000</td>
<td>69 D-E 45,000,000</td>
<td>89 A-B 10,800,000</td>
<td>97 A 8,900,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70 A-C 21,000,000</td>
<td>70 D 15,500,000</td>
<td>90 A-C 2,300,000</td>
<td>99 A-B 12,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>71 A-D 15,000,000</td>
<td>71 D-E 17,500,000</td>
<td>91 A-C 6,100,000</td>
<td>99 A-B 3,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>72 A 1,955,000</td>
<td>72 B-F 1,550,000</td>
<td>92 A-C 45,000,000</td>
<td>100 A+B 430,000</td>
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<tr>
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<td>76 D-F 8,000,000</td>
<td>94 A-C 15,500,000</td>
<td>96 A-D 4,000,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1882/90 1st April: White paper with control marks I & II

Perforations: 11½, 9½, 11½ x 11, 11½ x 12

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
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</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>66</td>
<td>20c orange</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67</td>
<td>250 green</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>68</td>
<td>300 brown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69</td>
<td>400 grey (Type 1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70</td>
<td>50c blue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>71</td>
<td>1 Fr. lilac</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>72</td>
<td>3 Fr. olive/brown</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
No. 73 25c. blue
No. 74 50c. green
No. 75 1 Fr. carmine

1904 Changed Design

No. 76 40c. grey (type II)

No. 76 was produced by the use of now deeper and finer engraved steel plates. The value figures "40" are smaller than in the first type. (Illus.).

Cataloguing by Perforations, Control Marks and Specialities.

1882 (3 Fr. 1891). Perforation 11½ (14 vertical teeth)
Control Mark 1 (wide form)

No. 66 20c. Orange

Colour Shades

a) orange 1892-1891
b) Yellow-orange, orange-yellow 1886
c) rose-orange (translucent) 1889

No. 66A 25c. Colour Shades

bluish-green 1887
dark green, light bluish tinge

Varieties

1 Clear double print (Illus., 1)
2 Reddish translucent print on reverse. 2)
3 Blurred print (from 1882)
4 Double control marks, 3)
5 Defective control marks, oval interrupted in one or more places.
6 Misplaced control marks.

Plate Flaws

1 Diagonal colourless arrow from centre towards upper left (A 1-3) and small value shield upper right partly double outlined (A5/6)
2 Colour streak through neck, breast and upper part of cross, diagonally through cross, beyond upper stamp picture
3 Plate flaw from left through 6th star into dress and cross (E1/E3A).
4 Fleck-like from knee towards bottom (EF1/G4), notch-like in front of large 2, from left value shield through inscription ribbon.
5 Flecks on hip, on shield
6 Speaking tube-like flecks in front of mouth.

Worn Plates

1 Upper right field quite colourless (A 4-6)
2 Below value shield, right margin, light (B6 6), in part strong into right band, light by left margin as far as under the hand.

Retouches

1 Lower half of the H of HELVETIA (B2)
2 In the spear and left of the hand in the oval (C2, BE2)
3 In the oval left of the knee lightly retouched, and star ribbon next to it light (BE 1/2)

Notes:

1) By mistake these sheets were not removed after printing. They passed through the cylinder a second time with a small displacement, so that the second print was not exactly on top of the first.
2) Because of thin paper and not quite normal colour combination, the colour has a quite strikingly strong translucent pink tinge.
3) The double control marks lie mostly close to one mother. Misplaced control marks 1 mm. or more from one another are less frequent and are valued higher. This applies to all values.

No. 67A 22c. Green

Colour Shades

(a) bluish-green 1887
(b) dark green
(c) olive-green
(d) light bluish tinge

With this value there are clearly two different periods distinguishable by colour, varieties, plate-flaws, wear and retouching, due to the fact that the printing was carried out by Mulhaupt & Sohn until 1886 and thereafter by Max Girardet in Bern. Accordingly, it is maintained that there is a first period in which are found the characteristics of bluish green to blue green colour shades, and a second period with olive to yellow-green colour shades.
STANDING HELVETIA
1852-1904 (cont.)
First Period: Dull-green, blue-green

Varieties:
1. Partly blurred print (flat retouches, e.g. right in the oval)
2. Double print on face.
3. Partial double print on face.
4. One blind perforation on right side.

Plate Flaws:
1. Mark (dot) on breast (C 3), coloured arm sling right (C 4)
2. Plate defects (marked streaks) through head towards right (Illus.), right from head into encircling band (B 4-5) right of shoulder
outwards through first star towards upper right (55 - 37) through value shield horizontally into margin (4 4-7), through letters TIA, horizontally or diagonally through cross, left of the hand (bracelet) and in Helvetia (B 3) below right knee towards the
right as far as left cross arm, almost vertically from upper margin through the 7.

Error Plates:
1. Upper centre (Ab 4,5) in the oval left of knee, right above the
shield, below by the figure 5 (G 4).

Retouches:
1. In the frame; strong horizontal retouch above; vertical retouch
on right or on both sides of margin; inner outline of the right
band or lower figures strongly redrawn.
2. In the oval, spear not outlined; strong diagonal retouches in
various places in the oval or in the whole oval, partly in
relation to the arm or head (Illus.), or the right star band.
3. Strong vertical or horizontal streaks left of Helvetia.
4. Left star band strongly re-engraved, partly into the oval.
5. In the oval, either side of the spear outlined (Illus.,
6. Similar, and outline of band or lower figures strongly redrawn and
the oval diagonally retouched in various places, partly also
vertically retouched on left or on both sides of margin.
7. Spear outlined, the oval partly or wholly strongly diagonally
retouched and the frame thereto also largely and strongly re-
drawn.
8. Similarly the whole oval strongly cross-cross retouched (spear
colour concealed) and lower figures redrawn.
9. Similar; and parallel curves on right of oval to right of star
band.
10. Sharp irregular engraver's retouch by the spear or concentrated
left of the hand in the oval.

(Sitting Helvetia Perf.)
Translation
from the Zumstein Catalogue.

With reference to this section of
the Zumstein Specialised Catalogue,
which appeared recently in our Bu-
letin, Mr. J. H. Short of Reading has
drawn our attention to an omission
which might well be misleading to
other members.

Dealing with the double prints
on granite paper, it should be noted
that with the 2 o. value the variety
is the 22nd stamp on the lower
half of the full sheet, while the 5 o.
(26th stamp) and 50 o. (21st stamp),
the varieties are both only on the
upper halves of each pane. The
article tends to give the impression
that there were two examples of each
variety in each full pane of 100 sub-
jects. However, reference to Zumstein
Catalogue makes it apparent that the
magic letters 'u' and 't' i.e. u.H.B. =
unterer Halb-bogen and o.H.B. =
oberer Halb-bogen, lower & upper
half sheet; have been inadvert-
ently omitted.

It would be useful for future
reference if this were to be recti-
ified on your copy of the 'News
Letter' i.e. November 1970.

THE SWISS PHILATELIST

The latest issue of this publica-
tion, house organ of the Amateur
Collector Ltd., contains much val-
uable information. More on the
monuments series, a new article on
the Lugano Airmail of 1913, and an
eye opening review of 20 years of
market progress, together with special
offers and other news items, will provide
interesting reading for all.
RECENT LIECHTENSTEIN NEW ISSUES

Three new stamps were issued on the 11th June:

1. Additional definitive: Fr.2.50 - Portrait of Princess Gina of Liechtenstein - one colour - dark ultramarine
   Designer: Adalbert Pilch, Vienna; Printers: Austrian State Printers, Vienna.
   Size: 30 x 39 mm in sheets of 16 stamps. Vienna.
   Paper: White, wood-free, stamp paper

2. Church Patrons: 40 Rp. - St. Sebastian, Nendeln - 5 colours, Violet/green/brown-ochre/bluish-red/gold
   Designer: George Malin, Mauren; Printers: Courvoisier S.A., Size: 26 x 36 mm in sheets of 20 stamps
   Paper: White, with brown & green fibres.

3. 'Europa' (CEPT): 50 Rp. - Accepted CEPT motif - 3 colours: light-blue/gold-ochre/black.
   Designer: N.Hafidason, Iceland adapted by Josef Schödler, Triesen Printers: Austrian State Printers, Vienna.
   Size: 35 x 25 mm., in sheets of 20 stamps.
   Paper: White, wood-free, stamp paper.

Special covers were available for each issue and all received the same First Day cancellation, showing an outlined crown and reading: 'VADUZ - AUSGABETAG 11 JUNI 1971.'

UNITED NATIONS IN GENEVA

On the 28th May the United Nations Post Office in Geneva issued a special stamp with the theme 'New Building of the Universal Postal Union in Bern'.

Value & Design: S.Fr. 0.75 - Depicts new U.P.U. Building in Bern with an envelope as background and text, 'SUISSE POUR LA POSTE UNIVERSELLE' Berne, Suisse'

Colours: Blue/green/beige/black/olive

Design: Olav S. Mathiesen, Denmark; Printers: Courvoisier S.A.

Printing: 1,900,000

A special First Day Cover was issued by the Special U.N. Post Office at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, and the First Day cancellation used showed the U.N. emblem between 'PREMIER JOUR' and 28,5,71 and 'UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE Berne, Suisse'.

A stamp of similar design of 20c. (USA) was issued on the same day by the U.N. Administration in New York.

SPECIAL POSTMARK FOR 'NABA 1971'

Mail posted during the period of the National Philatelic Exhibition in Basle from 4 - 13 June, received a special cancellation depicting a dove and the crescent emblem of Basle - date - and inscription '1200 U.P.U. A GOLD MEDAL QUALITY COLLECTION'

We have been most fortunate in acquiring what must surely rank among the leading Collections of this popular issue, rich in rarities as well as large quantities of smaller interesting items.

The recently published 'Swiss Philatelist' Nos. 60/61, carried a limited number of Special Offers from this collection, but much more varied Approvals are now available.

If you collect U.P.U.'s you cannot afford to let this opportunity pass. The best and most unusual items will soon find homes! Strike while the iron is hot.

H. L. KATCHER
The Amateur Collector, Ltd.,
151, Park Road,
St. John's Wood,
LONDON NW8 7LU
Tel: 01 - 596 - 0616
P.T.S., A.P.S., A.S.D.A., S.P.A.
Section II.A - The Open Bridge Types without bars (conclusion)

Whenever a cds was called in for whatever repairs or changes had to be made on it, the respective postmaster was given, for the time he was lacking his regular canceller, a temporary so-called Wander-, Not-, or Aushilfstempel. These large, rectangular cancellers (currently being catalogued) are kept at each district headquarters. Their date mechanism is permanent while the name of each town is inserted by hand, meaning that these replacement cancellers can be used over and over again in town after town, over a period of many decades.

In conclusion a word of caution should be said regarding missing inner circle lines. Such missing lines are the result of wear and tear. Their absence does not produce truly new types, but merely variations which, in most instances, are corrected when a canceller is sent in for repairs or recutting. (Since writing this section some additional unusual types have come to hand and may include: (a) cancellation of Bern, with two dots instead of stars (b) Waldkirch (and also Widnau) both St.G. with cross in lower segment, (c) Flihli (LU) both St.G. with cross in lower segment, (d) Chiasso Stazione with ornaments at the sides but inscribed 'Poste Italiane'.)

Section II.B - The Extended Bridge Types without any bars

These types all seem to be results of recutting earlier types with bars in their upper and lower semi-circles. All samples seen have date bridges that include the hour of the day and in most instances all dates are separated by dots: day.month.year.hour.

(1) (2) (3) (4) (5) (6)

Of type (1) there exists a distinctly larger (27.5 - 29mm) and a similar, smaller (24 - 26.5 mm) size, both occurring with shaded (1) or unshaded (ii) cross, as well as with text in lower rim in (a) or without (b) parenthesis. Type (3) is an unusual recut inasmuch as the bottom line of the upper semi-circle had to be broken in order to accommodate a Swiss cross, while Type (2) results from recutting a type which already featured a cross in its lower rim - hence the upper semi-circle is completely empty. Type (4) is similar to Type (1) but the entire lower rim is without any text or ornament. The most 'modern' of all these now obsolete types that saw use until about 1967 is Type (5). No recuts of this type seem to have been made much before 1940, and it includes stars (usually three) in its lower rim.

Type (6) seems to be unique for the town of Bauma (ZH). Instead of having the Roman numeral of the postal district in the lower semi-circle, it has that identifying symbol placed into the lower rim. This is highly unusual, and of all Swiss cancellation types there are but a tiny handful who share this peculiarity.

Into the IIIB category also belongs - although a point could be made to give it a category all its own - the cancellations called here Type (7), a recut of...
of the early 1920s that has chamfered corners at both ends of the "tapered" date bridge. Its use was limited to a few larger cities and towns, and it exists seemingly, always with the hour of the day included in the date, in two sub-types (a) as shown, and (b) with a dot at each end of the narrowed neck of the date bridge. It also exists in damaged forms, with one or both horizontal lines of the date bridge missing.

Section IIC - The 'Double Circle with Enclosed Bridge' Types without any bars

All types and sub-types of this category are most likely recuts of older double circle types from which the vertical bars in the two semi-circles have been excised. Undisputed senior in this group is a recut of the ancient double circle with large cross at the bottom, itself incircle, which goes back to a type introduced before 1870. One of the few known cancellations of this type (1) was in use in Bever (Grisons) in the early 1940s, and then it was once more recut to feature the town’s Romansh spelling ‘Bever’ .... certainly a sign of both good material used in the 1870s, as well as careful (or infrequent?) use by the succession of postmasters of that town.

Of the thousands of recut and since that time bar-less double circle cancellations in category IIC there are three (2,3,4) which are very frequently seen, while all other types occur only by the dozen, or less. In order to avoid illustrating all possible sub-types, the following varieties are identified thus: Shaded cross (1), unshaded cross (ii); text in lower rim in parenthesis (a); not in parenthesis (b). All combinations can occur.

Types (2) and (3) in some villages were in constant use for almost a century, interrupted only when the canceller was sent in, sometimes after World War I, to have its thick or thin bars (or hatchmarks) removed. Once these marks are removed, one can, of course, no longer distinguish as to the original state of the canceller.

Type (2) features the town’s name at the top, NO cross in upper semi-circle, district number in lower semi-circle, and shaded Swiss cross at bottom of double rim. It exists in a smaller (very common) and a larger (infrequent) form, the latter giving the hour of the day while the small form never features an hour to this writer’s knowledge. Freaks with completely or partly missing lines, and often in use in this condition for decades, are fairly frequently encountered.

Type (3) differs from Type (2) inasmuch as it features no cross in its original form. Recut, it contains the town name at top, a shaded (mostly) or unshaded (infrequent) cross in upper and the postal district number in lower semi-circle, and additional text (canton, next larger town, sub-office name) in lower part of outer double rim, either in or without parentheses (a or b). Freaks, with a variety of missing lines, occur in this type as well.
The long awaited "NABA 1971" Exhibition in Basel has now been held and has, it is hoped, proved to be highly successful.

The many sections of exhibits covered not only all aspects of Swiss Philately pre-stamp, cancellations, covers, essays, hotel posts, specialised studies of many issues etc., but also selections from all over the world; a grill cancellation and alongside blue in each of the four corners. The familiar initials in blue and red. Also a new publicity slogan cancel for the PTT Museum in Bern - "IBESUCHEN-SIE-DAS PTT MUSEUM IN BERN".

Among the contents is an interesting article on "Swiss Postage Dues 1709-1900" by Willibald of Mürten; a further addendum on the "Standing Helvetia"; illustrations of some rare cancellations from items auctioned last month, and an article on "Advertisements on Stamps" (Kocher stamps and the like) by Hans Hunziger.

Through the kindness of Herr Jos. Willi, referred to above, we have received a copy of his book "Alte Postmarken - was nicht im Katalogsteht" - so that members now have the opportunity to study this excellent work on some of the "rarities" among early Swiss stamps in either French or German.

And from the same source another most interesting publication, a copy of a "CIBA REVIEW" published by Ciba (Chemicals) Ltd., of Basel, in English, devoted to "The Philatelic Promotion of Textiles" emphasising the interest to be derived from collecting on a theme. An article on the production of Swiss stamps by E. Rosshard of Bern is also included.

MORE ABOUT THE NEW "ZUMSTEIN SPECIALISTE"

Having now had the opportunity to study the latest works in the series it proves to be, as always, a "must" for the serious collector, who requires a great deal more information than can be found elsewhere.

Increased to 738 pages and with some 2300 illustrations, it has now been extended to cover many new facets of collecting. Prices are given for single stamps, pairs, blocks of four, rare mixed frankings etc., first day covers and stamps with marginal inscriptions of the Pro Patria issues.

"Sendenfahrt" cards provide a new feature, being now collected as fore-runners of the Pro Patria stamps; coils and stamps for vending machines etc., first day covers and stamps with marginal inscriptions of the Pro Patria issues.

Articles on the production of Swiss stamps by E. Rosshard of Bern are also included. Altogether an invaluable addition to one's philatelic library.

TOURIST CANCELLATION:

6116 WERNIGOS (€.559) from 10/5/71

A new publicity slogan cancel for the PTT Museum in Bern is in use since 12th May. It has a posthorn motif and reads: " 느그라비 시에 다스 PTT MUSEUM IN BERN".
NEW POSTAL RATES IN SWITZERLAND - FROM 1ST JULY, 1971.

The PTT Bulletin gives the following information:

Letters:
- up to 20 gr.
  - countries in CEPT: 0.40 (New), 0.50 (Old)
  - other countries: 0.60 (New), 0.50 (Old)
- 20 gr. - 50 gr.
  - countries in CEPT: 1.10 (New), 0.80 - 1.20 (Old)
  - other countries: 1.40 (New), 1.10 - 1.70 (Old)
- 50 gr. - 100 gr. and above
  - countries in CEPT: 2.00 (New), 1.40 - 1.70 (Old)
  - other countries: 2.40 (New), 1.80 - 2.10 (Old)

Postcards:
- countries in CEPT: 0.30 (New), 0.30 (Old)
- other countries: 0.40 (New), 0.40 (Old)

Printed Matter:
- up to 20 gr.: 0.30 (New), 0.20 (Old)
- 20 - 50 gr.: 0.40 (New), 0.20 (Old)
- 50 - 100 gr.: 0.50 (New), 0.30 (Old)

Airmail Letters:
- Europe: As usual, according to category
- overseas (5 gr.):
  - countries in CEPT: 0.70 (New), 0.70 (Old)
  - other countries: 1.10 (New), 1.10 (Old)

From the above it looks as if a new 40 Rp. stamp will be required for the letter rate to countries within CEPT.

Zumstein

The new 20th Edition of the ZUMSTEIN SWITZERLAND/LIECHTENSTEIN CATALOGUE SPECIALISED was published at the end of May 1971. It is obtainable from Harris Publications Ltd., 42 Maiden Lane, London WC2E 7LU. Price £3.25 + 25p postage.


The BERNE BRIEFMARKEN ZEITUNG JOURNAL PHILATELIC DE BERNE (Annual fee £1.50) - as always provides interesting features for the Swiss specialist.

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- up to 20 gr.
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  - other countries: 1.40 (New), 1.10 - 1.70 (Old)
- 50 gr. - 100 gr. and above
  - countries in CEPT: 2.00 (New), 1.40 - 1.70 (Old)
  - other countries: 2.40 (New), 1.80 - 2.10 (Old)

Postcards:
- countries in CEPT: 0.30 (New), 0.30 (Old)
- other countries: 0.40 (New), 0.40 (Old)

Printed Matter:
- up to 20 gr.: 0.30 (New), 0.20 (Old)
- 20 - 50 gr.: 0.40 (New), 0.20 (Old)
- 50 - 100 gr.: 0.50 (New), 0.30 (Old)

Airmail Letters:
- Europe: As usual, according to category
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At the January meeting of the Northern Group, we studied a wide range of postal markings and, as has already been reported, by no means resolved all the problems which were brought up. In this category were the handstamp numerals found on letters from Switzerland to France in the period 1829-45, as shown in the illustration. We could not entirely agree that these marks were not of Swiss origin, but the absence of any record in the works of Emmenegger and Winkler etc., strengthened the argument that they must be French. Furthermore, although our combined sample of covers was relatively small, it did seem that the dates confirmed that the use of these numerals was closely associated with the terms of the 1828/29 Franco-Swiss Treaties. The precise use of these handstamps puzzled us and we were quite divided in our theories. To begin with, not all covers travelling from Switzerland to France during this period bore these marks. This lent some support to the idea that they were distribution marks, but we could not discover any pattern which would fit. In the end, it was decided that these numerals were most probably related to postal charges, but had to admit that we could not explain how. Many of our covers bore a number of other marks and we felt that between them they told the story of the various charges due from the sender right through to the recipient. Some time after this meeting I confided our difficulties to a colleague who has an extensive knowledge of French philately. With his assistance I traced in the Leeds Philatelic Society's library the 'Catalogue des Estampilles et Obliterations Postales de France et des Colonies Francaises', published by Yvert in 1929. It was here I found most of the answers to the problem. In this book the numerals are described as indicating the change in decimes and "... stamped by the Exchange Office on letters originating in foreign countries." This followed by a quotation from a French Post Office Circular dated 2nd April, 1829, which says: "These numerals indicate the change to be collected..."
NUMERAL HANDSTAMPS ON SWISS COVERS (cont.)

for the refund due to the Foreign Exchange Office, in addition to the French charge from the point of entry at the frontier to the place of destination. No indication is given as to why the handstamps are in both black and red, but judging from the prices quoted by Yvert, the red numerals are less common than the black. No date is given for the discontinuation of this practice, nor can I find any mention of a system replacing it.

However, I feel that we can now put a firm date on the start of the period, which must be April 1829. Certainly this coincides with the date by which all five of the Swiss Cantons involved (Basel, Bern, Neuchâtel, Vaud & Zurich) had implemented the Treaty arrangements. It also seems reasonable to assume that the end of the period can be fixed on July 1845, when new Treaties were brought into effect. I shall be very grateful if any member can bring forward evidence either to support these dates, or prove that they cannot be correct. Several matters still puzzle me, and again I am hoping that some of our members can assist:

1. How was this refund system operated? What method was used by the French Exchange Office to record the amounts due to the Swiss Exchange Office?
   If, as seems likely, the refund was to offset the cost of the Swiss carrying the mail to the French Exchange Office, what were the arrangements for mail travelling in the opposite direction?

2. Where the handstamp is missing from a cover, is this due to carelessness on the part of some postal official, or were there occasions when the refund did not apply?

3. An analysis of my own collection of covers shows a fairly clear pattern between the refund and distance between the Swiss and French Exchange Offices but there are exceptions. For example: I have a letter dated 1836, from Basel to Le Havre, bearing the marks 'LB 4K', 'SUISSE PAR BELFORT' and the handstamp '14' in red. Another, dated 1838, from Schaffhausen to Paris, has the marks 'LB 10K', 'SUISSE PAR BELFORT' and the handstamp '14' in red. Under the Treaty arrangements, Schaffhausen was in the associated network for the Canton of Basel and, therefore, the Exchange Office was in Basel. So why a refund of 2 decimes for Basel-Belfort and then a refund of 4 decimes for the same distance?

I doubt if it is just nineteenth century inflation, because I have later covers showing a refund of 2 decimes. In then, in some way connected with the charge due to the Swiss Exchange Office, i.e., 10 Kreutzer as opposed to 4 Kreutzer?

We have been pleased to have unravelled this problem to a certain degree but obviously there is still more to be discovered. My intention has been to record our efforts and establish the basis for further debate.

I am very hopeful that some of our members will be able to offer their knowledge and research so that we can build up a much fuller record of these handstamps and their use.

SPECIAL CANCELLATIONS

1. For the 250th anniversary of the birth of PIERRE JAQUET-DROZ, a special cancel incorporating his signature and reading '2500 LA CHAUX-DE-FONDS - 250e ANNIVERSAIRE DE PIERRE JAQUET-DROZ' was used on 12th June.

2. A special cancel was used in Lucerne in June for the 25th Federal Music Festival: '6000 LUZERN - 25 EIDG MUSIKFEST 11-13 + 18-20.6.1971'.

3. Exhibition on Telecommunications: 'TELECOM 71' in Geneva: The special cancel reads: '1211 GENEVE - TELECOM 71 - 17-27.6.71'.


5. NATIONAL DAY AT THE RUTLI: A very attractive special cancel depicting medieval musicians will be used on 1st August and will read: '6443 RUTLI - BUNDESFEIER AN HISTORISCHER STETTE'.

6. Pictorial National Day cancels will be used at two towns on 1st August: '5000 AARAU - 1.8.71 - BUNDESFEIER' and '7451 HERISAU - BUNDESFEIER 1.8.71'.

TOURIST PROPAGANDA CANCELS

From 9th June:

3800 UNTHERSEEN - K.561
7451 BIVIO - Erholung in der Natur K.562
STANDING HELVETIA 1882–1904

Translated by: MRS. K. MADSHON & H.E. CHAPMAN

Part II

1882/90

No.67A 25 c. green - Second Period: Olive to yellow-green

Varieties

1. Partially blurred print (first retouch)
2. Double print (on front)
3. Helvetia with coloured bracelet right (c 4)
4. Flock on foot of Helvetia (F 4)
5. Flag-like flock, upper right (Illus.) in various places.
6. Large dot after lower figure 25 (GH 6)
7. Plate defect left of head, diagonally through the shield.
8. Thick stroke in right margin towards the bottom (EP 6)
9. Edge, upper left against small value shield (Illus. 67 C/Pf5)
10. Second ‘H’ of ‘HELVETIA’ with middle bar missing, horizontal streak.

Plate Flaws

1. Helvetia with coloured bracelet right (c 4)
2. Fleck on foot of Helvetia (F 4)
3. Flag-like flock, upper right (Illus.) in various places.
4. Large dot after lower figure 25 (GH 6)
5. Plate defect left of head, diagonally through the shield.
6. Thick stroke in right margin towards the bottom (EP 6)
7. Edge, upper left against small value shield (Illus. 67 C/Pf5)
8. Second ‘H’ of ‘HELVETIA’ with middle bar missing, horizontal streak.

Worn Plates

1. Upper centre, or in upper inscription band, or in margin areas left and right light.
2. In left or right star band noticeably light places. (2 different) (D 6)
3. Different areas in oval light, left from spear, between spear and head, similarly lower left, right of Helvetia.

Retouches

1. Upper tip improved, vertical retouch in right margin. (with or without repair in the star band), lower figures partly improved.
2. Retouching in the upper inscription band (different); left margin strongly re-engraved.
3. In the oval, spear not outlined; fine diagonal retouching (diagonal parallel streaks as in the original design, but running in opposite direction); between spear and head or right of Helvetia.
4. Similar but stronger (and shield light) right of Helvetia, or right of Helvetia and left of the knee and approximately left of the band.
5. Combinations with retouched lettering above, or inclusive of right arm and part of right band, or with vertical retouching of both side margins.
6. Vertically right of Helvetia and right in the margin, or cross-wise diagonal retouch left in oval.
7. Largo retouch, left of knee, strong diagonal retouch and nearby band light or very strong, quite irregular, retouch in overlapping band.
8. Similarly engraver’s retouch in band and band outline (two different) in the oval, spear outline (retouched).
9. Both sides of spear outlined (different).
10. Similarly, with further improvement at top in lettering or in left margin, also partial slight improvement in left band (different).
11. Both sides of spear outlined by several parallel lines.
12. Similarly bordering oval outline redrawn and lower colour filled in, or spear broadened in sword-like way and upper colour run.
13. Large spear retouch; spear and background in flames (Illus.).
14. Lowest part of spear retouched away.
15. Small engraver’s retouch both sides of spear and left into band.
16. Diagonal retouch: left of spear or Helvetia or right of Helvetia, partly also redrawn oval outline left.
17. Diagonal cross-wise retouching right or right of head horizontally and diagonal retouched.
18. Strong diagonal or cross-wise retouching in the whole oval.
19. Similarly, with improvement left of both sides in margin or the lower figures or oval outline and upper and right bands.
20. In the whole oval and in part, also Helvetia retouched (left arm as if badly swollen).
21. Strong retouching right of head and irregularly right of head and upper arm.

No.69A 40c. grey

Colour Shades
(a) light grey 1882 b) grey, dk grey 1882 c) dull grey 1889

Varieties
1. Double print on front, complete or partial
2. One blind perforation on left side

Plate Flaws
1. Horizontal line over breast (C 3/4)
2. Colourless pearl over ‘40’ upper left (A 1)
3. From left outwards towards bottom in direction of the spear, tip broken into (B 1)

Worn Plates
1. In frame: upper left next to value shield light, or lower value field partially light.
2. Strong wear left upper half of star band (B 2)
3. In the oval lower half of ‘HELVETIA’ (B 3)
4. In various places e.g. left of the hand.

Retouches
1. Both upper margin lines through tip of inscription band redrawn throughout.
2. Entire light area between spear and head which is retouched in a typical manner by some horizontal and vertical lines (B 3)
3. Between spear and head, or nearly the whole oval strongly improved (in these places colour is almost black).
4. Right in star band between 4th and 6th upper star retouched.

No.70A 50c. blue

Colour Shades
(a) Lt blue 1882 b) blue, dk blue 1883-90 c) vivid blue (bright)1884

Varieties
1. Double print on front
2. Partial double print

Plate Flaws
1. Fleck in dress (D 3)
2. Upper right trapezoid shaped plate flaw (Illus), similarly curving from second star towards the left, towards right downwards to ‘FRANCO’ (Illus); (these two flaws together constitute one, they also occur in pairs) similarly from upper left diagonally as far as the spear.
3. Similarly from neck of Helvetia vertically through the large 5.
4. Small plate flaw from top vertically through Helvetia, diagonally upwards from the knee, coloured line from the first margin to 2nd star.

Worn Plates
1. Between spear and head or in the oval (left of hand).
2. In the inscription band, in right oval, large value figure.

Retouches
1. In frame: fine vertical closing lines on left or right margin.
2. Similar and margin partially horizontally re-engraved, thickened.
3. Left lower corner horizontally improved or lower right vertically.
4. In oval: vertically between spear and head, horizontally left of hand and by left margin, right of Helvetia strong diagonal retouch, also word HELVETIA retouched, to back of head and over shield horizontally improved, to right arm left of foot.
5. Broad plate flaw diagonally through Helvetia and left of knee, in areas and by right arm retouched.
6. Spear strongly outlined and oval left of Helvetia strongly re-engraved.

TO BE CONTINUED...
20th Century Circular Town Cancellations of Switzerland

by FELIX GANTZ

Part IV

IIC (Continued): The 'double circle with enclosed bridge' type without bars

Types 5 and 6 are identical to Types 7 and 2, except for the addition of the ornaments.

All of the types mentioned seem to be recuts from types that, originally, had bars in the semicircles. Type 7 is very infrequently encountered; it is best described either as a Type 3 without text in the lower rim, or as a Type 2, but with cross placed in the upper semicircle instead of at the bottom of the cancellation.

Quite infrequent, too, are the types with double circles that feature one (8) or two (9) or three (10) stars in their design. In all of them, the stars seem to be of much later addition, added at the time of removing the bars in the semicircles. And of Type 11 only one place, the Rüti post office on Switzerland's historic meadow, made use - in two subtypes differing only by the size of the cross. In both Rüti Type 11 cancels the stars have hollow centres - a variation found only on very few Swiss Cancellations.

The two remaining types of this category (12) & (13) are of some particular interest because they omit the Swiss cross altogether in the re-cut forms. Reasons for this are unknown; sometimes there might not have been enough room to accommodate a cross and sometimes it might have fallen out or been damaged; but there are enough towns represented by these cross-less cancel types to consider them not freaks, but special types - perhaps a misconception.

IIID. Other bar-less cancellations

So far, only one other type of cancellation in this entire group is known which does not fit into any of the categories listed up to now. Its best description might be:

Single circle with 'floating' boxed date

There is only one strike of this type known - of Yverdon - pictured here, and it must be assumed that it was re-cut from an entirely different previous type viz; a PP canceller where a large P.P. takes up the space below the date box. The PP cancels will be discussed as a separate group in a later instalment.

And this concludes the category 'bar-less' cancellations of Helvetia.

III. Swiss Cancellations with Partly Removed Bars

These types, unless proved differently, are all re-cuts from earlier types that had bars in both semicircles, when it became necessary to include the Roman
numerals of the postal districts in all Swiss cancels, there were many that already featured a Swiss cross, and in these cases the bars of the upper semi-circle were allowed to remain, perhaps sometimes as a time-saving device for the then very busy die-cutting department of the PTT.

The first two examples shown are curious cross-breeds, because in the process of being re-cut the basic cancellation form was also changed from a double circle type to one with an open date bridge. There are only a few towns known who have utilised Types (1) or (2), and it seems that all of these were, at a later time, once more re-cut to produce IIA types. Of the other types shown in this category, (3), (4), (5), (6) & (7) are more or less frequently seen, while the other types occur only in a few isolated instances, and some are unique of their kind. Type (4) occurs with text in the lower rim in (a) with, or (b) without parenthesis, and Type (5)

exists in numerous sub-varieties as far as diameter, as well as number of bars in the upper semi-circle are concerned. Of types (6) and (7) in this group all, to this writer's knowledge, have date bridges that include the hour (00-24). All seem to have been re-cut into IIB types at a later date.

Closely related to Type (3) of this entire group is Type 8, seemingly of unique use in Boudevilliers (NE); but instead of thick bars it contains, in the upper semi-circle, very thin lines. Types (9) and (10) are equally infrequently encountered, their principal traits being: (9) No Swiss Cross anywhere; (10) two bouquets in lower rim; and (11) as well as (12) occur even less often among all of Switzerland's town cancellations. Both feature the decorative addition of one or two stars, most likely added at the time of removing the lower semi-circle's bars.

The two types shown here as (13) and (14) seem to be unique. Type (13), seeing use only in Ponts-de-Martel (NE), and around 1915 re-cut to read 'IRS PONTS (Etc) - replaces the upper semi-circle's bars with part of the town's name and is otherwise of the ancient 'double circle with circled large cross in the lower segment' type, with coarse bars yet, while Type (14) seems to have been used in Geneva only. While retaining the medium-size thickness bars in the upper semi-circle, it features, in the lower semi-circle, the post office branch station's internal division (LET = letter acceptance window). Both of these types were in use since shortly after 1900, and these two seem to have been manufactured in this manner - thus are not recuts.

(Cont. on page 51)
By the time this 'News Letter' reaches members, the 1970/71 season, as far as the Exchange Packet is concerned, will be over, all packets having come back to me.

Most members responded brilliantly to my appeal in the March 'News Letter' to pass on packets promptly, using First Class mail and keeping me informed if they were going to be away from home, so that I could re-route packets to avoid delays. Because of this co-operation we achieved a rate of movement so that 12 members in the Herts/Leicestershire area saw Packet 38 in May; a similar record was achieved in Kent/Sussex with another packet and yet another moved well in Yorkshire, but in some parts of the circuit the rate of movement, or should it be the rate of stagnation, was disastrous, with the result that members at the end of the circuit of packets so delayed did not see it. Rules are not made for my benefit, but for yours - the benefit of the members. I feel it is grossly unfair that through the thoughtlessness of a few, other members cannot enjoy the Exchange Packet Services of the Society, and I shall not hesitate next season to delete from the circuit those who do not play the game. One member has already had his name erased from the membership of the Society.

With regard to next season, may I have material from the 10th of September onwards. I already have some material in hand and plan to send out the first 2 packets on that date. So please, if you are away from home after September 10th, let me know. If you have moved to a new address, can I also be told.

The more speedily the packets move from member to member the more people will see and have the chance to enlarge their collections. A packet that may be of no interest to you may contain just what the next member is looking for. How often it happens that I am told by one person there is left in a particular packet (which means that $\text{\$} to \text{\$}$ has been sold and around 50\% is left), only to get a fat cheque from the next member who has found it just what he wanted.

If the circuit, by being amended, can allow for more passing by hand and thus speedier movement, please let me know, I will do all I can to make things easy.

One final point: Unsigned spaces. Please advise me if you notice unsigned spaces, advise the preceding member on the circuit, who is liable for the 'missing' item, and record the fact in the booklet concerned. I am having great difficulty in sorting out unsigned spaces at this stage and if I believe all the tales I am told, the stamp cannot have been there in the first place!

C. RAUCH

20th Cent. Town Cancels (cont.)

In this entire Group III varieties exist, almost exclusively from wear. Only one such example is shown here - of Territet - where the semi-circle's frame-line below the remaining bars is missing.

Other missing lines do occur as a separate type.

The next section will deal with the 'F.P.' Town Cancels.

Editors Note:

In the printing of June issue, an illustration on Page 32 was inadvertently omitted. This was the postmark of BEVERS and is shown here.

It may also have been noted in the February issue that the top line of illustration on page were out of context. They should be deleted, and have been re-inserted in correct order in the June issue. Our members must be slipping! So far only the author noticed the discrepancy.

ANOTHER POSTMARK PUZZLE

A member has a copy of a straight-line cancellation of 1907 of VELAN (Valais) on a 5 c. Cross & Figure stamp, tied to a postcard, but cannot trace this in Emmenegger. Nor does the name Velan appear in the current list of place names.

He would be grateful for any information on this or evidence of other copies.
RECENT SLOGAN CANCELLATIONS:
1:Alfa - 7-11 Sept. 71 - Burofach-Ausstellung Zurich 11 - 8000 Zurich
250e anniversaire de Pierre Jaquet-Droz - 12 juin-10 octobre 1971 - La-Chaux-de-Fondes Locle - 2000 Neuchatel
Strassen-Radmeisterschaften Mondriaio 2-5,9,71 - 3000 Bern & 6022 Zurich
Championnats du monde de cyclisme sur route Mondriaio 2-5,9,71 - 1950 Sion & 1200 Geneva
Compionati Mondiale di ciclismo su strada - Mondriaio 2-5,9,71 - 6600 Locarno & 6900 Lugano
Concours hippique national Tramelan 29 VII au ler VIII 1971 - 2500 Biel/Bienne & 2300 La-Chaux-de-Fonds
SUIZ COLLECTION FOR SALE
We have been offered a small collection of 454 Swiss stamps - 375 between SG 276 and 526 and 137 Pro Juventute Cl-C136 (1950) complete except for miniature sheets. (02 is damaged and not included in the valuation), The catalogue value as in 1969 was £341 and the price asked is £37.50. The majority of the stamps are fine used and include 320 (mint) 331a, 324, 339, 340, 351 and 386.

The owner is willing to send the collection on approval to any bona fide member - willing to purchase. (U.K. only) Enquiries in the first instance to the Secretary, to be dealt with in strict rotation.

Do not neglect your stamp collecting during the summer months, even though other activities may have greater appeal.

Look through your collection and check that there are no spaces still to be filled ... if there are do it now ... send me a Want List and make sure of them.

Or decide on the line you wish to follow later on maybe a specialised section, or a theme.

Whatever you need, material can be sent on approval to enable you to obtain the maximum interest from your hobby.

Write to:
J.S. ARMSTRONG
14 Low Lane, Torrisholme, MORECAMBE, Lancs.

NEXT SEASON'S PROGRAMMES WILL BE PUBLISHED NEXT MONTH.
TWO NEW ISSUES IN SEPTEMBER

The Second Series of 1971 Special (Propaganda) stamps, consisting of 2 values, will be issued on 23rd September, and also on the same day a further series of 5 portrait stamps depicting famous physicians. Details as follows:

A. SPECIAL STAMPS

30 c. 'Swiss Alps' - Les Diablerets, Vaud - the 5th mountain to be pictured in the 'Swiss Alps' series. The massif is seen from the viewpoint of Chamossaire-sur-Bretaye, and thus includes one of the best-known touring and ski-ing districts.

3 colours: brown, grey and red-violet

40 c. 50th Anniversary of Radio-Suisse - Radio-Suisse is a subsidiary of the PTT, it was licensed to run a wireless-telegraph service in 1921 and started operations in 1922. In addition to this, Radio-Suisse has been put in charge of air traffic control at all Swiss airports by the Federal Air Office. Other fields of activity include reception of weather charts from satellites, the inter-continental telex system, the photo-telegraph service and radio contact with ships at sea. The symbolic design signifies radio waves.

3 colours: blue, yellow and red

Designer: 1. Edi Mauri, Basle 2. Hans Thöni, Bern
Printer: Rotogravure by Courvoisier S.A., La Chaux-de-Fonds
Paper: White with luminous substance, violet fibres
Size: 36 x 26 mm. (53 x 23 mm.): 2 sheets (A & B) of 50 stamps each

Special covers will be available for each stamp and a simple First Day cancellation will be used. Collection sheets and folders will also be on sale.

B. FAMOUS PHYSICIANS

The first series, issued in 1969, depicted portraits of famous personalities, is to be followed on 23rd September, by a second series depicting 5 great physicians, three of them Swiss, whose likenesses the public has often wished to see on stamps, while the other two are Nobel prize-winners of medicine. Details are:

10 c. Alexandre Yersin - Born 22nd September 1863 at Aubonne and died 2nd March 1943 at Nha Trang (Annam).

Studied medicine in Lausanne, Marburg and Paris. Working at the Pasteur Institute in Paris, he discovered the diphtheria toxin jointly with Emile Roux. In 1892 he went to live in Indochina. In Hong Kong in 1894 he discovered the bacterium causing the plague.

One colour: brown-olive

20 c. August Forel, M.D., Ph.D., L.L.D. - Born 1st September 1840 at Morges, died 27th July, 1931 at Yverdon.

Specialising in psychiatry, he did research on the brain and hypnosis. Published works on sexual education. Was a pacifist and a pioneer of total abstinence. Made important discoveries in the fields of the anatomy of the nervous system and of entomology (biology of the ants). After
terminating his studies in Zurich, he worked at the Munich mental hospital from 1873 to 1878. From 1879 to 1898 he was director of the mental hospital of Zurich and professor of psychiatry at the University of Zurich.

One colour: green

30 c. Jules Gonin, M.D., ophthalmologist - Born 10th August 1870 in Lausanne, died 10th June 1935 in Lausanne.

Studied medicine in Lausanne. In 1918 he was appointed medical director of the 'Asyle des aveugles' founded in 1843, and in 1920, professor of ophthalmology at the University of Lausanne. Founder of the modern treatment of retinal detachment (sealing of the tear in the retina which causes detachment).

One colour: red


Studied medicine at Göttingen from 1862 to 1866. Was medical practitioner at Wollstein from 1872 to 1880 and bacteriologist in the Imperial Health Department in Berlin from 1880 to 1891; Professor for hygiene and director of the Institute for Hygiene in Berlin from 1891 to 1905; founder of experimental bacteriology and serotherapy in the German speaking countries. Discovered the anthrax bacillus in 1876, the tuberculous bacillus in 1882 and the cholera bacterium in 1884. Was awarded the Nobel Prize in medicine in 1905.

One colour: blue

50 c. Frederick Grant Banting, M.B., physiologist - Born 14th November 1891 at Alliston (Ontario, Canada), died 25th February 1941 in Newfoundland (air crash).

Worked at the Institute for Physiology in Toronto under Professor Macleod. Together with C. H. Best, a student in medicine, he discovered the insulin hormone secreted by the island cells of the pancreas (1921). Insulin is invaluable in the treatment of diabetes. Together with Professor Macleod, Dr. Banting won the Nobel Prize for medicine in 1923.

One colour: violet

Design: Gabriel Rumair, Lausanne

Engraver: Max Müller, Bern

Printing: Line engraved intaglio by the PTT Postage Stamp Printing Office, Bern

Face: White, with luminous substance and violet fibres

Stamp size: 29 x 24 mm. (26 x 21 mm.); 4 sheets (1-4) of 50 stamps each.

The stamps will be on sale at post offices, in place of ordinary stamps, from 23rd September until stocks are exhausted, but not later than 31st March 1992; also available from all Philatelist Bureaux.

A special commemorative cover will be available and the same First Day cancellation will be used as for the Publicity stamps. Collection sheets and folders will also be available.

CIRCULAR TOURIST CANCELLATIONS:

From 5th August: 1912 LEFFRIN - Ski-soleil-ovronnas (K.565)

From 12th August: 1931 LA POULY (VS) - Val Ferret (K.564) 3031 ZENEGGEN - Ski und Wanderwege (K.565)

RECENT GLOSSO CANCELLATIONS:

52e Comptoir Suisse Lausanne 11-26 Sept. 71 (1000 Lausanne to 26 Sept.)

WEBA - Gewerbe- und Landwirtschafts- ausstellung Weinfelden 1-5 Oct. '71 Poire de Chagnon-Reconvilier - ler lundi de septembre - 2500 Bte/ Bienne to 4 Sept.

Montreux - septembre musical - to 7th October

Settimane musicali agosto-ottobre Aosta - to 15th October

Strassen-Rad-Weltmeisterschaften Mendrisio 2-5,9.71 (4000 Basel 2)

Championnats du monde de cyclisme sur route Mendrisio 2-5,9.71 (1000 Lausanne)

Campionati mondiali di ciclismo su strada Mendrisio 2-5,9.71 (6830 Chiasso 2)

28-29 aout Ollon-Villars championnats d'Europe (1800 Vevey 1-28 August)

Marche-Donicorn National de chevaux 7/8 aout 1971 - Saignelegier (2300 La Chaux-de-Fonds to 7 Aug.)
IV. 'P.P.' Town Cancels

A few years before World War I a type of cancellation was introduced at larger Swiss post offices which was supposed to save the bulk mailer of 50 or more identical pieces the trouble of affixing postage stamps to his printed matter mailings, and to save him some money as well, since bulk mailings command a cheaper rate than single pieces. The distinguishing mark of these cancellations consists of a large P.P. (port payé; postage paid) and in a way is a continuation, though for another category of mail, of a much earlier series of P.P. cancellers in use as far back as 1840 in various cities. Before specific P.P. cancellers came into use by about 1910, an octagonal handstamp was struck next to a town's regular postmark, and in the smallest offices this practice has continued to this day, while very large offices, with cancelling machines, received specific P.P. flags, or P.P. crowns, to be used without flags; but none of these types belong into this present context.

The earliest P.P. hand cancellers all seemed to have been decorated by two 'bouquets' to the left and right of the large P.P. at the bottom of the cancel; and the date, generally showing the day's hour as well, is located inside a floating date box or bridge with rounded sides at left and right. Type (1) has an empty space below the town name and above the date, whereas Type (2) shows, in Arabic, the number of a city's branch office. By 1930 (or earlier), another P.P. cancel type made its appearance; without the bouquet ornaments. Type (3) features in the space below the town name, a Swiss cross of varying size and either shaded (i) or unshaded (ii), while Type (4), as Type (2), shows, in Arabic, the number of a city's branch office. By 1950 in some smaller post offices that had been using the octagonal PP handstamp (A), they were furnished with a P.P. device that could be clipped on to their regular hand canceller(s) then in use. At least that seems to be the correct explanation of the two samples shown here as Type (7).

The newest type of P.P. cancel saw its birth about 1965 or 1966. It features the town's name, preceded by the directional number, at the top. Below it is a Swiss cross, and the date appears in an open bridge. The P.P., unserrated, occupies the space where in a regular town cancellation the lower part would appear. One could almost be led to believe that the lower part of this Type (8) cancel is exchangeable, being inserted whenever needed in lieu of the regular cancel's lower part; but it is not known whether this assumption is
valid or not. However, these newest P.P. cancellations are no longer used for
bulk mailings only, but as proof for full payment on parcel cards that accompany
parcels to foreign countries as well, replacing there the postage stamps formerly
affixed to these cards. Other, dateless P.P. devices, are of private origin.

V. The 'Roller' Hand Cancellations

This chapter, for the simple reason of lack of material, will quite likely
be rather incomplete. Hand roller stamps, although used in a reasonable number
of Swiss post offices for cancelling stamps on parcels, cancelling stampless (bulk)
parcel mailings, or cancelling odd-shaped pieces of mail, are usually nearly or
fully illegible, or often only partly struck. They consist of a cylinder that
rolls between the two prongs of the canceller's handle. On the cylinder the
circular town cancel is contained, together with a series of usually six wavy lines
that are 'endless'.

Of the earlier types of roller hand cancellers it may be noted that all
specimens seem give the month's date in the date line in Arabic numbers—a
specific recognition factor for these types. All seem to feature a Swiss cross
in the upper semi-circle, shaded (1) or unshaded (ii). Often this cross is so
dirtied from over-inking that it appears completely and solidly black. In the

lower semi-circle the postal district number can be either plain (A), or the
numbers can be 'barred' together (B) (cf. Type 3). Type (1) of this entire group
is a double circle type, with text in both the upper and lower rims, while Type (2)
is similar, except for having three stars in the lower rim in lieu of any text.
Type (3), seen only in a very few impressions, is of the 'extended bridge' variety,
but otherwise similar to Type (1).

Type (4) is the latest specimen of the roller handstamps. It is a large
double circle, with open date bridge, where the town name is preceded by the postal
direction number and where the postal district, in Arabic, is located in the lower
semi-circle. This last type began to see use around 1967.

Into the same group belong roller P.P. cancellations, mostly for parcel post.
Type (5), (6) & (7) are of the 'double circle with enclosed bridge' variety, (5)
featuring the P.P. in the lower semi-circle and having no postal district number;
(6) giving all necessary text in the upper rim and containing the P.P. only in
the lower rim while showing a postal district number; and (7) showing a very large
P.P., similar to the hand cancellers discussed in paragraph IV. and featuring no
postal district number. Type (8) is of newer vintage. It, too, has at its
foot the large P.P., and the date is enclosed in a 'floating' bridge. No postal
district number is shown.

Most likely P.P. cancels of the roller type also exist, or will soon exist,
where the town name is preceded by the postal direction number; but no such
specimens have been seen to date. They would be Type (9). It may well be that

(continued on p. 58)
The 'VELAN' MYSTERY

Our request for information on the 'VELAN' cancellation has brought replies from two members. MRS. C. SCHOLEY (London) writes:

"There is no mention on the map of any village of this name, but there is a mountain to the east of the road from Oraières to the Col du Grand St. Bernard, and also a lower mountain called 'Petit Velan', all in the Valais. Baedecker (1883) mentions a road from Bourg St. Pierre as far as Cantine de Pros, stating that the road ends here, but there is a bridle path to the St. Bernard Hospice. It would be interesting to know when the road was first opened to wheeled traffic.

and from MR. H. BUTTER (Geneva):

"I know about every nook and cranny of the Valais and am sure there is not even a hamlet of this name. There is, however, a Mont Velan on the Italian frontier near Bourg St. Pierre on the way to the Grand St. Bernard and a Cabane du Velan, belonging to the Swiss Alpine Club, at its foot in the Valsorey. As cabins go this one is quite accessible, about 3 hours' walk from Bourg St. Pierre on a good path with only one torrent that needs some gymnastics when the water is high. It is a tradition that postcards are sold in these huts and most of them have rubber stamps of one sort or another which are normally applied at the top of the card. Could it be that the guardian in 1907 applied this to the stamps themselves in violation of the postal rules? It would be interesting to know if the cancellation is of the same type as the rest. Since 1907 is mentioned, it is obvious that there must be a second cancellation on the postcard in question and, should this be Bourg St. Pierre, this would strengthen the above supposition. I shall try to find out when the hut was built. The guardian was killed, with three companions, in an avalanche last winter".

Our grateful thanks for this helpful information.

THE EXCHANGE PACKET IS IT BEING PRICED OUT OF THE MARKET?

Now that my first season as Exchange Secretary has come to an end and all members have been paid, it is time for reflection. I want first to thank all members for their support; my task has been made enjoyable by the number of personal contacts and friendship I have made during the season.

The Packet circuit comprises 204 members who see packets and purchase material. Thirty-three members contributed material in quantities varying from 1 - 41 booklets or envelopes of covers. The sales have amounted to £1,553 - as compared with £1,608 last year, which is not unsatisfactory, bearing in mind the virtual standstill for 6 weeks because of the Postal Strike.

Whilst it is not for the Society or the Exchange Secretary to tell members what to charge for their stamps, I am concerned about the number of comments and letters which I get regarding the high prices; some material is priced higher than the Amateur Collector Catalogue (but marginally lower than Gibbons), while much is priced at around 70-80% of A.C. Catalogue. On the other hand, there are members who try to follow the old accepted standard of 1/3 catalogue. If they cannot themselves buy reasonably priced material, they will increase their prices. The majority of buyers, who are not also contributors, simply see rising prices. Before we know where we are we have an inflationary spiral within the Society. Some modern material, however, is priced well below face, probably because of confusion with changing exchange rates and decimalisation all in the same year.

I do realise that condition is a very important factor which affects the price, but the items I have referred to above are all mint items in tip-top condition. Another factor is the extent of the supply and the need or desire of members to dispose of their surplus material.

From the tone of the letters I referred to above, the writers would have bought more had the prices been more realistic. I have to-day received the following letter, from which I quote: "I am also discouraged from purchasing other items by the unrealistically high prices quoted in the majority of cases. Please delete my name from the Exchange Packet list ...."

Please do not price the Helvetia Packet out of the Market!

C. RAUCH
Collectors of Swiss Postal Stationery... it has happened! A postal stationery catalogue of Switzerland in English has just been published in the form of Section 16, letter 'S' of the 'Priced Catalogue of Postal Stationery of the World'. Interested parties in the British Isles may order a copy from Higgins & Gage Inc., 23 N. Santa Anita Boulevard, Pasadena, CA. 91107, U.S.A.

The 45 pages on Switzerland comprise about one-seventh of the total 'S' section which includes 44 other 'S' countries, such as Sweden, South Africa, Siam, Sudan, St. Helena, San Marino or Siam. The entire section 'S' must be purchased, and the price is $7.50. A three-ring binder can also be ordered at $1.00 to house the pages. The price of $3.15 (plus $1.25 for the binder) is not inexpensive, but a collector may discover that a single, good item among his holdings will make the purchase worthwhile; or it may be possible to reduce the total acquisition cost by selling other 'S' sections to specialist collectors of other countries.

The Switzerland pages are crammed with information, and they feature more illustrations (many of them partial ones only) than Zumstein's 1965 edition (in German) of the Swiss Postal Stationery Catalogue. Varieties are listed if they are significant. All National Fête (August last) cards, as well as most known semi-officially issued, plus some printed-to-private-order cards are listed with the main body of regularly issued postal cards (in the Zumstein these categories are separated)... in some ways an advantage, but at the same time confusing, because a collector cannot tell immediately which cards are government issues and which are not. For the issues from 1868 through 1905 only a passing remark refers to the differences in the length of the tri-lingual 'address instructions', and a real specialist is referred to the Beckhaus or Zumstein catalogues for details.

Editor Ed Fladung has set a minimum price of 25 cents (10 pence) for any item that has been priced, and the catalogue is intended to show net sales prices of the Higgins & Gage firm. The prices are rather high, and collectors may find that they are tending to erase the actual degree of scarcity on which the prices in Zumstein are founded. One-third, or one-half catalogue will, at least at present, be more realistic, price-wise, with the cheap items having to find their own prices, from 1 penny up, among collectors.

The large chapter on printed-to-private-order postal stationery is up-dated to include new items discovered since 1965, though not all items will most likely ever be included in this very complex section. No prices are attempted here, while Zumstein gives (most likely much too low, but at least relative) guides.

An English-speaking collector of Swiss postal stationery will do well to avail himself of this work. If he owns the Zumstein as well, he will be able to use the two catalogues in combination and to his great advantage.

FELIX GANZ

20TH CENTURY CIRCULAR TOWN CANCELS (Cont.)

several other types also exist in this group, and replicas (or better) a faithful reproduction of any such pieces) will be appreciated by the author of this survey.

With this instalment all newer type hand cancellations of Switzerland have been shown - that is to say, round, dated town strikes - and it remains only to show the principal types of 'barred' hand cancellations that continued in use from the 19th century. Missing from the entire survey will be official (blue or black) cancellations, military cancels, special cancellations, TOOs, Auto post offices, and postal agencies abroad. Most of these have been covered in detail in a variety of publications.

Next month follows the 'Barred Hand Cancels in use since 1900'.

SPECIAL CANCELLATIONS:

1. International Congress on Anaesthesia in Bern. To be held from 1-3 Sept. A special cancellation will be used showing the venue (the Kurhaus) and reading: '3000 BERN - date - BUNDESPRIMUMKURHAUS', in conjunction with a slogan reading 'Hypnos yiinoe' - Bern 1-3 Sept. 1971 - INTERNAT. ANASTHESIE KONGRESS.'

2. Road Cycle Race Championship, Mendrisio. From 2-5 Sept. an automobile P.O. (No. 5) will be situated in Mendrisio and a special cancellation will be used reading: '6850 MENDRISO - date - Campionati mondiali di ciclismo su strada'.

TOURIST SLOGAN CANCELLATIONS:

From 4th August:

SCHAFFHAUSEN - Museum zu ALLERHEILIGEN

From 17th August:

SAMEDAN - Golf - Flugspor

SAMEDAN - Golf - Flugspor
STANDING HELVETIA 1882–1904
Translated by: MRS. K. MACMAHON & H. E. CHAPMAN
Part III

1882/90 (Cont.)

No. 71A 1 Fr. lilac

Colour Shades
(a) light lilac 1882
(b) brownish-lilac 1886
(c) light lilac-brown
(d) lilac 1886

Varieties
1. Obverse double print
2. Partial double print
3. Reddish translucent print on the back (as a rule it is the rare light lilac-brown colour)
4. 1 blind perforation (appears on all four sides)

Plate Flaws
1. Vertical streak upper left in the small value shield
2. Diagonal streak through Helvetia

Worn Plates
1. Left star band, left margin and at the top, very light
2. Light only in the oval, left.

Retouches
1. Upper left of the centre margin lines redrawn, thickened.

No. 72A 3 Fr. olive-brown (1891)

Colour Shades
(a) light olive-brown
(b) olive-brown, dark olive-brown
(c) yellow-olive-brown

Varieties
1. Obverse double print
2. 1 blind perforation in the upper margin

Plate Flaws
1. Flecks diagonally through the dress, colour dot in the cross

Worn Plates
1. In the margin; right upper centre
2. Below in the right star band

Retouches
1. Re-engraving in the frame; upper margin lines strengthened, horizontal lines upper left or in the corner lower right strengthened; vertical retouching by the lower value field.
2. Middle portion of the left margin and bordering the star band strengthened.
3. In the oval: one or both sides of spear outlined (2 types, with retouch marks in the oval).
4. Vertical, or vertical and diagonal re-engraving right or left of Helvetia (different types)
5. Redrawn facial lines.
6. Engraver's retouch between spear and head.
7. Whole oval background strongly reworked.
8. Similar, and spear outlined.

Next month: The 9½ perf. issues

MORE PUZZLES TO BE SOLVED!

Can anyone throw any light on the destination of a cover of 1842 from Yverdon and addressed to ST. JINDEAU, SABLAI, and bearing an 'LV (Lettre Vaudoise) mark'? No atlas or gazetteer so far consulted has enabled the owner to identify 'Sablai'.

Another member has a query which, however, may need a French expert to solve: A cover from Bonneville to Annecy (both in France) with 'GEN. 6' (Lettre Vaudoise) mark? No date is quoted but the cover is of pre-stamp vintage, and the owner would like to know what 'GEN. 6' (or 7) signifies.
LONDON GROUP: Hon.Sec. mrs. E.J.Rawnsley, 32, Ethelbert G.h., Ilford, Essex.

The following programme for 1971/2 has been arranged:

1971
Wed. Oct. 13 U.P.U. Issues - All Members
Nov. 10 Annual General Meeting
Dec. Postage Dues etc.

1972
Wed. Jan. 26 Members visit Mr. H.L. Batche
Feb. 9 Auction & Unusual Cancels
Mar. 8 From My Collection - Capt. F. C. Davies
Apr. 12 Railway Cancels - All Members

It May 10 Annual Competition

All meetings - except January - on second Wednesday evening at the Kinesway Hall, Kineeway, London, W.C.2. - 6.30 - 8.30 P.m.

WANTED:
Our member: Mr. G.L. Stocks of 5, The Ring, Lemsingham, Sleaborough, Lincs., is seeking fine used copies - at reasonable prices - of the following:
Z349/350 - 1959 European Conference of PTT Administrations, Montreux
Air 2.43 - 1953 Pro Aéro
Z,41 - 1946 " "
Z,46 - 1965 " "

If anyone can supply these will they please contact mr. Stocks.

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What special subject will you be studying this autumn?
POSTAL HISTORY will prove to be an almost inexhaustible source of interest.

A fine AIRMAIL COLLECTION can be built up with the aid of stamps, flown covers, special flight covers and balloon posts.

Flaws & Varieties are worthy of detailed study.

These are only a few examples. Whether you choose one of these or some other aspect, I can help by providing items on approval.

J.S. ARMSTRONG
4, Low Lane, Torrisholme, Lancashire, Lancs.
More from Liechtenstein

The following new issues will be on sale from 30th August, with postal validity from 2nd September onwards:

A. Commemorating 50 Years of the New Constitution 1921-71
   - 80 Rp. Principally crown - 4 colours: dk.blue/vermillion/violet/gold

   **Designer:** Louis Jager, Vaduz
   **Printing:** Rotogravure by Courvoisier S.A., La Chaux-de-Fonds
   **Stamp size:** 26 x 36 mm. in sheets of 10 stamps
   **Paper:** White, with brownish-green fibres

B. Special subjects: Arms of the Church Patrons - 3rd Series
   - 50 Rp. Abbey of Weingarten - 6 colours: red-brown/green/blue/brown/silver/gold

   **Designer:** Louis Jager, Vaduz
   **Printing:** Rotogravure by Courvoisier S.A.,
   **Stamp size:** 28 x 33.5 mm. in sheets of 20 stamps
   **Paper:** White, with brownish-green fibres

Two separate commemorative covers were used, one for each series, but the same First Day cancellation was used for both, a simple one reading: 'VAUDZ - AUSGABETAG - 2 SEPT 1971'.

United Nations in Geneva

On 21st September, the United Nations Administration in Geneva issues 2 special stamps on the theme of the elimination of racial discrimination. These are:

- **Values:**
  - 30 Rp. Symbolic design - 5 colours: blue/red/brown/yellow/black
  - 50 Rp. - 4 colours: green/red/yellow/black

- **Designers:**
  - 30 Rp. D. Gonzague, France
  - 50 Rp. O. Hamann, Denmark

- **Printing:** Heliogravure by Mitsubishi, Japan

- **Validity:** For use on correspondence of the U.N. in Geneva; not valid on normal Swiss mail

- **Quantity issued:**
  - 30 Rp. 2,200,000
  - 50 Rp. 2,000,000

A special FDI cancel, used at the Palais des Nations post office on 21st September has the U.N. emblem - Premier Jour - 21-9-71 - 1211 GENEVE - ADMINISTRATION POSTALE DES NATIONS UNIES.

On the same day two similar stamps of 8 c. and 13 c. will be issued by the United Nations Headquarters in New York.
FRANCO LABELS

Our member, Mr. P. Hobbs of Geneva, has been pursuing a study of the 'Franco' labels and has come across 3 examples complete with the bottom tag showing the printing details as follows:

345 Rh.II.13 150.000 st. a 78
(The catalogue shows 154)

P345 - V.13 50,000 x 5.
Format A10 (26 x 37)
(This is as the catalogue and is
19 mm. (3)

P345. - IV.52 40,000 x 5.
Format A10 (26 x 37)
(This is not listed, but may be one
of many reprints of the 1943 issue
as it seems to be also 19 mm. (3)

The above figures were copied
exactly including the 'stop'.
Can anyone explain the 1952
printing, which does not appear to be
listed, even in the latest catalogue,
where the various issues are shown as

RECENT SLOGAN CANCELLATIONS

Grand-Prix Suisse 28/29 August 1971 -
Braderie - Fête de la montre - 4-5 sept.
1971 - La Chaux-de-Fonds - 2500 Neuchâtel to 7 Aug
2300 La Chaux-de-Fonds 8-28 Aug.
IMBAIRIX - Internationale Apotheker-
23 Sept. - 3 Oct. 1971 3807A 22 Zürcher
Herbstfeste - CSU 0400 1 Oct.
OEJA St. Gallen 7 - 17 Oct. 1971 -
9060 St. Gallen to 16 Oct.
Copteur de Hartung du 2 au 10 oct.
50 Jahre Autogesamt Furka-Grimsel 1921-

AUTOMOBILE CANCELLATIONS

Auto 3 Marche-concours national de
chevaux 7/8 Oct. 1971,
Saumur, France
3 3aemipd - 22 Bijd. Generaalfest
21/22 Auguest
3 Cha TUR - Sinterkinder Tag -
29 August 1971
5 St. Gallen Internat. Pferde-
sporttag - Europa - Meisterschaft der amazonen 26-29 Aug.
1971

PICTORIAL TOURIST CANCELS

From 11 September:
9608 GANTERSCHWIL - Thur-neger

REVIEW

The 'small' ZUMSTEIN CATALOGUE of
Switzerland & Liechtenstein

The 1972 edition of this handy
guide is now available and provides
most adequate information for the
collector who also have is not required to the more
highly specialised catalogue. It is
well illustrated, with text in German
and French. Market fluctuations have
been taken into consideration, with
numerous price increases, mainly in the
field of classic issues. Also quoted
are mint and used blocks of 4, singles
and FDC.

Its 373 pages include all the stamps
of Switzerland: with telegraph and
railway stamps and also all issues of
Liechtenstein and Campione d'Italia, as
well as the United Nations Postal
Administration issues for Geneva, all
completely priced and illustrated.

Price: £0.70 from Harris
Publications Ltd.

It may not be generally known that
small philatelic dictionaries are avail-
able for those not familiar with the
German language, and cost £1.15.

For those with smaller interests
the 1972 Zumstein Catalogue of European
Stamps is also available, enlarged to
over 1260 pages, at a cost of £6.50 or
with alphabetic index £7.00.

The Amateur Collector's
STAMP CATALOGUE
OF
SWITZERLAND
1971

We shall not be issuing a
1972 edition and would advise owners
of this Catalogue to subscribe now
to the Price Change Bulletins ...
(see the last page of your 1971
Catalogue).

without these Bulletins, your
Catalogue will soon be out of date.

H. L. Katcher
THE AMATEUR COLLECTOR LTD.
151, Park Road, St. John's Wood,
London, N.W.8 7BU
Tel. 01-586-0616
VI. Barred Hand Cancels in Use in Switzerland since 1900

Anyone checking the Andres & Emmenegger Postmar catalogue of Switzerland will notice that Groups 141 to 150, or all cancellations with barred semi-circles, are treated very summarily. This in part is due to the abundance of material, in part to the small interest which the majority of these 'cheap' cancellations had to the great majority of collectors of earlier Swiss stamps, and in part also to the fact that when the catalogue was compiled some of these cancellations were still current. It will remain for this survey to pluck from the many sub-types in the above-mentioned handbook groups those which have knowingly still been used in the 20th century, and then to add those which the handbook does not show since they were not yet in use in the 1880s. Of A & E groups the following have been seen with use dates from 1900 on: (A & E type number first, and in parentheses the number for this article): 2183/4 (1); 2182 (2); 2183 (3); 2657/8 (4); 2691/2 (5); 2693/7 (6); 2769 (etc.) (7); 2700 (etc.) (8); 2751 (9); 2764 (etc.) (10); 2781 (11), and several others may have existed well into the 20th century.

Type (1) is a double circle, with cross in lower rim, date bridge enclosed and without hour indication, with fine bars. One may sub-divide this into cancels with solid rim (a) and those where an 'Umlaut' necessitates a breaking of the outer rim. Type (2) is identical, except for the thick bars (from 5 to 8), and Type (3) is quite similar, too, except for medium size bars and very thin letters. Type (4), with thin bars, has added text to the left and right of the cross in the lower rim.

Type (5) features thin bars and a large cross at the bottom, itself encircled, while Type (6) additionally has text at both sides of the cross, and Type (7), used in Neuchatel's postage due division in 1920, is of the 'extended bridge' type, large cross, with thin barring, that features the town name at the top and additional text at the bottom. Type (8) is of the same general construction as Type (2), but it contains text in both semi-circles. Also with thick bars are Types (9) to (11), all double circles with extended bridge. (9) features a cross in the lower rim; (10) additionally text to the left and right of the cross; and (11) has no cross, but text both in the upper and lower rims. This type, and Type (9) are known with the text in the lower rim in (a) or without (b) parenthesis.

Type (12) is a recut of a Type (2) cancellation of this group from which the cross was removed and a postal district number inserted instead. This change must date from after 1925, and it is a rare type, if not a unique one. All the aforementioned types are small in diameter and, with the exception of Types (9) to (11), their date bridges contain no hour reel.

The next group of cancellations is of a larger diameter, and almost all, unless indicated, have hour reels. Type (13) is a large Type (2), with only a cross in its lower rim, while in Type (14) two bouquets are accompanying the cross at left and right. In Type (15) the two bouquets remain, but instead of the cross there is additional text in the lower rim. Type (16) is a rarely encountered type (which by the mid-1920s lost its inner rings around the date bridge and thus...
looks like a Group IIA cancel with barred semi-circles, (but it isn't!!), that features two stars besides the cross in the lower rim. Type (17) is similar to Type (13); but the cross is replaced by some text (so far seen only in parenthesis) in the lower rim, while Type (18), always without hour in the date, exists with the lower text in (a) and without (b) parenthesis. Types (13) - (18) are all creations from the earliest years after 1900, and many cancels of Type (18) were kept in use unchanged until 1966, never being given postal district numbers.

Types (19) and (20) are of the 'chamfered corners in the date bridge' variety, (19) of larger size and with hour reel in the date, and (20) much smaller and without hour reel. Both exist with and without dots in the necks of the date bridge, and both were used only in a handful of larger towns and cities.

And in conclusion five quasi experimental cancellations are rounding out this survey, and of two of them, (21) & (22), are not proved to have been used in the 20th century, but their dates of use are so close to the year 1900 that it must be assumed that they were used at least in the very beginning of the 20th century. Type (21) is known only from Lausanne. It has a rectangular, floating date bridge, barred semi-circles, and a forerunner of the later postal district number, inasmuch as a "I11\textsuperscript{e} Arrondissement" is placed at the side of the date bridge. Type (22) is similar, but without the postal district indication, and it is known only from Ste Croix. It should be mentioned that, in the very early 1900s, a few special fair or exposition cancels had the same general appearance as these two unique cancels.

Types (23) and (24) are forerunners of all 'bouquet' type Swiss cancellations. The one from Basel 2 (23) has two decorations in the form of a diamond, and Type (24), known only from Grenchen, has two 'Maltese' crosses.

Finally, there was used, in Bern only, the likely forerunner of all Swiss cancellations with stars. Type (25) has two stars in the lower rim, and in addition to this particularity, it has an hour reel which shows not only the hour, but a 'V' (Vormittag/morning) or an 'N' (Nachmittag/afternoon) as well. No other cancellation from this period has such an identification, except a second Bern cancel used at the same time as the one described, and best named (25x), which is identical in every respect except for the absence of the two stars.

And so we have arrived at the end of this attempt to classify the circular date strikes of Switzerland of the 20th century. It is quite certain that other types will be found, and it will be left to someone else to come up with a more complete and foolproof classification system for these cancellations.

*** The End ***

Opening meetings are as follows:

Saturday, October 2nd - Northern Group: MEMBERS’ DISPLAYS

Wednesday, 13th - London Group: U.P.U. Issues - All Members
STANDING HELVETIA 1882–1904

Translated from Zumstein by MRS. K. MACMAHON & H.E. CHAPMAN Part IV

1888 Perforation 9½ (9‡ : 9½) (11 vertical teeth) Control Mark I (wide form)

These so-called 'coarse' perforations were introduced because of public outcry over the perforations used until then. However, these, too, did not meet with approval and were given up after a year.

No. 66B 20 c. orange

Colour Shades
(a) orange-yellow  (b) yellow-orange  (c) orange

Variety  (Note)
1. Obverse double print
   (Note: In this value the orange-coloured translucent print on the reverse is the rule, therefore, it is not specified here as a variety)

Plate Flaws
1. Diagonal arrow upwards from centre towards the left (A 1-3) and small value shield upper right partly double outlined (A 5/6).
2. Colour fleck from the knee towards the bottom, in the left half.

Retouches
1. In the spear and left of the hand in the oval (C Dz 2)

No. 67B 25 c. green

Colour Shades
(a) yellowish-green  (b) green  (c) olive-green

Variety
1. Obverse double print.

Plate Flaws
1. Fleck on the foot of Helvetia
2. Flag-like fleck upper right (Ill. 67 A/Pf 3)
3. Wedge upper left against the small value shield (Ill. 67c/Pf 5)

Retouch
1. Diagonal retouch between spear and head

No. 69B 40 c. grey

Colour Shades
(a) grey  (b) dark grey

Worn Plates
1. In the margin upper left from the small value shield
2. Very light between H of the upper lettering and the first star in the left margin (8 2)

No. 70B 50 c. blue

Colour Shades
(a) light blue  (b) dark blue, blue

Variety
1. Obverse double print

Plate Flaws
1. Line from top vertically through Helvetia; diagonal line through the large 0 and left FRANCO
2. Plate defect from the knee to the lower 5 (2F G/2); similarly right between the 1st and 4th stars through into the margin

Worn Plates
1. In the oval: between spear and head or left from foot in star band.
2. HELVETIA (Fig. 146) (BBZ. 1/1944)

Retouches
1. In the frame: fine vertical closing line to left or right margin
2. Similarly, and margin horizontally partly re-engraved, thickened
No. 70B  -  Retouches (Cont.)

3. Lower field retouched, lower right corner vertically improved
4. In the oval: right upper arm retouched (outlined) (C4)
5. Similarly and left of the knee and hand retouched
6. Diagonal plate defect through the Helvetia and left of the knee; retouches in the dress and by the right arm
7. Spear outlined and left of Helvetia strongly re-engraved (C02)

No. 71B 1 Fr. lilac

Colour Shades
(a) light brownish-lilac  (b) brownish-lilac

Variety
1. Obverse: light misplaced double print

Plate Flaws
1. Vertical line upper left in the small value shield (A 2)

Retouch
1. Upper left of centre margin lines redrawn, thickened

1891 (30 c. 1892) Perforation 11½ : 11 (13 vertical teeth) (Control Mark I - wide form)

No. 660 20 c. orange

Colour Shades
(a) light orange, orange 1891 (b) reddish-orange 1893

Varieties
1. Clear double print  2. Weaker double print  3. Double control marks

Plate Flaws
1. Diagonal dart at top from centre towards the left (A 1-3), and small value shield upper right partly double outlined (A 5/6)
2. Similarly, and in addition coloured dot at foot of lower 2 (G3)
3. Mark like a speaking tube in front of the mouth
4. Coloured flecks: right from first star outwards, similarly in the left lower corner shield.

Retouches
1. In the spear (C02) and in the oval right of 5th star (D's 2)
2. Between spear and head, right in oval, right in margin

No. 670 25 c. green

Colour Shades
(a) yellowish-green 1891 (b) green 1893 (c) dark green

Plate Flaws
1. Green 'flag' upper right (Ill. 67A/Pf.3)
2. Foot fleck
3. Coloured dots: in cross, upper right before 25, lower in 2 or splintered right below 25, over the whole picture.
4. Coloured streaks: one or two parallel in top of head diagonally through the picture, three parallel diagonally through the breast, two horizontally through knee into the cross, horizontally over foot.
5. Wedge upper left against small value shield (Ill.)
6. Wedge between first and second value figures (Ill.)
7. Wedge under or next to upper right value figure

Worn Plates
1. In frame at top: by the tip, upper right, right in margin, right in star band
2. In oval: between spear and head, left of spear, left of hand, lower left in oval

Retouches
1. Oval strong, but careful re-engraving, with particularly strong vertical lines right of Helvetia
2. Upper half of the stamp re-engraved in the same way
3. Similarly, and inner outline of left star band re-drawn
4. Similarly, with spear outline and re-engraving of Helvetia and in right margin vertical retouching.

(Continued on page 68)
Members are being very helpful in response to the items queried and we pass on the following information which it is hoped will prove useful — if not always conclusive:

1. **MR. F. GAND** (of Chicago) provides more about the 'VELAN' cancel:

   "According to the 'Dictionnaire geographique de la Suisse' (1900-09) — by the way a most informative 6 volume compilation of all localities and names of Switzerland (and in its last volume containing a list of all Swiss post offices, telegraph stations and the like as of 1909) — VELAN was a hotel, located at 1440 m. above sea-level, 10¾ km. east of Martigny, on the same post trail which also served (by mule) the then famous Hotel of Pierre-à-voir (1550 m.) — also with a postal agency. VELAN had a postal depot at that time under that name because the hotel faced beautiful Mt. Velan on the Italian/Swiss border. The name 'Velan' appears in this district for about 6 different mountains. The Velan Hotel actually was (or still is) situated on or near the highest point of the Col-des-Planches, a passageway between the Rhône valley (village of Chemin) and the Entremont valley (hamlet of Vence). The Velan hotel was built in 1901. In 1937 the postal manual still listed a post office in that vicinity, but now called COL-DES-PLANCHES, at 1409 m. and situated at the automobile road built in the interim. Similar to many hotel postal facilities established between 1900 and 1920 in the Valais, Velan/Col-des-Planches were discontinued during or immediately after World War II. Others in that category are Torrentalp, Gemmi Passhöhe, Schwarzenbach, and many more. A straightline hotel strike (the postal facility was an official depot) of this sort may be worth from £4.50 to £2, depending on condition.

   The straightline postmarks through 1907 are now all being compiled by Messrs. A. MÜLLER and LIPPI; notifications of items NOT in the old Emmenegger should be sent to these gentlemen, c/o Swiss Philatelic Journal. Velan probably belongs to Group 43, now in preparation for publication. "Five volumes of the re-issued and vastly extended Emmenegger book have already appeared."

2. The query on 'ST. JEAN D'AULPE' from MR. B. WILLETHER:

   "I wonder how literate the writer was? Phonetically it could be ST. JEAN d'AULPH, where there is a monastery, and 'SABLAI' could be 'WABBAYE'. This is near Thonon, which does not appear in the post office guide, but was in Ct. Vaud. This information was found in the 1889 Baederer and although rather tenuous, may offer a solution.

   From MR. J.J.R. KUSEBIO: "The destination of the letter appears to be written phonetically, as used to be the case before uniform spelling rules came in with popular education. To-day the place-name could well be spelt as 'ST. JES AV d'EAU SABLE', although I have not been able to find it in any Swiss Gazettee."

3. The query on 'GEN. 6' (or 7) from our President, MR. L. MOORE:

   "This does not really require a French expert, but rather an Italian one. In Napoleonic times Bonneville was in the Departement du Leman (99), along with Geneva. After 1815, Bonneville and Annecy were not in France, but in the Duchy of Savoy, which at that time formed part of the Kingdom of Sardinia, where the official (postal) language was Italian.

   "The marks 'GEN.6' and 'GEN.7' are most likely the date stamps of despatch and/or arrival - January 6th & 7th, 'Gen' being the abbreviation for 'Gennaio' (January). In the early days the year was often omitted from date-stamps, so can only be found from the contents of the letters or from a good catalogue listing the periods of use of the various types of hand-stamp. No year was given in the present case, but Savoy (and Nice) were ceded to France in 1860 and there was a period of overlap.

   "Incidentally, 'Helvetia' members should make themselves familiar with the Italian abbreviations for the months of the year, because they can be found on letters of Cantone Ticino."

4. The article on 'HAND-STAMP NUMERAL CANCELS' from our President, MR. L. MOORE:

   Here again members are being most helpful by quoting examples from their own collections and these are being noted. We have also received some information from Switzerland and hope to prevail upon the writer, an eminent Swiss collector, to contribute an article on the subject for our 'News Letter'. At present there are still some points upon which we are not clear and we are therefore, reserving our comments for the moment.
STANDING HELVETIA (Continued)
No. 708 - Retouches (cont.)
5. Foot of the lower figure 5 re-engraved in short thick lines.
6. Retouch in the shield and dress.
All these retouches occur in the period 1892-93 and are extremely rare.
The unusually clean, strong line formation gives a plastic appearance (with seemingly smaller block-like letters HELVETIA) compared to the common stamps.

(To be continued)

OUR 'DEWS LETTER'
We are always on the lookout for articles on subjects we know will be of interest to our members and next month we shall be featuring an important treatise on Customs cancellations. Also in preparation is a meticulous study into the field of military cancellations by Dr. Ganz, and is a subject that has been requested on several occasions.

Nevertheless we shall require still more material as time goes on and would welcome new contributors. Our 'Puzzle Corner' should provide an indication of some likely themes and we shall be glad to consider any MS sent in.

SPECIAL CANCELLATIONS
52nd Olympic games, Lausanne: From 11-26 Sept., the automobile P.O. No. 5 will attend and mail posted during the Fair will receive a special pictorial cancellation reading: '1000 LAUSANNE - date - GANZPUNKT SUISSE - 52O JOCHES NATIONALES'.

26th International Police Rally in Lucerne from 14-17 Sept., will be served by the Automobile P.O. No. 5. Mail posted on 15th will receive a pictorial cancel showing the tower of the Chapel bridge and reading: '6000 LUZERN 26. INTERNATIONALES POLIZEI-STANDFAHRT 14.-17.1971'.

33rd International Conference on Education in Geneva from 15-24 September. A special cancellation will be applied reading: '1211 GENEVE - date - UNESCO - Conference internationale de l'education'.

DEWS IN BRIEF
The collection offered for sale last month was sold to the first of 3 applicants. —

Please read the Agenda for the forthcoming A.G.M., and if you have any items to put forward for consideration, send them in in good time.

Remember to send in some booklets for the Exchange Packet.

ZUMSTEIN ..... Sensation!
The new, 34th edition of the ZUMSTEIN LIECHTENSTEIN Catalogue Specialised has been published.
Price: £3.25 + 45p postage —
Please order from: HARRIS PUBLICATIONS LTD., 42, Maiden Lane, Strand, London WC2Y 7LW

ZUMSTEIN SWITZERLAND/LIECHTENSTEIN 1972
Pocket size: price £0.70 —

Berner Briefmarken-Zeitung / JOURNAL PHiLaTÉLIQUE DE BERNE
Annual fee £1.60 — always brings interesting features for the Switzerland specialist.

For fine first class stamps —
Zumstein
Prop. Hertsch & Co.
14 Low Lane, Torrisholme, MORECAMBE, Lancs.

J.S. ARMSTRONG
14 Low Lane, Torrisholme, MORECAMBE, Lancs.

AUTUMN is the time for renewed philatelic activity, with displays to be prepared or sheets for competitions, all of which will benefit from those special items that 'make' a collection.

Let me help you to achieve the best results by supplying items on approval or against Want Lists.

Send now for selections on ALL STAMP ISSUES
MINIATURE SHEETS
TATE-BECH & SE-TENANT
AIRMAILS
FDC & SPECIAL CANCELLATIONS, etc. etc.
THE HELVETIA P.S. CELEBRATES

The start of the year more than the or the renewed interest, always follows the We have achieved feel we can look back, 25 years of achieve-

In the special Collecting*, to which tributed, our Founder Mr. E.H. Spiro, looked after World War II, more able to take up set aside for more and told how he and a formed a small group.

A little publicity, philately at one of the Stamp Fairs in a build-

There are still a number of those founder members actively engaged in the continuance of the good work started then, although others have passed from our midst but are not forgotten.

We pride ourselves on having made gradual but constant progress over the years. Our membership has also grown considerably since - dare we say it? - our fame has spread abroad and although our ties with members in other parts of the world are largely limited to the mail, we nevertheless count them just as much our friends as our 'regulars' at home.

The success of the Society, and particularly of the 'Helvetia News Letter' has been largely due to the unstinted help of those who have served in any capacity to maintain our aims, and especial thanks go to all those who have contributed so generously by providing the material which has made our 'Helvetia News Letter' so popular and informative and we hope that they and others will continue their efforts and so enable us to look ahead to further celebrations.

We wished to provide all our members with a souvenir of this event and, after much deliberation, decided that a commemorative cover was probably the simplest and most effective. It had been hoped that we might have been able to have a special cancellation but our efforts in this direction were unsuccessful, since this privilege is reserved for Societies or events within Switzerland, but the covers have all been stamped and franked in Bern. We trust you will like this small token of good will.

---000---
GEN 6 (or 7)? French or Italian

Mr. J.J.E. Eusebio questions Mr. Moore’s theory of abbreviations of the month in Italian, logical tho it seems. Both places are in France but in valleys going down to Geneva. Modern maps show a good direct road, but in earlier days mail probably went by stagecoach via Geneva. GEN 6 might well stand for the stagecoach service from Bonneville into Geneva and GEN 7 for Geneva into Annecy or vice-versa. Even to-day the surrounding French districts enjoy free and easy access to Geneva, known as the “regime des zones”.

At no time were the Savoyards expected or compelled to speak Italian, even when an Italian was Head of State and they were the largest region in the State. Later through the unification of Italy, this somewhat daunting prospect came before them and Savoy (with Nice) was ceded to France, much to Garibaldi’s disgust.

Ed. Now which theory is correct?

ST. JEAN/CHATLAI

Dr. Ganz favours Mrs. Wiltshire’s theory of “St. Jean d’Aulps”. Both especially since the entire Savoy region across Lake Leman, now France, around Thonon and to near Chamonix, is known as ‘CHABLAIS’, with ‘Le Chablais’, a long mountain chain, similar to ‘Le Jura’.

POSTAL AUCTION

IN FEBRUARY

The February London meeting is to be an Auction, and in an endeavour to serve a wider circle of members it will be a Postal Auction. This is an opportunity to dispose of some material perhaps too pricey for the exchange packet ... (Double Genevaas ???)

It should be possible to accurately describe the lots to minimise the necessity to send lots for viewing unless specifically desired and members are willing to pay the postage. The Auction list will be circulated.

Singles and sets are preferable to packet remainders or accumulations.

All material to reach the Auction Organiser: Mr. E. Lienhard, 9, Essex Avenue, Chelmsford, Essex, by the end of November.

OVERSEAS SUBSCRIPTIONS

Overseas members are reminded that subscriptions, where due, are payable on 1st January, 1972. Where applicable a reminder notice will be sent out with the November issue of the ‘News Letter’.

25 YEARS


THE SOCIETY AND MY FIRM CAN LOOK BACK WITH SOME PRIDE ON WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED IN THESE YEARS. NOWHERE IN THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING WORLD ARE SWISS STAMPS SO WELL REPRESENTED AS THROUGH OUR COMBINED OUTLETS.

WE ARE CELEBRATING THIS DOUBLE JUBILEE (AS WE DID OUR 21st BIRTHDAY) WITH A GIFT VOUCHER WORTH UP TO £6.00 (£14.00). MOST OF THE HELVETIA NEWS LETTER READERS ARE ON OUR MAILING LIST AND WILL BY NOW HAVE RECEIVED THEIR COPY. IF YOU ARE ONE OF THE FEW READERS UNKNOWN TO US, PLEASE LET US HEAR FROM YOU AND WE SHALL SEND YOU A VOUCHER PER RETURN.

H. L. Katcher
THE AMATEUR COLLECTOR LTD.
151, Park Road, St. John’s Wood,
LONDON NW8 7HU

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Customs Cancellations Since 1882

By ALFRED GOLAY

Published originally in the 'SCHWEIZER BRIEFMARKEN-ZEITUNG', July 1971
Translated by W.Cdr. R. F. Bulstrode, O.B.E.

Here is a subject which has hardly been dealt with. In spite of our research we have found not a single relevant publication either at the P.T.T. Library or at the Customs Headquarters, who have been kind enough to investigate in order to reply to our questionnaire, for which we thank them sincerely.

Few collectors have been interested in this type of cancellation, in which the imagination shown by the Customs employees was great, but not always artistic. In fact the stamps were often cancelled by blobs of ink which completely hid the design. So one understands the lack of interest and research in this area by the philatelist.

We shall leave out all cancellations prior to 1882, usually very rare on stamps. The work of Andrea & Emmenegger on the Swiss Postmarks of 1843 to 1882 mentions various Cantonal and Federal obliterations. The Cantonal Customs Offices were found in all villages on the border of a Canton, and each Office had one or more Customs obliterations. These were very numerous. After 1848 the Cantonal Customs were suppressed and some splendid cancellations appeared with the Federal Shield (Schildstempel) in the centre. This style is still used nowadays (Figs. 1, 2 & 3).

Philatelists who are amateurs or beginners are often surprised to learn that Customs Offices used and still use Post Office stamps. The stamps represented in this work were specially used on export declarations, transit documents and triptyques. There were also other uses, but unfortunately we have not been able to obtain information as to the rules concerning their use and cancellation. Looking at these whimsical obliterations one might well think that freedom was great in the Customs Offices which cancelled stamps in whatever style suited them. If each Office, of which there are 326 today, used a different method, multiplied by the number of employees, this would give a respectable number of possibilities! ...... which is more or less what happened. The cancellers in Figs. 1, 2 & 3 with the Federal emblem, and Fig. 4 with the date, can be classed as "official". They are still in use and are made from metal "chops" like those of the Post Office. All the others are obliterations whose...
CUSTOMS CANCELLATIONS (cont.)

Design stems from the employee's imagination and are made of almost anything. Their life is not known but they were all in use in parallel with the "official" ones.

We will try to give our readers the slight bits of information which we have on the cancellations shown in our illustrations.

Cancellers with the Federal Shield, Figs. 1, 2 & 3 differ from each other in the shape of the shield, but all have the same arrangement of the inscription. The Customs function is shown above the emblem and the name of the Office below.

The Customs titles most often met with are: in German: Schweiz. Zollamt, Zolllaste, Nebenzollamt. In French: Douanes Suisses, Bureau de paquets. In Italian: Dogana Svizzera, Ufficio dei Dazi; then those of the Head Offices: Schweiz. Oberzolldirektion, Direction générale des Douanes, Hauptzollamt, etc.

In the names of places of Customs Offices we find some situated abroad. In fact Switzerland still has six Offices outside her own territory. These are: Waldshut, Konstanz, Luino, Domodossola, Iselle and Pontarlier. The cancellations of the last four should not be confused with those of the Swiss Postal Agencies Abroad, of which there were 47 including these four. As already said, these marks which one already finds on the numerals issue of 1882, are still in use to-day. It is to be noted that they are without date and that the stamps on which they are struck give their approximate period.

Cancellers with date (Fig. 4) are found particularly since the issue of 1907-08 and are normally in use. We also find them on the Numerals and the Standing Helvetias, but much more rarely. An illustration in Andres & Koenen, No. 2300, Group 197, shows the date 3-3-83. They are always of the same type, with the Federal Cross at the base of the design.

Cancellers showing a letter (Figs. 5, 6 & 7) are more mysterious. We have the letters W, O, P, V & K. W and O are not framed (Figs. 5 & 6). The others are framed (Fig. 7). We have been told that W is for Waldshut and K for Konstanz. This is possible, but we are not sure. In any case O must have a
precise significance, because it is always accompanied by another mark. We have it with the cancellations of the Customs at Porrentruy, Fahy, Basel St. Johann, Basel BB, Basel Central-Bahnhof. As to the other letters, F, P, V and K, may not they be creations of Fritz, Paul, Victor or Karl? Let’s find out!

All the other cancellations, so-called "fancy cancellations", are products of the Customs people's imagination. The "chops" have been cut in wood, cork, potato and other soft material, from which came their German names: Holzstempel, Korkstempel, Kartoffelstempel. These names are often bracketed together as °Petschaftstemper (seal or signet cancels) which says exactly what it means.

Easy to work in, these materials have satisfied their unpractised carvers, some of whom have made pretty designs, whilst others have been content with clumsily worked lines (Fig. 30). If there is variety in the designs, there is in the shape as well, and sometimes it is easy to recognise the subject used, for example the fondant stopper in Figs. 20 & 21, or the champagne bottle cork of the well known cambered square shape (Fig. 29). The most usual designs have been squares and lines. In Figs. 8 - 15 we show obliterations with squares. Naturally there have been plenty of others, and this idea is found in large numbers with rectangles (Fig. 16), lozenges (Figs. 17 & 18) and innumerable lines of all types, thin, medium, thick, close, widely spaced, framed, dotted, etc., of which Figs. 22 - 30 give some examples.

Cruciform designs also have their place on parade. The Federal Cross is found in all shapes, correct, stylised, framed, filled in, decorated etc. Figs. 31 - 36 give some idea. It is normal for the cross of our national cable to have led astray the guardians of our frontiers!

Other designs (Figs. 37 - 41), more or less crudely executed in various shapes, are also numerous. In Fig. 42 the star of David has not been forgotten, and Fig. 43 shows well what liberty the Customs people had in the field of cancellers for the stamps they used - a cogwheel from a clock perhaps?

There are cancellations of the same style as those described above which should not be confused with those of the Customs offices. These are often - but wrongly - called "parcels cancellations" (Fig. 44) and consist of one or two circles. They must not be confused with those of Group 2 of Andres & Emmenegger. These cancellers have certainly been used on stamps on parcels when the packing has been too weak, but their object was to replace the dated cancellers when these were being repaired. We are amazed at the patience and care of the official who dated the block shown in Fig. 44, twenty times by hand "5-9-99". Time was less valuable in the last century!

Do not confuse certain "grill" types of obliteration with the very familiar ones of Groups 4, 5, 6 & 7 of Andres & Emmenegger.

We show another case of double cancellation, of which the reason is not very clear (Fig. 45), which we always find on cards for the withdrawal of goods delivered by various stations. Why this second mark, which has nothing to do with Customs cancellations in spite of being of the same type of design and which leads to confusion?

To complete this article we show another export declaration (Fig. 46), franked with 22 stamps of 5c., cancelled by the Schweiz. Zollamt of Altenburg, a Customs house which has now been closed. An obliteration of the railway station of Rafz of 20th July 1909, cancels them for a second time. This item, with all its stamps, is of little value but is none-the-less interesting. Notice that at this period the Customs people, like their appropriate numbers in
speciality, not notable for the beauty of its obliterations, but original just the same and deserving to be known.

Any information on this subject will be welcome, and we shall be grateful to those who provide it.

The subject is open for discussion!

A. GOLAY
4434 Eglisau
STANDING HELVETIA 1882–1904

Translated by: MRS. K. MACMAHON & H. E. CHAPMAN

Part IV

1891 (Continued)

No. 68c 30 c. brown (1892)

Colour Shades
(a) light reddish-brown 1892
(b) orange-brown 1893

Variety
1. Obverse double print

Plate Flaws
1. Typical colour flecks over the I of HELVETIA, left of HELVETIA, lower right over FRANCO, lower O of FRANCO
2. Plate defect diagonally through Helvetia
3. Indentation in the ribbon right by 7th star

Retouches
1. Corner shield upper left partly newly outlined
2. Letter V or VET of HELVETIA outlined

No. 69c 40 c. grey

Colour Shades
(a) grey
(b) dark grey 1891

Variety
1. Obverse double print

Plate Flaws
1. Colourless pearl upper left
2. Tip of small corner shield upper right defective
3. Upper left 4 with deposit

Worn Plate
1. Typical light places in upper margin

No. 70c 50 c. blue

Colour Shades
(a) bright blue 1891
(b) blue
(c) dark blue

Variety
1. Obverse double print

Plate Flaws
1. Typical lines or flecks in the stamp picture
2. Plate flaw: upper right trapeze shape (Ill. 70 A/Pf2), from left diagonally upwards as far as spear, from left through foot towards the bottom (Ill. 70 A/Pf2), through 7th star right towards the bottom through corner shield
3. 1 blind perforation in bottom margin

Worn Plate
1. Upper half of spear oval outline worn
2. In the oval: between spear and head, left of spear or left of Helvetia lighten

Retouches
1. Left margin outlined through a vertical line, right margin from centre towards the bottom improved, similarly lower corner strongly vertically retouched
2. Right of head and shoulder diagonally re-engraved
3. Between spear and hear or left of spear or in both places vertically retouched, similarly right of Helvetia over the escutcheon.
4. In the dress, on the shoulder, left shoulder outlined and left part of escutcheon strongly retouched, also partly left of the knee in the oval.

(Continued overleaf)
STANDING HELVETIA (Continued)

1. Weak double print
2. Double perforation

1. Vertical streak in upper left small value shield (A 2)
2. Strong fleck on foot of Helvetia, fleck below breast (D 3)
3. Two diagonal parallel lines through sixth star left and third star right
4. Notch in front of knee of Helvetia (E 3)

1. In the frame: upper left margin missing entirely
2. Similar, and left star band and lower corner shield light (Illus.)
3. Left of the spear hand in the oval

1. Horizontal lines upper left of centre thick re-engraving
2. Fine retouching in the oval, in the foot and in the right arm of Helvetia, also horizontal line upper left of centre worn.

N O V E M B E R  G R O U P  M E E T I N G S

Northern Group: Saturday, November 6th - 2.30 p.m. at 4, Park View Rd., Bradford
London Group: Wednesday, November 10th - 6.30 p.m. at Kingsway Hall, W.C.2

NOVEMBER GROUP MEETINGS

PRESIDENT'S DISPLAY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING -

Also Short Displays or Recent Acquisitions

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An absorbing Postal History ... some of the world's finest 'Classics' ... Early & Middle issues of interest to the specialist ... modern stamps in tasteful designs ... Airmail and First Flight covers of great interest to the Aero-philatelist ... and in addition many collectable "Side-lines": Railway cancellations, Hotel Posts, Soldier Stamps etc.

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For all stamps, covers, etc., send for approval selections or for items against your own Want Lists.

J.S.ARMSTRONG

14, Low Lane, Torrisholme, MORECAMBE, Lancs.
Pro Juventute 1971

The final issue in the series on Native Birds will appear on 1st December. Because of the reduced rate of postage to members of CEPT, the normal 50 c. stamp will be replaced by a 40 c. value.

The Pro Juventute Foundation will receive 30% of the additional charge and the remaining 10% will go to other youth organisations. Details are as follows:

- 30 + 10 c. Peregrine Falcon (Falco peregrinus Gm.) - 4 colours: red/brown/grey/yellow.

Designer: Richard Gehrig, Zürich
Printing: Roto-heliogravure by Courvoisier S.A., La Chaux-de-Fonds
Paper: White, phosphor with violet fibres
Stamp size: 24 x 29 mm. (24 x 26 mm.)
Shets: 2 (A & B) of 50 stamps each
Sale: At all post offices from 1st December to 31st January 1972; at Philatelic Bureaux from 1st December 1971 as long as stocks last up to 30th June 1972.
Validity: Unlimited.

The special First Day cancellation shows the Bluethroat from the 20 c. stamp and reads: "3000 BERN - PRO JUVENTUTE - AUSGABETAG 1.12.71."
A special commemorative cover with a vignette of the Peregrine Falcon is available and also the usual collection sheets and folders.

At the request of the Pro Juventute Foundation a stamp booklet with a gold cover will be on sale containing eight 10+10c., eight 20+10c. and four 30+10c. stamps at a price of Sw.Fr. 6.60 including 40 c. costs.

* * * * * * * * *

LIECHTENSTEIN

Two new issues are scheduled for 9th December:

- WINTER OLYMPICS SAPPORO 1971 - 4 values
  - 40 Rp. Ice-hockey player - 4 colours: ochre/black/red-brown/red
  - 60 Rp. Ski-jumper - 4 colours: ochre/blue/black/greenish-grey
  - 1.50 Fr. Figure skater - 4 colours: brown/black/violet/yellow

Designer: Hans Erni, Meggen
Printing: Roto-heliogravure by Courvoisier S.A.
Paper: White, with brown fibres
Stamp size: 26 x 36 mm. in sheets of 20

(Continued overleaf)
Clients who are lovers of fine early classical material and unusual varieties would do well to contact us now, as some exceptional purchases have just come our way. For the more modest collector our unrivalled stocks of early, middle and modern issues are available to help further your particular interests.

H. L. KATCH & R
30 CRAGG ROAD
P. O. BOX 118
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Telephone: 01-586-0616
STANDING HELVETIA 1882–1904

Translated by: K.E. MacEwan & E.S. Chapman

1894 (5 Fr. 1901) Perforation 112:11 (13 vertical teeth)
Control mark II (narrow form)

66 D 20 c. orange

(a) light orange
(b) orange 1894
(c) reddish-orange, darker print 1896
(d) brownish-orange 1894, blurred print

Varieties
1. Excessive application of colour, particularly to the right in the oval and partly beyond (possibly concealed retouching)
2. Obverse double print
3. Light offset on the back (Note 1)
4. Reddish translucent print on the back
5. Double control marks

Note 1. On occasions when the cylinder ran once empty over the plate filled with ink the picture was transferred to the cylinder and so on to the back of the next sheet, which was thereby double printed, once on the front and once on the back in reverse image. The price for offsets is understood to be for clear recognizable stamp pictures of practically the same clarity as on the front. Weak offsets are frequently found, which are often described as strong translucent prints. Investigations have proved that they are usually offsets of the lighter grades and not translucent, as both pictures are not common to one another.

Plate Flaws
1. Coloured streaks: diagonal 'arrow' at the top from the centre towards the left (A 1-3.5) and small value shield upper right double outlined (A 5/6), diagonally over the breast, horizontally through dress and shield, diagonally through cross.
2. Coloured dots: thickened eye, dot on the hip, in the right hand, under FRANCO lower right, in the 2 or right in the lower O.
3. Coloured flecks: upper left of the centre, upper right towards the outer edge, the neck covered, commas between lower 2 and O or beneath.
4. Defect in the left FRANCO field, similarly from the left at the top of the sheet through the lettering towards the upper right (Illus.).
5. Similarly from the spear tip to the breast, from 4th star left horizontally to Helvetia, from knee fleck-like as far as foot of the large 2, beneath small value shield upper right towards outer edge.

Worn Plate
1. Slight wear in the oval and in marginal parts.

Retouches
1. On the spear tip and by the brow of Helvetia
2. Left of hand into the band by the 5th star (oval stronger, darker)
3. Upper half of spear fully or partly sawn through in various places

The retouches of the 20 c. stamp, of which the earliest appears in 1884, stem apparently from a few plate fields. From ca 1898 they undergo typical dark colouring and fall then under variety No. 1. Presumably this vertical retouching lies basically in different places in the oval, but this is not positive. The saw-like cuts in the spear (Ret. 3) are too widely rated re-engravings of the horizontal lines in the oval, and naturally are only of importance when they are very clear and obvious.

67 D 25 c. green

(a) green, clearer print 1894 (c) deep green, unclear print 1897
(b) yellowish-green, unclear (d) dark green (engraving bluish) print

Continued overleaf
**Variations**

1. Obverse double print
2. Partial double print
3. Colourless streak through stamp
4. Blind perforation

**Plate Flaws**

1. Flag-like fleck upper right (Illus. 67A/Pf3) right in star band.
2. Fleck on foot of Helvetia, fleck left of cross.
3. Blank fleck (green) in oval under 'I' of HELVETIA (B4)
4. Typical dots: rain-like over the whole or upper part of the stamp; dot in head, in cross, upper right before 25, right beneath PFAOC, in lower large 2.
5. Comma-like plate faults: in small corner shield, by the 'I' of HELVETIA diagonally through spear, diagonally through cross, in the large 25.
6. Typical green streaks: curved upper right or left and beyond the stamp picture, arrow in right hip, horizontally through foot of Helvetia, through the head and shoulder, fine head line (cap).
7. Similarly strong horizontally through Helvetia as far as the tip of the shield and somewhat deeper into the cross.
8. Defective plate: wedge upper left beside the small value shield (Illus. 67A/Pf5), wedge from lower 5 cut to the margin.
9. Upper right small value shield broken outwards (B 5/6), somewhat below the margin broken outwards.
10. Similarly, defect right from 'A' as far as the upper right.
11. Plate flaw horizontally through 4th star right or diagonally through the large lower figure 25 (Illus. 67C/Pf6).
12. Large defect through the whole oval and Helvetia from lower left towards upper right.

**Worn Plates**

1. In frame in different places, silently worn; in the left or right upper margin or in right lower corner.
2. In the upper inscription band or left in the star band, slight.
3. Marked colourless places: in the face and in the hair, left of spear, left in oval, right in star band, also partly bordering on the oval.
4. White Helvetia (all fine individuality missing).
5. Strongly bound band (colourless) by the spear.

**Retouches**

1. In the frame: strong undulation upper left, less striking upper right, horizontal engraver's or dot retouch in left or right margins (also reaching partly into margin), improvement between the large lower figures.
2. Upper lettering partly improved, partly also in left or right margins.
3. Upper inscription band and right band and right margin entirely retouched.
4. In the oval left of spear tip retouched (different executions).
5. Between spear and head fine engraving or worn place lightly retouched (Illus.) or strongly retouched as far as torch-like spear (16th stamp on the half sheet) (Illus.).
6. Left in the oval by 4th or 5th star blunt retouching.
7. Left in the oval beneath the hand engraver's or dot-like retouched flecks, also partial slight improvement in upper inscription band.
8. Left star band retouched, with or without (blurred) retouching of the neighbouring oval.
9. Dress retouched, partial improvement of left band and of the oval (whereby lower half of the left band is light), head, dress and inscription band by the 'He' of HELVETIA retouched.
10. Helvetia with Red Indian head and right in oval horizontal re-engraving.
11. Right in oval slight improvement and adjacent band light or slightly retouched, shield light, adjacent improvement marks and lower part of the band light.
12. Dot-like improvement in oval (sometimes with vertical streaks through Helvetia).
13. Dot-like improvement throughout left band and similarly in oval.
14. Saw-like cuts in spear (in consequence of re-engraving of the horizontal lines on both sides of the spear).

(To be continued)
Annual General Meeting

Held at the Kingsway Hall, Kingsway, London, W.C.2, on Wednesday, 16th November, 1971, at 6.30 p.m.

Apologies for absence

Received from Miss Jukee and Messrs. Salmen, Sheldrake and D. Slate.

1. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 11th NOVEMBER, 1970

These were read by the Secretary and agreed.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES.

The sequence of reports was changed to enable Mr. Harding to leave early to return to Norfolk.

3. HON. TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Harding said that the Balance Sheet which had been circulated indicated that the situation was satisfactory. The Society had not yet felt the full effect of the increased postal charges introduced in February. The 'News Letter' had been produced in 8 page issues and, subject to receipt of sufficient contributions for publication, this could be maintained. Despite the postal strike earlier in the year the Exchange Packet had done well.

Mr. Johnson asked why the interest on deposit account was less than in the previous year and Mr. Harding explained that £100 had been transferred to current account.

Adoption of the accounts was proposed by Miss Grunberg, seconded by Mr. Beak and passed.

Mr. Slate proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Harding for his work throughout the year and to Mr. Brooks for his help as Auditor. This was endorsed by the members.

4. AMENDMENTS TO RULES

(a) Society Rules. As a further supply was needed a few very minor amendments, notably decimalisation, were agreed.

(b) Exchange Packet Rules. Up to now only 'Guiding Rules' had been issued and it was thought official rules should now be prepared. Copies of the proposed rules were distributed and after perusal and some discussion they were agreed.

Mr. Beak and Miss Musselwhite both raised the question of signatures in booklets and asked that ball-point pens should not be used since they – and ink pens – could cause damage to stamps on the following sheet due to pressure. Admittedly even rubber stamps could also cause damage if applied too vigorously but were preferable. It was proposed that a cautionary note should be given asking for signatures to be made carefully and lightly.

Mr. Gotch asked if a packet left in a car and stolen would be covered by insurance. Mr. Rauch thought not and that it would be outside the scope of the normal philatelic insurance.

5. CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS

Mr. Slate remembered that when he first joined the Society AGM's were very staid affairs, with very few members present. The large attendance on this occasion indicated that a lighter approach to this essential meeting was successful and further showed that members were genuinely interested in what was being done to keep the Society in a progressive state.

Once again it had been a very good year, with excellent attendances and interesting subjects. The varied programme arranged for the current season should be equally entertaining.

He expressed thanks on behalf of all members to the Officers for their work during the year, particularly to Mrs. Rawnsley, Mr. Harding and Mr. Rauch, who between them keep everything running smoothly.

6. HON. SECRETARY'S REPORT

Mrs. Rawnsley agreed that the 1970–71 season had been extremely successful, culminating in the Silver Jubilee celebrations which, judging by the letters coming in, were very well received.

Resulting from both 'Philymia' last year and the publicity afforded by the
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (Continued)
special Swiss issue of 'Stamp Collecting' some 40 new members had joined the Society and about a dozen had resigned or been deleted. Meetings had been very well attended, which reflects the flourishing state of the Society, while the Northern Group continues its excellent work in promoting Swiss philately in that part of the country with undiminished vigour.

As always the success of the 'News Letter' is due to the support of so many members in contributing material for publication and if this co-operation is maintained there is no doubt that the high standard achieved will be continued.

7. HON. EXCHANGE PACKET SECRETARY'S REPORT

Mr. Rauch reported that the season had been very good, resulting in the transfer to Society funds of £73.00 plus a small amount of bank interest. The insurance on each packet runs for 5 months so that it is essential that they should be circulated promptly. Despite his occasional admonitions to members, the majority did follow the accepted rules and endeavoured to be of help to their fellow members.

19 small packets are at present in circulation, which appear to be moving satisfactorily, with sales to date in the region of £450. More material is needed but to complete all circuits before the start of next year's holiday season, booklets should be sent in not later than the beginning of February.

8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS & COMMITTEE FOR 1971-72

There being no alternative nominations the following were elected 'en bloc':

President: MR. L. MOORE
Chairman: MR. E. C. SLIM
Hon. Secretary: MR. J. A. EASTWOOD
Ex-Chairman: MR. L. E. STILES
Hon. Secretary: MR. J. J. RAWNSLEY
Editor: MR. C. RAUCH
Hon. Treasurer: MR. A. J. HARDING
Exchange Pkt. Committee: MR. J. N. HIGHSTED
Vice-Chairman: MR. L. E. STILES
Secretary: MR. C. RAUCH
Auditor: MR. T. C. BROOKS

Proposed by Mr. R. F. Bulstrode, seconded by Mr. D. L. Verschoor and passed.

9. MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS - nil

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a) Mr. Lienhard proposed that in view of the many years of work for the Society by Mrs. Rawnsley, she should be granted Honorary Life Membership. This was seconded by Mr. Slate and carried unanimously. Mrs. Rawnsley expressed appreciation of this honour.

(b) Mr. Beak asked if a list of members' interests could be issued. It was stated, however, that only a few members give any indication of specific interests. Apart from this, with so many additions, deletions and changes of address, any list is out of date long before it can be printed and distributed.

Requests by members for contacts on varying subjects will always be published in the 'News Letter' if forwarded to the Secretary.

There being no further items for discussion the A.G.M. was declared closed at 7.45 p.m.

A very warm welcome was given to the Founder of the Society, Mr. E. H. Spiro, after an absence of many years.

Mr. Spiro said he was now hoping to catch up on his collecting once more; he warned members, however, not to hope to make purchases of Swiss stamps in Switzerland. He had recently visited that country and had found prices to be extremely high.

The remainder of the evening consisted of a display by Mr. C. Rauch of pre-stamp covers, recently acquired, relating to the Swiss hand-stamp article published in the 'News Letter'. Much more information is required in order to understand all the ramifications of these marks and it is hoped that this can be obtained from an authority on the subject in Switzerland for publication at a later date.

DECEMBER MEETINGS:

Northern Group - Saturday, 4th Dec.
London Group - Wednesday, 8th Dec.

POSTAGE DUES & "T" MARKS

Dr. G. G. Ritchie
Philological Philately

By Lawrence Moore, M.B.E., F.R.P.S.L.

('Philology' at one time meant 'love of language', but nowadays is accepted for its broader meaning - 'love of learning'.)

The 'little learning' is not always 'dangerous', and it is generally agreed that some knowledge of foreign languages is a great help even to the quite ordinary collector or postal historian. Apart from the inscriptions themselves, specialised catalogues and most other works of reference usually are in the language of the country concerned. Most members of 'Helvetia' have a mattering of German - enough, at least, to read the head-lines of Zumstein, although now, thanks to our member, Mr. H. E. Chapman, assisted by Mrs. K. MacKahon, and their English translations of various sections of that work, we can all read the small print as well.

However, it is useful to be able to decipher and translate the inscriptions and markings on old letters and I am impelled to write this article because in the 'Helvetia News Letter' in recent months under 'Puzzle Corner' a member asked the meaning of a handstruck mark 'GEN 6'. I offered the suggestion that it was probably the abbreviation of the Italian name for the month of January.

In the first column are the full Italian names for the months of the year, and in the second column are the usual three-letter abbreviations as on postmarks, etc.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GENNAIO</td>
<td>GEN</td>
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<tr>
<td>FEBBRAIO</td>
<td>FEB</td>
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<td>MARZO</td>
<td>MAR</td>
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<td>APRILE</td>
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<td>MAGGIO</td>
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<td>GIUGNO</td>
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<td>LUGLIO</td>
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<td>AGOSTO</td>
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<td>SETTEMBRE</td>
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<tr>
<td>OTTOBRE</td>
<td>OTT</td>
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<tr>
<td>NOVEMBRE</td>
<td>NOV</td>
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<tr>
<td>DICEMBRE</td>
<td>DIC</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

These abbreviations can be found on early letters from offices in Ticino and from certain villages in the Italian-speaking part of Graubünden; also in Savoy, Piedmont etc., which formed part of the old Kingdom of Sardinia. And, of course, on the lake steamer marks.

Next month I will deal with the French Revolutionary Calendar, which is of great interest, especially to those who have covers of the Holvetic Republic period.

EXCHANGE PACKET

Enlarging a little on the contents made in the report on the Exchange Packet at the Annual General Meeting, the point raised was that signatures in booklets in pen or ball-point can easily damage stamps on the next page, due to pressure in writing.

The use of a small rubber stamp (full name, not initials only) is recommended, but if members continue to use pen it is suggested that a piece of thin card placed underneath the page would minimise the risk of damage.

In order to encourage more members to contribute booklets to the Exchange Packet, do please sign CAREFULLY, CLEARLY BUT LIGHTLY.

Contributions of short articles for publication in the 'News Letter' will be most welcome.

why not try your hand?

THE BRITISH PHILATELIC EXHIBITION

held in London, 3rd - 6th November.

Once again there was an interesting range of exhibits, and on this occasion there seemed to be a more equal division between studies of stamp and postal history. Also a number of unusual thematic displays.

Swiss exhibits, we were pleased to note, were all supplied by members of 'Helvetia'.

Bronze medals were awarded to Mr. R. Dixon of Luton for a superbly presented entry on black sheets of LAKE STEAMER CANCELLATIONS; to Mr. L. Lienhard for a detailed study of the 1940 BRITANNIA and to Mr. S. S. Mackenzie of Broughshane for an excellent display of AEG STRAND.

Mr. I. Allen of Armagh was awarded medals of merit for two exhibits: TPO CANCELLATIONS and REGISTRATION LABELS.

* * *
From the LONDON CANCELLATION

The Officers and Committee of the Society greatly appreciate the many letters received on the occasion of our Silver Jubilee, from which it would appear that our Commemorative Cover has met with general approval.

The expressions of goodwill for our continued success will encourage us to strive to please our members as far as possible and which, with your support should not be too difficult, while others have included several interesting requests for information which could well be of benefit to all members. These will be followed up with a view to publication in the ‘News Letter’ in due course.

Meanwhile we extend to all our members at Home and Abroad our sincere good wishes for the coming Festive Season and for the New Year.

CUSTOM CANCELLATIONS

Mr. D.R. Beak of ‘Christies’, 19, Salt’s Lane, Loose, Maidstone, Kent, England is particularly interested in this subject and would be glad to correspond with anyone with a similar interest, also to hear from anyone with such material for disposal, with a view to purchase for study purposes.

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NORTHERN GROUP

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Members’ Displays given at the meeting on October 2nd were as follows:

Dr. G.C. Ritvige:

I. Gischrist:

R. D. Wilson:

B. L. R. Frerunners with miniature sheets

Lake Lucerne joint TPO & steamer marks. The last steam train in Switzerland. Postal History markings.

At the November meeting Mrs. J.P. HIGNETT presented his Presidential display of railway and ambulant markings. In his talk he gave details of the first Swiss railways and their history and much factual information regarding the modern railway network, including lengths of routes, number of bridges etc., details of mountain railways, tramways and cable cars. His display consisted of a wide range of ambulant strikes from an 1856 cover from Geneva to Marseilles to modern times, with many examples of station cancellations and photographs of mountain and cable railways including the Stanserhorn, Cornergrat, Schilia, Mochers-De-Haye, Burgenstock and Wengernalp.

Mr. R.H. Quinlan of St. Yarmouth wishes to thank those members who contributed information on his recent query.

Mr. G.L. Stocks of 5, The Linns, Leasingsham, Glenfield, Lincs. is still seeking the items mentioned in our August issue, i.e. 2349/50 - 1959 European Conference of PTT Administration, Geneva Airm: Pro Aero 230, 41 & 46 - ALL FINE USED. Can anyone help?

With Christmas in the offing, now is the time to give yourself a present of those items you have been wanting for a long time.

Whether your interest lies in the early issues: Classics, Strubellia, Standing Helvetia, U.P.U., and so on, or the middle issues: Tell, later definitives, Pro Juventute, Pro Patria etc., or airmails: stamps, flown and First Flight covers, let me supply your requirements, either from your own want list or by means of approval selections which you can study at leisure.

J.S. ARMSTRONG

14, Low Lane, Torrisholme, MORECAMBE, Lancs.
In the early days of collecting Soldier stamps I came across many things which intrigued me through insufficient knowledge of the languages used in Switzerland; later, as knowledge grew, some matters sorted themselves out and made sense. However, until my acquaintance with Frederick Bieri there was one thing that I really could not understand: this was the heading "Zerstörer" on certain W.W.II issues. Through my English-German dictionary I found out that this word meant 'destroyer' or 'long range fighter', yet the designs resembled minesweepers or tappers at work. This paradox, quite early in my investigation of words, phrases and sayings, I proceeded to check with Herr Bieri, that wonderful old soldier of Bern, who has been such a mine of information on all military affairs to do with this fascinating subject.

It appears I puzzled him at first over the word 'Zerstörer' and he asked for an example to clarify the situation; accordingly one of my stamps wended its way out to Switzerland for his perusal and soon came the inevitable elucidation of the problem.

Here is the reply, which I quote in full from the Officer's letter dated 14.10.1968:

"You have puzzled me with 'Zerstörer' - alone, this means either a torpedo-boat (destroyer) or a person or object which 'destroys'. If you have it on a S.S. stamp, there must be something else before or after the word ......" (Later he examined the example sent).

He then went on to explain another question on the Lake Units and in doing so actually answered the question on the 'Zerstörer' problem, as follows:

"Regarding the Lake Patrol Units, I only know that we had them on the Lakes of Bodensee (German Frontier), Geneva (French Frontier) and in Central Switzerland on the Vierwaldstättersee (Lake Lucerne or the Lake of the Four Forest Cantons). They were formed during W.W.II by arming - according to size - privately owned motor-boats (usually manned by reservates of older age classes, such as Territorial or Landeal units). Smaller boats had machine guns, larger ones (some also Army owned - specially built craft), with heavy machine guns and/or anti-tank guns of the 1 pdr, 2 pdr types. Usually the owners themselves were transferred from their former units to the Lake Units.

"You will know that the Gotthard railroad line was most important for the Germans (the connection with Italy).

"Should the Germans have attacked us, they would certainly have tried, with a surprise attack, to collar that line! The most obvious course would have been to 'land' troops by sea-plane on the Vierwaldstättersee and carry forward their attack from there.

The "Admiral", as we used to call him (as I was part of the 2nd Army Corps Staff I served with), on that lake was Lieut.-Colonel Paul Trüb, head of the famous printing firm of A. Trüb & Co. of Aarau. I was out on patrol with him twice - just for fun! On the other hand, even if the Germans had reached that line, they would not have been able to use it."
The January 'News Letter' will probably not be in time to remind those Helvetia Members who have not already done so, to use their Silver Jubilee Discount Voucher before January 15th. Regrettably they are no longer valid after this date.

The DIRECTORS and STAFF of "The Amateur Collector Limited" join in wishing all Helvetia Members a very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

1+1:Katcher
The Amateur Collector Ltd.,
151 Park Road, St. John's Wood, London NW8 7HU
Tel. 01-586-0616
STANDING HELVETIA 1882–1904

Translated by KRS. K. MacAULAY & F. E. CHAPMAN

1894 Continued

68 D 30 c. brown

Colour Shades

(a) orange-brown 1894
(b) deep orange-brown 1896
(c) light brown
(d) yellowish-brown (dark)
(e) dull brown 1890
(f) deep brown (clearer print) 1898
(g) red-brown 1904

Variation

1. Reverse double print
2. Offset on back (Illum.)
3. Similarly in upper half

Plate Flaws

1. Brown Helvetia (dotted)
2. Dot in 6th star left, similarly under FRANCO lower left, over right 3
3. Letter flaw "HELYETTA" ('I' extended) (25th stamp on half sheet) (Illum.)
4. Typical fleck: upper left in 'G', under 'I' upper left, in foot of Helvetia lower left, over or behind FRANCO ribbon, right over or in the FRANCO ribbon
5. Colourless indentation in right band by 7th star (86)
6. Broken spear by knee (a), arrow from upper left diagonally in the dress, similarly shorter over shield diagonally into the knee
7. Plate flaw: from upper margin towards right, horizontally through Helvetia, lower left horizontally into corner shield.

Vern Plates

1. In the frame in various places
2. Lighter places in the oval

Retouches

1. In the frame various lines redrawn: corner upper left, arched upper lines of small corner shield upper left, upper margin of upper ribbon crucially re-engraved, left margin horizontally redrawn, by corner shield lower left, in lower figure field horizontally to irregularly improved.
2. In upper letter ribbon: letter V or VET strongly redrawn
3. In oval: particularly thick horizontal streak in left oval (together with slimmer spear) or right (together with completely missing vertical lines)
4. Or right in oval, vertical lines sharply redrawn with at the same time streamer-like colour fleck in left cross-bar
5. Irregular improvement in frame, small upper left value shield newly drawn, horizontal lines upper left undulating strongly or weakly retouched, tip upper centre improved, vertical or irregular retouches in lower figure field.
6. In upper letter ribbon: plate flaw 'HELYETTA' retouched by 'I' (Illum.)
7. Streaked around engraver's lines vertically through right margin and vertical retouching of lower figure field
8. In oval: coloured diagonal streaks: left of knee or right of Helvetia (by the arm or over the shield).

During the preparation and cleaning of the plates before printing, the lines of the design were sometimes re-engraved. At times this occurred with the 30 c. plate only with the horizontal lines, so that the vertical lines of the print were no longer well produced with the hand press. From 1900, with the introduction of the new mechanical press, which printed much more clearly and cleanly, the vertical lines reappeared. Among other things the retouch of the 30 c. stamp in the oval appears as if the colour, after transfer to the printing plate, had been streaked with a match in certain places. (Ret. No. 7). Comparative research gives the clue that this is a clumsy engraver's retouch.

69 D 40 c. grey

Colour Shades

(a) light grey 1903
(b) grey
(c) dark grey
(d) dull grey, finer print
(e) dark grey, finer print
**Standing Helvetia (Continued)**

69 D
1. Obverse double print
2. Offset on back
3. Double control marks
4. 1 blind perforation in upper or lower margin, with 2 blind perforations

**Varieties**

Plate flaws:
1. Colourless pearl upper left (A 1)
2. Diagonal colour fleck from upper centre towards the left (A 3)
3. Typical hair lines: diagonally through upper left 40, diagonally through breast, diagonally from top left of centre against H of Helvetia
4. Small defects: margin lines upper left broken into vertically (A 6)
5. Cracked plates: in two parallel horizontal lines from left margin below the upper small value shield towards the left, curved coloured line horizontally in margin beyond figure 40 upper left
6. Deposit in 4 upper right

Worn Plates:
1. In frame: both sides of small value shield upper left, right of small value shield upper right, upper left of centre, in left margin at height of 5th star, by lower figures
2. In inscription ribbon upper left or in star band right light
3. Light places in oval: left of spear, right of head by 'A' of Helvetia
4. Left of shield worn (254)
5. Strong wear in oval left of knee (ground beneath colourless)

Retouches:
1. Horizontally above through tip redrawn lines throughout; some horizontal lines improved in margin left of lower left corner shield
2. Left and right of head retouched by fine diagonal lines (Helvetia with pointed beard), similarly both sides of head (like spotted horns), similarly between spear and arm and left of the foot.

**70 D 50 c. blue**

**Colour Shades**

(a) blue 1894
(b) dark blue
(c) deep blue, darker print 1898

**Varieties**

1. Obverse double print
2. Double control marks

**Plate Flaws**
1. Typical streaks and flecks: in right value shield, in left star band
2. Plate flaw: upper right trapeze shaped from upper left diagonally as far as spear, from left through foot towards bottom, through 7th star right towards bottom through corner shield, vertical fracture lower left in margin beyond the stamp

**Worn Plates**
1. Upper half of spear oval outline worn
2. Colourless place on chin (Helvetia with pointed beard)
3. Helvetia (Illus.) (1897/1944)

**Retouches**
1. Vertical outline of left or right stamp margin, horizontal lines of right margin partially redrawn and thickened, lower right corner strongly vertically retouched, lower left horizontally over the margin and beyond improved.
2. Circle of Helvetia (D3/4) or dress retouched
3. Between spear and head and right over shield vertical retouches, or diagonal retouch right of Helvetia
4. Left shoulder outlined and dress and shield retouched
5. Fine horizontal engraver's retouch between spear and head and left of hand, in the oval upper and lower left.
6. Spear notched (due to too broadly redrawn horizontal lines of the oval background.

(To be continued)

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**January London Group Meeting - Important**

To be held on January 26th - fourth Wednesday at 151 Park Road, N.8., by invitation of Mr. H. L. Katcher. Apart from those already known, will any member who desires to attend please notify the Secretary or Mr. Katcher not later than 19th January, to facilitate the final arrangements.
More Philological Philately

by Lawrence Moore, R.P.S., F.R.P.S.L.

As stated last month it occurs to me that for the collection of early Swiss material, a knowledge of another Calendar would be useful - the French Revolutionary Calendar. Otherwise, what would we make of an entire folded letter bearing the undated straight-line postmark "87 BIEVW" but which has at the head of the letter "Sienne, le 2me Brum. An VIII"?

Following the French invasion of Switzerland, the central cantons were re-formed as the Helvetic Republic, while some of those nearer to the French border were incorporated in 'Departements' as in Metropolitan France, and as in Germany, Italy, Spain and the Low Countries.

While there was little use of the Revolutionary Calendar in the satellite republic, in the Swiss towns of the 'Departements Mont-Terrible (later Haut-Rhin), Leman and Mont Blanc, it was extensively used right up to the Empire period, and it is found on military mail from other parts of Switzerland.

The Republican year was divided into 12 months, each of 30 days, and as this accounted only for 360 days, there were 5 supplementary days (6 in a Leap Year). The Republican Year One (An. 1 de la République) began on September 22nd 1792. In the following list, the first column gives the Gregorian calendar date on which each of the revolutionary months began (in the first year). In the second column are the full names of the months and in the third column the recognised abbreviations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1792</td>
<td>Sept. 22</td>
<td>Vendémiaire Vend.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Oct. 22</td>
<td>Brumaire Brum.</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Nov. 21</td>
<td>Frimaire Frim.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Dec. 21</td>
<td>Nivôse Niv.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1793</td>
<td>Jan. 20</td>
<td>Pluviôse Pluv.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Feb. 19</td>
<td>Ventôse Vent.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mar. 21</td>
<td>Germinal Germ.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Apr. 20</td>
<td>Floréal Flor.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>May 19</td>
<td>Prairial Prair.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>June 19</td>
<td>Messidor Messi.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>July 19</td>
<td>Thermidor Ther.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Aug. 18</td>
<td>Fructidor Fruct.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Napoleon was proclaimed emperor in May 1804, but there was a period of overlap as the Republican Era did not end until Nivôse An. XIV (December 1805).

All correspondence in the later Empire period in the Swiss departments - especially in the newly created Simplon (from 1815 to 1815) bears dates according to our (Gregorian) Calendar.

* The '87' is the Department No. of Mont-Terrible. '2me Brum(aire) - An VIII' would be 24th October, 1799.

PLAN FOR A NEW GROUP

Mr. D. Symonds, of 'Larkrise', Gaunt's Common, Wimborne, Dorset, would like to establish a South/South-Western Group of the Helvetia P.S., on the lines of our Northern Group, particularly to benefit those who are unable to attend London meetings and if there are sufficient members who would be interested in such a project.

If so they are hereby invited to attend a preliminary meeting to be held in the Salisbury area on a Saturday in March 1972.

If any interested members will contact Mr. Symonds direct, and there is adequate response, he will arrange a meeting place and notify members via the February issue of the 'News Letter'.

TOURIS UB. C

From 7th December

1005 Jongny - Lac Leman (K.572)

SILVER JUBILEE COVER

We have a small stock of stamped and franked Silver Jubilee Covers, which you may like to pass on to philatelic friends. These are available at 5p each plus postage. Apply to the Hon. Secretary.

Two new pictorial slogans were issued on 7th December:

SAAS Pek - Perle der Alpen
HUTTERZ - Kirche mit Wehramweiring

(At this time the circular tourist cancel of Saas Fee (K.319) will be withdrawn.)

TOURIST PUBLICITY CANCELS

From 7th December:

1005 Jongny - Lac Leman (K.572)
No report of the December meeting being to hand, this will be published next month.

Meanwhile the next meeting will be on Saturday, January 1st, 1972, when the subject will be 'SPECIAL ISSUES 1943-70'. Discussion Leaders: Mr. R.M. Robertshaw.

Typographical Errors

will members please note the following:

The address of Mr. D.R. Beak, who wishes to correspond with members on Customs cancellations, should be 19, Salt's Avenue (not Lane), Maidstone.

An apology is also made to Mr. S.R. MacKenzie, a prize-winner at the B.P. Exhibition, for inadvertently having moved him from BRIDGE-OF-WEIR, Renfrewshire to Broughty Ferry.

To give a flying start to the New Year, our January Helvetia News Letter will see the beginning of a new study by Dr. F. Ganz on 'MILITARY CANCELLATIONS'. With the increase in popularity of cover collecting and 'Soldier Stamps' this should open up a new field.

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A suggestion for a Christmas present to yourself ? ? ?

I am at present breaking up a large collection of 19th century T.P.O. postmarks of Switzerland on cover.

If you are interested in this field contact me without delay.

+++ +++

For all other requirements - stamps, covers, varieties, etc., material can be supplied on approval or against Want Lists.

J.S. ARMSTRONG

14, Low Lane, Torrisholme, MORECAMBE, Lancs.