

PHILATELIC SOCIETY
NEWS LETTER



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No 1

JANUARY 1989

43rd year

FISCAL FINDS

reported by F Pickard

The January 1988 issue of the newsletter reported the discovery of a miniature sheet comprising the issued designs of fiscal stamps from various municipalities. Mr Robert Hurlimann, of the Fiscal Study Group of the Schweizerischen Ganzsachen Sammler Vereins, had been unable to identify the printer. Our member Mr G Kelly had found similar sheets and these will be dealt with in a later article. Researches at the archives of one municipality turned up the brochure shown below.

HERTIG & CO

GRAPH. ANSTALT
ARTS GRAPHIQUES
BIEL-BIENNE

Pali Blau Cash Travel.

Spezial-Firma für
Gebühren-Tax-& Kontrollmarken
Maison spéciale pour
la fabrication de Timbres

From the Personal Collection of
GENE KELLY
STEINERSTRASSE
(CH) 8253 DIESSENHOFEN
SWITZERLAND

The multi-coloured brochure, shown reduced, advertises Hertig & Co as specialising in the printing of fiscal stamps. Of the ten stamps illustrated eight are for places near Biel, the exceptions being Ville de Rolle (Vaud) and Bubikon (Zürich).

The inside of the brochure, in both German and French, offers a full design service. The firm went to great lengths to explain the quality standards offered.

The first table gives the price per thousand depending on the quantity ordered. The lower table indicates the return that could be expected from a printing cost of Fr. 125-, some Fr.1900-, a most attractive profit!

A find of this nature suggests that others may exist. It is probable that other printers produced them for circulation to potential customers.

Any information on similar documents would be of help in identifying the printers of many fiscal issues.

BIENNE, date du timbre postal.

M

Dans beaucoup de communes on utilise depuis des années les timbres-taxe qui ont donné les meilleurs résultats pour la perception de taxes de toutes sortes, telles que: estampillage de certificats et attestations, taxe de colportage, taxes pour autorisations de concerts et expositions, taxe des chiens, etc. Ce sont les quittances les moins coûteuses, et ils permettent le contrôle le plus simple et le plus sûr de toutes les taxes prélevées.

Notre maison fabrique depuis plusieurs années des timbres-taxe, timbres-contrôle et timbres-rabais, et a voué de tout temps la plus grande attention à ces articles dont elle s'est fait une spécialité. Nous sommes par conséquent à même de vous livrer les dits timbres en tous genres, ainsi qu'aux conditions les plus avantageuses, et nous nous portons garants pour une fabrication techniquement très soignée et minutieusement contrôlée, ainsi que pour une bienfaisance accomplie. Nous ne mettons en ouvrage que du papier d'un gommage parfait. La gravure est exécutée sur n'importe quel sujet désiré, et tant que faire se peut d'après des modèles héraldiques. Chaque valeur de taxe est imprimée en couleur différente, ce qui exclut toute erreur ou confusion. Les timbres sont habituellement fournis en livrets de 500 pièces; nous pouvons cependant accéder à tout autre désir quant à leur répartition. Vous trouvez quelques échantillons d'exécution au verso de ce prospectus.

Persuadés que cette question de timbres-taxe ne vous laisse pas indifférent, nous nous mettons à votre disposition pour tous renseignements complémentaires et sommes prêts à vous soumettre encore d'autres échantillons.

Pour vous orienter, nous indiquons d'autre part les prix pour diverses quantités d'une même commande, ainsi que le montant des taxes équivalentes. Des livraisons supplémentaires se feront de tout temps par la suite et seront facturées aux conditions les plus favorables.

5,000 timbres en cinq couleurs différentes	à Fr. 25.-	par mille
10,000	à	18.-
20,000	à	10.-
30,000	à	8.-
50,000	à	6.-

Rendement d'une commande de:

2500 timbres-taxe	à 20 Cts.	= Fr. 500.-
1500	à 30	= 450.-
500	à 60	= 250.-
300	à 1.- Fr.	= 300.-
200	à 2.-	= 400.-
8000		Fr. 1900.-

Prix de revient de 5000 timbres = Fr. 125.-

Rendement de ces timbres = Fr. 1900.-

Dans l'espoir que vous nous honorerez de vos ordres pour ces articles, nous vous présentons, M... nos civilités distinguées.

Avec haute considération

HERTIG & Co.

POSTCARD 83z - In the recent Schwarzenbach Auction in Zürich a fine used example of this rare card went for SFr.550. In 1924 the existing stocks of the 25c rate to foreign countries, No. 70 of 1921, were over-printed with 20c, the new rate introduced on 1st May 1924. There must be more around in the UK. The 'z' means horizontally perforated. The cards could be bought in strips and fed into a typewriter instead of singly. This is what makes them so rare today. M Rutherford

Adresse des Absenders. - Text
Adresse de l'expéditeur. - Texte.
Indirizzo del mittente. - Testo.

Postkarte. Carte postale

Cartolina postale

SCHWEIZ SUISSE SVIZZERA

Mr. P. Friedhof
82 The Woodlands
Cotter Green
Lantern NW11

1989 AMATEUR COLLECTOR CATALOGUE

Review by F Pickard

All previous editions are now out-of-date with the publication of the 1989 catalogue. The dramatic change from Sterling to Dollar pricing can be dealt with by taking off 30%, or multiplying by 0.7, both calculations produce a VAT-inclusive sum.

The Standing Helvetia listing has been improved by separating the clear printings from the blurred ones. Amendments are made to the letters after some numbers, i.e. 66A becomes 66Aa, and other shades are no longer listed. We note price reductions in this field.

Another introduction is the use of BOLD type indicating the lowest price stamp in a group, while ITALICS are used to give a price guide where quality varies. Readers are advised to look at the Terms of Sale on page 5 where changes are made.

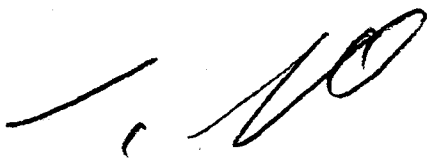
One oddity stands out among the Zürich Cantonals, the reprints of 1862 show no change and this is probably the one item in the text that was missed in an extensive revision.

With the gap of nearly two years collectors certainly need to update their library with this new edition.

ANOTHER UNUSUAL COVER

from Geoff Hubbard

Even though the PTT insist that all handstamps are ordered and sent out to their various offices, one wonders if some are made locally. This miniature "ungültig" strike measuring just 11 x 2mm appears six times around this Pestalozzi stamp to indicate that it was invalid for postal use (valid only to 31.12.46) Another strange thing appears to be that the Luzern office decided to make a tax amount of only 10c - the correct charge should have been 20c - double the missing amount. Any comments to be sent to your subscriber.



An die



Redaktion «Freie Innerschweiz»



Luzern

Postfach 372

Why not send a photocopy of that cover, or stamp, which has been puzzling you? Someone out there may have an answer for you, and us!

NORTHERN GROUP MEETING REPORT

by R A Hoyle

On December 3rd Mr P Vaughan presented his Chairman's Display to the Northern Group members in Leeds. It was based on the theme which first attracted him to Swiss philately when he tried by the use of stamps and pictures to tell the story of the country, its history, geography and way of life.

Among the subjects he covered during the first part of his display were the physical features and borders of the country, the postal coach routes over the passes, railways and cable suspension lines, architecture, animals and plants, art and literature, trade and industry, Swissair, and history.

The second half of the display dealt with postal subjects, including the Cantonal Messengers, the Postal Coach Service with photographs of the passes, the Pro Juventute stamps, postal stationery, the National Day and Pro Patria stamps, various types of cancellations, and a few sheets illustrating the Postal Administrative Regions.

He concluded his display with a selection of his 1988 holiday photographs taken on the MOB and BLS railways.

His whole display was most beautifully presented and included a large selection of postcards and photographs of the subjects shown on the stamps. It certainly reminded your reporter of his many happy holidays in this most beautiful country.

REPORT OF THE MEETING HELD IN LONDON, 14th December 1988

Apologies for absence were received from Mr D M Slate and Mr J R Harben. A discussion evening of the Small Landsape issues from 1934, led by Mr F Pickard, proved to be most enlightening answering the main questions of "When, Where, Why, How, and What for?". Mr Pickard started with a fine display of the stamps shown in his recent article, preceded by a proof by Rossli which was an entry in the Post Office competition of 1933 and led to the 1934 issue. In 1936 a new rotary recess machine was used, producing four panes of fifty stamps, and on each revolution the sheet was marked in Roman numerals and then followed an accountancy mark. The reason for the two different papers was simply to speed up the delivery. Concerning the 'worn plates', as these were web fed, slightly moistened, the gradual warming up could cause either the ink to go back to the cylinder, or the paper would just not take the ink.

Interspace pairs as well as booklet panes, Officials, League of Nations and others were all displayed, together with numerous covers with one stamp of each value to show the correct use. The 1938 miniature sheet was also shown and it was pointed out that this was the first time that the airmail portion was optically reduced to fit the width of the two San Salvatore stamps.

Mr P Hobbs sent some interesting items and an example of a possible new variety, cylinder wear seems unlikely as the high point of the transfer die has worn - an incomplete transfer due to insufficient rocking is the question yet to be answered. Mrs C Scholey also displayed some covers, as well as the stamps used and the interspace varieties. Mr G W Hubbard showed his accumulation of these issues that include the 'T' cancellations. The highlight of the evening for your reporter was the explanation as to how the information was gathered. Photocopies of articles from the BBZ and SBZ were shown and also copies from auction catalogues. Information that had appeared in English had been found by scanning the library of the Royal Philatelic Society. contd.

Other information may be on record in other English-speaking countries. Mr Pickard concluded by asking the members present if they considered this 'first' Study Evening to be a good idea, and it was agreed that it was. In future the continuing story of these issues will appear in the newsletter. In the meantime any other information can be sent to Mr Pickard at 24 Gayton Road, London NW3 1TY. An update on the collated news will be given in the new season.

Mr A Newall summed things up by saying that it had been more than a meeting, it was a new chapter in the life of the Society - a compendium with in-depth research!

G W H

GUEST COMMENTARY by Ed Chalfant, reprinted from 'Tell' p204, 11/88

While we sell light hinged, hinged, and never hinged Swiss issues, I'd like to comment about collecting mint never-hinged Swiss issues prior to the first Tell-boy issues of 1907 (Z No.101). The premium for never-hinged of this era is very high and even higher for very fine centring. However, the numbers available are very small.

Most of these issues could easily have been re-gummed. It is extremely hard to tell the difference between the original gum and re-gummed stamps of this vintage. The gum used in those days contained acid and much of it will damage stamps after 100 years, especially the early classics. I believe the best thing to do with the stamps of this era is to soak off the gum! Drastic as this may sound, it may be the only way to protect your stamps from severe damage. Besides acid damage, much of the gum of this period is already crinkling and damaging the underlying stamp.

To protect the gum, many have used stamp mounts instead of hinges. Current Mylar mounts will not damage your stamps, but many mounts sold in the 1940s and 1950s will damage your stamps. Some of the mounts that have been most destructive are Crystal Mounts and PM Mounts. There are others, but no matter what type you used, I suggest that you examine them for damage.

My suggestion is to do what the Swiss PTT Museum has done and soak off the gum on your older issues. In my opinion gum is not very important on these older issues. If you wish to protect the stamp, which is important, the only way is to remove the gum. If the Swiss PTT has taken this action, why shouldn't you? In future more and more dealers and collectors will be removing this dangerous gum to safeguard their stamps. Hence it makes no sense to pay a premium for gum now when it will not exist in a few years. After all, we collect stamps, not gum.

I do not make this suggestion lightly. In the past ten years I have found more and more early issues that were damaged due to gum or mount problems. If you want to protect your investment, getting rid of the gum is a wise decision. I suggest that you examine your old stamps monthly, and as soon as damage is noticed, get rid of the gum.

The paper used for these stamps contains acids. When combined with acid gum your risk of damage is significant. Many European auctions are already offering mint classic stamps without gum. But for some reason this is taking longer to become acceptable here (USA). Do yourself, and future collectors, a favour by getting rid of the gum before it is too late!

(Members comments and findings would be appreciated for publication Ed.)

BERN DOB (May 1988) more information from Mrs M C Bidmead

A correspondent in Switzerland has supplied the following:

27.11.1840 - Initial use of this mark Briefdistributions - Bureau.
Letters of BERN close together.

13.3.1841-

23.5.1847 Taxations and Briefspeditionen Bureau. Only used on Franko-briefen und Nachnahmen Franco internal and external.
Letters of BERN close together.

18.12.1847-

28.9.1850 B E R N with wider spaced letters used Nachnahmen, and Chargée P.P. & franco briefen, external and internal.

Of the three covers shown in the article Nos 1 & 2 are of the closer letters of Bern, No. 3, the wider spread of letters.

Thus it seems the Taxations Bureau dealt with letters on which money had been paid, and this cancellation was evidence of the check in that Bureau. (Further information will be published as it becomes available.)

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS - do not miss them!

London, 8th February, President's Evening, Mrs Lee entertains.

28th February to 5th March, STAMPEX at the Horticultural Halls.

Leeds, 4th February, Annual Competition.

4th March, Censored Mail, Mr Hope.

Sussex, 18th February, in the Church Lounge, All Saints, Patcham, Brighton.
(Programme to be advised.)

INFORMATION REQUIRED - about the postal strike in Geneva in March 1909 and the private postal arrangements made at the time. To the Editor.

YOUR LIBRARY - As reported last month Mr R Hafner is taking over as Honorary Librarian from 1st January 1989. His address is: 2 Roundhill Close, Exeter, Devon EX4 5AQ. A new library list was requested at the AGM. All members who wish to receive a copy should send a stamped, addressed envelope to Mr Hafner. DO NOT expect it immediately though.

1989 Preliminary Stamp Programme

Value (c.)

7 3 1989

Specials I

25 Centenary of the Swiss Army Postal Service
35 700 years of Delsberg (Delémont)
50 Centenary of Switzerland's Public Transport Association
80 Rhaetian Railway Centenary
90 Bimillenary of the Great St Bernard Pass

Official stamp

140 UPU

23 5 1989

Europe CEPT

50/90 Children's Games

Pro Patria

700 years of Art and Culture
(Switzerland's Pictorial Chronicles)
35 + 15 Bendicht Tschachtlan
50 + 20 Diebold Schilling BE
80 + 40 Gerold Edlibach
90 + 40 Diebold Schilling LU

Philatelic office

CH - 3030 BERN

25 8 1989

Specials II

35 Centenary of Swiss Electrotechnical Association
50 50th Anniversary of the (Caisse suisse de voyage)
80 Centenary of Fribourg University
90 Swiss National Sound Archives, Lugano

50 + 20

Sports stamp

24 11 1989

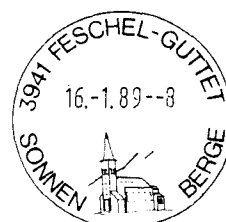
Pro Juventute

Development of the child (Adolescents)
35 + 15 Community work
50 + 20 Friendship
80 + 40 Vocational training
90 + 40 University/Research

Fr. 16.25

Total without official stamp

This list is subject to change.



K 1202



K 1203



K 1204

DID YOU KNOW?

-that the Purchase Tax situation is still not clear. I have had an answer from the Philatelic Bureau in Bern to my questions, in which they say the matter is not yet decided, and it starts in 2 weeks! My guess is that all concerned are trying to find a face-saving way out, as not even the Finance Dept. think it worth the trouble.

Twenty per cent of the members of the Swiss Dealers Association have said they will stop trading.

-that auctions are apparently not affected as they are only middlemen, the sellers and buyers must deal with the 'Wust' authorities direct.

-that twice the Swiss voters have rejected a simpler, and conforming to that in the EEC, VAT system.

-that the Swiss Locomotive Works (SLM) in Winterthur, part of the Sulzer Group, intend to build 12 narrow gauge, oil-burning steam locomotives for the Brienzer Rothorn Bahn, and others in Austria and Germany. Hope it all works out.

-that the Italian PTT is issuing a stamp for the 450th anniversary of the birth of Carlo Borromeo, Archbishop of Milan, who in 1560 became known as the Protector of Helvetiae. He is the patron saint of the Diocese of Lugano.

-that it has been noticed that Liechtenstein is the only country in the world which has issued Airmail stamps without having an airport! The nearest they got was on the 10th June 1931 when, near Schaan, a Zeppelin let down a rope on to which the post bag was attached and hauled aboard.

-that the youngest postmaster was only 11 when his father died in 1819 and left him in charge in Ballwil LU. This is taken from the recently published 'Luzerner Postgeschichte', 136 pages with many illustrations in colour; assisted by the Fund for Furthering Philately. A copy is being

obtained for the Society's Library.
-that my Best Wishes for 1989 go to all members, especially to those who have written to me, and very especially to Members of the 70 Club, i.e., those who place the stamp right-hand edge 70mm from the right side of the cover.

M Rutherford

A to Z of Swiss Philately

TRANSIT MARKS Thanks to splendid research work by our late member Mr C Rauch, and by Mr D Wilson the mysteries of the ways by which transportation of letters was carried out in the early days have been thoroughly investigated and recorded in our newsletters of Apr-June 1978, Oct-Dec 1983 and Feb-June 1985.

The various treaties made, particularly between France and Switzerland and the system worked out to regularise routes and rates for forwarding mail are indicated by handstamps on pre-stamp mail by agreement with the leading cantons. Marks were applied such as 'Suisse par Geneve' - or Pontarlier, Belfort etc., and also indicated by 'LG' - Lettre Genevoise or 'LZ' - Lettre Zurichoise etc. By a later treaty the system was somewhat simplified and the marks became 'TB' for Transit Basle and so on. This system lasted until the end of the 1840s and the institution of the Federal Post in 1850.

The subject is full of interest and although material is becoming more difficult to find, especially here, it is well worth searching for. E J R

* * * SUBSCRIPTIONS for 1989 * * *

If there is a cross here . . .
then your subscription is still outstanding. You can pay by bank transfer to the Society's account with the East Grinstead branch of Barclays:

Bank Sort Code 20 28 51, account No. 30462438 'Helvetia Philatelic Soc.'

If you pay up now you will help both the Society and yourself so get out your pen and deal with it.

I. G. STAMPS

P O Box 27
Otley
West Yorkshire
LS21 1JB
England

I STILL WISH TO BUY

COLLECTIONS or SINGLE items, particularly
POSTAL HISTORY

Please contact me if you have anything in
SWISS philately to sell.

For the time being my Lists will not be
circulated in the News Letter. Existing
subscribers will receive lists. If you
would like to receive FREE LISTS please
let me know. WANTS LISTS always welcome.

Ian Gilchrist.

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.

485 MARINE ROAD,
MORECAMBE LA4 6AF
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No 2

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

43rd year

'C' ALSO STANDS FOR CENSOR COVERS

by Edmund C Walton

The November 1988 issue of the newsletter, reporting on the London meeting of October 12th mentioned that it was entitled 'The letter C'. A subject that the letter 'C' can stand for is 'Censor'. Indeed the subject of censor covers seems to be unending. Even after almost 50 years since the start of World War II, new and interesting censored items still turn up of the post from Switzerland to world-wide destinations. Three examples are offered here and readers are invited to suggest explanations for some of the puzzling features.

Road to Zanzibar - Posted in Chaux-de-Fonds, 30 VIII 41, this cover was addressed to Zanzibar (East Africa). Although now a part of Tanzania, it was then a British Protectorate, consisting of a group of islands off the coast of Tanganyika. Franking is Fr. 2.40 with a pair

PAR AVION

J. G. W.



MONTRES ARTIS
CHS ROTH
LA CHAUX-DE-FONDS

Messrs. M. Takim & Company
P.O.Box 73

ZANZIBAR (East Africa)



DO NOT BE FORWARDED BY AIR FROM SINGAPORE

on reverse

21

of Fr. 1.20 Shield and Emblem, 1940 plain chalk paper issue, which seems very high for a 5g airmail letter, routed through Geneva.

For some reason the cover went first to Singapore. There it was opened by censor and resealed with a plain brown gummed paper closer, which is tied with a purple hand stamp: PASSED BY/CENSOR 112/A. This is known to have been used in Singapore between Jan 1941 and Nov 1941, with various censor numbers between 106 & 211 including 112 being recorded. (CCSG Bul vol 9 p 21, M H Wade "Malaya: WW2. Civilian Censorship of Mail, 1939-42")

Prominent on the front of the cover is another purple hand stamp TO BE FORWARDED BY/AIR FROM SINGAPORE. On the reverse is a mysterious large '21' in reddish purple.

Now Singapore is not on the most direct route to Zanzibar, even if it had been routed east to west. However, this is quite unlikely since it would have been censored in Bermuda. From Singapore the only air route at the time was northward to Bangkok, Calcutta, Bagdad, Cairo and then south to Durban (the so-called Horseshoe Route). A southern extension connected Singapore with Sydney. Also by this time BOAC connected Lisbon with Lagos and Lake Victoria, where it would connect with the Horseshoe Route. (Ref: A History of the World's Airlines, by R E G Davies.)

The puzzling questions are: why did it not go to Zanzibar via Lagos because Zanzibar had its own censor, and why did it first go half-way around the world to Singapore?

A Suspicious Item via Bermuda to America - Bermuda was a well-known British censorship station, operating for a major period during the war, from March 1940 to March 1944. (Ref: L M C Dutton, CCSG vol 6, p 69.)

During this period the censors used many types of closer tapes, but the type shown on my second cover is quite unusual and rare.

Posted in Lausanne on 16 VI 42 and addressed to Baltimore USA this registered letter followed the Clipper route via Bermuda. It evidently aroused the suspicion of the censor, since it appears to have been examined by a senior censor who used the unusual I.C./1701 PC90 closer tape and caused an unusually long delay before sending it on to New York, where it arrived on 7.23.1942 and one day later in Baltimore,

Recommandée, L.H. Emory.
15 Chemin 3 Rois, Lausanne.

Mit Luftpost
Par avion
Per via aerea

R
Lausanne 1 Dépôt
470

2
RECEIVED
16. VI. 42
DÉPÔT LI

I.C./1701

OPENED BY EXAMINER

écrit en Anglais.

A. Morris Tyson, esq.

37 South st.

Baltimore,

Maryland.

U.S.A .

SUPPOSED TO CONTAIN MATTER
SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF
EXECUTIVE ORDER 8389 AS AMENDED

1942
JUL 24 1942

P.O. 80

according to the back stamps. On arrival in the US the hand stamp SUPPOSED TO CONTAIN MATTER/SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF/EXECUTIVE ORDER 8389 AS AMENDED was applied. This is identical to type S.1.1.2 described by Broderick and Mayo in 'Civil Censorship in the United States During WWII' (1980), p35.

In Baltimore the note with a purple date stamp '292 Sent Jul 24 1942' was applied on the front. This probably refers to a notice which would be sent to the addressee advising him the letter was waiting to be collected. It would then have to be opened in front of a Postal Official for examination and, if a contravention of Order 8389 was determined, it would be confiscated. (CCSG vol 9, p 94 'Censor Marks Involving Executive Order 8389' by Lawrence Nelson.)

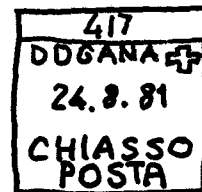
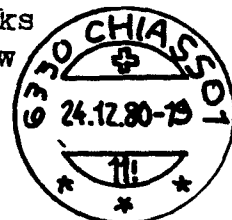
We will never know, of course, what was the nature of the suspicious contents, but how were the US authorities alerted? Perhaps the address was on a suspect list, or did the Bermuda censor perhaps attach a notice of sorts, which could account for the adhesion traces on the censor label, just below the censor number? (to be continued)

IN YOUR EXCHANGE PACKET are the following items. If you are interested then please contact the Hon. Exchange Packet Secretary direct.

- PJ 1949 FDC Bern £20; PJ 1950 FDC Bern £40; PP 1950 FDC £30;
- PP min. sheet 1940 (mounted) £75; definitives 1949, 3 FDCs Berne &70.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS - London 28 Feb-5 Mar. Stampex. March 8th, A Swiss Pot-pourri. Talk and display by Mr S Holder FRPS L. Leeds, March 4th, Censored Mail, Mr Hope. Sussex Group, February 18th (to be advised).

DO YOU KNOW anything about these cancellations asks Mr R S Johnson. The square customs cancel is a new type not in the article by Derek Beak in the HNL. The Chiasso cds with '11!' which seems to be an upside down 'i'; not mentioned in the article by Michael Rutherford. Any ideas to the Editor.

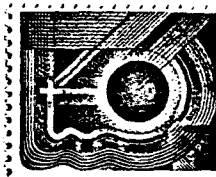


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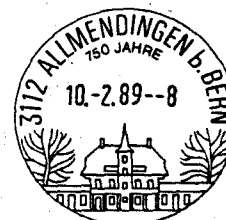
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