

HELVETIA

PHILATELIC SOCIETY

NEWS LETTER

Founder: E. H. SPIRO

President: MRS. A. LEE, F.R.P.S.L.

Hon. Treasurer:
MR. L.E. STILES
135, St. John's Road,
Walthamstow,
London E17 4JH.

Hon. Secretary:
MR. G.W. HUBBARD
43, Webbeath,
Netherwood Street,
London NW6 2HD.
Tel. 01-328-5370

Hon. Secretary:
MR. D.M. SLATE
149, Ware Road,
Hartford,
Herts. SG13 7EG.
Tel. 0992 - 57784

Hon. Editor:

MRS. E.J. RAWNSLEY, 3 Cranford Gardens, Victoria Drive, Bognor Regis, W. Sussex PO21 2EL

No. 1

JANUARY 1986

40TH YEAR

SEVEN NEW STAMPS IN FEBRUARY

Seven new stamps will be issued on 11th February: a set of 5 Publicity stamps of which 3 commemorate bimillenaries. Also an additional value of SFr.1.40 in the current Zodiac series, and finally a single issue for the promotion of Sport.

Details are given as follows:



50 Years of Workers' Relief Fund



Centenary of Battle of Sempach



Bimillenary of Roman Chur



Bimillenary of Vindonissa (Windisch)

35c. 50 YEARS OF SWISS WORKERS' RELIEF ORGANISATION



Bimillenary of Zürich

This Organisation is based in Zürich where it was founded. Its main supporters are the Swiss Trades Union Federation and the Social Democratic Party of Switzerland. Initially running camps for children of the unemployed during the economic crisis of the 1930s, it soon extended its activities to other European and Overseas countries under the motto of 'Solidarity at Home and Abroad'.

In Switzerland it is traditionally active in useful projects, providing financial help for families and individuals in need, running holiday camps for children and adults, also holidays for the elderly and fighting unemployment. Abroad it concentrates on emergency and development and the principle of helping people to help themselves. The twisted ropes on the stamp symbolise partners united in solidarity.

50c. 600th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF SEMPACH. Nearly a century after the founding of the Swiss Confederation in 1291, the Austrians and Hapsburgs proclaimed sovereignty over part of Eastern and Central Switzerland, which the Swiss were not prepared to tolerate. In Luzern they exerted the right to appoint their own mayor, took the Entelbuch district and the then Austrian town of Sempach under their protection. Duke Leopold III of Austria could not stand idly by and planned a punitive expedition against Central Switzerland, culminating in the Battle of Sempach on 9 July 1386. After a fierce struggle the Swiss troops from the four Cantons of Uri, Schwyz, Unterwalden and Luzern put the enemy to flight. One Arnold Winkelried is said to have turned the battle in the Confederates' favour by grasping as many Austrian

spears as he could and turning them on himself, thus breaking the enemy's square of pikes.

Duke Leopold having been killed the Austrian aristocracy were for some time unable to co-ordinate its efforts. The young Confederation made the most of this, adding several districts to Lucerne so that 1386 becomes the birth year of the Canton of Luzern. The stamp design is based on a Swiss map of 1698 featuring the area of Lake Sempach and the battlefield.

80c. BIMILLENARY OF ROMAN CHUR (Coice). Excavations have shown that the area around Chur was inhabited since about 3000 B.C. Documented history, however, began only about 2000 years ago when the Roman Legions crossed the Alps and founded the 'Curia Rhaetorum', while in the middle of the 5th century a bishop took up residence in Chur, who also exercised temporal power to a large extent. Between 1504 and 1632, during the Reformation, a strict separation took place between Church and State. Even earlier in the 14th century the German language had begun to penetrate the region. Chur was not only the capital of the Roman 'Rhaetia prima' but also in the Middle Ages and again in the first half of the 19th century, a city trade centre at the intersection of the vital Graubünden Pass roads.

Although the opening of the Gotthard Railway in the late 1900s temporarily diverted the north-south traffic to some extent, Chur and Canton Graubünden have since been experiencing new prosperity, thanks to tourism. To-day Chur is the capital of Switzerland's only trilingual canton. The stamp design shows a bronze statuette of Mercury, the Roman god of commerce, which was found near there and can now be seen in the city's Rhaetian Museum.

90c. BIMILLENARY OF VINDONISSA. The commune of Windisch - Celto-Roman Vindonissa - near Brugg, is rich in history. The first inhabitants of the area were the Helvetii. Soon the Romans built a military base and made it a garrison town, as it lay at the intersection of the East-West and North-South rivers and near the Rhine. Temples and an amphitheatre were built in the town which had several thousand inhabitants. In about 400 a bishop took up residence in Windisch, Christianity having become by then the Roman state religion. More than 900 years later the Hapsburgs founded the Abbey of Königsfelden near Windisch. Its valuable stained glass dates from the 14th century and ranks among Europe's best. It is Canton Aargau's most valuable cultural heritage. To-day Windisch has about 7000 inhabitants and boasts a modern Institute of Technology, as well as a popular Conference Centre. The stamp shows a Gallic head with the seal of the 14th Legion which decorated an antefix tile and is now exhibited in the Vindonissa Museum in Brugg.

110c. BIMILLENARY OF ZÜRICH. Zürich traces its origin to the erection of a Roman customs post 'Statio Turicensis' at the lower end of the lake shortly before Christ. After the withdrawal of the Roman troops in the 5th century the Alemanni began to occupy the area and the name Turicum became Zürich. In 1336 the first burgomaster, Rudolf Brun, gave the city its Guild Constitution which remained in force until 1798. In 1351 Zürich joined the League of Confederates and in the 14th and 15th centuries acquired surrounding country districts corresponding to the size of the present d. Canton.

In the 18th century Zürich achieved great cultural importance in the German-speaking world (Bodmer, Breitinger, Gessner, Lavater, Pestalozzi). After the fall of the 'ancien regime' in 1798 Zürich remained the capital of a canton which was developing political institutions. From 1800 industry, trade and commerce flourished, Zürich's economic life expanded and it became Switzerland's economic centre. In 1965 it reached its peak population of about 400,000, about half that of the entire canton, but has since been slowly declining. The stamp depicts a Roman coin bearing the head of Augustus, Rome's emperor at the time Zürich was founded.

Values & Designers:

35c.	50 Years of Swiss Workers' Relief Organisation. Raymond Naef, Zürich.
50c.	600th Anniversary of Battle of Sempach - Herbert Auchli, Herrenschwanden
80c.	Bimillenary of Roman Chur - Eugen & Max Lenz, Zürich
90c.	Bimillenary of Vindonissa - Harriet Höppner, Zürich
110c.	Bimillenary of Zürich - Fred Bauer, Küssnacht

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

Size: 36 x 26 mm. Paper: White with luminous substance

Form cylinder: 2 sheets of 50 stamps.

NEW ISSUE NEWS (Cont.)

II. NEW VALUE IN DEFINITIVE SERIES - A further addition to the current series of Zodiac stamps, value SFr.1.40, featuring Gemini, the Twins, will be issued on the same day, 11th February.

This is needed to meet changes in international postage rates. As the signs of the Zodiac are limited, this is the second time Gemini has appeared in the series. Like the now little used SFr.1.60 value publicising the Appenzell region, the new stamp, with its view of Bischofszell, also features Eastern Switzerland. It shows the old Thur bridge, the castle and the Catholic parish church.



Value & Designer: SFr.1.40 - Gemini and View of Bischofszell (TG) -
Eugen & Max Lenz, Zürich

Engraver: Pierre Schopfer, La Chaux-de-Fonds (Cossonay)
Printing: Rotary line engraving by the PTT Stamp Printing Works, Bern
Size: 24 x 29 mm. Paper: White with luminous substance, without coloured fibres

III. 'PRO SPORT' - Various organisations in the world of sport have long pressed for special stamps with a premium in aid of sport. On the basis of a proposal put forward by Members of Parliament in 1980 the Swiss Government decided on 20th February 1985 to amend the regulations for the issue of special stamps by the PTT, thus enabling sports stamps to be released at irregular intervals. Of the extra charge 90 per cent will go to the Swiss National Sports Federation, and the remaining 10 per cent will be used for special, cultural and social work in connection with the sports movement. The stamp, also to be issued on 11th February centres on man: vitality and movement as the basis of sporting activities represent all summer and winter sports.



Pro Sport 50 + 20c.

Value & Designer: 50 + 20 c. - Kurt Wirth, Bern
Printing: Rotogravure by Courvoisier S.A., La Chaux-de-Fonds
Size: 36 x 26 mm. Paper: White with luminous substance.

First Day covers will be available: one for each value of the Publicity stamps and one for the series, and a cover for each of the other two. A simple First Day cancellation will be used for the first two; the 'Pro Sport' cancel will show an athlete. Folders and collection sheets will be available as usual.

THE CHRIS RAUCH LITERATURE AWARD

Your vote is urgently needed to enable this Award to be announced before the end of the season. Your choice will be the member who, in your opinion, has donated some of his or her knowledge to you via the "News Letter" in 1985, or in any other publication. Previous winners have been:-

1982 Michael Rutherford for his "Did You Know?" contributions.
1983 Mrs. E. J. Rawnsley for her work both as Secretary and Editor
1984 Not awarded

Please spare a moment to make your selection as soon as possible to me. The vote will be secret, but if a group of members wish to send in their choice(s) under one cover, it will save postage and time. Thank you.

G. W. HUBBARD

REPORT ON THE LONDON MEETING HELD ON 8 JANUARY 1986

With the subject of the evening's meeting entitled "Cancellations", it was anticipated that a large quantity of material would be on show - and were not disappointed. To start the proceedings was Mrs. A. Lee, followed by Mrs. Rawnsley, Mrs. Scholey and Messrs. Pickard, Balmforth, V. Mitchell, R. Johnson, Bulstrode and finally Hubbard. Almost every kind of cancellation was represented, starting with razor blades and continuing with Poste Restante, Maximum cards, Nachnahme covers, the Automobile Post, Railway cancels, Ticino cancels, Modern strikes not used quite as they should have been, and lastly an A - Z fun collection. These were probably the highlights of each exhibitor's show, which like most group sessions proved highly entertaining.

Mr. L.E. Stiles gave a vote of thanks to all concerned on the volume, type and wealth of material displayed.

G.W.H.

1870 Franco-Prussian War: Stamps for the Swiss Red Cross



III



IV



VI



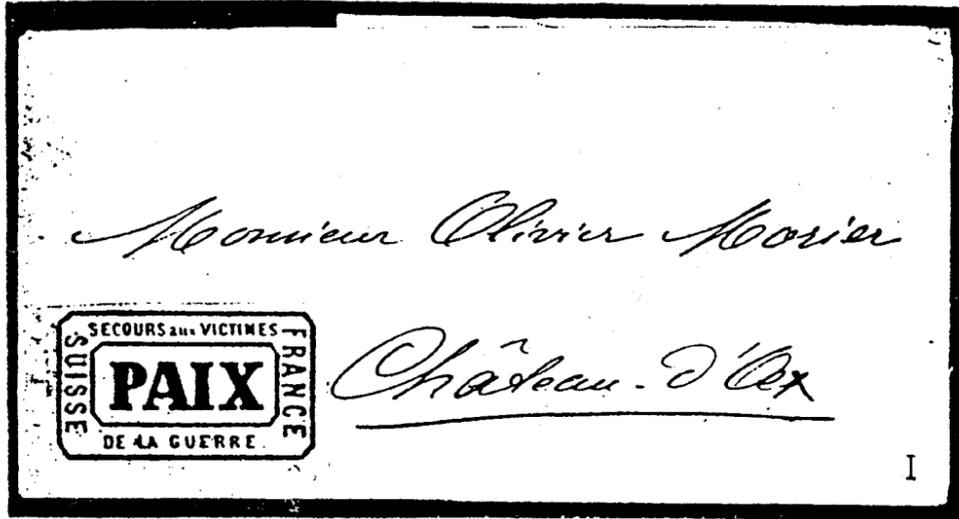
VII



VII



IX



- No. I On cover (wrapper) outstanding quality. £ 2,400.00
- No. III Faulty, but one of the rarest Red Cross items. (Cat. £ 1,500) £ 500.00
- No. IV Fine (Cat. £1,500) £ 1,000.00
- No. VI On piece used as seal. Torn when opened. (Used Cat. £ 1,000) £ 75.00
- No. VII Very slight thinning. (Cat. £ 450) £ 175.00
- No. VII Superb. £ 450.00
- No. IX Superb. £ 150.00

(Inland clients kindly add 15% VAT)

Illustrations not original size.

H. L. KATCHER
The Amateur Collector Ltd
The Swiss Specialists

PO Box 242, London N2 0YZ, England



THE AMATEUR COLLECTOR LTD

ALL ITEMS WITH SWISS CERTIFICATES.

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

Telephone: 01-348 0296

REGISTRATION

By Mrs. C. M. Scholey

The use of registration differs in several respects in Switzerland from its use in England.

To look at the topic in general it is noted that Emmenegger shows a number of variations of the words 'Chargé' and 'Recommandiert' and also the boxed cancellations with spaces for the weight and the numbers of the items.

According to Dr. Ganz, "Swiss Philatelist" 1969, Nos. 54 & 55, registration labels were introduced in about 1893. He lists the labels in chronological order and the listing has been continued by Mr. Rutherford, H.N.L. 1974, November. The "Schweizerischen Luftpost Katalog" lists the labels used on Airmail.

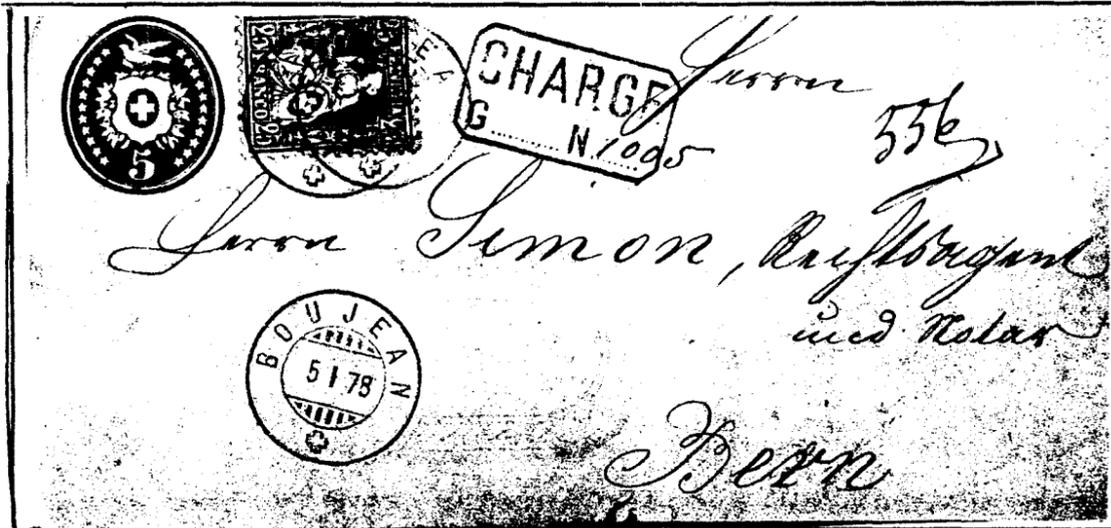


Fig. 1

A cover from Boujean to Bern in 1878 shows the boxed cancel with the weight not entered. This was probably normal when the fee was the minimum.

A letter from Lausanne to Carlsbad, Austria (Fig. 2) has a handstamped

'R' with a manuscript 'Recommandiert 262' and franked by Standing Helvetia stamps 67C, 70C and 71C.

Using Dr. Ganz's numbers, Type 2 was used on the outward half of a Reply postcard in 1907 (Fig. 3) and on a newspaper wrapper in 1909 (Fig. 4). A registered postcard is unusual in England and a

R

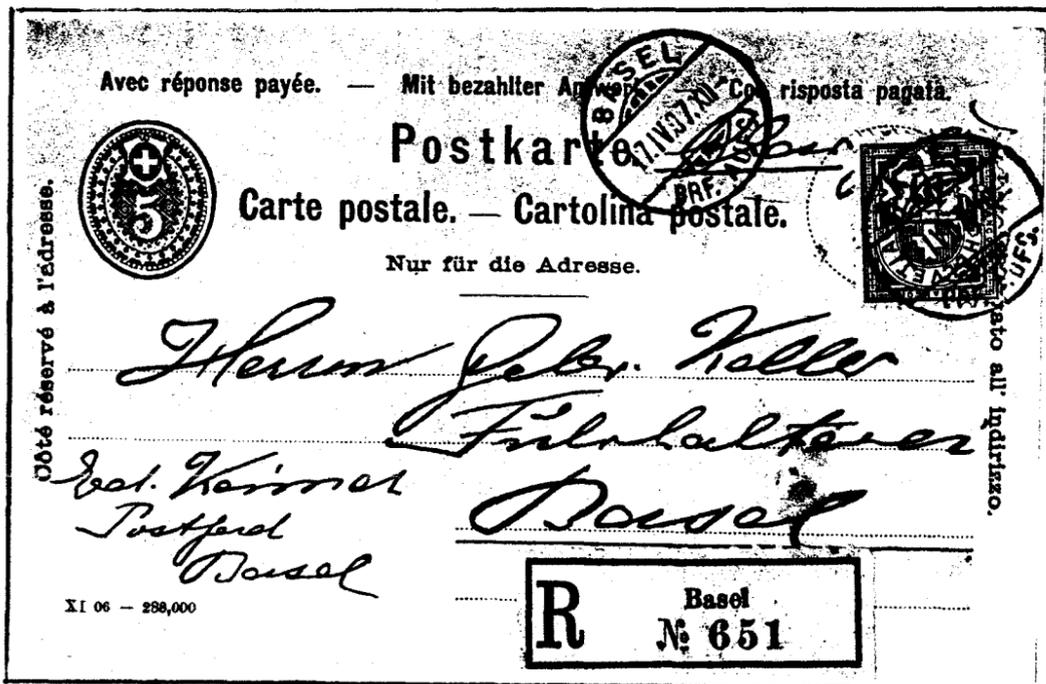


Fig. 3

Fig. 2 wrapper would not qualify as 'sealed'. Type 5 was used in 1958 on a PJ PJ first day cover and the cover was also given the special First Day cancel.

This combination of services appears to be impossible in this country.

The "Schweizer Luftpost Katalog" in listing the use of the provisional labels, Ganz Type 2, where the name of the town or airfield is rubber stamped, lists violet-black and red-black. Presumably the ink used for the rubber stamp was violet or red.

(To be concluded next month)

ARE WE PAYING TOO MUCH ?

... G. W. HUBBARD

The following comments have been received by me, as author. Three members have written to express their interest and amazement at the inconsistency of prices which, until the article appeared, they had not realised.

Two dealers have expressed opinions. One stated that his prices were based only on what he had to pay for the items - he was in business to make money and not to pass judgement on the whys and wherefores.

Finally Mr, H., L. Katcher assisted by explaining that many prices were set by the Association of Catalogue Compilers. However, when 8 ll K was last increased in price it was over-adjusted and is likely to remain static for a short while. It was also stated that some stamps were increased because of the shortage of available copies - normally an increase in price brought some of these items out of the woodwork.

In conclusion, the author would like to say that this did not appear to be the case with 8 ll K; however, he now has a copy supplied by a member in the USA. He would like to think that it may be the only copy in Western Europe, but only further research will prove this.

DUBLIN AS A HELVETIA RENDEZVOUS ?

By J. F. Barrett

The Irish Stamp Exhibition "STAMPA" was held in November over 3 days at the Royal Dublin Society's premises in Ballsbridge, Dublin and it occurred to me to suggest the possibility of holding a "mini Helvetia P.S.' meeting at next year's event. If enough people are willing to come over, I could arrange reasonable accommodation. Also I would like to put together a frame especially devoted to postal items on Switzerland - Ireland and vice-versa. I already have a number of items but would ask the membership to see if they have anything which might be of interest. I would really like to know just how much material is 'out there'. Of great interest would be early postal history etc.

If any members would be interested in this project perhaps they would write to me direct: J. F. Barrett, 'Sheaun', WESTPORT, Co. Mayo, Eire.

MR. P. HOBBS SUGGESTS "TRY YOUR SKILL"

When I lived in Ct. Vaud my wife and I spent many weekends driving along the old coach roads looking for interesting vineyards and Roman remains.

Welsch Switzerland, as known to German speakers, provided many pleasant surprises with the discovery that some places in Vaud had official PTT names in German as well as French.

This gave me the idea for a small competition. The following eight places are all in Vaud. First find the more usual name of the town or village, then find the 4-figure post-code, add up the 8 numbers and send the result on a postcard to the Editor. The first correct answer will receive a small prize. Here goes ...

AHLEN	-----
IFERTEN	-----
MILDEN	-----
MORSEE	-----
NEUS	-----
PETERLINGEN	-----
VIVIS	-----
WIFLISBERG	-----

The names and numbers will be given in a following issue. Send in by the end of February.

RECENT 'K' CANCELS

Note. Nos K.1011-1014 to follow.

1215 FANAS - Sie Bündner 9/2	K1015
Sonnenterrasse	
3136 SEFTINGEN - 11/2	K1016
Gürbetal	
6028 HERLISBERG - "	K1017
6204 SEMPACH STADT	K398a
1000 CHUR 1 - vielfältig "	K1018
6912 PAZZALLO - "	K1019

JUBILEE CANCELS

8355 AADORF - 1100 Jahre
8442 HETTLINGEN - 1100 Jahre

In both cases the cancels will be used from 3 January to 31 December 1986. No 'K' Nos.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGSNORTHERN GROUP

Sat. Feb. 1 - ANNUAL COMPETITION
" Mar. 1 - GRAUBUNDEN -
Mr. R. A. Hoyle

LONDON GROUP

Wed. Feb. 12 - FORGERIES -
All Members
" Mar. 12 - PRESIDENT'S EVENING

REMINDER!! 1986 SUBSCRIPTIONS

If you have not yet sent yours in, will you please do so as soon as possible to help us as it saves a great deal of time checking and rechecking.

Subscriptions are £4.00 in G.B. and Europe; Overseas by 2nd Class Airmail £5.00. Please return the chit sent.

L.E.S.

THANK YOU ALL

Mr. L.E. Stiles, Mr. G.W. Hubbard and Mr. R.F. Bulstrode send their best wishes to all Members and particularly to those who sent Christmas cards which were much appreciated.

Mrs. E.J. Rawnsley wishes to acknowledge the many cards and letters received, more than ever this time. Some, alas, arrived a little late as this area had only one delivery per day ... an economy measure to recoup some of that 1p reduction in postage? ... but all greatly valued.

A HAPPY, HEALTHY AND PROSPEROUS
1986 TO ALL.

DID YOU KNOW? - Cont. from Col. 2

as shown on the modified sketch from the SBZ of Dec. 1985, depending how the sheet was cut from the roll of water-marked paper. As some issues come entirely in one or other orientation (as far as can be determined so far) and others in both, Zumstein intend to record this variation in their catalogues. Single stamps cannot show enough crosses, but the direction of curling, when wet, can be an indication (my suggestion). Any comments?

.... that the New York Museum of Modern Art are showing paintings from the Prince of Liechtenstein's collection for the first time. Three are shown on the stamps issued on 2 Sept. and also contained in a new type of publication, a folder, A5 sized, showing on each page a representation of the 3 paintings, together with a mint stamp in a Hawid mount. Very nice.

.... that the answer to Question No.139 is that mistletoe is shown on the 60c PJ of 1974 (Z.251). This parasite is quite extensive in Graubünden, to be seen on many trees at about 1000 m., but had only recently become a Christmas symbol here.

.... that Question No. 140 is on the WIII and the note and excellent sketch on p. 21 (1984 Ed.) of the Amateur Collector Catalogue. Why is No. 150 excepted?

N. RUTHERFOORD

DID YOU KNOW ?

.... that I hope I will be able to answer all queries in 1986 a bit faster than in the previous years. I don't mind a reminder, especially if the best stamp is 70 mm from the righthand side of the cover! Thanks to all who have written to me.

.... that the PTT has started a big campaign to win subscribers to the Standing Order Service for Special (S) and local Publicity (K) cancellations. Attractive leaflets are available in four languages. Strangely their existing service for MPO cancels is not mentioned. Collection sheets & sheetlets have got a bit mixed up too.

.... that over 4000 copies of the SVP Han book have been sold since it first came out in 1977. Members and Bulletin-only subscribers have received 2 double-page updates, a total of 56.

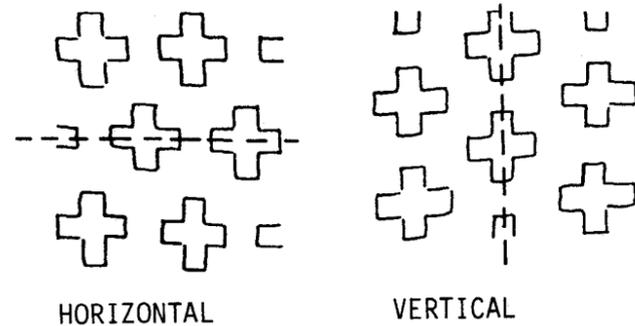
.... that the last cancel in 1985 was K1010 on 11.12.85. That makes, for the 49 years since the first one in 1942, an average of nearly 24 per year, but as 102 pages have now been filled, this gives a total of 1424 different cancels, an average of 31 per year. The difference is mainly due to the introduction of the postcodes, and to changes of it, as well as new designs.

.... that singing telegrams are becoming more and more popular, no less than 388,000 since their inception in Feb. 198 Under pressure the PTT are now using a new type of minute battery with virtually no mercury in it, to help clean the incinerator smoke. "Happy Birthday" in English is sung, though another melody alone is available.

.... that Swiss sculptor Alberto Giacometti has been honoured by a French large sized Art stamp showing 2 dogs in his typical style. The FD cancel is shown here.



.... that Dr. H. Kaumann has discovered a new facet of the printing of the stamps having the multiple crosses WIII watermark. They can be either with crosses horizontal or vertical, (as shown; Col. 1)



Modified sketch from BBZ of Dec. 1985

It is with deep regret that we have to announce the death of three Members.

MR. DAVID PASCHOUD

which occurred on 4th January. A friend and much valued London Member for many years, having joined the Society in 1959, he will be greatly missed.

MR. A. G. WENGER

of London, a Member since 1975.

MR. E.H.W. WENT

of Watford, a Member since 1974.

DAY OF THE SPORT STAMP

It is announced that in addition to the FD cancel on Feb. 11 for the new stamp, February 15 will be marked as the "Day of the Sport Stamp" by holding various events and with Bern as the centre of a Folk Festival. A mobile PO in the Bundesplatz will use a special cancel inscribed "Tag der Sportmarke" 15.2.1986.

1985 AND A NEW YEAR.

Will it also be the start of a New Project?

What section of your Swiss collection will you be studying?

There are so many to choose from: Strubels, Sitting Helvetia Perf., Standing Helvetia, Tell and Tell Boy are always popular.

Other sections of interest cover Postal History, Air Mails, Bundesfeier Cards, Soldier Stamps, TPOs ... the choice is endless.

Let me know how I can help you with material on approval or against Wants Lists.

J.S.ARMSTRONG

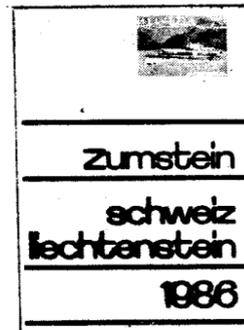
485, Marine Road, MORECAMBE,
Lancs LA4 6AP.



Zumstein+cie

Inh. Hertsch & Co.

Zeughausgasse 24, PO Box 2585
CH-3001 Berne/Switzerland



Present

the new 1986 ZUMSTEIN CATALOGUES

Prices:

Europe North	- SFr. 25.-
Europe Middle	- SFr. 25.-
Europe South	- SFr. 25.-
Europe East	- SFr. 50.-

Postage fees for Europe:

SFr. 6.-
SFr. 6.-
SFr. 6.-
SFr. 8.60

Switzerland Liechtenstein 1986
as usual in colour

NEW: with Conversion Table Catalogue Numbers

Zumstein - Michel - Yvert

SFr. 10.-

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

Zumstein

Do you know our monthly newspaper the "BERNER BRIEFMARKEN-ZEITUNG" ? If not, let us know your address, and we will send you, free of charge, a specimen copy with no obligation whatsoever.

HELVETIA
PHILATELIC SOCIETY
NEWS LETTER
E. H. SPRO

President: MRS. A. LEE, F.R.P.S.L.

Hon. Treasurer:
MR. L.E. STILES
135, St. John's Road,
Walthamstow,
London E17 4JH.

Hon. Secretary:
MR. G.W. HUBBARD
43, Webbeath,
Netherwood Street,
London NW6 2HD.
Tel. 01-328-5370

Prs. Secretary:
MR. D.M. SLATE
149, Ware Road,
Hartford,
Herts. SG13 7EG.
Tel. 0992 - 57784

Hon. Editor:

MRS. E.J. BAWNSLEY, 3 Cranford Gardens, Victoria Drive, Bognor Regis, W.Sussex PO21 2EL

No. 2

FEBRUARY 1986

40th YEAR

Forgeries of the Federal Issue of Switzerland, 1850-1854

By ANTON M. KOFRANEK

Reprinted, with permission, from "The American Philatelist", July 1982

There is considerable written material on the Swiss cantonal issues and their forgeries, but there is very little written on the Federal Administration issues that followed. Perhaps the philatelic value of the Federal issues was too low at the time when many of the cantonal forgeries were being researched, and the need for such a Federal issue article was not warranted.

Whatever the reason, I thought that a start should be made to study and describe these Federal issue forgeries. Throughout my thirty years of serious collecting I have accumulated bogus stamps, some through ignorance but lately by design, to study and compare them to the originals. I know that the many forged versions of the Federal issues to which I have access are not complete, but the intention of this article is to alert philatelists to some of those that do exist. I also hope to encourage people to lead me to other Swiss forgeries so that a second article can be written to correct and update the present article. It would also be helpful to me to hear about other literature pertinent to the Federal issues that have been overlooked in the citation.



Figure 1. An original of Scott No. 8 (Zumstein No. 16 II) of the Type 28, showing the "oily"-appearing cross framing.

Postage stamp forgeries occur for two reasons. To circumvent postage payments, or to deceive philatelists, especially where high valued stamps are concerned. Another reason mentioned - but hardly logical - is that the reproduction of postage stamps is an art form and forgeries were printed to illustrate how many of the classic stamps of the nineteenth century appeared. In the early 1900(s), Fournier of Switzerland forged classic stamps of great value of all countries, which he called "facsimilies". He sold these to philatelists at low prices to help complete their collections (Ragatz 1970). When not clearly marked as "facsimilies" or overprinted with "faux" (false), these stamps created a philatelic problem in separating these accurately reproduced forgeries from the official government issued postage stamps.

The history of the Federal issues is important to the study of the forgeries of them. These were lithographed and were relatively easy to forge, and some forgeries were excellent. To avoid the

and some forgeries were excellent. To avoid the possible danger of forgery, the Federal Council wanted to change from these lithographed stamps to ones that were typographed, embossed, and had a silk thread. The change was to be made as early as January 1852, but took place only on October 1, 1854.

1. The History of the Federal Issues Ordered by the Confederate Postal Administration.

The Confederation claimed authority for the postal control over the territory from January 1, 1849. That administration only delineated postal districts and established laws concerning rates, but did not yet manufacture any postage stamps for these purposes. Some of the cantons supplied those stamps during the transition period.

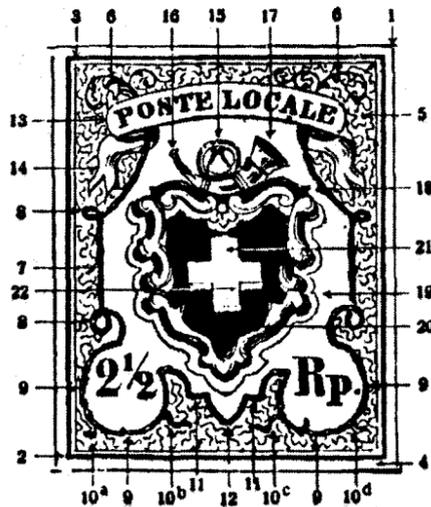


Figure 2. The nomenclature of the essential parts of the Federal issues used in describing these stamps. Some changes were made in translation from German. (Courtesy Zumstein & Cie, Bern, Switzerland.)

1. Cutting line between stamps
2. Outer stamp frame
3. Inner stamp frame
4. Margin
5. Background lines
6. Arabesque
7. Cord
8. Cord loop
9. Cord circle
10. Cord offshoots (tendrils)
 - a. left, outer
 - b. left, inner
 - c. right, inner
 - d. right, outer
11. Cord ledge
12. Cord arch
13. Inscription band
14. Flag
15. Posthorn ring
16. Posthorn mouthpiece
17. Posthorn bell
18. Shield escutcheon
19. Escutcheon outer border
20. Red shield
21. Cross
22. Cross framing

The Federal Council did make postage stamps available on April 5, 1850, to centres of large population, to be used as prepayment on letters. These stamps were the 2½ Rappen "Poste Locale" and "Orts-Post", which were produced by Karl Durheim of Bern. They were lithographed on white wove paper and were rectangular about 22½ by 18 mm in size. The inscription band, the arabesques, the escutcheon, background posthorn, and lettering were black, the field within the escutcheon except for the white cross in the center, was a vivid red. The words "Poste Locale" or "Orts-Post", which measure slightly less than 1 mm., never touch the inscription band. The values of 2½ Rp" appeared within the two open circles below. A spiral cord or rope, not entirely black, encloses the white portion of the stamp.

The first issues of these two values had the white cross bordered by a thin black frame. Occasionally these frames around the cross shifted as much as 0.5 mm and were troublesome to the printer. In June 1850 both kinds of the 2½ Rp appeared without the frames on the cross. They were removed from the original stone, but often not completely so partial frames do exist, (Munk 1950).

Forty types were drawn originally on a stone, arranged eight horizontally by five vertically. The forty types were transferred from the stone and repeated four times to make a sheet of 100 stamps. Accurate colored reproductions of these forty types of the "Poste Locale" and "Orts-Post" appear in the Zumstein 1924 Special Catalogue. These reproductions are the main source for comparison with the forgeries of these later Federal issues I am evaluating presently.

The Handbook of the Postage Stamps of Switzerland by Ernst Zumstein (1910), and The Postage Stamps of Switzerland by Mirabaud and Reuterskfold (1899), both make mention of the printer having had troubles with the top row and the right vertical column of the 'Orts-Post' issue. Some of the stamps in these positions were defective and the printer replaced those

on the original plate with types that were sound.. This substitution caused some later sheets to contain duplicate types in the top row or right column. Later this 'Orts-Post' stone would be used as the basic form and background of Rayon III (small 15's).

The second and third columns of the 'Orts-Post' stone were used and these two columns of five were essentially perfect and free of defects. The second and third columns of the 'Orts-Post' and the two columns of the small 15 numeral Rayon III that make up the sheet resemble each other in ground line and arabesque details but, of course, differ in the lettering in the inscription band and the values inside the two large circles at the bottom. Obviously this is difficult

FORGERIES OF THE FEDERAL ISSUE OF SWITZERLAND, 1850-1854 (Continued)

to visualise without being able to see and study the complete plates of these two issues (Hertsch, 1924).

The 'Poste Locale' and 'Orts-Post' were issued to serve in the French and German-speaking areas of Switzerland respectively; however, both issues were used in either section. These two stamps, having a low value, were issued for local use but also were used for greater distances when adequate multiples were placed on envelopes. The higher values which followed were designed for different rayons (mailing zones), depending on distance from the posting source. The value of the stamp required also on the letter weight.

A circular of the Federal Council on April 5, 1850, announced that prepaid letters would be carried at the following tariffs (Mirabaud & Reuterskold, 1899):

Up to 2 loths (1 ounce) inclusive	...	2½ Rappen
From 2 to 4 loths (1-2 ounces)	...	5 Rappen
From 4 to 8 loths (2-4 ounces)	...	10 Rappen

The circular also stated: "Stamps of 5 and 10 Rappen will shortly be issued; these may also be used for the local post in such cases." On October 1, 1850, the dark blue Rayon I and the yellow Rayon II issues were placed on sale.

The Rayon I stamp was black and red on a dark blue background applied to white paper. There were several shades, the gray-blue background being the most common. This stamp was first thought to have been printed with a black frame around the cross and later erased from the stone, however, there is some controversy over this point. The stamp lacking the frame around the cross is more common than the one having the frame.

The Rayon II stamp was also a tricolor, i.e. black and red on a yellow background, printed on white paper. The framing on the cross on this stamp is indeed rare, but sometimes one can see what appears to be a transparent oily film around the cross; this transparency is supposed to be the remnants of the frame after its removal from the stone (Fig. 1).

Both of these Rayon issues were printed in groups of forty (eight by five), with two or four of the groups on a full sheet. There are 40 basic types, which are identifiable by the ground lines that lie outside the cross (Fig. 2). There are other differences amongst the forty types, such as in the shape of letters, numbers, and arabesques, but identification of any of the forty types is much more definite by studying the diverse patterns of the background lines. Color reproductions of the forty types of Rayon I and II also appear in Zumstein's "1924 Catalogue".

These two issues on a dark blue or yellow background were expensive to print. On September 9, 1850, the Postal Control issued an order to try color changes on the existing plates. The Rayon I was changed to light blue on white paper with a red shield. This change was successful, but when the Rayon II was changed to just yellow on white (with a red shield) it was not clearly visible in certain light. The latter trial was discontinued, but the plans to print the light blue (sometimes dark blue) Rayon I on white wove paper were implemented. The exact date of issue for that Rayon I is not known, but the first known cancellation date was April 15, 1851 (Mirabaud & Reuterskold, 1899). Remnants of the frame, two to four sides around the cross, appear occasionally on these stamps of the light blue Rayon I (Fig. 3). Partial framing, however, is very rarely found on the Rayon II crosses.

(To be continued)

....



Figure 3. An original of Scott No. 10 (Zumstein No. 17 II) showing a partial framing on the lower right part of the cross. The black rosette of Zurich indicates an early use of this stamp.

Editor's Comment: To avoid correspondence will members please note that, unfortunately, the Society does not possess a copy of the Zumstein Handbook of 1924, referred to in the above article, in its Library. It is extremely difficult - not to say expensive - to find nowadays.
