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HELVETIA

PHILATELIC

News  Letter

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No. 1

JANUARY 1974

28th YEAR

1974 NEW ISSUE PROGRAMME

The following new issue programme has been published by the PTT:

		No.	Rp.	Fr.
29 January	<u>Publicity Series I</u>			
	50 Years of Youth Hostels	3	15	
	100 Years of 'SATUS'		30	
	Shooting Championships		40	-.85
	'INTERNABA' Miniature Sheet	1	30	
			30	
			60	
			80	3.00
28 March	Centenary of U.P.U.	3	30	
			40	
			80	1.50
	XVII World Postal Congress	2	30	
			30	-.60
	Europa ('CEPT')	2	30	
			40	-.70
16 April	Pictorial postcard - Basel Zoo	1	30	-.60
30 May	<u>'Pro Patria'</u>			
	Archaeological finds of various epochs	4	15 + 5	
			30 + 10	
			40 + 20	
			60 + 20	2.00
	Service stamp B.I.T.	1	80	-.80
19 September	<u>Publicity Series II</u>			
	Centenary of the Constitution	3	15	
	Aid for Sport		30	
	125 Years of Federal Post		40	-.85
	<u>Definitives</u> - Architecture	4	100	
			120	
			130	
			200	5.70
29 November	<u>'Pro Juventute'</u>			
	Poisonous Plants of the Forest	4	15 + 5	
			30 + 10	
			40 + 20	
			60 + 20	2.00
	Totals: Stamps & postcard	27		17.80
	Service stamp	1		-.80
		28		Fr.18.60

JANUARY RELEASES

A. PUBLICITY - Series I

15 Rp. 50 Years of Swiss Youth Hostels. The first organized hostels were set up in Zürich, Bern & Basel in 1924 and joined in 1926 to form the Swiss Union of Youth Hostels. There are now 112

such hostels, providing accommodation for 9,000 visitors. As well as marking the jubilee, the stamp also promotes youth, tourism in general and youth hostels in particular.

30 Rp. Centenary of Swiss Workmen's Gymnastics & Sports Association 'SATUS'.

Is the oldest international association of its kind. Since its modest beginning it has grown into an organisation with 51,000 members grouped in 454 societies.

40 Rp. World Shooting Championships 1974. The Swiss Shooting Association will hold its World Championships in Thun & Bern in September 1974. As 60 nations will be taking part in the contests, considerable interest will be aroused, both in Switzerland, which has some 500,000 marksmen, but also abroad.

Designs: 15 Rp. Globe with house and fir. 5 colours: green/yellow/red/blue/black
30 Rp. Rhythmic gymnast and hurdlers: 3 colours: red/green/brown
40 Rp. Target and pistol: 5 colours: blue/greenish-yellow/reddish-blue/brown/dk grey.

Designers: 15 Rp. Celestino Piatti, Basel
30 Rp. Hermann Schelbert, Olten
40 Rp. Heinz Bürgin, Basel

Printing: Rotogravure by Courvoisier S.A.

Size: 36 x 26 mm. 2 sheets (A & B) of 50 stamps each.

Special covers will be available, one for each value and one for the set, and the First Day cancel will read simply: '3000 BERN - 29.1.74 - AUSGABETAG'. The usual collection sheets and folders will be available.

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MINIATURE SHEET for the International Postage Stamp Exhibition 'INTERNABA' to be held in Basel from 7-16 June 1974.

The Exhibition, sponsored by FIP, marks the Centenary of the Universal Postal Union founded in Bern in 1874 and whose international Bureau has been sited there ever since. Depicted are the early postal messengers of Basel (30c.), Zug (30c.), Uri (60c.) and Schwyz (80c.), taken from the series of 13 cards of the 'Official Messengers of the XIII Old Cantons' by F. Buscovita, the originals of which are in the Postal Museum in Bern.

The 4 stamps may be detached and used separately. The net proceeds from the sale of the miniature sheet will be used to meet the costs of the Exhibition and to promote philately.

Printed in 5 colours: violet-brown/yellow/red/blue/black by Helio-Courvoisier S.A., La Chaux-de-Fonds in sheets of 15 blocks, but sold only as single blocks.

A special cover will be available and the First Day cancellation will be the same as for the Publicity stamps.

WANTED

355RC - Coil stamps, 5c. Messenger - ordinary paper with control
363RC - Coil stamps, 50c. Spalen Gate - ordinary paper with control
Both mint

FOR SALE

Pro Juventute blocks of 4 unmounted mint
1964-1972 (Cat. £13.12) ... £10.00
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1964-1973 (Cat. £15.61) ... £12.50

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Are there some contributions in the pipeline ???



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The postal charges to be paid by the recipient

By G. D. Wilson

Part II

The Swiss Exchange Office marks can be summarised as follows:

BASEL - The letters LB (Lettre bâloise) followed by the charge in numerals, e.g. 'LB 4K'. This was a two-line stamp in a square frame, and is known for 4, 8, 10, 12 & 16 Kreuzer. (Figs. 1 & 2).

BERN - Until 31st December 1832 Porrentruy used the marks with the letters FD (Fischer Delle) followed by a numeral, e.g. 'FD2' (2 Kreuzer). This single line mark, unframed, is known for 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14 & 16 Kreuzer.

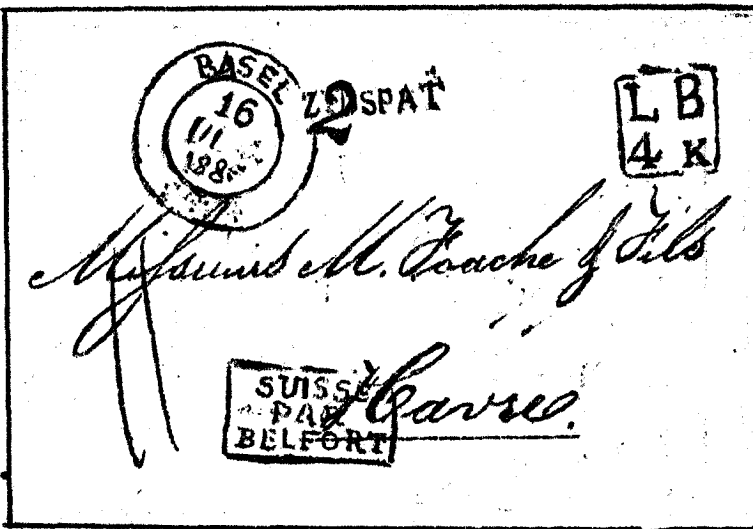


Fig. 1.

From 1st January 1933 Bern controlled its own postal administration and the Fischer contracts were not renewed. Porrentruy then used a new mark containing the letters BE, followed by the charge in numerals, e.g. 'BE 2K'.

This two-line stamp was in an octagonal frame and is known for 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14 & 16 Kreuzer.

Initially Geneva used marks with the letters FF (Fischer Ferney), followed by a numeral. (Fig. 3). These marks were of

the same design as those with FD and are known for 4, 10, 12, 14 & 16 Kreuzer. Geneva did not renew its contract with the Fischer Post after the end of 1830. From 4th Jan. 1831 until a new treaty was ratified, Geneva used the mark 'GF4' (Genève Ferney 4 Kreuzer) on mail originating within the Canton. The other 'FF' marks were used on mail originating from other places within the network. In July 1831 the new

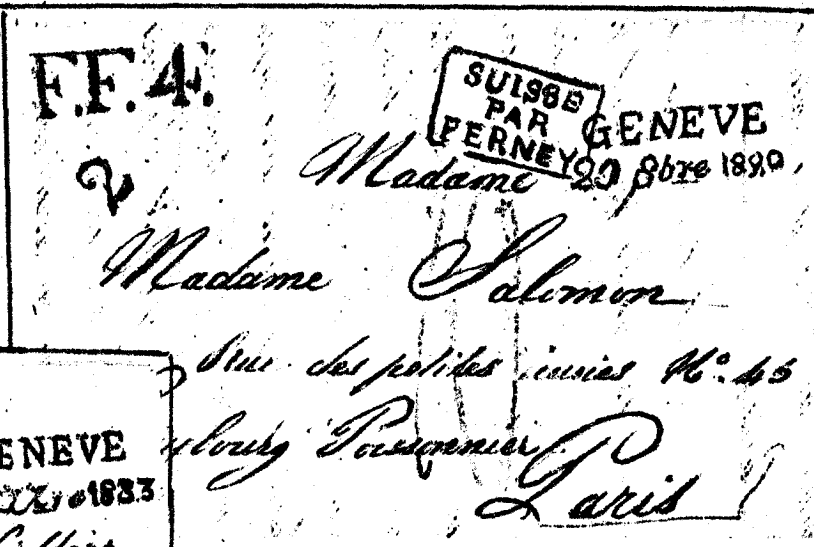
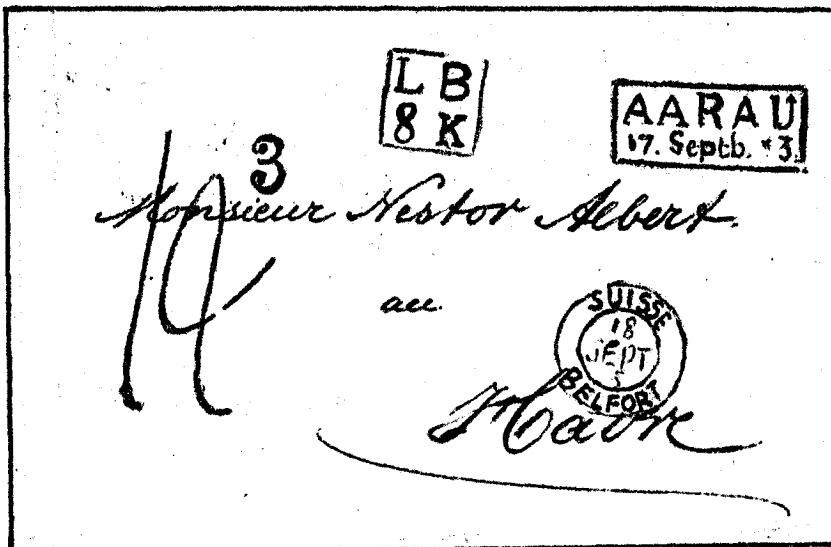


Fig. 3.

treaty with France became effective and from 5th July 1831 the mark 'GF4' was replaced by the framed 'LG' (Lettre genevoise). This is found in black until the end of 1840 and thereafter in red. One last amendment came on 27th December 1832 when the framed 'LG 10K' was introduced for use on mail originating from the Canton of Fribourg. This was connected with the cancellation of all the Fischer

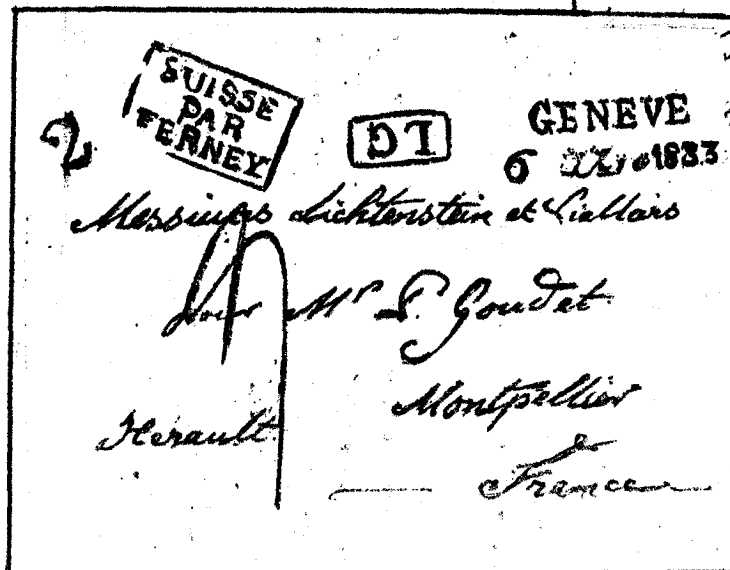


Fig. 4

contracts. (Fig.

NEUCHÂTEL - Just one commonly used mark - 'LN 5½ KF' - framed. However, from 4th June 1838 until 4th January 1845, the mark 'LN' was used on mail addressed to Pontarlier, Salins, Ornans, Morteau & Champagnole. The charge for this limited range was 2 decimes and the mark 'LN' - which incidentally, is in an octagonal frame - is fairly rare.

VAUD - Both Orbe and Coppet used the framed, single-line mark with the letters LV (Lettre vaudoise), followed by the charge e.g. 'LV. 2K.' This mark is known for 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 & 12 Kreuzer.

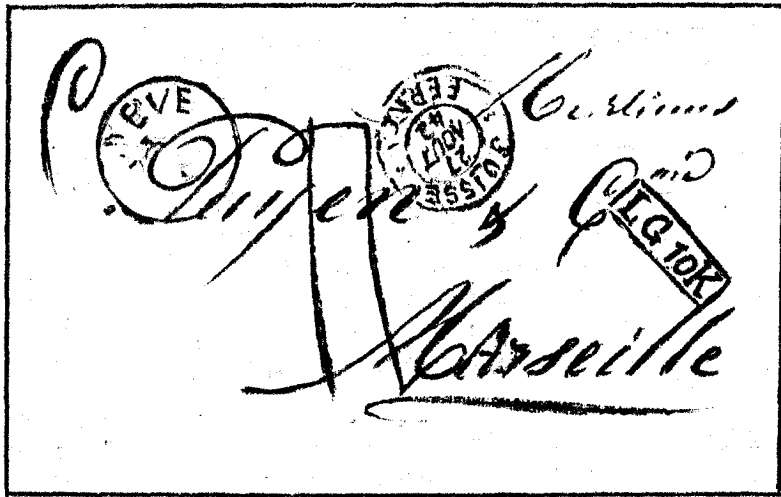


Fig. 5

ZURICH - A two-line, unframed mark with the letters LZ (Lettre zurichoise), followed by the charge. It is known for 8, 12 & 16 Kreuzer. (Fig. 6.)

The different rates were connected with the associated Cantons in the networks:

For Basel and its Canton, the charge was 4 Kreuzer. For the Cantons associated with Basel, the rates were: 8 Kreuzer for Aargau & Luzern; 10 Kreuzer for Schaffhausen; 12 Kreuzer for Uri, and 16 Kreuzer for Ticino.

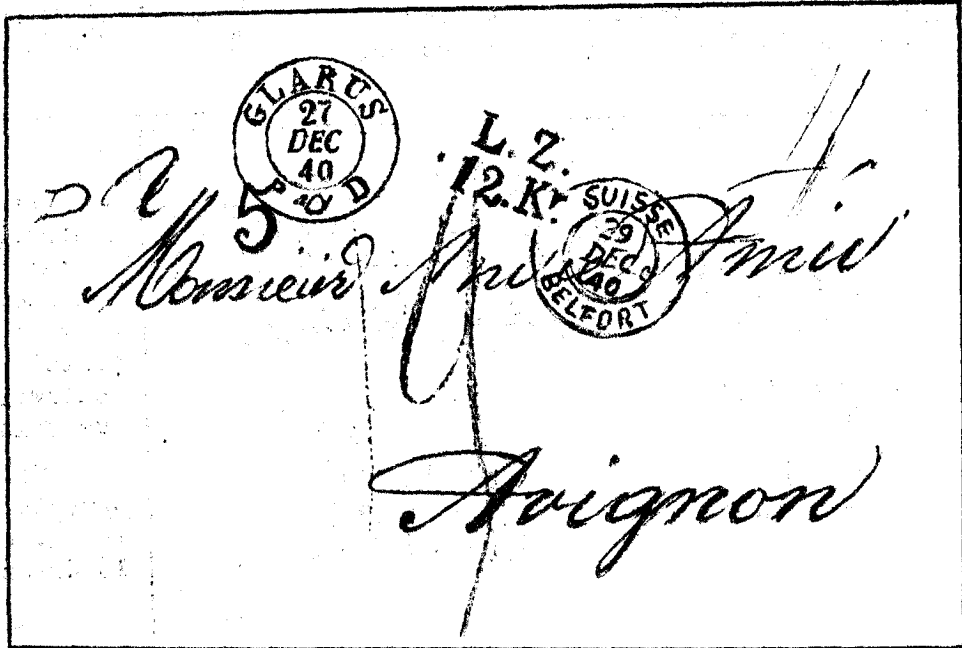


Fig. 6.

The handstamp numerals mentioned in my original article were contemporary with the Exchange Office marks and it seemed certain that there was a connection. My first real clue was found in the 'Catalogue des Estampilles et Obliterations Postales de France et des Colonies Française', published by Yvert in 1929. An extract from a French Post Office circular dated 2nd April 1829 states: "These numerals indicate the charge to be collected for 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."

I was then indebted to M. Vuille for the information that the Postal Treaties of 1828/29 contained a schedule for relating the charges in Kreuzer to comparable ones in decimes. There was not a strictly mathematical conversion rate, but a system of reducing the Swiss range of eight charges to a French range of six charges in decimes. One reason for this arrangement was most probably the rather chaotic situation of different currencies and rates of exchange.

An analysis of many covers and their markings shows that the handstamp numeral indicating the amount of refund to the Swiss Exchange Office is always 2 decimes less than the amount shown in the 'conversion' schedule. In fact, a table can be drawn up showing the relationship between the three amounts:

Swiss Ex. Office charge (Kreuzer)	French equivalent in decimes	Handstamp Numeral
2	3	1
4	4	2
6, 8	5	3
10	6	4
12	7	5
14, 16	8	6

I am still not too sure about the actual mechanism by which the refunds were

were made. Obviously there would be mail going into Switzerland from France and a system of book-keeping would be able to offset many of the refunds due, etc. There is some evidence to suggest that periodically the respective postal administrations discussed outstanding balances of refunds and agreed a settlement.

I am also uncertain about the exact reason for the refund being 2 decimes less than the charge which the French postal authorities assessed for the Swiss part of the letter's journey. One reasonable explanation is that this represented commission for the French who had to collect the total postal charge from the recipient of the letter. If this is the case, then the flat rate of commission represents a percentage varying from 66 $\frac{2}{3}$ % down to only 25%.

The Postal Treaties included a clause which stated that should a Swiss Exchange Office fail to affix its handstamp indicating the charge due, then the French would work on the lowest rate applicable. I have seen quite a number of Swiss covers where this 'penalty' clause has been put into operation.

In July 1845, new treaties were signed between France and the same 5 Cantons. On this occasion, however, Geneva signed in her own right and not as an associated Canton with Bern. These new treaties changed the system of Swiss Exchange Office

marks and according to the records, all the marks and procedures mentioned in this article should have ceased to be effective on 1st December 1845. From what I can discover this applied equally to the Handstamp numerals, but I have a cover dated 27th July 1849, posted in Zürich and addressed to Marseilles, bearing the No.1 mark of the French

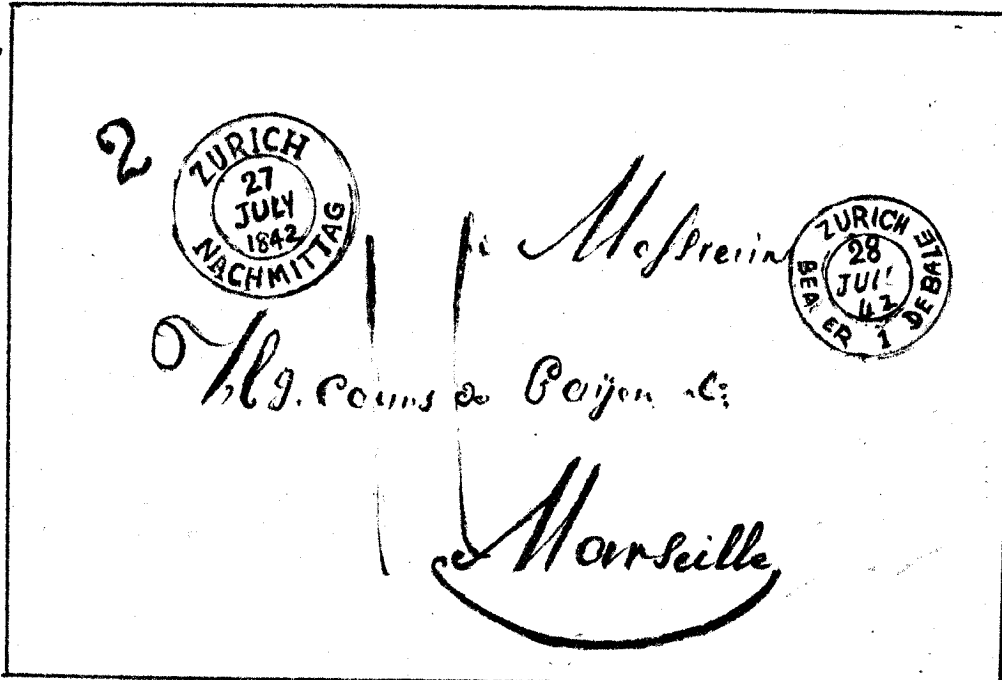


Fig. 7

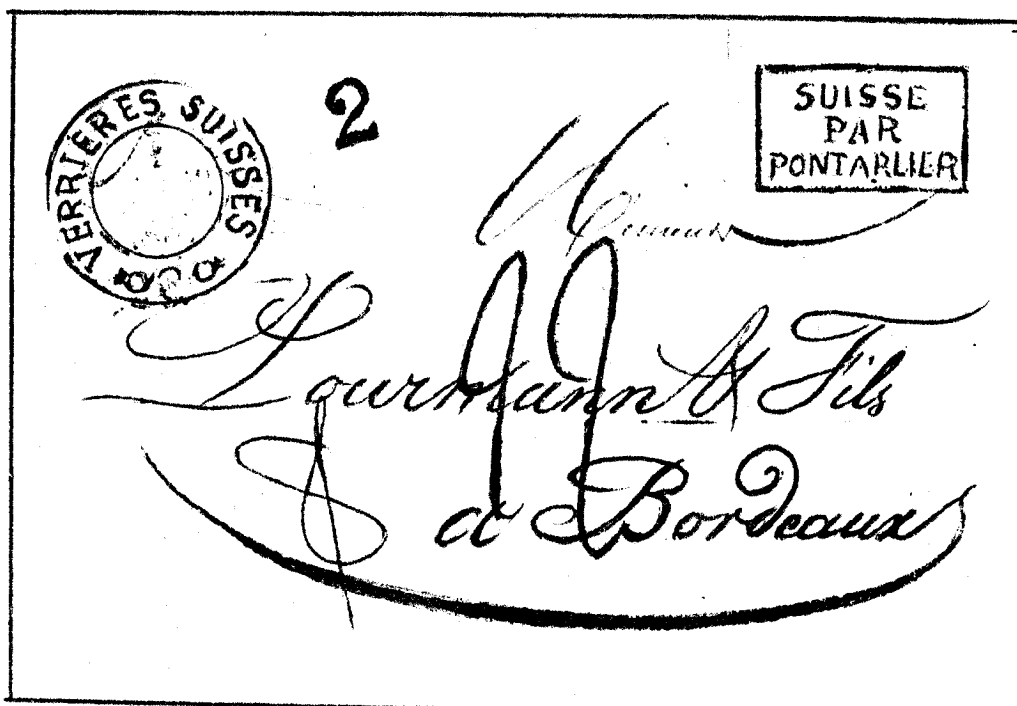


Fig. 8

Bureau in Basel - and so routed via St. Louis - and yet the handstamp numeral '2' had been affixed (Fig. 7). I shall be interested to hear of other examples of this use after 30th November 1845.

A cover from Verrières to Bordeaux (Fig. 8) is an example where no Swiss Exchange Office marking is used and, therefore, the refund is at the minimum rate of 2 decimes. This would still have been the case had the mark been included.

It has been my intention in this

article to make amends for my long silence and to summarise all the facts which I have been able to muster so far. I feel that the broad details of the Exchange Office procedures and the handstamp numerals are now established. The areas of doubt are the actual mechanism of the refund system and whether colleagues have covers which do not support the various dates given in the article.

L I E C H T E N S T E I N

The following stamps were issued on 6th December:

A. Definitives - LANDSCAPES

- 5 Rp. Silum (2 colours: red-violet/ochre)
 25 Rp. Steg Kirchlispitz (2 colours: violet/brown)
 40 Rp. Rennhof (rink) Mauren (2 colours: blue-violet/brown)
 2 Fr. Gorge of the Samina (2 colours: brown/turquoise blue)

Designer: Louis Jäger, Vaduz
Engraver: Heinrich Heusser, Oberägeri
Printing: Rotary recess printing by PTT Printing Works, Bern

Size: 36 x 26 mm. in sheets of 20
Paper: White with violet fibres

B. Special Stamps - SMALL FAUNA of Liechtenstein - 1st Series

- 30 Rp. Butterfly - Coenonympha Oedippus (5 colours: yellow/dk.blue/dk.red/silver/orange)
 40 Rp. Great Flower - Numenius Arquata (4 colours: yellow/grey-blue/brown-black/brown)
 60 Rp. Water Frog - Rana Esculenta (5 colours: yellow/orange/blue/lt.grey/green)
 80 Rp. Ringed Snake (Notrix Notrix) (4 colours: yellow/brown/grey/blue)

Designer: Louis Jäger, Vaduz
Printing: Roto-heliogravure by Courvoisier S.A.

Size: 36 x 26 mm. in sheets of 20
Paper: White, satinised, with brown/green fibres

C. CHRISTMAS 1973

- 30 Rp. Madonna by Bartolomeo di Tommaso da Foligno (from the Princely Collection.) 6 colours: yellow/red/blue/gold/black/fir green

Designer: Karl Gessner, Vienna
Engraver: Alfred Nefe, Vienna
Photography: Walter Wachter, Schaan
Printing: Recess by Austrian State Printing Works, Vienna in sheets of 20 stamps

Paper: Special white stamp paper

Special covers were issued for each value and the same First Day cancellation was used for all 3 issues. It showed a branched candelabra and read: '9490 VADUZ - AISGABTAG 6 DEZ. 1973'

LATE NEWS

We learn that the UPU Centenary Issue, due on 28th March, will feature portraits of postal pioneers: 30 c. Montgomery Blair; 40 c. Heinrich v. Stephan and 80 c. Eugène Borel
 Also that the World Postal Congress stamps will be a se-tenant pair, 30+30c. with views of Lausanne and Bern.

THE UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION

With the Centenary of this Organisation imminent, it is appropriate to consider its history.

Because the headquarters are in Bern we are apt to link it specifically with Switzerland, but it was in fact the idea of a Dane, Joseph Michaelsen, in 1859, although it was 3 years later that Montgomery Blair, the then Postmaster-General of the United States, proposed that representatives of a number of nations should meet to consider the setting up of an international system of postal communications.

Accordingly, in May 1863, officials from 15 countries met in Paris, but failed to agree on a basis for negotiation. A further attempt was made in 1868 but progress was interrupted by the Franco-Prussian War of 1870.

It was not until October 9th 1874 that a Congress, held in Bern at the invitation of the Swiss Government, finally got down to work and just 5 days later, on October 14th, the first agreements were signed. This time matters proceeded more rapidly and ratification of the agreements having been obtained from the various Governments, the institution of the "General Postal Union" became official on 14th July 1875, followed by a second Convention in 1879 at which a number of amendments were made, including a change of name to the "Universal Postal Union", the name by which it has been known ever since, and from these beginnings grew the present Organisation, of which almost all stamp-issuing countries are members.

The 25th anniversary was celebrated in 1900 by the issue, in Switzerland, of 3 stamps. The design, a female figure surrounded by telegraph wires and a cascade of letters, symbolising forms of communication, was severely criticised, even ridiculed. Three printings were made and have provided collectors with an absorbing study, since it is not a question of seeking varieties, but of finding a perfect stamp!

The 50th anniversary was held in 1924. Possibly in an attempt to avoid the mistakes of the previous issue, there were only two stamps, both depicting the Standesrathaus in Bern, where the first Postal Congress was held. The 20c. was designed by A. Tüche and the 30c. by W. Stettler. J. Sprenger engraved both stamps and the recess printing was carried out by Landestopographie of Bern and Orell Füssli of Zürich respectively.

For the 75th anniversary in 1949 there were three attractive stamps by Hans Thöni, featuring the UPU monument in Bern and symbolic designs representing world postage.

And so we come to the Centenary.

FOR A SUCCESSFUL 1974From the Secretary-cum-Editor:

I wish to thank all those Members who were kind enough to send Christmas and New Year Greetings, much appreciated and sincerely reciprocated.

With the proverbial 'little bit of luck' and continued assistance from our many contributors, I hope to keep up - and even improve - the standard of our 'Helvetia News Letter' during 1974.

E. J. Rawnsley

From the Treasurer: SUBSCRIPTIONS

Members - you are doing pretty well with subs (about a third paid), but come on, the rest of you, pay up now!

Remember, under the Insurance Rules Packets can be sent only to fully paid up members, so it is to your advantage to be prompt.

A. J. HARDING

From the Exchange Packet Secretary:

To try to equal last year's efforts I will accept any booklets sent in by MID-FEBRUARY.

Yet again I must urge members to adhere to the Rules. Some of you are omitting to send along the postal receipts - essential as evidence in the event of a claim for loss - as is the recipient's signature if packets are passed on by hand.

If away from home for 3 days or more, please let me know.

C. RAUCH

U. N. IN GENEVA

Two special stamps were issued on 11th January 1974, depicting the new International Labour Office building:

Values: 60 Rp. 4 colours: violet/
green/red/grey
30 Rp. 4 colours: brown/
green/red/grey

Designer: H. Gencsath, U.S.A.

Printing: Heliogravure by Heraclio
Fournier S.A., Spain

Size: 36 x 26 mm.

Issue: 2,100,000 of each value

Validity: For use on U.N. mail only

A special cover was used and the First Day cancel showed 3 labourers and inscription: '1211 Geneve - 11.1.74 - Premier jour - Nouveau siege du Bureau International du Travail - Administration Postale des Nations Unies'.

Similar stamps of 10 & 21c. were issued in New York on the same day.

AUTOMOBILE CANCEL

Auto 3 XXIIles Epreuves internationales de ski, 12-13 janvier 74 - Le Brassus, Vallée du Joux.

DID YOU KNOW?

..... that according to 'Philatelica' there are more of the new 5c. landscapes with a double print than without? Of the 4 sheets of 50 stamps each, only stamps Nos. 9, 19, 29, 39 & 49 of sheet 4 are 'normal'. Take a careful look at the lowest blue line of the church tower, and collect in pairs.

..... that one of the latest PTT economy measures is to stop publishing the monthly list of slogan uses. However, this list will now be sent to those interested by the Swiss Machine Cancellation Society (VSM).

..... that at least all new slogans, not only those of Gr. 3 Local Publicity, will now be shown illustrated in the weekly official Bulletin.

..... that the new Landscape stamps, especially the 30c. are rather dark, so that details of the postmark are not easily visible.

..... that even though the Swiss public buy more stamps with a charity surcharge than any other, the Pro Juventute Organisation is having talks with the PTT on new methods of raising their falling income. Perhaps we will see a repeat of the 1953 'booklet' sheet.

..... that at last the 3rd, and last instalment of the new loose-leaf edition of the classic Andres & Emmenegger 'Postmarks 1843 to 1907' has been published in 4 further volumes, at SFr.50.-, joining the 5 volumes of the two previous lots.

..... that at the Sept. Müller Basle auction a 'Zurich 4' on a large cover was not sold, but at the Corinphila auction in Zürich in October a similar stamp on cover fetched SFr.67,000.- (plus 10%). Shows how the size of the cover now affects a sale.

..... that the answer to Question 19 is the 1927 set of Pro Juventute stamps issued for the centenary of Pestalozzi's death. As a trial the 5c & 10c were printed by the same method as before, i.e. type, but the 20c was engraved in steel by K. Bickel and recess printed by the Federal Cartographic Institute in Bern, while the 30c was printed by the new photogravure technique by a firm in Leiden Holland. Paper and perforations are also varied.

..... that Question No. 20 is about Karl Bickel, the master engraver, who had a decisive influence on Swiss stamps. How many stamps (basic versions only) did he design and/or engrave?

..... that the answer to Question No. 18 is, of course, 6000 Lucerne, and not Lausanne.

M.R.

LONDON GROUP: Hon. Sec. Mrs. E.J. Rawnsley

Again the 3-day week and travel difficulties greatly reduced attendances at the meeting on January 9th, resulting in a very small Auction.

Fortunately a number of queries had been sent in and these were discussed at length, and many solved.

Mr. Bulstrode then gave a short display of Swiss forgeries, including examples by Fournier and Sperati, of early Classics, first Federal issues, Rayons and even a few 'Strubelis'. Some were very obvious, others extremely dangerous and demonstrating the need for extreme care with all these issues.

Following the recent article on 'Swiss Trial Prints', Mrs. Rawnsley showed examples of the various issues mentioned therein.

FEBRUARY MEETINGS

NORTHERN GROUP: Saturday, February 9th
OFFICIAL MAIL -

Discussion Leader: Mr. J.N. Highsted

LONDON GROUP: Wednesday, February 13th
POSTAL HISTORY -
Miss A. Grunberg

SPECIAL CANCEL - 2nd European Regional Conference of the I.L.O. Held from 14 - 23 Jan. 1974 at Geneva. Special cancel read: '1211 GENEVE - 14-23.1.74 - BIT Conference regionale Europeenne.

ZUMSTEIN

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NORTHERN GROUP: Hon. Sec. Mr. R.A. Hoyle,
6, Limes Ave, Huddersfield Rd., Halifax.

At the meeting in Leeds on Dec. 15th, Northern members were pleased to see once again Mr. Tillen from Birmingham.

The subject for study was 'Ship Posts' and Mr. Wilson began proceedings by distributing a paper on his studies into markings of Lakes Lucerne & Zürich, then, together with Messrs. Moore, Tillen and Dr. Ritchie, displayed a wonderful array of covers, the earliest being a Lucerne mark of April 1861.

Mr. Moore followed with a display of marks of Lakes Maggiore & Como, beginning with a cover of 1810 from Intra to Ivitto. Also shown were an example from Lake Brienz of 1913 and 'Lettre de Voiture' marks of Lake Geneva of 1907 & 1908.

The meeting concluded with a study of the Bodensee markings by Dr. Ritchie and modern Bodensee cachets by Mr. Tillen.

SLOGAN CANCELLATIONS - January '74

SALON GENEVE - Vehicules utilitaires
accessoires - 26.I au 3.II 1974 Geneve 1

Internationale Briefmarkenausstellung
BASEL 7.16-6.74 - Esposizione filatelica
internationale - Exposition philatelique
international - 4000 Basel 2

WELTPOSTVEREIN 1874-1974 - 100 Jahre
Internationale Zusammenarbeit -
6300 Zug 1, 8032 Zurich 32, 9000 St.G.1

UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE 1874-1974 - 100
Ans de collaboration internationale -
1200 Geneve 3, 1620 Bulle

UNIONE POSTALE UNIVERSALE 1874-1974 - 100
Anni di Co-operazione Internazionale
6830 Chiasso 2

2-10 Feb. 1974 St. Moritz - Alpine Ski-
weltmeisterschaften - 7500 St. Moritz

A NEW YEAR -

A New Look at your Collection and to
fill any vacant spaces -

A New Study or Theme to be started.

For the best results send for
material on approval or let me have
a Wants List of your requirements
for

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Tête-bêche & Sé-ténant, etc. etc.

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President : L. MOORE, M.B.E., F.R.P.S.L.

NEWS LETTER

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DISS, Norfolk, IP22 2HZ

No. 2

FEBRUARY 1974

28th YEAR

GENEVA

CENTRE OF THE INTERNATIONAL AIRMAIL SERVICES IN SWITZERLAND

By P. HOBBS

Passengers at Geneva Cointrin airport, watching the Swissair aircraft taking off and landing would not be far wrong if they guessed that each aircraft hold contained many tons of mail-bags. But we must return to 1919 for the first internal airmail service to and from Geneva, that of the Dübendorf-Kirchlindach (Bern)-Lausanne, carried out by army pilots, which from 1st September to 31st October that year was extended to Geneva. In August 1925 there was a service between Geneva and Basle.

But to follow in chronological order: in 1924 Geneva-Lyon (extended in 1926 to Paris and London); in October 1926 Basle-Geneva-Marseille (Balair); in 1928 Geneva-Marseille-Barcelona-Madrid (Balair-Lufthansa); Geneva-Zurich-Stuttgart-Halle-Leipzig-Berlin (Lufthansa); Geneva-Basle-Frankfort-Hamburg-Copenhagen-Malmo (Lufthansa).

Each year after this new services linked Geneva and Switzerland with the other countries of Europe. The creation of 'Swissair' in 1932 helped considerably with the development of this network and of the airmail service.

In particular should be mentioned the 6th June 1966, a historic date for Cointrin and Swiss airmail history. It was on this date that a Swiss airport was first linked into the internal air network of a foreign state, that of the famous French PTT night postal air service, the lines being Strasbourg-Mulhouse-Geneva-Lyon and Lyon-Geneva-Strasbourg. Geneva Cointrin airport is convenient for the French postal service to and from the departments of Haute-Savoie and Savoie, and also for the French post to and from Switzerland. The flight Geneva-Lyon-Bordeaux makes the connection with the night airmail flights for Paris and Lille, Clermont-Ferrand, Poitiers, Nantes and Rennes, Montpellier, Perpignan and Toulouse, also for Marseille, Nice and Ajaccio. Because of the excellent French airmail service, post from Switzerland for France sent from Geneva is normally delivered the next day in the towns mentioned above and the surrounding areas, thereby bringing about an appreciable acceleration in the postal services between the two countries.

In Switzerland a certain number of post-offices are responsible for the receipt and despatch of airmail. They are Geneva 1, Basle 2 and Zürich 1 for letters and Geneva 15, Basle 17 and Zürich 58 for airmail parcels. In addition Geneva 15 and Zürich 58 are responsible for handling the arrival, transit and departure of all airmail.

The office at Geneva 1 handles a large out-going quantity of airmail every day, an average of 275 to 300 sacks weighing 4000 kg., for all countries of the world. On the other hand Geneva 1 receives 60,000 to 80,000 airmail items from all over the world every day. These figures give some idea of the volume of airmail traffic passing through each day and why the office is open from 5 a.m. to 3 a.m. the next day - 22 hours out of 24. It should also not be forgotten that the major part of this mail originates in Geneva.

As already pointed out Geneva 15 is responsible for airmail parcels to

