

HELVETIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

Founded 1946

NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2019

www.swiss-philately.co.uk



Secretary: Neville Nelder, 76, Greenaways, Ebley, Stroud, GL5 4UQ, Glos. Email: secretary@swiss-philately.co.uk Tel. 01453 765937
Editor: Richard Donithorn, 10, Park Drive, Felpham, West Sussex, PO22 7RD Email: editor@swiss-philately.co.uk Tel. 01243 583237

LA CHAUX-DE-FONDS, CHARLES L'EPLATTENIER AND LE CORBUSIER

RICHARD DONITHORN



Fig. 1 The sheetlet of the CHF1.00 stamp Z1190 featuring the painting 'Fir' celebrating the Art Nouveau movement in La Chaux de Fonds. Charles L'Eplattenier, born in Neuchatel in 1874, was a teacher, architect and artist in the realms of painting, sculpture and graphic design. He is considered one of the foremost exponents of Swiss Art Nouveau despite working almost exclusively in the town of La Chaux-de-Fonds, where from 1897 he taught at the School of Decorative Arts and later became a professor. To we philatelists he is best remembered as the designer of several key Swiss stamps.

At the time La Chaux-de-Fonds was developing into one of the leading centres of the Swiss watch industry. Increasing prosperity created a large demand for property and art in the latest styles of the time among the wealthy citizens of the city. L'Eplattenier and his students developed a local form of Art Nouveau known as 'Style Sapin' (pine tree style) after a frequently recurring motif. 'Style Sapin' is exclusive to Switzerland. It portrays movement through artistic representations of the natural elements of the Jura mountains – in particular the trees, fauna and gentians.

Some of the characteristic elements of 'Style Sapin' figure on Swiss Post's homage to the Art Nouveau movement in La Chaux-de-Fonds, the commemorative stamps Z1190 'Fir' and Z1191 'Petal' designed by Suter Sager of Zug issued in 2006 - based on a painting by Tanne. Shown above is the sheetlet 'Fir' (Fig. 1).

As an architect L'Eplattenier was involved in the development of several buildings in La Chaux-de-Fonds. The Beaux Arts Museum was built to his designs and, with his pupils (who included the young Le Corbusier), he decorated the School of Decorative Arts building with Art-Nouveau murals and mosaics. He also used his Style Sapin, most famously in the decoration of the town's Crematorium and some town-houses, including the 'Villa Fallet' which he designed with his friend, the architect René Chapallaz in 1906.



Fig. 2

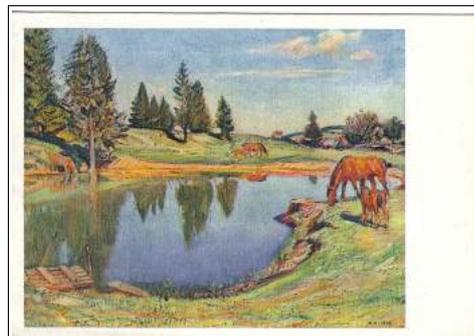


Fig. 3

L'Eplattenier was a fine painter, particularly of the landscapes of the Jura mountains and the valley and gorges of the River Doubs. Examples of his paintings feature on two unstamped charity postcards – Pro Patria card 'Tell's Son' (in 1940) and a Pro Infirmis card 'Franche Compte' (Figs. 2 and 3). Some of his impressive murals can be found in the Crematorium in La Chaux-de-Fonds.

As a sculptor, he designed decorative elements on the Monument to the Republic of Neuchâtel 1910 outside the Town Hall (main design by Heer and Meyer) - part Art Nouveau and part his 'Style Sapin'. The monument featured on an imprinted stamp on an official, illustrated postal stationery card in 1998 (Fig. 4). He also designed the statue of a Swiss soldier on guard during WWI, 'La Sentinelle des Rangiers' which features on the Pro Patria stamp (Z6 – Fig. 5) and the related miniature sheet. His designs also appeared on repoussé and enamel watch cases of the Gallet Watch Company.



Fig. 4



Fig. 5



Fig. 6

L'Eplattenier was responsible for a number of key stamp designs in the early 1900s. The 'Standing Helvetias' had a long innings, but by 1900 the PTT were under pressure from the public to find more modern designs for their definitives. A series of design competitions were held, including the one in 1907 organised by the 'Tages-Anzeiger' newspaper. Several entries featuring Helvetia in various poses were submitted by L'Eplattenier. One example is shown in Fig. 6. Three designs were eventually chosen - Welti's 'Tell Boy' and L'Eplattenier's 'Helvetia Bust' (Fig. 7) and 'Helvetia with Sword' (Fig. 8). They were introduced gradually in 1907/8 using the typography process. The designer stamped his mark on the 40c rose lilac and yellow 'Helvetia with Sword' issued in 1908. There were two variations – one with a rather indistinct "L'Eplattenier" and the other simply with the initials "CL" (Fig. 9). His design gained him further recognition when the 30c and 50c definitives were used with a red overprint of a winged propellor as the first official airmail stamps in 1919/20 (Z1/2 – Fig. 10). A revised L'Eplattenier design for the 'Helvetia Bust' was issued in 1909 (Fig. 11) to placate public complaints but, unlike the 'Helvetia with Sword' design which was still in use in the 1940s, it was displaced by the 'William Tell' definitives in 1910.



Fig. 7



Fig. 8



Fig. 9



Fig. 10



Fig. 11



Fig. 12



Fig. 13



Fig. 14

His attractive 'Cross of Confederation with Jungfrau' Art Nouveau design for Postage Dues was issued in 1910 (Z29-41 engraved by A. Geel - Fig. 12). This design was also used for the Charity/Frank Stamp series with/without control numbers first introduced in 1911 (Z2-13 – Fig. 13). His artistic flair was displayed perfectly in his depiction of the Hohle Gasse at Küssnacht on the Bundesfeier stamp issued in 1941 (Z14 - Fig. 14).

As mentioned above, L'Eplattenier taught the architect Charles-Édouard Jeanneret later known as Le Corbusier. Indeed it is possible that Le Corbusier was influenced in his choice of pseudonym by the name of his teacher. Born on the outskirts of La Chaux-de-Fonds in 1887, Le Corbusier learnt the enamelling and engraving of watch faces, his father's trade, at the École des Arts Décoratifs at La Chaux-de-Fonds. There, Charles L'Eplattenier, who was

later called by Le Corbusier “his only teacher”, taught him art history, drawing, and the naturalist aesthetics of Art Nouveau. Le Corbusier's imagination lead him into the spheres of abstract and semi-abstract painting in later life.

It was L'Eplattenier who decided that Le Corbusier, having completed three years of studies, should become an architect and gave him his first practice on local projects. Le Corbusier, whilst still L'Eplattenier's pupil, drew up the plans and supervised the construction of the Villa Fallet, later designing several villas in La Chaux-de-Fonds in partnership with his brother Pierre Jeanneret. From 1907 to 1911, on L'Eplattenier's advice, Le Corbusier undertook a series of trips that played a decisive role in his architectural education. Sadly, perhaps because Le Corbusier spent most of his adult life outside Switzerland, the PTT and Swiss Post have never honoured him with a stamp featuring one of his many famous architectural designs, urban plans or paintings*.

However Hans Erni included Le Corbusier in one of his 'Portraits' series (Z513 – Fig. 15) and the 'Swiss Design Classics' definitive Z1109 features an armchair designed by Heidi Weber in the 1950s which, in turn, was based on an earlier 1928 design in tubular steel by Le Corbusier (Fig. 16).



Fig. 15



Fig. 16

A lover of the outdoors, L'Eplattenier fell to his death from a rocky promontory while hiking along the River Doubs, near Brenets, Switzerland in 1946 at the age of 72. Ironically his pupil Le Corbusier, similarly pursuing outdoor pursuits, died off Roquebrine-Cap Martin in France in a swimming accident in 1966.



Fig. 17



Fig. 18

Footnote: A query – The Zumstein Specialist catalogue records that L'Eplattenier designed the cancellation for the promotional event organised by the Societe d'Aviation NHORA in 1927 (Fig. 17), but what about the official commemorative postal stationery card produced specifically for that event (Fig. 18) which features a small picture of an aeroplane distributing pocket watches to the, no doubt, grateful recipients below. Do the initials “C.L.” in the bottom right-hand corner signify that Charles L'Epplattenier was the artist?

*Several examples of Le Corbusier's architectural heritage can still be seen in Switzerland including his parents' house the 'Villa Jeanneret' (or 'Maison Blanche') in La Chaux de Fonds (1912) and their summer lakeside bungalow 'Villa Le Lac' in Vevey (1924); the 'Villa Turque' in La Chaux de Fonds (1917), the 'Immeuble Clarté' apartment block in Geneva (1932) and the recently renovated 'Centre Le Corbusier' in Zürich (1966). He was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Zürich in 1955.

The Society is grateful to Swiss Post for enabling it to reproduce illustrations of their products; and to the American HPS for allowing the reproduction of the illustrations of the 'Helvetia' essay and the two variations of L'Epplattenier's name on the 'Helvetia with Sword' stamps from their book: 'Introduction to Swiss Philately'.

POSTAGE DUE ADVISORY LABELS – A DISCOVERY

BOB MEDLAND



Fig. 1

One of the joys of studying postal history is that, every now and again, one stumbles across a vital, missing link in a study area. ‘Cinderallas’ or postal ephemera were long-held in low esteem by classical philatelists. After all, they aren’t stamps, are they? But these labels and advisory slips conveyed instructions and information that were key to operations in the postal system – not least, where there were problems in delivering mail. So if unattractive to classical philatelists they are a great source of information to the postal historian.

When an underpaid, taxed letter cannot be delivered because the addressee is out, a card or slip of paper is left, notifying the addressee “Postage due to be paid on an item: to be collected from the post office counter”. The slip of paper was detached from a counterfoil that was stuck on the item and retained at the post office counter, awaiting collection. The system is much the same in Britain and doubtless other countries. Figure 1 is an example: an underpaid letter sent from Tunisia to Bern in 1970 with the PTT’s counterfoil still attached to the cover. David Whitworth and I wrote several articles with illustrations of various counterfoils of this type – see HNL 2007 (pp 40, 73/74, 84). They showed numerous inconsistencies for an official form but all the examples bore two things in common: (a) there were no printing details or PTT official form number; and (b) all were from the main cities of Basel, Bern, Geneva and Zürich – also one from Schaffhausen. We questioned the official source of these labels – and what form was used elsewhere? Until now, there have been no answers.

The table on the next page provides a summary of the 35 examples of these counterfoils I have found to date, from 30 different post offices. The earliest/latest dates of use are highlighted in green and pink respectively. They can be split into two categories:

Type 1, 1938-1969: printed in mixed Elzevir/plain or just plain font, with no provision for last date for collection. All on cream paper.

Type 2, 1965-1991: printed in plain font. Most with provision for the date to be inserted. Mostly yellow or orange paper (a few cream).

Figures 2 and 3 show examples of each type.

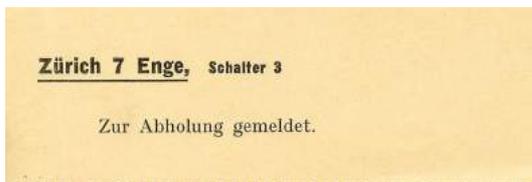


Fig. 2

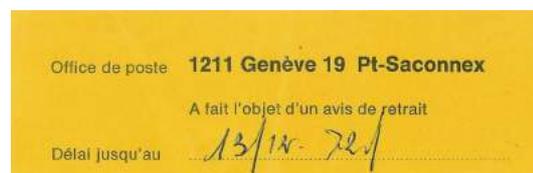


Fig. 3

As well as being used on taxed letters and postcards these labels were used for Registered and Express items that could not be delivered because the addressee’s signature was required (Figures 4 and 5).



Fig. 4



Fig. 5

Table: Examples of Counterfoils

Type 1: Cream paper, no provision for date						
Post office	Collection point	Font	Advisory text	Colour	Date of use	Used for:
Basel 2 Centralbahnstrasse	Poststelle	Plain + Elzevier	Zur Abholung gemeldet	Cream	Aug 1948	Postage due
Basel 2 Centralbahnstrasse	Poststelle	Plain	Zur Abholung gemeldet	Cream	Aug 1964	Postage due
Basel 3 Spalen	Poststelle	Plain + Elzevier	Zur Abholung gemeldet	Cream	Aug 1950	Postage due
Basel 7 Horburg	Poststelle	Plain + Elzevier	Zur Abholung gemeldet	Cream	Mar 1951	Postage due
Basel 9 Allschwilerplatz	Poststelle	Plain	Zur Abholung gemeldet	Cream	Sep 1965	
Basel 21 Mustermesse	Poststelle	Plain	Zur Abholung gemeldet	Cream	Jul 1963	Postage due
Bern 15 Weltpostverein	Poststelle	Plain	Zur Abholung gemeldet	Cream	Jul 1966	Postage due
Genève 13 Les Charmilles	Office de poste	Plain + Elzevier	Avisé pour être retiré au guichet	Cream	Dec 1952	Postage due
Genève 16 Grand-Pré	Office de poste	Plain + Elzevier	Avisé pour être retiré au guichet	Cream	May 1957	Postage due
Genève 3 Rive	Office de poste	Plain + Elzevier	Avisé pour être retiré au guichet	Cream	Jul 1944	Postage due
Schaffhausen 5 Hochstrasse	Poststelle	Plain	Zur Abholung gemeldet	Cream	Aug 1969	Postage due
Zürich 1 Sihlpost	Poststelle/ Posttagerschalter No.2	Plain	Zur Abholung gemeldet	Cream	Dec 1966	Postage due
Zürich 5 Predigerplatz		Plain + Elzevier	Zur Abholung gemeldet	Cream	Jul 1938	Postage due
Zürich 7 Enge	Shalter 3	Plain + Elzevier	Zur Abholung gemeldet	Cream	Dec 1938	Postage due
Zürich 26 Aussersihl	Poststelle / Lagerschalter	Plain	Zur Abholung gemeldet	Cream	May 1959	Postage due
Zürich 33 Oberstrass	Poststelle	?	Zur Abholung gemeldet	Cream	Apr 1967	Registered
Zürich 35 Stampfenbach	Poststelle	Plain + Elzevier	Zur Abholung gemeldet	Cream	Dec 1957	Postage due
Zürich 42 Schaffhauserplatz	(None)	Plain + Elzevier	Zur Abholung gemeldet	Cream	Nov 1948	Postage due
Zürich 42 Schaffhauserplatz	(None)	Plain + Elzevier	Zur Abholung gemeldet	Cream	Dec 1949	Registered
Zürich Mühlegasse	?	?		Cream	Oct 1966	
Type 2: Cream or orange paper with provision for date						
4012 Basel 12 Kannenfeld	Poststelle	Plain	Zur Abholung gemeldet	Yellow	Aug 1977	Postage due
4012 Basel 12 Kannenfeld	Poststelle	Plain	Zur Abholung am Postschalter gemeldet	Orange	Sep 1983	Postage due
4016 Basel 16	Poststelle	Plain	Zur Abholung am Postschalter gemeldet	Orange	Aug 1992	Registered
4020 Basel 20 Gellert	Poststelle	Plain	Zur Abholung am Postschalter gemeldet	Orange	Apr 1983	Postage due
Basel 16 Bad. Bahnhof	Poststelle	Plain	Zur Abholung am Postschalter gemeldet	Orange	Sep 1984	Registered
Bern Länggasse	?	?		Cream	Aug 1970	
3000 Bern 5 Holligen	Poststelle	Plain	Zur Abholung gemeldet	Cream	Aug 1970	Postage due
3000 Bern 9 Länggasse	Poststelle	Plain	Zur Abholung am Postschalter gemeldet	Orange	Aug 1982	Postage due
3000 Bern 26 Brückfeld	Poststelle	Plain	Zur Abholung am Postschalter gemeldet	Orange	Aug 1991	Registered
1200 Genève 12 Champel	Office de poste	Plain	Annoncé pour être retiré au guichet	Cream	Oct 1965	Registered
1200 Genève 3 Rive	Office de poste	Plain	Avisé pour être retiré au guichet	Orange	Jul 1979	Registered
1200 Genève 7 Servette	Office de poste	Plain	Avisé pour être retiré au guichet	Orange	May 1984	Express
1211 Genève 19 Pt-Saconnex	Office de poste	Plain	A fait l'objet d'un avis de retrait	Orange	Dec 1972	Postage due
1227 Genève 24 Les Acacias	Office de poste	Plain	A fait l'objet d'un avis de retrait	Cream	Dec 1969	Postage due
8034 Zürich 34	Poststelle	Plain	Zur Abholung am Postschalter gemeldet	Orange	Sep 1977	Registered



Fig. 6

Like any postal administration, the PTT had literally thousands of different forms, slips and other items of stationery, each with their identification number. It seems odd therefore that these forms bear no official number or printing details, also that there is such variety in the layout and text when they were designed for the same purpose. Were these officially sanctioned? I was fortunate to obtain from our former editor, the late Peter Hobbs, the PTT 1959 booklet listing of such items (Figure 6). A veritable Rosetta Stone for all official printed forms in use at the time – no less than 507 of them - inevitably it bears its own number ‘PTT 001.10 fr’ (Figure 7). There must have been a version in German with a ‘de’ suffix.

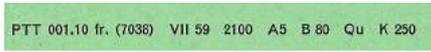


Fig. 7

The booklet list form No. 1215b (later PTT 222.17), defined as “Invitation à retirer un envoi avec coupon de transmission” (i.e. request to collect an item with official slip). Yet this slip or label is not listed in the catalogue ‘Les Étiquettes Postales Suisses 1876-1997’ by Guignard & Vuille (1998) nor have I seen one of them – until recently, when I spotted one for sale by on-line auction. The holy grail in this study area: I bid for it, bit my nails for several days, sat back and waited . . . and won! Mine for just £4 (see Figures 8 and 9). Success at last.

Werner Gattiker

For most aspects of Swiss Philately and Postal History



- Free Standard Price List 1850 – 2012 with both Zumstein/SBK and Stanley Gibbons numbers.
- "Werner's Treasure Trove" sent most months to my customers, full of offers of stamps, covers, cards, blocks, collections & lots, literature, etc.
- Liechtenstein also available.

Werner Gattiker, P O Box 791 Hassocks, West Sussex, BN6 ODP – 01273 845501 - werner@swisstamps.co.uk



Fig. 8 Form attached to card



Fig. 9 Close up of the form

This version of form No. 1215b was from a print-run of 500,000 in May 1935 in A8 format. But . . . all this raises more questions which I now have to put to the readership:

- 1) Evidently label 1215b was in print between at least May 1935 and July 1959. Has anyone seen any examples before/after those dates?
- 2) There is such a variety of text and format differing from a standard, official label. Were the busier post offices in the main cities authorised to obtain their own supplies locally?
- 3) What sort of label is used today? In Britain, currently the Royal Mail leaves a 'Grey Card' at the address for this purpose, for the addressee to come and pay/collect or even pay on line for delivery the next day.
- 4) And finally, millions of these little counterfoils were printed and yet this is the first that I have seen in over 15 years of collecting Swiss postage due material. What has happened to them all?

Meanwhile, the search continues . . .

Footnote: Fred Hoadley has spent a lot of time bringing the Newsletter Index up to date and this can now be used on the Society's website. I encourage members to make use of it. And here's an interesting fact: if you search for items about 'labels' you will find there are no less than 203 articles in all the Newsletters from 1948 to 2017. Perhaps they are an interesting subject, after all!

NEWS FOR SWISS COLLECTORS

EDITOR

- Swiss Post's Annual Collection 2018 book is retailing at CHF60.35 - only 10c. more than the 2017 version. Royal Mail's GB Annual Collection 2018 is currently available at £133 !
- Zumstein's 'Switzerland and Liechtenstein' 2019 catalogue has 1,008 pages. New additions this year include references about 'Rappen' shades, new varieties of 'Classics' and a warning about counterfeit or predated postmarks. The SBK's 2019 Catalogue has been split into three separate volumes – Switzerland, Liechtenstein, and UN Geneva. The latest Swiss Postal Stationery Catalogue now consists of a set of seven loose leaf binders in full colour.
- Always curious, I note that my small collection of WWII Soldier Stamps has a few examples with the name of the printers recorded on the bottom edge. They include: A. Trub & CIE of Aarau, Geor. Fretz AG and Conzett & Huber of Zürich, Buchler & Co. of Bern, Galley and Co. of Fribourg, Deller & Co. AG of Luzern and Courvoisier S.A. of La Chaux-de-Fonds. Is there a catalogue available that identifies the various printers of all the WW1 and WWII Soldier Stamps?



David Feldman
INTERNATIONAL AUCTIONEERS

David Feldman has sold more Grand Prix and Large Gold Medal collections than any other company in history. Go with the winner!



Contact our specialist today to get more information:
 Anders Thorell
 Tel: +41 (0) 22 727 07 75
 Email: anders.thorell@davidfeldman.com



www.davidfeldman.com

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF OUR SOCIETY – April 7th 2019

An 'AGM' need not be a dreaded, boring affair! It is an opportunity for lively debate and is your chance to have a say in the running of the Society. Would you like to have some influence on what our Society does? How about offering to help out in some way, perhaps to give something to the Society in return for the value of the newsletter and the efforts of others? Then please do come along to the Stonehouse Court Hotel in Gloucestershire on Sunday 7th April.

By attending the full two days of the Society's Annual Meeting [Saturday 6th/Sunday 7th April] you would also be able to enjoy good company, buy or sell material, and meet active members of the Society, not to mention being entertained with absolutely top-quality displays of Swiss stamps and postal history. Of course, if you are not able to get there, then please let me have your views for the AGM beforehand.

If you have a proposal that you want considered at the AGM then you will need to let me know by 15th February (contact details: in the header to this Newsletter on Page 1).

Neville Nelder, Secretary

THE ANNUAL NATIONAL MEETING 2019

NEVILLE NELDER

This event is taking place on Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th April at the Stonehouse Court Hotel in Stonehouse, Gloucestershire. Full details and a booking form were set out on the separate sheet delivered to you with the December 2018 issue of the Newsletter. We look forward to receiving your bookings.

REGIONAL MEETINGS

Southern Group - Saturday 9th March 2019 is the date for this group's next all-day meeting (10am to 4pm, refreshments and lunch provided) at 'The Three Crowns' public house, Whaddon nr. Salisbury (theme to be determined). Further meetings next year are proposed for 1st June and 19th October. Further information from Werner Gattiker, 01273 842 135 or werner@swisstamps.co.uk

Midlands and Northern Areas Group – details of the next meeting of the Society's new regional group will appear in the Newsletter shortly. It is expected to be held in Birmingham.

THE SOCIETY'S ANNUAL COMPETITIONS

NEVILLE NELDER, SECRETARY

There are two competitions. The Moore Bowl covers any aspect of Postal History e.g. routes, rates, postage due, TPO, censored, aerophilatelic. The Helvetia Philatelic Silver Cup is for any subject except Postal History. Therefore entries can cover stamps, revenues, thematic, postal stationery, cinderella and postcards. Each entry is to comprise 16 sheets. Double sheets count as two ordinary sheets. Members not attending may send a coloured photocopy of their entry to Mr. David Hope, 17 Hawthorn Drive, Stalybridge, Cheshire, SK15 1UE to reach him at the latest by Monday 1st April.

Judging of the entries will be by those members attending the National Meeting. The basic judging criteria are philatelic knowledge and study of the subject, condition and presentation. After due consideration of the entries members will vote for their top three entries in each competition by entering their choices on the judging slip provided. Marks will then be awarded as follows to determine the winner and runner-up in each competition: a first place will receive 3 marks, a second place 2 marks and a third place 1 mark. (In the event of a tie the number of first places awarded shall decide the winner. If there is still a tie then members will re-judge the tied entries to reach a decision.) Where the owner of the winning entry is not able to be present the trophy will remain with the Society and, if possible, it will be presented to the winner at a regional meeting.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF 'TELL'

EDITOR

The American HPS is now distributing an electronic version of our Newsletter to all their members who have an email address. We send the electronic version of the AHPS's 'Tell' only to those of our members who receive our Newsletter electronically. In future the electronic version of 'Tell' will be available to any HPS member who currently receives the hard copy version of the Newsletter, provided that they have an email address. Shortly we will automatically send a sample edition to all members whose email address we have in our contact details. If you have not given us your email address, but would like a sample copy, please send it to the Newsletter Editor at the address given in the header on page 1 of this edition.

NEWS FROM THE ABPS (ref. 'ABPS News' Winter 2018)

The Philatelic Congress of Great Britain's Roll of Distinguished Philatelists is widely regarded as the world's pre-eminent philatelic honour. There are at present 78 signatories of the Roll from 26 countries, including 16 from the UK, 14 from the USA, 7 from Germany and 1 from Switzerland. At the annual Congress in Newcastle-upon-Tyne last July four philatelists were asked to sign the Roll during the Annual Ceremony of Signing including Dr Cheryl Ganz FRPSL who is currently a Regional Trustee of the American HPS. The citation stated that: "Cheryl is best known for her lifelong philatelic outreach at all levels, engaging collectors from specialists to new audiences". Afterwards she gave a display entitled 'Zeppelin Matchmaker' including a crash cover from the Hindenburg's last disastrous flight in 1937.

Noted in the 'Societies' News' section:

Malcolm Cole gave a display to the Bookham Stamp Club on 'The Red Cross' which included philatelic items related to the organisation's creator Henri Dunant, the development of its symbol, national societies, the League of Red Cross Societies, International Conferences, its assistance to POWs, transportation media and fund raising methods (incl. Cinderellas, labels, etc.). A second display by Grace Davies on 'Peace – 200 Pages from a Collection' included poster stamps, FDCs, postcards and original artwork. Grace has previously given a display to our Society on this theme with the Swiss 'Peace' stamps, Basel Dove and UN Officials prominent.

The entries of Wimbledon and District Stamp Club's annual competition included Mike Warwick's 'War Stamps and Ship Posts of Lake Lucerne' which won a silver cup.

Bob Medland's succinct report on the inaugural meeting of our new Midlands and North Group in Birmingham (two nice colour photos of our happy members) plus a plug for our National Meeting in Stroud next April.

The Czechoslovak Society (British) were presented with the award of 'Best Philatelic Club of the Year' in 2017 by the Federation of European Philatelic Associations at PRAGA 2017. Eight of their members celebrated their success in May 2018 with a display at the Czech and Slovak Embassies in London on the subject of 'The History of Czechoslovakia from the Habsburgs through to the Present Day', followed by explanations of why they each started collecting Czechoslovakia.

The Association of Sussex Philatelic Societies held the annual South of England Stamp and Postcard Fair at Ardingly nr. Horsham on 13th October 2018. Attendance at the event was probably boosted by the British Airmail Society's standing display and open meeting and the British Thematic Association's display of the entries for their national competitions.

The British Thematic Association held one of its bi-annual 'Fun with Philately' weekends in Oxford in October 2018. Displays given included Barry Stagg's 'Aspects of Postcard Collecting', the Association having recently adopted postcard collecting as part of its remit.

Dates for your Diary

6th July – MIDPEX at Warwickshire Exhibition Centre, Leamington Spa. More info. www.google.com/site/midpex

12th October 2019 – Annual South of England Stamp and Postcard Fair and Sussex Convention in Ardingly.

11th - 14th September 2019 - Autumn STAMPEX 2019 at the Business Design Centre, Islington, London N1 0QH.

Details from www.abps.org.uk

2nd - 9th May 2020 - London 2020 International Stamp Exhibition at the Business Design Centre, Islington, London N1 0QH. Details from www.london2020.co The organisers are currently seeking volunteers to help run this event.

16th - 19th September 2020 - Autumn Stampex 2020 at the Business Design Centre, Islington, London N1 0QH.

RÖLLI 
Auktionen & Philatelie
— seit 1975 —

Rely on your Swiss specialist
with over 40 years of know how and experience
in philatelic auctions

Röllli-Schär Ltd. · Buzibachring 4a · CH-6023 Rothenburg · Switzerland · T +41 41 226 02 02 · www.roelliphila.ch

This is a continuation of the article published in the November 2018 edition of the Newsletter pp 104 – 107.

PART C



Fig. 13



Fig. 14

40c rates

Convention de Poste du 25 novembre 1849

Ordinary letter paid or un-paid: 40c. for each 7,5 gr.

40c period – unpaid mail.

Red 40 Canton hand-stamps on mail from France to Switzerland.

Fig. 13 above is a cover posted in Lyon on 15th March 1854. It was sent via Geneva (cancelled there on 16th March 1854) and arrived in Bern 17th March 1854.

There are a number of 40c. (and 35c.) marks listed in 'Schweiz Abstemplungen' by Andres & Emmenegger used between 1852 and 1859. I would expect all to have been used on letters between France and Switzerland.

Red manuscript 40 on mail from France to Switzerland.

Fig. 14 above is a cover which was posted in Paris on 28th February 1856. Sent via Aarau 29th February 1856.

The Red manuscript 40 should be in use from 1849. I have seen the Red manuscript 40 on mail dated as late as August 1862 – well into the hand-stamp period.



Fig. 15



Fig. 16

Red 40 hand-stamp on mail from France to Switzerland.

Fig. 15 above is a cover posted in Boulogne-sur-Mer on 20th May 1860. It was sent via Quievrain a Paris TPO 21st May 1860 (Miss-sort ?). It arrived in Genève 2nd May 1860. I have only seen these used between May 1860 and May 1864. I would expect that they were used from September 1859 and up until March 1865. These were either applied at one place (doubtful) or were produced and issued centrally.

Black 40 hand-stamp on mail from France to Switzerland.

Fig. 16 above is a cover posted in Guebwiller, Haut-Rhin, Alsace 31st July 1861. It was sent via Paris à Bâle TPO 31st July 1861. Then by Schweiz TPO 31st July 1861, arriving in Schweiz 31st July 1861.

I have seen one other black 40 on a November 1860 cover from Chaumont-en-Bassigny to Belfort that appears to have gone via Porrentruy, Switzerland.



Fig. 17



Fig. 18

4 décimes schnörkel on mail from Switzerland to France

Fig. 17 above is a cover posted in Basel 19th June 1852. Sent via St Louis, Haut-Rhin Office of Exchange 19th June 1852. Arrived in Reims 21st June 1852. Basel is in the first Swiss rayon and the Marne is a non-border French department so the charge should have been 35c rather than 40c. From the 1st December 1845 till 30th April 1850 these schnörkels were used in the French Office of Exchange, but after 1850 they were used in the Swiss offices. I have recorded them on unpaid mail up until November 1859. Again I would expect these to be used up until March 1865 for this duty.

40c period – underpaid mail from France to Switzerland

Underpaid mail followed the same pattern as that of the unpaid mail with manuscript marks used at first, followed by hand-stamp marks.

Fig. 18 above is a cover posted Marseille 15th November 1859. It was sent via Dijon à Paris TPO 16th November 1859. Then via Paris à Bâle TPO 16th November 1859. Arrived at Berne 17th November 1859. Franked 20c – 20c underpaid. Addressed 'Poste restante' – no charge was made for this service.



Fig. 19



Fig. 20

Fig. 19 above is a cover Franked 30c. Posted Paris 30th December 1862. Arrived at Genève 31st December 1862. Only 10c underpaid but still charged 40c postage due.

Fig. 20 is a cover Franked 20c. Posted St Leonard, France 13th January 1863. Arrived at Lausanne 15th January 1863. The underpayment of 20c is indicated by manuscript '2' (2 décimes = 20 centimes).

40c period underpaid mail from Switzerland to France



Fig. 21



Fig. 22

Fig. 21 on the previous page is a cover franked 30c. Posted Bern 6th September 1864 (Photo taken from e-bay). Part – paid and treated as unpaid

Fig. 22 is a cover franked 20c. Posted Ambulant Circulaire 22nd April 1865. Sent via Suisse-amb-M-Cenis (?) 22nd April 1865 (Photo taken from e-bay). Part–paid and treated as unpaid.

Conclusions - 40c rate

- Paid and un-paid rates were the same.
- Mail from France to Switzerland - Part paid mail was treated as unpaid.
- Mail from Switzerland to France - Part paid mail was treated as unpaid.

PART D

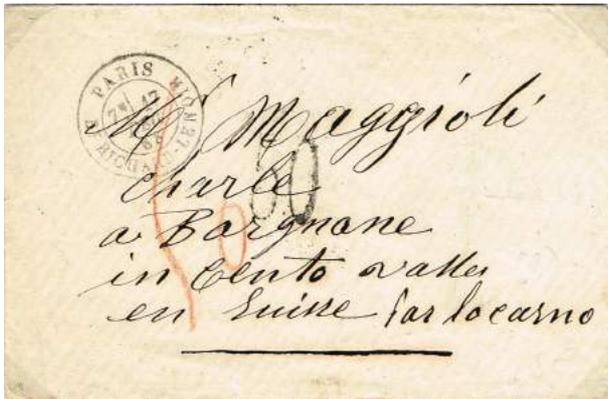


Fig. 23



Fig. 24

30c rates

Convention de Poste du 22 mars 1865.

Pre-paid letter: 30c. for each 10 gr.

Unpaid letter: 50c. for each 10 gr.

30c period unpaid mail - From France to Switzerland

Fig. 23 above is a cover posted in Paris on 17th December 1868. Sent via Basel and Lausanne on the 19th December 1868. Arrived Locarno 21st December 1868.

The '50' should be in use until December 1875.

30c period unpaid mail - From Switzerland to France

5 décimes schnörkel on mail from Switzerland to France

Fig. 24 is a cover posted in Chaux-de-Fonds on 10th January 1866. Sent via Basel 10th January 1866, then via frontier 11th January 1866. Arrived Reims 11th January 1866.

The '5' schnörkel should be in use until December 1875.



Fig. 25



Fig. 26

30c Period underpaid mail - From France to Switzerland.

Fig. 25 above is a cover Franked 20c. Posted Paris 8th June 1865. Arrived Basel 9th June 1865.

Fig. 26 is a cover Franked 20c. Posted Toulouse 15th Jan 1866. Arrived Genève 16th Jan 1866

The above two covers have only one postage due mark.



Fig. 27



Fig. 28

Fig. 27 above is a cover franked 20c. Posted Chalon-sur-Saone 19th February 1870. Sent via Dijon (bureaux de passé 1307) 19th February 1870. Arrived Porrentruy 20th February 1870.

This example has both a French and Swiss postage due mark for 30c.

Fig. 28 is a cover franked 25c. Sent from Chambéry 4th February 1872, cancelled with a Swiss Ambulant 4th February 1872 via Burgdorf 4th February 1872. Biglen 4th February 1872. The postage due mark is not easily interpreted but I would say it was another 30. Note the French hand-stamp "Timbre / Insuffisant" rather than the normal "Affranchissement / Insuffisant".



Fig. 29



Fig. 30

Fig. 29 above is a cover franked 25c. Posted at Pontarlier 25th May 1874. Arrived Neuchâtel 25th May 1874.

It was outside the distance for a border letter so was treated as a normal foreign letter. The small 30 is a Swiss mark. I have seen another similar cover dated 6th June 1874.

30c Period underpaid mail - From Switzerland to France

Fig. 30 is a cover posted AMB Lausanne-Bern No. 3 23rd June 1867. Arrived Pontarlier 23rd June 1867. Franked 20c (frontier rate). This was not allowed and marked as 3 décimes due (schnörkel – 3 décime). Postage due has been calculated by taking the unpaid rate minus the amount pre-paid. I have seen another complete cover dated March 1870 where the treatment was the same.

Conclusions

- The 30c period differed from the 35 and 40c. periods in that there was an increased rate for un-paid mail
- Mail from France to Switzerland - Part-paid mail was charged postage due at the pre-paid rate.
- Mail from Switzerland to France - Postage due on part-paid mail was calculated by taking the unpaid rate minus the amount pre-paid.

References: Postal rates <http://jef.estel.pagesperso-orange.fr/Tarifetr.htm>

Copyright © The Helvetia Philatelic Society of Great Britain and the authors stated. The views expressed by the contributors to this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Society. Goods and services advertised are provided for the benefit of members and the Society cannot accept any responsibility for subsequent transactions between buyers and sellers.
For more information on the Society's services go to its Website – www.swiss-philately.co.uk