

PHILATELIC NEWS



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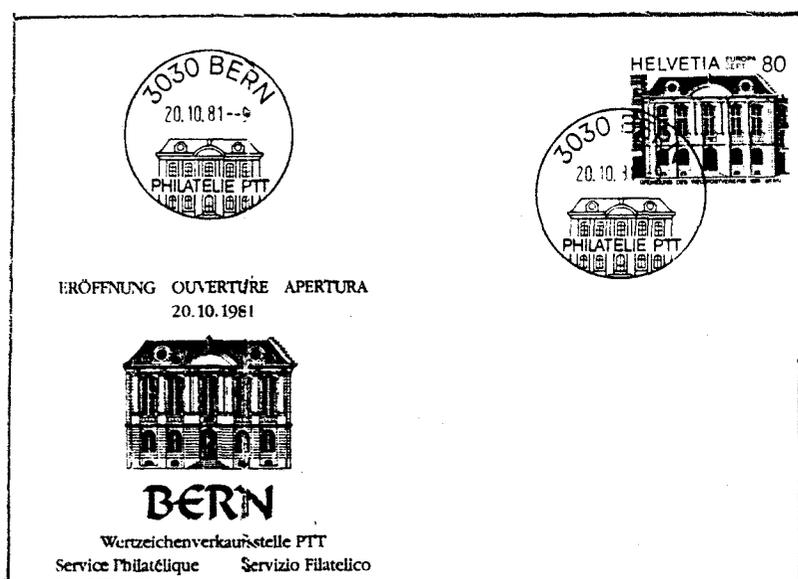
Hon. Editor: Peter Hobbs, Six Tynning End, BATH BA2 6AN Tel:0225-31 09 71

No 1

J A N U A R Y 1 9 8 8

42nd year

THE OFFICIAL PHILATELIC OFFICE OF THE SWISS PTT - Adriano Gervasi



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

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

The Philatelic Office introduced it's subscription service in 1948 by taking over the list of a private dealer. This had increased greatly by 1959, but the staff were unable to cope and deliveries fell

behind. The Head of the Philatelic Office appealed for help. The computer age was at hand and the Philatelic Office is always keen to introduce the best of whatever technology can offer.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

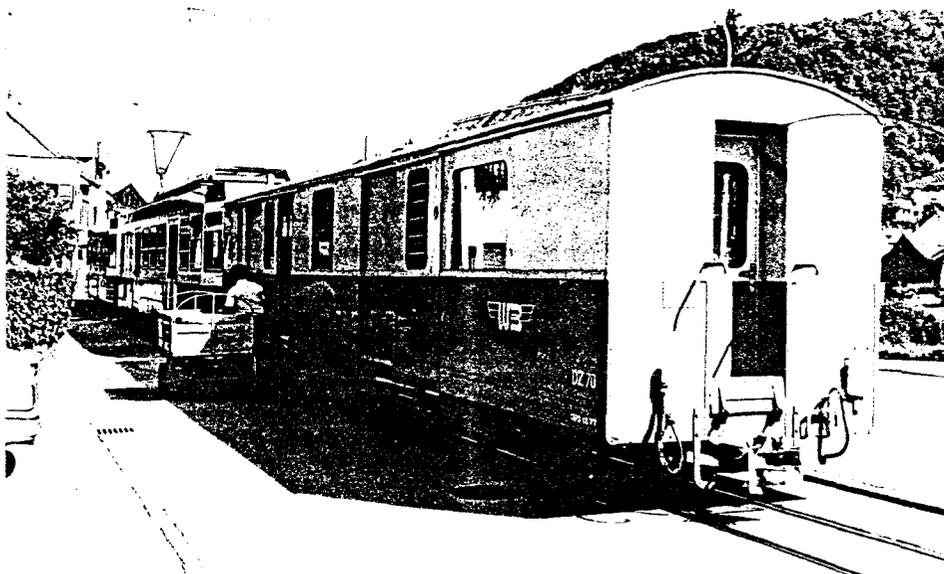
THE SMALLEST TPO IN THE WORLD!

by M A Bulpitt

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

Many metre gauge Swiss private railways have TPOs, but this line has the narrowest

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



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

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

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

A RECENT VISIT TO THE PTT MUSEUM IN BERN

by F Pickard

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SWITZERLAND YEAR SETS

	(1)		(2)	
	Mint/NH	Fine Used	Mint/NH	Fine Used
1970	£ 4.50	£ 3.50	£ 6.00	£ 6.00
1971	£ 5.50	£ 5.00	£ 3.00	£ 3.00
1972	£ 6.00	£ 5.00	£ 4.50	£ 4.50
1973	£11.00	£ 7.50	£ 3.25	£ 3.25
1974	£12.50	£ 5.50	£ 3.25	£ 3.25
1975	£ 9.00	£ 6.75	£ 4.00	£ 4.00
1976	£10.00	£ 8.50	£ 7.00	£ 7.00
1977	£10.50	£ 8.50	£ 3.00	£ 3.00
1978	£14.50	£10.50	£ 3.00	£ 3.00
1979	£ 9.50	£ 7.00	£ 3.50	£ 3.50
1980	£11.00	£ 8.50	£ 3.00	£ 3.00
1981	£13.00	£11.00	£ 2.50	£ 2.50
1982	£14.00	£11.00	£ 3.60	£ 3.60
1983	£15.00	£11.00	£ 3.60	£ 3.60
1984	£13.50	£ 8.50	£ 3.60	£ 3.60
1985	£11.00	£ 7.50	£ 4.50	£ 4.50
1986	£13.50	£11.00	£ 4.25	£ 4.25
1987	£14.00	£14.00	£ 5.75	£ 5.75

- (1) All issues except Booklet Panes and United Nations Geneva.
 (2) United Nations Geneva only.

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SPRING STAMPEX**1988****1-6 MARCH**

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NEW 25c COIL STAMPS

M Rutherford



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

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

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

YOUR COMMENTS!

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

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

Thanks to all those who sent comments. Your contributions, suggestions or even grumbles are always welcome, and although they might not get printed immediately, they are not forgotten.

Report of the London meeting 9th December 1987

Postal Stationery, recommended as 'the investment for 1988' in The Times, provided the subject for this meeting. Our Chairman, Mr F Pickard, led the display with private postal stationery, particularly noted were the Roth Bros. reply-paid cards impressed with 5c outward and 15c return. Then through many official items to the Feldpost section of the catalogue.

Mrs C Scholey followed with wrappers, exhibition cards and aerograms. Mr L E Stiles, Mrs M O Bidmead and Mr D Houtris added further unusual items to conclude an entertaining and instructive evening. GWH

Report of the Northern Group meeting 5th December 1987

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

YOUR VOTES PLEASE for the Chris Rauch Literature Award 1987

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

SPRING STAMPEX '88

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



K 1151



K 1154



K 1155

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

DID YOU KNOW?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

M Rutherford

N E X T M E E T I N G S

London

10th Feb Thematics, all members.

2nd Mar Stampex, meet Stand 45.

9th Mar Airmails, all members.

Leeds

6th Feb Annual Competition.

5th Mar Railways of the Jungfrau region, Mr R A Hoyle.

26th Mar A G M.

Sussex Group

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

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

MRS E J RAWNSLEY

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

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

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

NEXT MONTH - Review of the new Zumstein-Pen catalogue 1988

A - Z OF SWISS PHILATELY

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

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

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

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

E J R

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

J. S. ARMSTRONG

POSTAGE STAMP DEALER

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

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

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

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ZUMSTEIN-PEN KATALOG 1988

of the Swiss Special & Mobile PO Cancels

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

NEW * price by each illustrated cancel for easy reference

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

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No 2

F E B R U A R Y 1 9 8 8

42nd year

16 2/3 AND 33 1/3 GOLD CENTIMES TO PAY

by Stuart R MacKenzie

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

Fig. 1

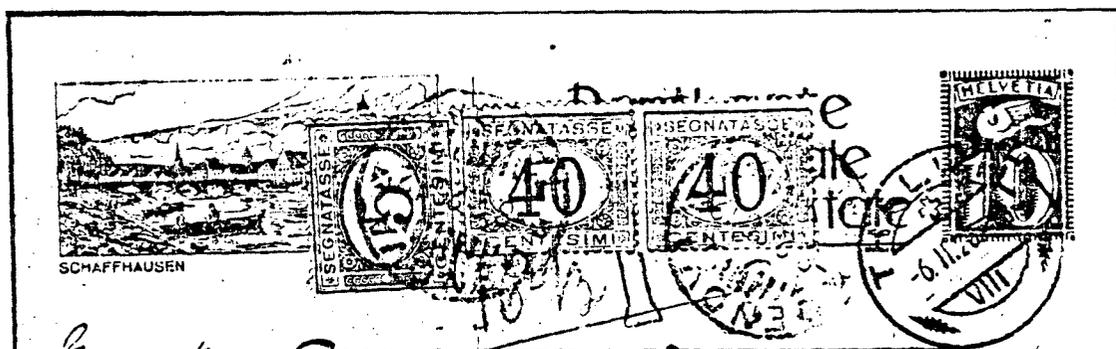


Fig. 2

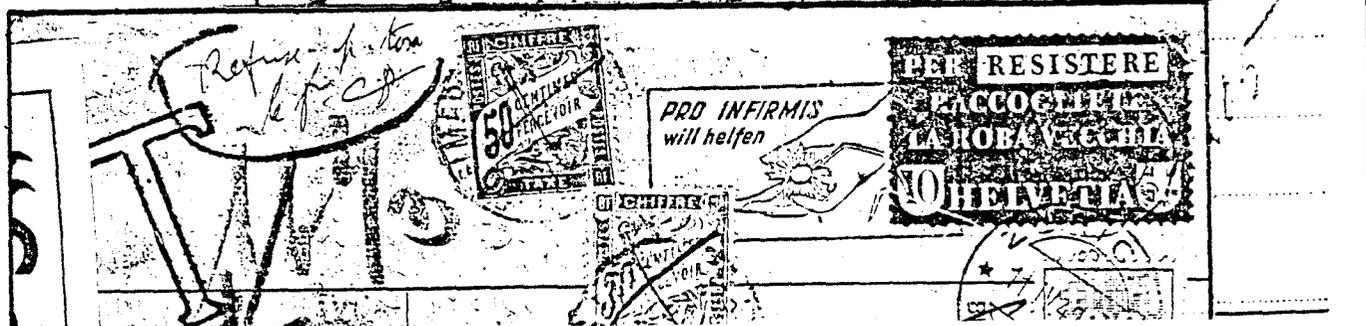


Figure 1 shows part of a 10c PS card from Thalwil, 61125, with large T and 16 2/3 just visible under the Italian stamps.

Figure 2 is a cover posted in Zürich, 21V42, re-directed to France and a large T 16 2/3 added, refused in France and returned to sender.

Figures 3 & 4 show my earliest manuscript mark and the only handstamp I have found to date. It is identical to the 16 2/3 one shown by David Dixey and it seems likely these were issued to offices handling large amounts of international mail; Fig. 3 is Chambéry, 21VIII25, with large T and 33 1/3 by hand while Fig. 4 from Zürich, 3IV29, has handstamp 33 1/3.

Fig. 3

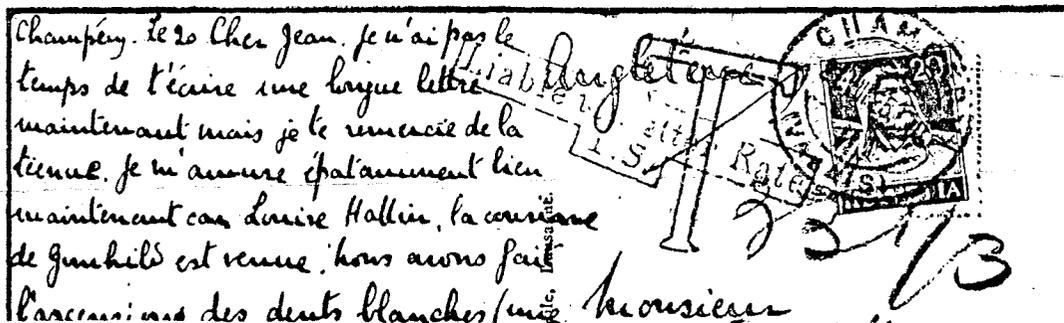
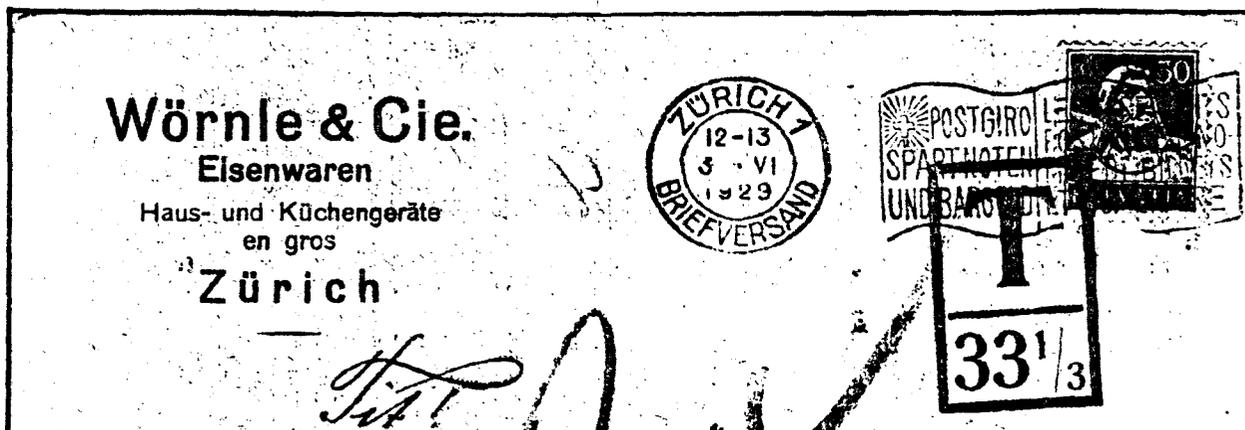


Fig. 4



The Geneva boxed 'T' illustrated by David Dixey can be further extended in use to 19III39 as shown in Figure 5, part of a PS card to Vienna. A new mark is that in Figure 6, a single circle type 'T 16 2/3' in violet on a cover from Lausanne to Italy in 1939.

Fig. 5

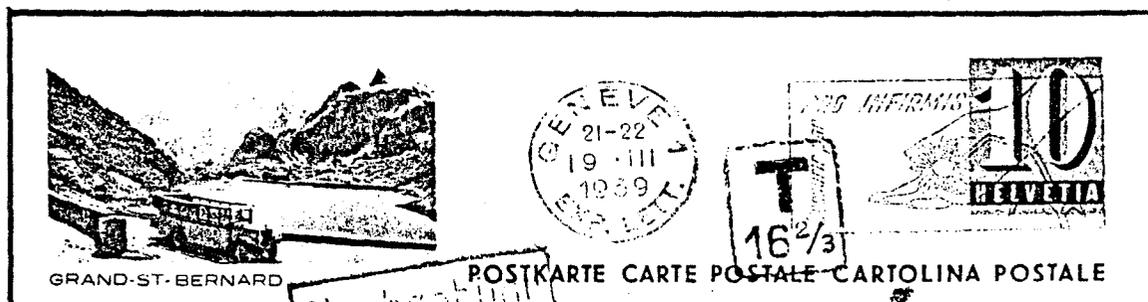
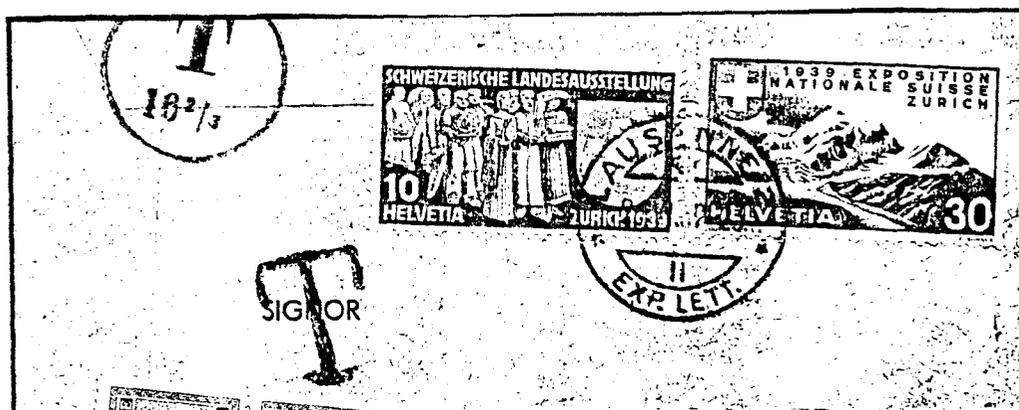


Fig. 6



I look forward to reading about other examples that members may have in their collections.

Particulars



Sale
while stocks last

Post offices and philatelic offices:
from 8 3 1988 to 28 2 1989

Advance sale
from 3 3 1988

Validity unlimited
from 8 3 1988

Size 36 x 26 mm

Printing
Rotogravure:
Courvoisier SA,
La Chaux-de-Fonds

Paper
white, fluorescent;
mat gummed

Form cylinder
2 sheets of 50 stamps

Sheet margin
Designation of issue,
statements of value



**Special stamps
1/1988**

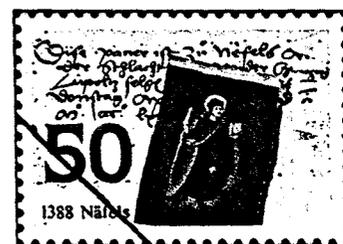
25 c. Centenary of Swiss Women's Benevolent Society The Swiss Women's Benevolent Society, Switzerland's oldest national women's organization, was founded at Aarau in 1888. It has its headquarters in the serving president's place of residence - currently Lyss. The constitution describes its purpose broadly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



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



50 c. 600th Anniversary of the Battle of Naefels In connection with the Sempach War, the men of Glarus destroyed the Austrian fortress of Ober-Windegg at the entrance to Canton Glarus. They also occupied the villages of Niederurnen and Filzbach and with the Swiss Confederates captured the town of Weesen. They took advantage of the brief peace that followed to draw up the first laws of their own on 11 March 1387. The Habsburgs' power-political intervention in the Walensee and Glarus areas was not quite a matter of chance, therefore. As early as the end of February 1388 the Austrians regained possession of Weesen through treachery and a large number of the Confederate occupiers were massacred. A mighty Austrian army now gathered there and on 9 April 1388 it set off to conquer the Linth valley. Below Naefels the enemy quickly broke through the defensive wall which was held by a weak Glarus force. While the Austrians immediately began to plunder, the main body of the Glarus force retired to the foot of the Rauti. Strengthened by allies from Uri and Schwyz, they then rushed the enemy and put them to flight after fierce fighting. In the subsequent peace treaties the Habsburgs had to give up their territorial rights in the Glarus region. Every year the people of Glarus commemorate their victory and their dead at the 'Naefels Procession', which takes place on the first Thursday in April unless this falls in Holy Week. - For this design the Zurich graphic artist Hanspeter Paoli chose the St Fridolin banner and part of a manuscript by Aegidius Tschudy (1505-1572) recording that this banner was carried into the battle at Naefels.



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



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

90 c. 50 Years of Lucerne's International Music Festival Long before the Music Festival was established, leading composers and musicians had drawn attention to Lucerne's suitability as a festival centre. It was thanks to the efforts in 1937/38 of the then Mayor of Lucerne, Dr Jakob Zimmerli, and Ernest Ansermet, founder and head of the 'Orchestre de la Suisse romande', that the International Music Festival came into being. At the opening on 18 July 1938, Ansermet conducted the first of a series of concerts. However, the inauguration highlight was provided by Arturo Toscanini with the famous festival concert in the park of the Villa Tribtschen on 25 August 1938. This concert was intended as a tribute to Richard Wagner, who had lived there from 1866 to 1872. In the years that followed, close relations were established thanks to the efforts of City Councillor Walter Strebli between Lucerne and the great figures of the music world, giving the Festival an inner consistency and leading to new successes regularly. Today the International Music Festival is not only a permanent part of Lucerne's cultural life but also an outstanding event in Europe's summer festival season.



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

50th Anniversary of Pro Aero Foundation It was on 19 May 1938 that the Aero Club of Switzerland, with the support of the Federal Aviation Authority, set up the Pro Aero Foundation, based in Zurich. On the same day a nationwide collection was started, donors being promised that their money would be spent properly and usefully. Two government ministers, Minger and Pilet-Golaz, who were responsible for military and civil aviation respectively, made a public appeal and the PTT organized special Pro Aero airmail flights. The appeal for funds came at the right time, for the storm clouds gathering over Europe roused public awareness. - The aim of the Pro Aero Foundation is the promotion of national aviation by creating understanding and enthusiasm among the population, especially the younger generation, at the same time taking account of current environmental problems. Among other things, funds are made available for training pilots of powered aircraft, gliders and balloons as well as for parachutists and the building and flying of models. - The Junkers Ju-52 aircraft shown on the stamp was commissioned by the Swiss Air Force in 1939 and withdrawn from service in 1981. Completely refitted, it can now be chartered for private flights. The stamp design by Hans Hartmann of Köniz shows 'Auntie Ju', as the



Pro Aero 1988

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