

## PHILATELIC SOCIETY NEWS LETTER



Founder: E. H. SPIRO

Hon. President: Mrs A Lee FRPS L

Hon. Secretary

 Mr R A Hoyle  
 8 Rhodesia Ave  
 Stafford Road  
 HALIFAX HX3 OPB  
 Tel:0422-353078

Hon. Treasurer

 Mr M J Kuriger  
 'Quarries'  
 Stone Quarry Road  
 Chelwood Gate  
 HAYWARDS HEATH  
 W Sussex RH17 7LP  
 Tel:082-574648

Hon. Pkt Secretary

 Mr D M Slate  
 149 Ware Road  
 HERTFORD  
 Herts SG13 7EG  
 Tel:0992-587784

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 9 0

44th year

### Armchair Traveller 3 - Lucerne, by D.F.Arthur

Like many another British visitor to Switzerland, Lucerne was my introduction to the country. I have spelled the name in the 'British' way, the locals spell it Luzern! I have been back there since and hope to go again, to this beautiful town on the banks of the Reuss and the shores of Lake Lucerne, properly called Vierwaldstättersee, the Lake of the Four Forest Cantons (Pro Patria Z13 and the 1941 airmail Z32).

Opportunities for excursions abound, particularly around the shores of the lake; of which the main part extends some 20 miles to Flüelen (Pro Patria Z37), with two side arms in addition, towards Pilatus and Küsnacht (Pro Patria Z14). A favourite trip would be the ascent of Pilatus, the mountain which overlooks the town, a round trip by gondelbahn and cable car from Kriens, which is a suburb of Lucerne, and descending by the very steep rack railway to Alpnachstadt on the lake. The return can be made either by rail on the Brünig line or by steamer on the lake, but unless you are in a hurry, go by boat! Pilatus has appeared on several of the small landscape series of definitives (Z195, Z202 & Z285).



PP Z13



AM Z32



PP Z37



PP Z14



Z202



Z130



Z177



PP Z1

Far down the lake towards Flüelen is the Rütli, the meadow which is the shrine of Swiss independence, lying near the lakeside. The Rütli featured on stamps in the high values of 1914 & 1928 (Z130 & Z178). This same series also features the twin peaks of the Mythen, clearly visible from the Rütli, which overlook Brünnen on the other shore (Z129 & Z177). Also on the opposite shore to the Rütli is Tell's Chapel (Pro Patria Z1) where William Tell sprang ashore to escape from the Austrians.

The famous water tower which stands in the Reuss, joined to the shore by wooden bridges has featured on stamps (Z366) and postmarks, but can also be found in cake and chocolate! The old town of Lucerne, which celebrated it's 800th anniversary in 1978 (Z604), is near the Reuss, and is an interesting and charming place to find a meal at one of the many restaurants. The stroll back along the lake shore at sunset is an experience not to be missed.



Z366



Z604

Another famous viewpoint near Lucerne is the Rigi, which although it is only about 6000 ft high, it is so placed that it affords wide views of higher mountains from Säntis in the east to the Bernese Oberland in the west. Queen Victoria was carried up in a litter, but now you can ride on the modern successor to Switzerland's first rack railway (Z699), built by Nicholas Riggenbach, who appears with his rack on Pro Juventute Z101 of 1942. There is some interesting walking on the Rigi following the line of the now defunct railway from Rigi-Kaltbad to Rigi-Scheidegg, from where we can descend to Arth-Goldau on the Gotthard railway line.

Other philatelic references to Lucerne include the Cantonal arms and costume on Pro Juventute Z3, 23 & 74 and the architecture on Pro Patria Z44, but Wagner's house at Tribschen has never appeared on a stamp. It is however a must for opera buffs! It was here that the Mastersingers of Nuremberg was written and other operas completed.



Z699



PJ Z101



PJ Z3



PJ Z23



PJ Z74



PP Z44



Z343



Z668,669

The Transport Museum, almost opposite Tribschen on the Lucerne shore, is worth a day to itself (Z343). It is packed with locomotives, ships and aeroplanes, don't miss the model railway layout of the Gotthard line (Z668,669) and the simulated ride behind the driver of a train on that same line. Many other excursions and walks are possible, go and see for yourself!

THE UNDATED STRAIGHT LINE MARKS OF SWITZERLAND  
FROM AROUND 1870 (continued from page 84, 1989)

by B S Clapshoe

Straight line marks were sometimes applied to mail posted aboard steamers carrying post boxes, but no other postal facilities, on Lakes Léman and Constance. These were landing marks, needed in particular to indicate origins of mail bearing uncanceled foreign postage stamps entering the Swiss system. This certainly was the case on Lake Constance with See-Romanshorn and See-Rorschach (fig 21). Although I have not seen any uncanceled foreign mail landed at Lake Léman ports it might have applied there also as French adhesives could (?) be used on mail while in French waters.

The Lake Léman express steamer route included eleven ports, two of which were French (fig 22). The six landing markings I am aware of are from four Swiss ports on this route; Nyon, Ouchy, Vevey, and Bouveret (figs 23-28). Whether these were the only ports where mail was landed, or the only ports with landing marks, or even if there were post boxes on all steamers or just the expresses (again) I do not know.

Fig.21. See-Rorschach  
1884 Rorschach.  
Posted aboard Lindau-  
Rorschach steamer.  
See-Romanshorn, canc.  
Romanshorn seen used  
with German ad-  
hesives in 1953.



While the steamer SLs mentioned above were landing marks the SLs used in conjunction with steamer FPOs on Lakes Luzern and Brienz were boarding marks (figs 29 & 30). Mail was collected from quayside post boxes, then taken aboard for sorting and cancellation. But, as with the TPO SLs, were they struck at the box or on board?

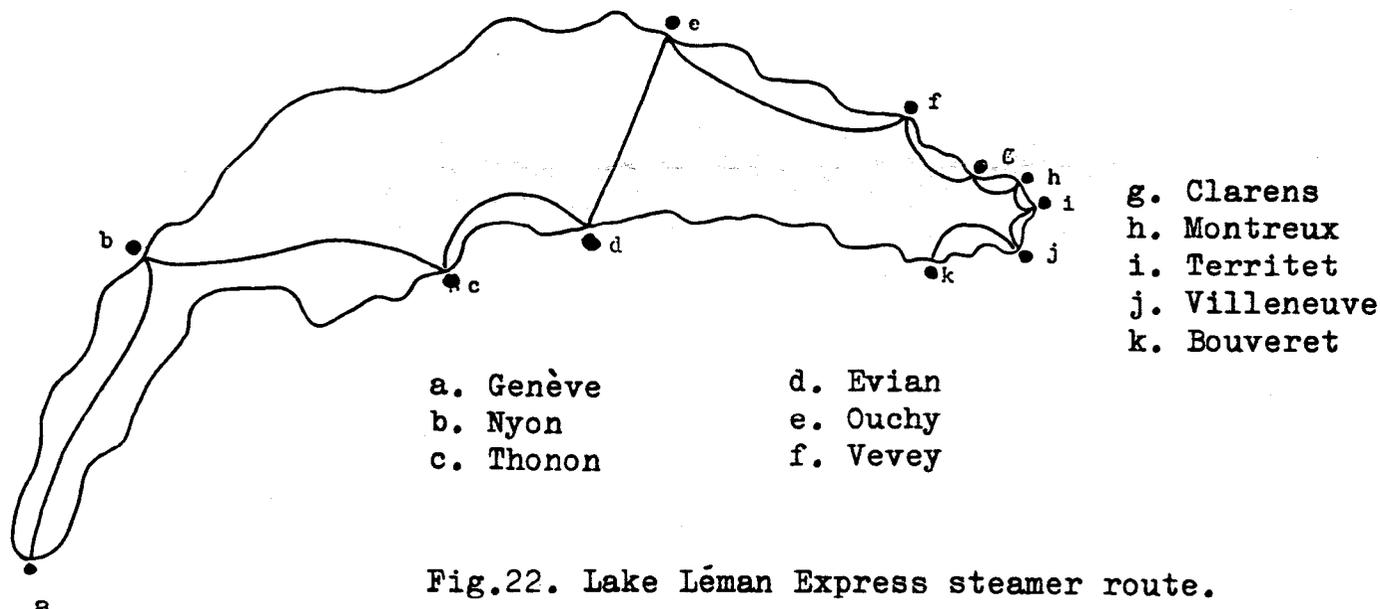


Fig.22. Lake Léman Express steamer route.

Fig.23. **NYON-LAC** Nyon-Lac (1909-11 Gp 43) Struck in black.

Fig.24. **OUCHY** Ouchy-Lac (1903-4 Gp 43) Ouchy in purple, Lac in manuscript.

*Lac*

Fig.25. **OUCHY-LAC** Ouchy-Lac (1906-7 Gp 43)

Fig.26. **VEVEY** Vevey (1904 plus? Gp 43) Struck in violet. This mark may at times have had Lac added by hand, example seen did not.

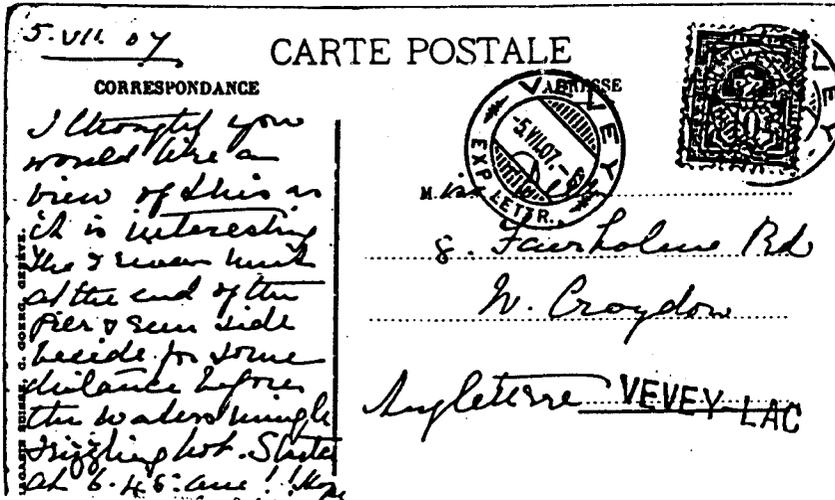


Fig.27. Vevey-Lac 1907 (1905-7 Gp 43)

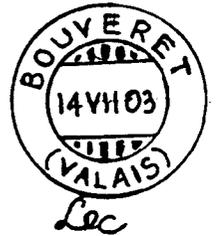


Fig.28. Bouveret/Lac 1903 Struck in violet with Lac in manuscript.

Fig.29. **GERSAU** Gersau 1909 (Gp 43) Luzern-Flüelen/Schiff. One of two Gersau marks recorded for 1907 in connection with steamer marks.

Fig.30. **Iseltwald** Iseltwald (1911-2 Gp 39a) Brienzersee/Schiffpost Festplatz straight lines were in use in temporary post offices at some Cantonal festivals, figure 31 being employed at the Basel Cantonal Schützenfest (shooting festival) in 1900. Federal festivals of many types had appropriate but place-wise anonymous special event cds and so, in theory, had no need for a SL, but one was used at the Federal Gymnastic Fête in 1900 at Chaux-de-Fonds (fig 32). Why this SL was used along with a special cancel, a fête cachet, and a cds of Chaux-de-Fonds, is a mystery. A number of marks within the same group (46) were used at Chaux-de-Fonds station in conjunction with TPO marks between 1899 and 1904, and a further number of Gp 43 SLs between 1884 and 1904.

Fig.31. **FESTPLATZ** Festplatz 1900 (Gp 43) Basel/Fil.Spalden. Used at the Basel Cantonal Schützenfest.

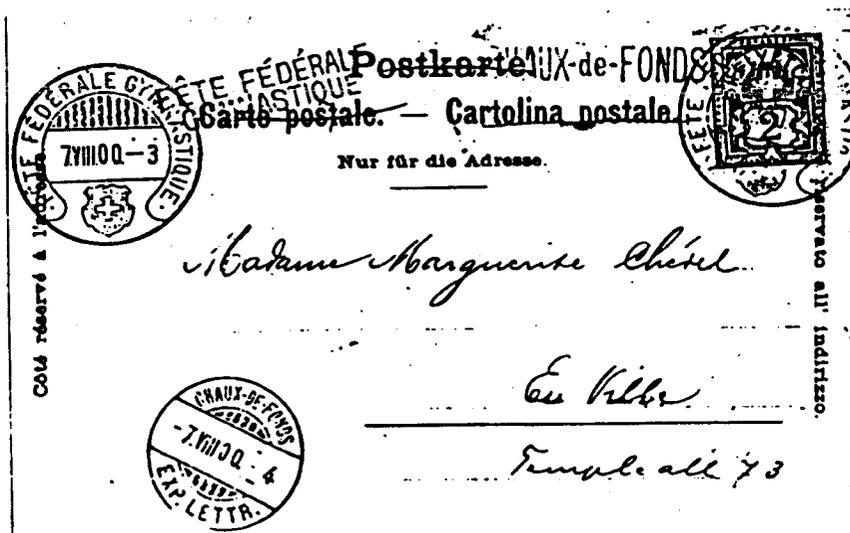


Fig.32. Chaux-de-Fonds 1900 (Gp46) Fête Fédérale Gymnastique (special event cds); Fête Fédérale/Gymnastique (cachet for registration labels?); Chaux-de-Fonds cds; local postcard rate.

(to be continued)

## THE NORTHERN GROUP 1950 to 1990

by R A Hoyle

At its meeting in Leeds on March 3rd the Northern Group will celebrate its 40th anniversary with a display of stamps and stationery issued since 1950.

The Group was founded by Laurence Moore MBE, FRPS L, and held its first meeting in Leeds on April 29th 1950. Mr Moore had been one of the earliest members of the Helvetia Philatelic Society when it was founded in 1947 and, spending much time in London, he naturally attended most of the meetings.

Mr Moore was so pleased with the success of Helvetia and the Newsletter that he felt a group would be appreciated by Swiss collectors in Yorkshire. The Yorkshire Philatelic Association had issued a list of all society members and their collecting interests, so to every member who showed Switzerland he sent an invitation to attend an exploratory meeting at the Great Northern Hotel in Leeds, at which it is thought about eight attended. Further names of Helvetia members living in Yorkshire and Lancashire were obtained from Mrs Rawnsley, who was secretary of the Helvetia Philatelic Society, and this helped to extend the membership.

At the first meeting Mr Moore was elected Chairman and Mr G F Ellis Secretary, and a committee was formed consisting of Mr Moore, Mr Ellis and a Mr J A Eastwood (who was also Secretary of the Halifax Philatelic Society) to arrange a series of meetings and displays to commence in the October.

Four members provided short displays at that first meeting, Mr Moore showed Ancient and Modern, a full range of Cantonals with Zürich 4, Double Geneva, 4c Vaud and Basel Dove, and some partially reconstructed sheets of Rayons. He also showed a colourful array of Soldier Stamps from both wars. Mr Ellis showed the Salvage Stamps and Railway Centenary stamps in full sheets, and an almost complete collection of Tête-bêche and Se-tenant, from the Tell Boys to the latest Landscapes. Mr Eastwood contributed a collection of the Pro Juventute and Pro Patria issues, while Mr Eugene Egly, formerly of Luzern but long resident in England, brought along one of his famous Pandora's Boxes, crammed full with bundles of early issues which he had collected as a boy in Luzern from 1880. Among his titbits were colour trials of the Standing Helvetia, and a used block of 13 of the 1 fr gold of 1881.

(to be continued)

---

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1990 - If there is a cross here  then your subscription is still outstanding! Get out your pen and do it NOW. You can also pay by bank transfer to Barclays, East Grinstead Branch, sort code 20 28 51, a/c No. 30462438 'Helvetia Philatelic Society'.

---

THE CHRIS RAUCH LITERATURE AWARD - Your vote is urgently needed in order to announce on April 11th 1990, the winner of this prestigious award. The Pen and Penholder is given to the member who in the opinion of the majority has written the best piece of Philatelic Research in the newsletter in the past year. Chris was a great pursuer of facts and this award is in remembrance of all his hard work. Previous winners have been Michael Rutherford, Mrs E J Rawnsley, Denis Wilson, Adriano Gervasi and Mr R S Johnson. Please send or phone your vote to the Hon. Secretary.

London Meeting of 13th December 1989

The Chairman and 14 members were present. Apologies for absence were received from Mrs E J Rawnsley, Messrs Payne, Slate & Kuriger. Mr Pickard introduced a new member, Mr John Ager.

The PTT monthly list of new additions to their library and data base was available for members to consult. In future it will be available at meetings before being filed in the society library.

Mr Pickard presented his follow-up discourse on the Small Landscape issues, making particular reference to his enlightening day spent at the PTT printing works. The machine used in printing the 1934 issues is now a museum piece in the works, but in search of a permanent home. Mr Pickard went on to describe the No. 4 Helvetia machine used for the 1936 landscapes onwards, and the mysteries of surface printing, recess printing and photogravure as performed by it. Examples of trial prints, the surface printing first, then with the recess on top were seen. The cylinder printed sheets of four panes of 50 stamps each. Examples of sheets for counter use, booklets, but not coils, were shown. Attention was drawn to the differences at the bottom left corner of the sheets; at first no dates and no cylinder numbers, then I, II, III, appeared. Also displayed were the perforation holes extending into the margins, firstly one, but two after 1946.

The two different double type impressions on the 5c were shown, Nos 25 and 43 in the pane. An article in the BBZ in 1985 had dealt with the printing errors on the 20c St. Gotthard and enlarged photocopies clearly illustrated the different varieties.

The Landscapes are found with the Official overprints, and with the overprints of the various international organisations based in Geneva.

Mrs Bidmead displayed a few pages of the stamps printed for booklets, with the different interspacings employed.

Finally Mr Pickard produced covers and other items showing the correct usage of the individual stamps for their nominated values. As a result varieties occurring on the 20c San Salvatore provoked discussion, the 2nd cross, the mountains in the clouds, the missing bricks down the left side of the church.

Mr Pickard announced, amidst laughter, that he had much further research to do. He closed the meeting wishing all members the compliments of the season.

M O Bidmead

Northern Group Meeting in Leeds on December 2nd 1989

Mrs V Davis from Hull entertained members with a display of Postal Stationery covering many aspects of this fascinating and extensive subject. She described the many types of stationery issued since 1870, and began her display with a comprehensive study of the attractive Bundesfeier cards.

The rest of her display covered a variety of cards and envelopes including: the first cards of 1870, the UPU of 1900, 1914 National Exhibition cards and envelopes, and 1939 National Exhibition cards and letter cards. Then followed cards from the Postal Museum in Bern, cards for the 100th anniversary of Swiss Railways in 1947, the Centenary of the Federal Post in 1949, and Air Letter sheets. The display was concluded with Railway freight arrival cards, privately printed stationery, a study of the 10 & 20c cards with small pictures, and various modern cards issued for special events.

R A H

# Did you know?

M Rutherford

- that those who pay their Swiss bills by International Giro (the quickest and cheapest way) have noticed that the Swiss Giro account number has been extended by an additional digit, e.g., 84-8297-1. This so-called Check-digit should indicate an error of transcription in the main number. The PTT have now told me how this complex check is made. Anyone interested can send me a few empty UK stamp booklets for the answer.
- that Luzern 2 Bahnhof is becoming mechanised. They have a flats-sorter, and will get letter coding and sorting plant in operation in March. This is the first such installation outside the "big 5" and ahead of Winterthur and St. Gallen, 6th and 7th largest places.
- that auction houses have raised their percentage of the knock-down price to 18% on all lots to cover purchase tax. Foreign buyers cannot be exempted.
- that Hans Schwarzenbach can accept lots until the middle of February for his last auction before Helvetia Genève 90.
- that the Fonoteca 90c stamp of the 2nd Specials set was clearly the worst of 1989. I liked the 75c definitive.
- that the 2nd Sport stamp, with surcharge, has been a flop. I have seen only one used on cover. Counter sales are near zero. The millions handed out by sponsors for a few spectacle sports have had their effect on the man in the street, or on the PO counter sales.
- that on the 1st December at the official "Day of the Stamp" exhibition in Stäfa, on the Lake of Zürich, also a Grade 3 competition, the President of the Fund for Furthering Philately, Charles Baumann, presented three prizes for literature; namely to Arthur Wyss for "Die Post in der Schweiz", Dr G Balimann (as editor) for "Postgeschichte Aarau", and to the PS Valais/Haut-Léman for their publication "Rhone Philatelie" which appears every 3 months. This is a new development.
- that Stäfa used to be the second largest place in the Canton of Zürich, and the special cancellation shows the "Patriot" from one of the fights between Zürich town and country of 1795.
- that Stäfa is also the home of Th. Gut & Co., publishers of a wide range of interesting books, many on ships and railways. A set of eight covers the railways of the region, at SFr8.00 each a good buy.
- that the Helvetia Genève 90 PTT block will contain four stamps of 50c nominal value, with a total price of 3fr. Date of issue 6th Sept.

---

## FORTHCOMING MEETINGS IN FEBRUARY

- 3rd - Northern Group - Annual Competition
- 14th - London - 1900 UPU's, discussion & display by Mr V J Mitchell.
- 24th - Sussex Group - 1900 UPU's, display & talk by Mr V J Mitchell.

---

## J. S. ARMSTRONG

### POSTAGE STAMP DEALER

485 MARINE ROAD,  
MORECAMBE LA4 6AF  
Phone (0524) 414055

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.

# I G STAMPS NEW ADDRESS

PO BOX 15  
HARROGATE  
NORTH YORKS  
ENGLAND

PHONE 0423 523152

Buy the new  
ZUMSTEIN CATALOGUES 1989/90  
available of September 1990



### Prices

Europe North	SFr. 25.--
Europe Middle	SFr. 25.--
Europe South	SFr. 25.--
Europe East supplement	SFr. 8.--

### Postal fees for Europe:

SFr. 8.--
SFr. 9.--
SFr. 9.--
SFr. 12.--

SWITZERLAND/LIECHTENSTEIN 1989/90  
in colour, german/french  
NEW: with price tendencies!



paper cover	SFr. 13.50	SFr. 7.--
spiral binding	SFr. 14.50	SFr. 7.--

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

For direct orders to Zumstein, please use our postal account:  
Berne 30-334-1 for prepayments. Thank you!

## Zumstein

ZUMSTEIN + CIE, propr. Hertsch + Co.  
P.O. Box CH-3000 Berne 7/Switzerland  
Phone: 031 22 22 15, Telex: 912035 ZFIL CH

Do you know our monthly newspaper the "BERNER BRIEFMARKEN-ZEITUNG"? We send you gladly a specimen copy free of charge, with no obligation whatsoever.



Hon. President: Mrs A Lee FRPS L

Hon. Secretary

Mr R A Hoyle  
8 Rhodesia Ave  
Stafford Road  
HALIFAX HX3 OPB  
Tel:0422-353078

Hon. Treasurer

Mr M J Kuriger  
'Quarries'  
Stone Quarry Road  
Chelwood Gate  
HAYWARDS HEATH  
W Sussex RH17 7LP  
Tel:082-574648

Hon. Pkt Secretary

Mr D M Slate  
149 Ware Road  
HERTFORD  
Herts SG13 7EG  
Tel:0992-587784

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

No 2

F E B R U A R Y 1 9 9 0

44th year

### WHAT TIME IS IT?

by Charles J LaBlonde

Recently, while doing some work on an exhibit of machine cancels, I found the need to understand a bit more about the time as shown in the cancels. Just in case anyone else is curious let me share what I think I learned. The information is chronological.

The earliest cancel machines, delivered in 1911 by an American firm, came with Arabic numbers 1-24 to show the time. The Swiss put these machines into service as delivered. The numbers show the last full hour and the next full hour. The cancel in figure 1 was between 8 and 9 a.m., and that in figure 2 between 8 and 9 p.m. (somebody was working late on New Year's Eve in 1912).

Figure 1

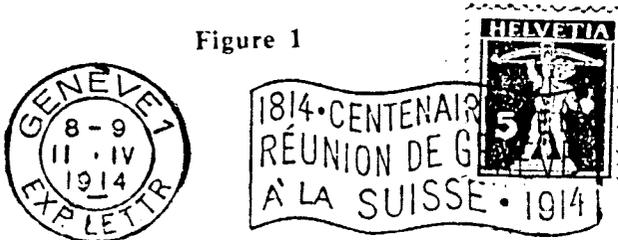


Figure 2



But there was a problem. At that time in Switzerland the 24-hour clock was the official way to tell time. Hand cancels, timetables, and other official documentation showed the time in Roman numerals for a.m. (I-XII) and Arabic numerals for p.m. (1-12). For example, "XII-1" was noon to 1 p.m. The PTT modified the crowns to the standard system; the exact date is not known but cancels I have indicate it was around July 1914, at least in Geneva. I don't know if all the machines were changed simultaneously. Figure 3 was processed between 10 and 11 a.m. and that in figure 4 between 6 and 7 p.m.

continued on page 14

Figure 3



Figure 4



## THE NORTHERN GROUP 1950 to 1990 (contd from p 5)

by R A Hoyle

During the first year Mr Moore published and distributed four bulletins. These describe in detail the Group's activities, thoughts and development during those important first 12 months, and copies are preserved in the Society records. Your writer is also a proud possessor of these four bulletins which were given to him by Mr Moore some years ago.

It is of interest to note that Helvetia members were automatically members of the Northern Group (or North-eastern Group as it was known at the time) and did not appoint a Treasurer until the first AGM in May 1951. At this meeting Mr J A Eastwood (a founder member also of the Halifax Society) was appointed Treasurer, an office he has held with distinction ever since, combining it with Secretary between 1953 and 1959, and also on three occasions that of Chairman.

A programme of meetings was published in Bulletin No. 2 and these were held in the Leeds Philatelic Society room at Kirkgate House, Leeds. Bulletin No. 3 is interesting in that the first mention is made of Mr J N Highsted in the report of the meeting of January 13th 1951, when he showed his collection of Soldier Stamps. Mr Highsted was to become one of the Group's most distinguished members, and from April 26th 1952 until the AGM on April 29th 1972 (when his retirement forced a move to smaller quarters) all the Group's meetings were held at his 'Philatelic Home' in Bradford. The four rooms of his large house which were devoted to his hobby were an Aladdins Cave for the Swiss enthusiast, and both John and his charming wife will always be remembered by those members who were fortunate to join during that period. They were indeed the 'Great Days of the Northern Group'.

The group held their 1972/3 meetings in Halifax, but this location did not prove very successful so a more central meeting room had to be found and from September 29th 1973 meetings were held at the Central Library in Leeds. Although the room was not ideal for displaying stamps it was, however, only a few minutes walk from the station. Perhaps we had all been spoilt at Mr Highsted's. It was certainly a change to have to leave the meeting room at a fixed time, pay for room hire, no afternoon cup of tea and cakes, and no longer able to browse through Mr Highsted's seemingly endless supply of new, unusual and interesting material.

These were perhaps some of the least successful days of the Northern Group, and for a few years the meeting attendance was causing concern. There was, however, a hard core of enthusiasts and your writer was most grateful to the regulars who carried us through this difficult period. While the quality of the material and the enthusiasm shown at meetings was never in doubt, the average attendance fell until in 1977/8 it reached the lowest level in the history of the Group.

It was, therefore, decided to move to a new venue with better facilities, and on April 8th 1978 the Group held its first meeting at the Lawrence Oates School in Leeds, where Helvetia member Mr G D Wilson was Headmaster. Although some distance from the centre of Leeds the school proved to be an excellent venue with plenty of room for displaying stamps and storing the display frames, no parking problems and perhaps just as important there were now facilities once again for making the afternoon cup of tea, which had always been such a feature of the days at Mr Highsted's.

Coincidence or not the fortunes of the Group, as far as attendance was concerned, began to improve almost at once, and over the next few years reached the highest in their history. Sadly Mr Wilson had to take early retirement through ill health and it was decided to move ▽

once again to another 'home'. Since September 20th 1986 meetings have been held in the room used by the Leeds Philatelic Society near the centre of Leeds.

Throughout the last 40 years members of the Northern Group have figured prominently in the Yorkshire Philatelic Association. Mr Moore was for many years Chairman, and four members have signed the 'Register of Distinguished Yorkshire Philatelists', which was inaugurated in 1976 to record and recognise the achievements of Yorkshire Philatelists and their services to philately.

The Group have also, on numerous occasions, visited other societies in Yorkshire, while individual members regularly present 'Swiss Evenings' at their local societies.

Like many other organisations your Northern Group would welcome some new and younger members, but I am sure the enthusiasm shown towards Switzerland and Swiss Philately by our members will continue to ensure the success of the Group I have the honour to serve as Secretary.

---

The Northern Group is holding its 40th Anniversary Meeting in Leeds on March 3rd and it will be devoted to stamps, postal stationery and other items which have been issued over those years. The Chairman, Mr D Cairns, extends a warm welcome to any Helvetia member wishing to attend this meeting. For information on how to get to the meeting room at Centenary House in Leeds, please contact the Hon. Secretary who will be pleased to send details and a map.

---

The Alpine Passes - At the meeting of the Northern Group in Leeds on January 6th Mr Hoyle displayed about 300 sheets from his Alpine Passes collection, including the history of the Diligence and Motor services over these great alpine routes.

He began by looking at the layout of the Alps and the passes, recalling some of his own holiday memories, showed examples of cancellations from many of the now closed mountain offices. His display covered the Gemmi, Klausen, Grimsel, Furka, Susten, Simplon, Flüela, Maloja, Julier and Bernina passes, and was illustrated with old and modern postcards and his own photographs.

He also displayed some sheets of trial prints, a complete mint set of 18 of the 1939 Kartenbriefe for the Zürich Exhibition, and a selection of the 1944/5 Postautostrecken Karten all featuring Alpine Postal Coach routes.

R A H

---

The Hon. Treasurer wishes to thank the Anonymous Member for their generous donation to the Society's funds.

---

Forthcoming meeting in London - March 14th, Postal History - What is it all about? Presented by Mrs M O Bidmead. Come and find out!

---

SPRING STAMPEX is from February 27th to March 4th, Horticultural Hall.

---

..... marks the spot if you have not paid your subscription EXCEPT if you have paid by standing order ( the Hon. Treasurer will not find out until he gets the statement at the end of the month) or if you have sent it 2nd class (or even 1st!) and it is you know where.

# The Amateur Collector Ltd

P.O.Box No.242, LONDON N2 0YZ, England

Phone: 01-348 0296



## SPRING

# STAMPEX

## 1990

### 27th FEB-4th MARCH

BOTH HALLS Royal Horticultural Society  
Greycoat Street & Vincent Square, London SW1



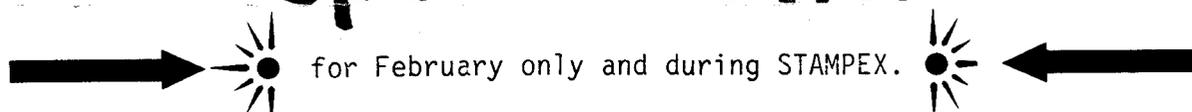
# STAND

## 41

Send S.A.E. for your FREE ENTRANCE TICKET (not usable on first day).

The Show opens daily Wednesday to Saturday 10.30 - 19.00,  
Tuesday 12.00 - 19.00 and Sunday 10.30 - 18.00.

# Special Offer



for February only and during STAMPEX.

Superb mint condition, lightly hinged unless otherwise stated.  
Only 5 each available at these prices (all prices VAT inclusive).

POSTAGE:	63A	(usual price)	£ 87.50	ONLY £ 67.50
	64B	" "	£ 19.25	ONLY £ 15.00
	114	" "	£ 45.00	ONLY £ 35.00
	122	" "	£ 12.50	ONLY £ 9.00
	125II	" "	£ 15.75	ONLY £ 12.00
	135/3 (open 8)	" "	£ 63.00	ONLY £ 47.50
	142	" "	£ 63.00	ONLY £ 47.50
	163/166 set	" "	£ 67.90	ONLY £ 47.50
	194/200 set	" "	£ 19.25	ONLY £ 15.00
	252/R1 (rare retouch)	USED	£ 70.00	ONLY £ 50.00
TETE BECHE:	K7II	(usual price)	£ 59.50	ONLY £ 45.00
AIRMAIL:	7	" "	£ 7.00	ONLY £ 5.00
	12	" "	£ 10.50	ONLY £ 7.00
	15	" "	£ 31.50	ONLY £ 24.00
FRANCHISE:	14Bz/16Bz set	UNMOUNTED	£ 57.50	ONLY £ 40.00

**25 c. Centenary of the Union of Swiss Philatelic Societies** In the autumn of 1890 the Berne Philatelic Society invited the nine stamp collectors' clubs the country then boasted to send delegates to a central meeting to be held in the capital on October 26. Aarau, Basle, Lausanne, Lucerne and St. Gallen responded, and today's Union can be said to date essentially from then. Before the year was out, the societies had already been asked to vet the draft regulations for a commission to oversee Swiss postage stamp issues. The philatelic societies of Neuchâtel, Winterthur and Zurich now also joined, bringing the number of societies in the new organisation to nine, with 298 members. The Union of Swiss Philatelic Societies, headquartered in Zurich, now counts 145 societies with some 20 000 members. From its humble beginnings pulling together a few regional groupings, the Union has developed over the last 100 years into a finely meshed organisation covering the whole of Switzerland. It publishes its own

magazine, 'Schweizer Briefmarken-Zeitung' (Swiss Postage Stamp Journal), in addition to providing other services. The Union's purpose is to promote stamp-collecting with the help of courses, exhibitions, publications and other activities. Last but not least it maintains vigilance against counterfeit stamps and unfair competition.

The Centenary stamp designed by Burkard Waltenspül, Basle, depicts two stamps which were in circulation at the time of the founding of the Union, as well as the Union's emblem.

**35 c. Zurich Rapid Transit System** The Zurich Rapid Transit System, a joint undertaking by the Canton of Zurich and Swiss Federal Railways, will be inaugurated in May 1990 after 7 years' intensive construction work. The completion of the 'S-Bahn', as it is called in German - S happily standing for both 'Stadt' (city) and 'schnell' (rapid), 'Bahn' meaning railway - will mark the implementation of the public-transit answer to the growing problem of short-haul periurban traffic. The S-Bahn network covers a total of 380 km of railway line. At the heart of the system is a new section of track approximately 12 km in length, 7.7 km of this runs under the city of Zurich and the suburb of Zürichberg, turning Zurich main railway station from a terminus into a through-station. On most of the 14 S-Bahn routes, the trains will be timetabled to run every half hour, with more frequent services during peak periods. The new rapid transit network will not only make many commuters' lives easier, it is also designed as a feeder system for main-line departures from Zurich central and is ideal for travel to and from many of the city's schools, trips to events in town, visits to friends, etc. What is more, passengers will be able to transfer between trains, buses and lake steamers on the same ticket.

Several Swiss firms have collaborated in building the new rolling stock. The elegant double-decker train compositions are a striking feature of the burgeoning new era of public regional transport. A locomotive, two centre passenger cars and a control trailer make up an approximately 100 metre long trainset. When necessary, two additional trainsets can be hooked up to the basic unit, making a composition capable of carrying a total of 1200 people. - The stamp was designed by Beni La Roche, Zurich, and shows an S-Bahn trainset locomotive and control car.

**50 c. Assistance for Mountain Communities** Switzerland counts several hundred small and rather poor mountain communities which derive no income from tourism or water concessions and whose own slender tax bases do not provide anything like the funds needed to finance expenditure on necessary infrastructure. The cost of water supplies, nursery schools, medical care, rehabilitation of alpine pastures, conservation of avalanche protection forests, safeguarding and maintenance of road links and other essential public works and services often represents a crushing burden, even after deduction of all government subsidies.

In such cases, Assistance for Mountain Communities, a non-profit institution founded in Zurich on 31 October 1940, comes to the rescue by securing financial contributions from cantons, local authorities and private individuals or by filling the gap from its own resources and annual collections. Since its inception it has been instrumental, directly or indirectly, in channelling 120 million Swiss francs to several hundred communities in all the mountain cantons.

Maintaining the vitality of our mountain communities is the most effective means of stemming the drift of population from the high valleys and hence of preserving our alpine heritage as we know it.

In the commemorative stamp, Bernadette Baltis of Zumikon has succeeded in reducing to a common denominator the character and activities of the mountain farmers in their stark landscape.

**90 c. 1990 World Ice Hockey Championships** The Swiss Ice Hockey Federation (SEHV) has been entrusted with the task of running the A-series World Ice Hockey Championships from April 16 to May 2, 1990. A total of 40 games - 28 in the preliminary round followed by six each in the final and elimination rounds - will be played at the Allmend ice stadium in Berne and the Patinoire Communale St-Léonard in nearby Fribourg. The world's eight best ice hockey nations are eligible to participate: these are currently the Soviet Union, Canada, Czechoslovakia, the Fed. Rep. of Germany, the USA, and the Scandinavian countries of Sweden, Finland and Norway. - The Championships are not only a focus of interest in Switzerland and for the expected 200 000 on-the-spot spectators but also represent a highlight in the sporting calendar of the world in view of the ever-increasing popularity of ice hockey across the globe. A major sporting event of this kind is therefore a visiting card for Switzerland as a whole all over the world. The last time the A-series World Championships were held in Switzerland was in 1971, in Berne and Geneva, though the city of Fribourg hosted the B-series in 1985.

The stamp was designed by Roland Hirter, Berne. It shows a scene from a modern game of ice hockey and reflects the dynamic spirit which is the hallmark of this fascinating team sport.

**Definitive stamps: People at Work** The 'People at Work' series of definitive stamps inaugurated last year with two values is devoted to traditional occupations and will gradually replace the Zodiac series. The new stamps show people at work in their trade in both traditional and contemporary settings. The designs for the whole series are by the well-known illustrator Walter Haettenschweiler of Zug. The steel engravings are by Pierre Schopfer, La Chaux.

**3.75 fr. Fisherman** Professional fishing is an ancient trade and one which is close to nature. Its origins are lost in the mists of time when men lived from hunting and gathering. Protein-rich fish is in great demand in our markets. In inland areas and landlocked countries like Switzerland, fishermen not only supply these markets, they also operate hatcheries, thereby bearing ultimate responsibility for the propagation of the different species.

The stamp shows a scene from the daily work of a professional fisherman: hauling in the net.

**Definitive stamps: Animals** The new series of definitives which is gradually being brought in to replace the Mail Transport series is devoted mainly to pets, farm animals and working animals, though others often found in the vicinity of the human habitat are also featured. The new series will cover values from 5 to 90 c. (the lower charge band). The choice of animals as a theme reflects regular public demand.

**50 c. Cats** Along with the dog, the cat is our most popular pet, a trusting, cuddly bundle of fluff particularly beloved of children. And no self-respecting farmhouse is complete without a cat and its litter of young playing or sunning themselves in the yard. - All the stamps in the series were designed by the well-known Basle illustrator Celestino Piatti, with steel engravings by Max Müller, Bern.



NEW  
ISSUES  
FROM  
THE  
PTT

## Particulars

### Sale

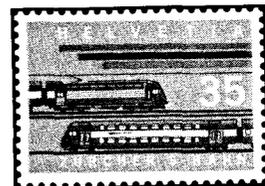
Post offices and philatelic offices of PTT: from 6.3.1990

### Advance sale

from 28.2.1990

### Validity unlimited

from 6.3.1990



What time is it - continued from page 9.

For the next complication we move on to 19th April 1918 when Switzerland adopted, by law, the 24-hour system for all official times. This did not lead to an immediate change; machine crowns were changed during a period of transition ending about 1921. Morning (a.m.) time was shown by Arabic 1-12, afternoon (p.m.) time by Roman numerals I-XII or Arabic 13-24; this causes some confusion for the postmark student. For example, was figure 5 processed between 11-12 a.m. (old system) or 11-12 p.m. (new system)? My guess is that it is still the old system because the letter is dated only 11 days after the law was passed. An interesting search might be made for machine cancels with Roman times after mid-1918.

Figure 5



Figure 6



In any case the 24-hour system became standard; figure 6 was cancelled between 9-10 a.m. and figure 7 between 6-7 p.m. With two exceptions, the time was shown in this way until the introduction of the segmented crown. The exceptions were Basel 1 and St. Gallen 1, where only one number was used to show the time from 1936 to 1954 (figure 8).

For completeness, note that the current segmented crowns have only one number to show the time (the current hour); figure 9. Any comments, questions and observations are welcome. Reproduced from Tell, 11/88.

Figure 7



Figure 8



Figure 9



### Report of the London meeting 10th January 1990

The Chairman, Mr F Pickard, opened the meeting and presented apologies from Mrs E J Rawnsley, and Messrs Bulstrode, Harbon and Ager. As there was no business to be discussed, Geoff Hubbard was asked to continue his saga of the Postage Dues, the period from 1956, the hand cancelled large 'T' and the T in circle. From 1954, owing to a lack of postage due stamps, POs were using definitives and the normal cds. Naturally some disputes occurred and offices which had T cancels took the initiative and began to use them. The Ts were official from January 1956, and from 1960 all issues of stamps were used, not just definitives.

Problems arose in assessing the amount due, especially on incoming foreign mail. The forwarding office should pick up the underpayment and note the due; the receiving office was then responsible for assessing the amount due, affixing the dues, and taking collection. From the covers displayed it was seen that this was not always the case. The display showed a general spread of covers clarifying the points, and problem covers, followed by a run of both types of Ts on various issues.

Mr Balmforth gave a very comprehensive vote of thanks, including a special 'thank you' for the hand out Geoff had produced. M O Bidmead

Stamp World London 90 - Friday 11th May - remember that the Society has hired a room for the afternoon - reserve the date now.