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No. 1

JANUARY 1973

27th YEAR

## SWISS OFFICIAL POSTCARDS

By DR. G. G. RITCHIE

Part I.

Postal stationery, while not boasting the wide following of adhesive stamps, has an increasing number of devotees. Switzerland provides a particularly rich field for those interested in this sphere, for not only was there a very wide range of normal stationery for public use, i.e. envelopes, cards, wrappers etc., with an imprinted stamp, but there are also other lesser known types. One of these is postal stationery for official, i.e. non-public, use. This can be divided into two classes, those with and those without a printed stamp. Postcards used by, for example, the Federal Railways and the PTT are of the first type, being basically normal postcards printed with special messages or forms, and sometimes also with pictures showing aspects of the operation of the service concerned, such as the railway goods service. A large number of such cards are listed in Section C of the Zumstein Postal Stationery Catalogue, although this is far from complete.

This article, however, is concerned with material of the second type, without an imprinted stamp. A Swiss Federal Decree of 23 July 1870 authorised the Post Department to introduce special postcards for statutory free correspondence. The card was to match in general those issued for public use, but it would have only an inscription on the address side and no impressed stamp. The reverse would be blank for the message, and the size approximately 150 x 95 mm. The "Formula Number" of these cards was 4337, this number usually, but not always, appearing on the card.

Robert Hürlimann of Biel/Bienne, lately President of the Schweizerischer Ganzsachen-Sammler-Verein (the Swiss Postal Stationery Collectors Society), has made a special study of these cards, and a comprehensive listing was published for the first time in the February 1966 issue of "Der Ganzsachensammler", the organ of the Society. I should like to express my thanks to Herr Hürlimann for permission to translate his article for inclusion in the "Helvetia News Letter", and also for providing a list of amendments and later discoveries which I have incorporated and which make the list the most complete to date.

In a field such as this it is quite possible to make unexpected finds, as the history of card No. 8 shows. This was originally reported last century, but when Herr Hürlimann and his committee were revising the catalogue listing, they had no evidence for its existence and deleted it. Some time ago I acquired a card unusual in that it included the German 'Amtliche' in the inscription, and this turned out to be the missing card, which was thereupon reinstated. A few more have been discovered since.

The following is Herr Hürlimann's listing.

### The Official Postcards of Switzerland without Impressed Stamps

The printed postcards without stamp of value for use for official post-free correspondence are a greatly neglected section of Swiss postal history. In fact the same listing has remained unchanged for 50 years in successive editions of Zumstein's Swiss Postal Stationery Catalogue, and this amounts to only half a page. Of the so-far catalogued official stationery the postcards are the best known, but in addition there are official postal and money orders for internal and foreign use.

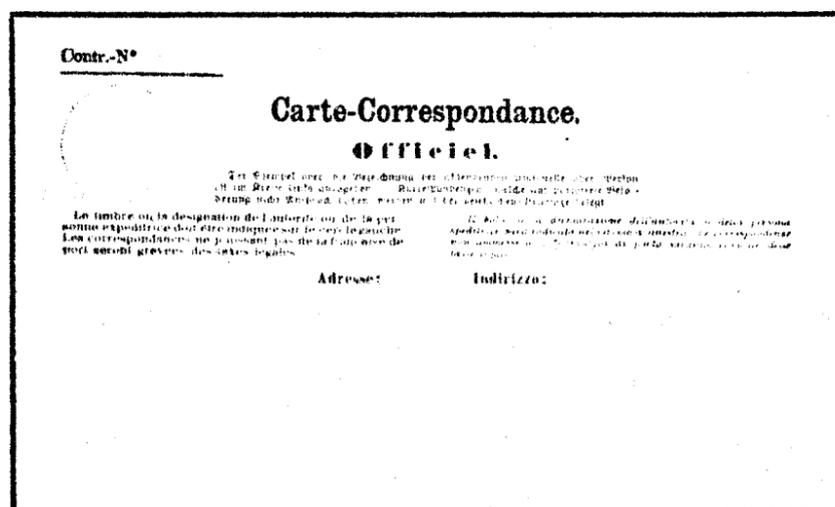
The following attempt at a complete and clear listing of the postcards

quotes, for the cards without printing date, the earliest known date of use (FD), since these dates are the only possibility of fixing the year of issue. The following list should be complete up to the end of the First War. Printed issue dates reported, but not personally seen, are marked with a (?).

Material from about 1920 is scarcer. Moreover, with the growth of the Administration the number of pre-printed cards in the official service has increased considerably. However, the known cards have been arranged in the following list to provide a basis for collectors, and we request all readers to look over their collections and let the author have details of items not catalogued, with a photocopy if possible.

1870 (Feb.) 2-line inscription "Carte-Correspondance./Officiel". Notes in Gothic (German), Roman (French) and Italic (Italian). Without formula number.

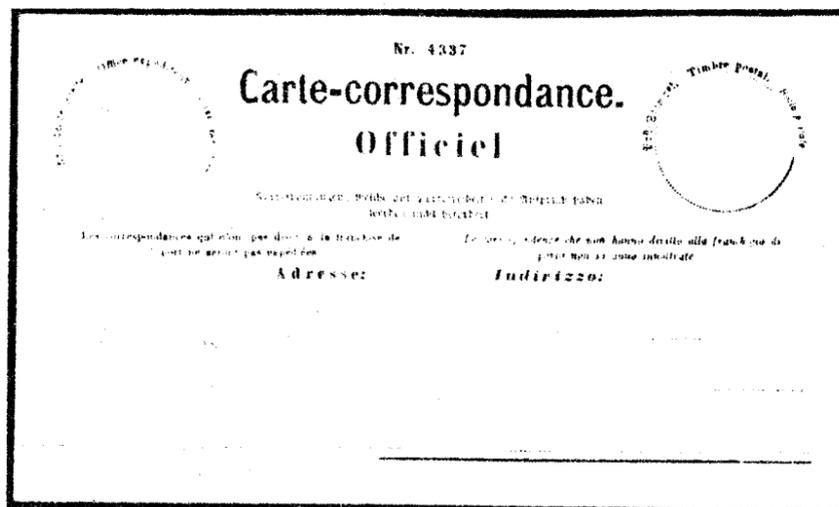
1 Brownish-yellow card 155-161 x 93-99 mm. (FD 30.1.71)



Nr. 2

1871 Similar, but with "Contr.-No." in top left corner.

2 Brownish-yellow card 158-159 x 93-99 mm. (FD 27.3.71)



Nr. 3

1871 Similar, but with formula number "Nr. 4337" at top centre.

3 "Carte-correspondance" 73-74 mm. long  
Greyish card 157-159 x 94-96 mm. (FD 21.2.71)

1873 Similar, but "Carte-correspondance" 60 mm. long.

4 Greyish card 155-158 x 93-95 mm. (FD 5.8.73)

There are various positions of the inscription round the left circle: 'ex' or 'pé' at top centre.

1874 Similar, but "Carte-correspondance" 65 mm. long.

5 Greyish card 145-148 x 92-97 mm. (FD 12.9.76)

5a Misprint in the French note: "Les correspondances qui n'on pas drois a la franchise ....." (FD 15.11.76)

(To be continued)

VISITING SWITZERLAND?

For anyone who may happen to be in or near Bern in the next few weeks, there is an exhibition of "60 YEARS OF PRO JUVENTUTE STAMPS" at the PTT Museum (Helvetiaplatz). It will last until February 4th and exhibit artistic and philatelic documents from 1912 to 1972. Posters, drawings, original sketches and printing drafts will also be included, beginning with first attempts at stamps with a Swiss German text to the rose sketches for the recently issued 1972 Jubilee stamps.

Opening times: 9-12 a.m. and 2-5 p.m. Closed on Monday mornings.

J.J.E. EUSEBIO

NEW ARRIVAL!

Heartiest congratulations to Mrs. E. I. Wiltshire, on the arrival of a little daughter, Elizabeth Jane, on 24th November.

RECENT AUTOMOBILE CANCELLATIONS

- Auto 3 Frohe Weihnachten, Joyeux Noël,  
Buon Natale - Pro Juventute  
1972 - Zurich 9/10 Dec.
- " 5 ESCALADE GENEVE, 1602 - 1972  
9/10 Dec.
- " 3 XXIIes Epreuves internationales  
de ski 13-14 janvier 73 -  
Le Brassus, Vallée de Joux 13/  
14 Jan.



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DID YOU KNOW?

..... that the Pro Juventute Roses will be for one year only? This subject was chosen to celebrate their 60th anniversary.

..... that 2 local publicity cds show a rose? Rüslikon on Lake Zürich and Weggis on Lake Lucerne. On 1st December the rush for cancellations was so high that the local post offices sent their handstamps to the neighbouring Philatelic Bureau for more careful application.

..... that the latter also has a publicity slogan, correcting my previous remark in the October HNL that only Zürich 58 Airport has both. However, Weggis does not have its own cancelling machine as the letters, cards etc. are cancelled in Lucerne with a Weggis town die. Vitznau also has this arrangement for the summer months, but has no publicity slogan only the plain curved lines.

..... that one of the upheavals caused by the rise in postal rates on 1st Jan. 1973 is that all vending machines for postcards have been blocked up. Only the newer machines will apparently be modified to issue the new 30c. cards later this year. Stamp vending machines, either one 20c. or two 10c. stamps for a 20c. piece, will remain.

..... that all Swiss stamp and postcard vending machines have a handle which is rotated when the coin is inserted in the appropriate slot. This provides the energy to move the stamp forward and cut it off.

..... that another result of the new rates is that the dozen or so 'ticket' issuing machines in various odd places around the country, have been removed. A 'ticket' is a small booklet of 10 stamps having the same size as a railway ticket. They used to contain 5c. stamps made up by hand from ordinary sheets, but following changed rates in 1967 10c. stamps have been used. 10 different advertising texts were used.

..... that Switzerland and Austria are, I think, the only countries which put new issues on sale at all post offices 3 days in advance of the official first day of validity. Stamps used too early can cause the item to be taxed at double rates, but generally there is no philatelic interest in pre-issue cancelled stamps here.

..... that Question No. 7 refers to the P.J. 10 c. for 1928 (Z.No. PJ46) which shows the town arms of Winterthur. The 2 anchors represent the lake steamers and the diesel engines for sea-going ships built by the largest engineering firm of Sulzer Brothers in Winterthur.

..... that Question No. 8 concerns the devil! Those who have travelled from Altdorf to Andermatt will perhaps remember that the devil is painted on the rock face above the Schöllenen bridge, and is barely shown on 10c. PF of 1953 (Z. PF 62). Which other stamp shows the devil clearly?

M.R.

# Switzerland Used Blocks of 4

First let me introduce myself. My name is Bob Clarke and I am a stamp collector who has collected Swiss stamps since the early 1950's. I have decided to sell the majority of my Swiss used blocks of 4 collection to concentrate on other phases of Swiss stamps. The following is a list of the items for sale and I have tried to adequately describe and grade each block. Since each item is a one-of-a-kind, I suggest the following method for ordering. Send me your want list. I will fill it as far as possible and send the stamps to you. If the stamps meet with your satisfaction remit the appropriate sum then. All items are fully guaranteed and may be returned if they do not meet your satisfaction. All prices are quoted in British £ I am a member of the American Philatelic Society (#56155) and, of course, the NPS to name only two. Send orders to: ROBERT T. CLARKE, 821 HOLYOKE PLACE, GRETNA LOUISIANA 70053, U.S.A.

Zumst. No.	Description (cdc means circular date cancel)	Zumst. Sw. Fr.	Net Price British £
798	1900 UPU 25c, slight paper wrinkles at bottom, cdc's on each stamp	150.	6.00
110	30c Helvetia, 2 part. Bern cdc's; slight vert. crease R 2 stamps, F centering	35.	1.20
114	70c Helvetia, partial Bern cdc's, 1 perf. separation @ top, well centered	60.	2.35
116	3 Fr. Helvetia, centered Bern cdc, 1 perf. separation	15.	.65
125 III	5c Tell boy, centered Basel 2 cdc, VF	50.	3.20
127	12c brown Tell, centered Zurich 2 cdc, VF	15.	.85
128	15c violet Tell, centered Bern 1 cdc, minor crease LR corner	5.	.17
129	3 Fr. green, 4 clean Geneva-Gazettes cdc's, VF	50.	3.20
130	5 Fr. blue, 4 clean Geneva-Gazettes cdc's, VF	40.	3.00
131	10 Fr. purple, 4 clean Basel-controlle cdc's, VF	25.	1.90
134	13c on 12c Tell, Luzern cdc, 2 perf. separation	20.	.60
135 Pf.3	broken 8 ovpt. LL stamp, cent. Basel 1 cdc, 2 interior perfs. separated, 135 Pf.3 cat. 350. Fr., used block 80. Fr. Rare in block. Fine plus.	430.	29.75
138 III	7½c (thick 7) Tell boy, 4 Arosa cdc's, fairly heavy cancels	100.	3.75
139	13c olive Tell, full and partial Kronbühl cdc's, Fine	15.	.60
141	80c Helvetia, centered Spinas cdc, 1 perf. separation @ top, otherwise VF	40.	1.95
142	3 Fr. red, 2 complete Lausanne 2 cdc's, VF+	70.	4.25
147	5c on 2c Tell boy, centered Zurich 2 cdc, VF	18.	1.05
149	10c on 13c Tell, partial cdc's, 2 perf. separation R, few minor wrinkles	14.	.40
150 A	20c on 15c Tell (black overprint) 2 Zurich 3 cdc's, VF	60.	3.70
191-193	1932 St. Gotthard, centered cdc's, 20c w/ 2 perf. sep @ L & part cdc @ L	10.	.40
194	3c olive 1934 landscape, centered Lugano 1 cdc, VF	8.	.40
197	15c orange 1934 landscape, centered Bern 1 cdc, VF	4.50	.20
199	25c brown 1934 landscape, centered Zurich 10 cdc, VF	50.	3.00
203 y	10c lilac 1936 landscape, centered Chaux de Fonds cdc, VF	25.	1.40
204 y	15c orange 1936 landscape, centered Zurich 1 cdc, VF	5.	.25
207 y	30c blue 1936 landscape, centered Zurich (Wiedikon) cdc, VF	8.	.40
218 v	10 Fr. green, cancel date 9-V-41, 2 partial cdc's, minor creases 2 stamps	150.	2.65
218 v	10 Fr. green, cancel date 9-V-41 (faint), centered cdc, few creases LL	150.	1.30
253	Bern 750 year anniversary, centered Zurich 2 cdc, LL stamp minor scrape	2.50	.07
260	30c 1947 train, centered Davos cdc, LL corner rounded by short perfs.	12.50	.35
281-284	1948 Constitution, centered Gais cdc's, small line scrape LL 30c stamp	19.50	.75
287	20c brown 1948 landscape, centered Engelberg cdc, VF	8.	.40
289	30c green blue 1948 landscape, centered Gais cdc, VF	22.	1.20
294-296	UPU, centered Bern 1 cdc's, minor surface scratches on left two 20c stamps	67.50	2.65
297-308	1949 regulars (20c is 301A) cent. cdc's, 2 Engelberg cdc's on 3c. F-VF set	81.	4.00
309-312	Telecommunications, centered cdc's, 40c w/ 2 small thin spots, F appearance	53	1.70
328-331	1957 Publicity, corner blocks, all Bern 1 cdc's, cancels not centered, VF	24.50	1.10
346	1959 Publicity, 50c value, centered Zurich 23 cdc, VF	12.50	.60
Air 2	50c overprinted airmail, 2 clean Zurich 3, 1-VIII-19 cdc's, Zumstein cert., VF	1100.	85.00
12 z	1 Fr. purple, centered Zurich cdc	45.	2.50
13 z	2 Fr. brown grided gum, 2 partial cdc's, 2 perf. separation at Bottom	90	3.65
21	10c on 20c red, Bern Luftpost cancels, VF	12.	.60
25	40c on 20c red, centered Bern Luftpost cdc, VF	90.	5.70
27-34	Regulars, all centered cdc's, 2 R stamps 50c are white roof var. 29 Pa 1.	250. +	14.25
35	1941 Pro Aero, Bucchs 28-V-41, almost complete cdc + ½ cdc, VF	180.	10.75
36	1943 Pro Aero, Bern 1 13-VII-43, complete and ½ cdc, VF	80.	5.00
43-44	30 & 40c color changes, centered cdc's, 40c has minute thin spot, VF appear.	100.	5.25
PJuv 22	1922 10c, Zurich 3 cdc's, VF	100.	5.85
33-36	1925, 5c has 5 perf sep @ L; 30c has 1 perf sep @ B; 5c & 10c Hedingen cdc's. 20c and 30c Hedingen cdc's centered.	103.	3.60
50	1929, 5c, centered Hedingen cdc and ½ cdc @ R; Fine	4.	.15
51	1929, 10c, centered Hedingen cdc + part cdc @ B; Fine	10.	.43
53	1929, 30c, centered Hedingen cdc + part cdc @ T; UR stamp Pf. 1 (L to T)	55. +	3.70
57-60	1931 set, all centered Hedingen cdc's, VF +	143.	9.50
73	1935, 10c, centered Zurich 1 cdc	10.	.45
74	1935, 20c, centered Zurich 1 cdc, also part of U.S. customs cancel	30.	1.00
75	1935, 30c, centered Zurich 1 cdc, 1 perf. separation @ R	70.	3.75
113-116	1945 set, 5,10,30 centered cdc's, 5c has 2 perf sep. L, 30c pressed crease R 2 stamps, UR stamp has "ghost flaw" above L leaf.	80.	2.50
117-120	1946, all centered cdc's, VF	70.	4.20
121-124	1947, all centered cdc's, 30c has 3 perf separation @ R and @ B	78.	2.80
129-132	1949, all centered Zurich 38 cdc's, VF	75.	4.60
173-177	1958, 1st. day on 5,10,20, centered cdc on 30 & 40; 30c has small part of additional cdc @ L; 40c has small pressed crease on LL stamp	89.	3.60
PPat. ly	1938, centered Bern 1 cdc.	30.	1.50
2	1939 centered Bern 1 cdc, LL stamp is Pf. 4, VF	7.50 +	.60
3-6	1940, cent. cdc's, 20c has 2 lt. brn scrapes across part of 2 L stamps, oth. VF	139.	5.75
30-33	1946, centered cdc's, minor pressed crease LR 30c stamp	108.	4.75
34-37	1947, centered cdc's, 30c is Bern 1 Transit	106.	6.00
86-90	1958, cent. Romanshorn cdc's, UR 40c stamp scraped	35.	2.25
118-122	1964, all centered Zurich 53 Witikon cdc's	26.	1.55
123-127	500c Postage Due 4 Basel (1-VII-88) cdc's, reasonably centered on ea. stamp	130.	7.00

## 1973 NEW ISSUE Programme

Issues of the following stamps are announced for 1973:

		<u>No.</u>	<u>Values</u>	<u>Total</u>
15 February	<u>Publicity Stamps - Series I</u>			
	Telecommunication station Leuk	3	15 Rp.	
	100 years Swiss Chamber of Commerce		30 "	
	50 years of Interpol		<u>40 "</u>	Fr. 0.85
	<u>Definitives</u>			
	Architecture & Applied Art	3	1.30	
			1.70	
			<u>1.80</u>	" 4.80
30 April	<u>Special stamps - EUROPA (CEPT)</u>	2	25 Rp.	
			<u>40 "</u>	" 0.65
29 May	<u>'Pro Patria'</u>			
	Archaeological finds from various epochs	4	15 + 5 Rp.	
			30 + 10 "	
			40 + 20 "	
			<u>60 + 20 "</u>	" 2.00
30 August	<u>Publicity Stamps - Series II</u>			
	Horological Museum La Chaux-de-Fonds	3	15 Rp.	
	Alpine Ski Championships		30 "	
	'Terre des hommes'		<u>40 "</u>	" 0.85
	<u>Definitives</u>			
	Landscapes - 5, 10, 15, 25, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80 Rp.	10		" 3.85
29 November	<u>'Pro Juventute'</u>			
	Wild fruits	4	15 + 5 Rp.	
			30 + 10 "	
			40 + 20 "	
			<u>60 + 20 "</u>	" 2.00
Total No. 29				<u>Fr. 15.00</u>

### MORE NEW ISSUE NEWS

In connection with the increased postal rates, the following will also be issued:

On 1st January a new type of inland postcard. It has an imprinted stamp of 30 Rp. - designed by Erich Hännzi of Hinterkappelen - size 54 x 26 mm., showing a yellow postbus on a red background.

On 8th January a new Fr.5.- stamp booklet. This contains stamps of the Monuments series: 8 x 10 Rp. (Näfels), 4 x 15 Rp. (Appenzell) and 12 x 30 Rp. (Gais). The 15 Rp. stamp will also be issued in coil form (available only through the PTT Philatelic Bureau in complete rolls of 2000 stamps or in strips of 5).

On 30th August 4 new service stamps are forecast for the OMM (Metereological Office) and 1 for the UIT (Telecommunications Union).

## Switzerland Used Blocks of 4 (Continued)

<u>Zumst. No.</u>	<u>Description</u>	ALL ITEMS IN THIS LIST ARE CENTERED FIRST DAY OF ISSUE CANCELLATIONS	<u>Tanner</u> Sw. Fr.	<u>Net Price</u> British
320-23	1955 Publicity, LR corner blocks, Fr 0; 0 in corners but 1 full 0 ea. block		55.	2.55
347/411	Europa, 1959, 60, 61, 62, 63, and 64.		69.	3.85
428-435	1965 Publicity, 150 years commem., Mountain and Europa		31.50	1.75
448-467	1967, 68, 69 Europa; 1967 Pub.II, 1968 Pub. I & II, 1969 Pub. I		57.50	3.25
Air 40	1944 Zurich to Geneva		220.	14.00
Air 42	1947 Geneva to New York		200.	12.50
PJuv81-84	1937, Bern 1 cancel, unfortunately half cancel at T, 1/2 at B, 20c minor thin UL stamp; 30c both R stamps are 84 Pf. 2. Set VF appearance		300.	10.00
193-197	1962 Pro Juventute		55.	3.20
210-231	Pro Juventute, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968 and 1969		80.	4.75
PPat56-60	1952, Schaffhausen 31-V-52, 20c minor light bluish stain upper part of UL stamp margin, rest VF		140.	7.00
123-149	Pro Patria, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969 and 1970		96.	5.60
UN 22-27	1955 regulars, minor hinge thin on both 20c and 40c, VF appearance		180.	6.25
28/39	1959 regulars, World Refugee Year, 5 Fr. UN Bldg., UNCSAT (8 blocks)		90.	5.50
R11	(not a block of 4) 5c Pro Juv. tete-beche used, Dec. 31, 1915 Avully edc, VF		600. (Zum)	44.75

ORDER FROM: ROBERT T. CLARKE, 821 HOLYOKE PLACE, GRETNA LOUISIANA 70053, U. S. A.

# FIRST ISSUES of 1973

**A. NEW DEFINITIVES:** The present series of definitives are largely those issued in 1960. Changes in postal rates provides an opportunity for new designs - ARCHITECTURE & APPLIED ART - to be issued over about 3 years. The lower values from 5 to 80c. (mainly used on letter post) will appear in the autumn. Meanwhile 3 of the higher values will be issued on 15th February.

Fr.1.30 Inn-sign "Zur Somme" from the Toggenburg district, Ct. St.Gallen. The sign, by an unknown craftsman, is a fine example of the beautiful hand-wrought ironwork still existing in Switzerland and points to the long tradition of Swiss hospitality. One colour: orange-brown.

Fr.1.70 Romanesque Capital in the church of St. Jean-Baptiste, Grandson and dates from the 12th cent. The church is one of the oldest and most remarkable examples of the Romanesque style in Ct. Vaud. The nave is separated from the aisles by two rows of 5 Roman columns taken from the ruins of the nearby Roman towns of Eburdanum and Aventicum, which accounts for the columns of unequal length, compensated for by the addition of capitals. The third capital in the southern row (by an unknown artist) is dedicated to St. Michael, who is represented fighting the dragon. One colour: grey.

Fr.1.80 Gargoyle, Bern Cathedral. Mouths of gutters, when carved in grotesque human or animal figures, are known as gargoyles. On antique temples they usually represent lions' heads, while on medieval cathedrals they are shown as animal demons and fabulous creatures. The gargoyle reproduced on the stamp is to be found at the chancel end of Berne cathedral and was made probably about 1670/80 in the workshop of the coppersmith Rudolf Sprüngli. The mouth of the pipe is adorned with a fantastic dragon's head in chased copperwork: its symbolic meaning is not known. One colour: red-brown.

Designer: Hans Hartmann, KÖniz

Engraver: Albert Yersin, St. Sulpice (VD)

Printing: Line-engraved intaglio by the PTT Stamp Printing Works, Bern

Paper: White, luminous, with violet fibres. Size: 29 x 24 mm. (26 x 21 mm.)

Cylinder: 4 sheets (1 - 4) of 50 stamps each.

One special envelope will be available for the set, also collection sheets and folders. A simple First Day cancel will read: '3000 BERN - 15.2.73 - AUSGABETAG'.

## B. PUBLICITY STAMPS - Series I

15 Rp. Satellite earth station Leuk. Under construction at Leuk-Bréntjong, to come into service at the end of 1973, and will set a milestone in the history of Swiss telecommunications. For about 10 years it has been possible to place microwave relay stations on board artificial earth satellites over the oceans and to use them for establishing radio links between the continents. Telecommunication satellites enable practically any country on earth to take up direct contact with any other country. For developing countries they constitute the only economical means of joining the international telecommunication network. The design shows a parabolic aerial, the most striking feature of a satellite earth station, and a world map showing the service area of the satellite.

30 Rp. 100 Years of Swiss Association of Commercial Employees. The Association has 73,000 members and is the largest employee organisation in the country. With its comprehensive educational facilities, which are available to members of the commercial professions at all levels, the Association performs an important national task. The design shows the contrast between a modern computer notation and a quill pen, indicating the various aspects and enormous development of commercial training and activity. A double arrow points to the dynamic efforts of office workers and salesmen in the interests of modern economy.

40 Rp. 50 Years of Interpol, the International Criminal Police Organisation, which has its headquarters in Paris and looks back on its achievements. It aims at the fullest possible co-operation among all criminal investigation authorities, within the legislation in force in different countries, involving the provision of facilities designed to contribute to the prevention and control of criminal offenses. The design shows the internationally used emblem of Interpol and a reference to the jubilee.

Designers: 15 Rp. Hans Thöni, Bern - 3 colours: grey/lt.blue/yellow

30 Rp. Eugen & Max Lenz, Zürich - 4 " red/violet/grey/blue

40 Rp. Jürg Mauerhofer, Bern - 4 " blue/lt.blue/dk.blue/grey

Printing: Roto-heliogravure by Courvoisier S.A. on white, luminous paper, violet

Size: 36 x 26 mm. (33 x 23 mm.) in 2 sheets (A-B) of 50 stamps each fibres

(Continued on Page 8)

## THE EXCHANGE PACKET

By the time you will be reading these notes we will be half-way through the 'Season', certainly as far as the Exchange Packet is concerned. Twenty-five Packets are on circuit, some of which will have completed their round very shortly. Sales are very good, over £1,000 to date. But, I need URGENTLY more material, but please let me have it before the 15th of February at the latest.

I want to thank the many members who have sent me their good wishes and send me notes of encouragement and appreciation. It is not always easy to run an Exchange Packet, particularly when there is a virtual breakdown in postal communications, but things do appear to be getting under control again.

There are certain aspects about the way the Exchange Packets are handled that worry me and which I must raise.

The Packets must be handled with care. I am most concerned at finding cigarette ash and food crumbs in booklets. Also members must not get the booklets mixed up with their own collection. Two Packets that have come back to me have 'collected' some Indonesian Airmail stamps and Swiss Post Office labels. A stamped addressed envelope from the owner(s) will enable me to return these items!

I am also most concerned at the standard of packing used by some members. It is an insurance condition that the material must be securely packed and a loss due to bad packing could render the sending member liable for such a loss. Thin second-hand oversize envelopes are not a secure way of packing.

When passing on Packets by hand, to leave Packets with a neighbour, without prior agreement of the receiving member, is extremely dangerous and unacceptable and I shall have no option but to remove the offending members from the circuit.

And please read the Rules! It is amazing how many members do not know them. I see it all the time by the way cheques and postal orders are made out - and please sign the advice notes. I cannot guess right every time who the sender is.

All the best and may 1973 be a good collecting year!

C. RAUCH

Ed. note: And one with fewer headaches for the Exchange Packet Secretary!

### SUPERB DISPLAY GIVEN AT LONDON MEETING BY W.CDR. R. F. BULSTRODE

At the December meeting in London members were privileged to see an outstanding display of unusual material, commencing with essays for Hotel Post stamps, followed by examples, almost all on cover or piece of Rigi Kulm, Rigi Kaltbad, Maderanerthal, St. Gotthard, Stoos etc. In many cases the dates of opening of the nearest post offices were noted and were usually later than the covers shown.

Then followed proofs and essays of the 'Zurich 4' and 'Zurich 6'; also the 'Basle Dove', with a copy of the issued stamp and a proof 'doctored' to represent the genuine. Geneva 1847 'Large Eagle', proof and issued stamp, as also the 'Neuchâtel' (with unframed cross) and the bogus 'Tessin', lithographed before 1860 and based on the 'Neuchâtel'.

Next came proofs, colour trials and issued stamps for the Rayon I, Rayon II - unframed cross on yellow paper and issued stamp on white paper - and proofs of the 'Strubeli' issues. For the 'Sitting Helvetia Perf.' there were proofs, including some in silver on blue and gold on red, perforation trials and various colour trials. Next came examples of essays for several proposed designs: the 'Rutli', 'Tell Chapel', 'Libertas' and 'Medallion' Essays, etc. Among items connected with the 1900 U.P.U. issue were plate proofs in black. Then examples of the 6 winners in the Post Office competition of 1901, none of which were actually used. Proofs and colour trials were shown of various issues between 1907 and 1942, and proofs of the Pioneer Flight stamps, together with flown covers. Nor were Postage Dues omitted with essays of 1878/82 etc.

The opportunity to see so much of the background work to stamp production comes all too rarely and here was a wealth of unique material full of interest and ranging from the earliest days of stamps right up to the modern PTT printing trials on the latest stamp producing machines.

A truly memorable display.

E.J.R.

STOP PRESS: Northern Group members are advised that the subject scheduled for January - 'Standing Helvetia' - will be given on March 3rd, and that for this year only there will be no Competition.

### From the editor

Once again I wish to thank the many members, at home and abroad, who were kind enough to send Christmas cards and letters - too many for individual acknowledgment, but greatly appreciated.

In reply to their good wishes and messages of encouragement, it must suffice to say that every effort will be made to maintain our progress in the coming year, with the help of our many excellent contributors. To one and all Good Health and Good Fortune in 1973.

E. J. RAWNSLEY

#### NORTHERN GROUP - Halifax

We hear that the meeting on January 6th had to be cancelled, partly on account of the dense fog and partly because many members were suffering from the prevailing 'flu'. Normal service will, it is hoped, be resumed next month.

#### FORTHCOMING MEETINGS:

NORTHERN GROUP: at Spring Hall Mansion, Halifax on February 3rd. Subject: 'LABELS' - Discussion Leader Dr. Ritchie

LONDON GROUP: at Kingsway Hall on February 14th. Subject: 'TELL BOY & TELL ISSUES' and 'TETE-BECHE & SE-TENANT' - All Members.

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### FIRST ISSUES OF 1973 (Cont. from Page 6)

There will be a special cover for each value in the Publicity Series and one for the set. Collection sheets and folders as usual. The same First Day cancellation will be used for both sets issued on 15th February.

### STANDING HELVETIA ARTICLE

Once more we regret that owing to the exceptionally large amount of New Issue information, this has had to be held over on this occasion.

### SPECIAL CANCELLATION

25th Anniversary of World Health Organisation in Geneva. A special cancel will be used from 3 Jan. - 28 Dec. 1973 at P.O. 1211 Geneva 27. The cancellation shows the WHO symbol and '25' and reads: "1211 GENEVE 27 - date - OMS - WHO - 1948-1973".

### TOURIST CANCELLATIONS (Circular)

From 6th December 1972:

3415 HASLE-RUEGSAU (K.590)  
8217 WILCHINGEN - Winzerdorf im  
Klettgau (K.591)

### RECENT SLOGAN CANCELLATIONS

XXIes Epreuves internationales de ski -  
13-14 janvier 1973 - Le Brassus,  
Vallée de Joux - Lausanne to 14 Jan.  
700 Jahre Burgdorfer Handfeste 1273 -  
1973 - 3400 Burgdorf  
Organisation mondiale de la santé 1948-  
1973 - World Health Organisation -  
1200 Genève 1  
Le Locle 27-28 janvier 1973 - to 28 Jan.

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