

# HELVETIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

Founded 1946

NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2020

[www.swiss-philately.co.uk](http://www.swiss-philately.co.uk)



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PRINTED-TO-PRIVATE-ORDER STATIONERY: A SMALL LETTER AND ITS HISTORY

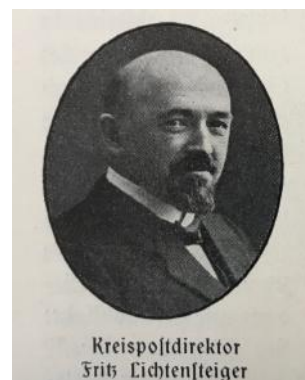
BRUNO ZEDER

*This article was first published in the Swiss Postal Stationery Collectors Society (SGSSV)'s journal 'Der Ganzsachensammler'. Our Society is grateful to the SGSSV for enabling it to be published in our Newsletter; and to Bob Medland and Bruno Zeder for help with the translation.*



This small cover (above) is listed in the "Handbuch der Schweizer Privatganzsachen" by the Swiss Postal Stationery Collectors Society as PBU 027. It is addressed in beautiful handwriting to the gentlemen, officials and employees of Basel district post headquarters and cancelled with the blue double-ring date-stamp BASEL / KREIS-POST-DIR dated 9.X.19. The envelope is a small format (95 x 129mm), is sealed and has no content. Was it a souvenir from district postal director Fritz Lichtensteiger for his staff? At any rate, 500 of these envelopes were ordered are for private use only as well as another 500 with a 2 centimes indicium (PBU 006). Does anyone have one in their collection?

Who was this postal district director? (see portrait right) In the national library in Basel there is a small folder containing some newspaper clippings from the years 1929-1933, which chronicle the life and career of this citizen of Basel. He worked in the post office service for 50 years, beginning his apprenticeship in 1879. He moved rapidly through various departments, from Railway Mail and the cash cheque service through to office manager of the parcels office. In 1902 he became manager of the district post office and was appointed director of the postal district from 1907 until his retirement in 1929. He died in 1935 following an operation. In his obituary his many interests were recognised including as a philatelist and coin collector. Holding the rank of major in the military, he was active in the Swiss Army Post Service, especially being involved with messenger pigeons. He maintained a pigeon loft in the attic of the transit post building of Basel 17 post office. The portrait photograph is from the booklet 'A Hundred Years of Postal Service 1920-1920', a commemorative work by Arnold Brunner, Post Administrator at Solothurn, which is well worth reading. It can be found in the PTT archive at Köniz\* and offers an impressive account of the post and its changes over this period, with many interesting details.



\*HPS Librarian - Unfortunately we do not have a copy of this booklet in the HPS's library



A Message from the Author, Bruno Zeder ([sgssv.zeder@gmail.com](mailto:sgssv.zeder@gmail.com)), who is also the Editor of 'Der Ganzsachensammler': "I am pleased to see this small article from our journal 'Ganzsachensammler' (No. 123) in the Helvetia P.S.'s Newsletter. In 1907, the Swiss General Postal Administration permitted printing of stationery items with personal information. The complexity of these procedures and the printed items were documented and archived. Some members of the Swiss Postal Stationery Collectors Society (SGSSV) with the guidance of Albrik Wiederkehr researched for years and published their results in a beautiful book: 'Handbuch der Schweizer Privatganzsachen' in 2017. The text is written in German, French and English. I hope that many collectors of Swiss stamps may profit from this. Please visit the homepage of our society - SGSSV (<http://ganzsachen.ch>) where there is a listing of all Swiss printed-to-private-order stationery (see under "Verschiedenes: Privatganzsachen") as well as information about ordering the book through - [albrikwi@bluewin.ch](mailto:albrikwi@bluewin.ch) Price - CHF 48."

## A SOURCE OF PURE ENJOYMENT

EDITOR

### **Our Society's Website: [www.swiss-philately.co.uk](http://www.swiss-philately.co.uk)**

When next you have a moment to spare in your busy life why not visit the Helvetia Philatelic Society's Website. Turn to the Home Page and place your cursor on either the 'Research' or 'Exhibits' option. There you will find a number of wonderful descriptions, explanations, schedules and displays on a wide range of Swiss philatelic subjects – all are useful and fascinating and several are of outstanding quality. They include:

#### Research

##### Stamps 1843 – 1907

- The Cantonal Issues - Zurich 1843, Geneva 1843-1848 and Basel
- The Transitional Issues 1849/50
- The Federal Issues 1850 – 1852
- Sitting Helvetia imperforate (Strubel) 1854 - 1862

##### Stamps 1908 Onwards:

- 'Swiss Trial Prints' by Derrick Slate
- 'Bridges on Swiss Stamps' by Richard Donithorn
- 'Printers of Swiss Stamps in the C21<sup>st</sup>' by Richard Donithorn
- 'Art, Crafts and Design as Themes on Swiss Stamps' by Richard Donithorn

##### Postal Stationery:

- 'Imprinted Stamp Designs Unique to Postal Stationery' by Richard Donithorn

##### 'Cancellations and Handstamps' by Bob Medland

##### 'Swiss Letter Rates 1862 – 2017' by Fritz Graf

##### Switzerland's Railways and Travelling Post Offices:

- 'Swiss Ambulant Post Offices' by E. H. Spiro (HPS Newsletter 1957/58)
- 'The Story of the Simplon Tunnel' (HPS Newsletter 1956)
- 'Postal Markings and Cancellations of Switzerland and ' by Felix Ganz

##### 'A Glossary of Swiss Philatelic Terms and Abbreviations' by Mike Sharp

#### Exhibits

- 'Restrictions on the Use of "Special" Stamps and those with Limited Validity Periods' by Robert Wightman
- 'Liechtenstein' by Robert Wightman
- 'Forgery Checking (The Cedric Dry System)' by David Colman
- 'Postcards: A Pictorial Tour through Canton Berne' by Paul Jenkins
- 'The International Use of Postcards' by Robert Wightman
- 'The International Committee of the Red Cross' by Derrick Slate
- 'Military Postal Stationery' by Derrick Slate

Take a look! - you won't regret it.

## THE FORMATION OF CANTON JURA

NEVILLE NELDER

Commemorative Stamp Z621  
First Day of Issue 25<sup>th</sup> September 1978  
OR should it have been the 24th?



The design of this stamp was intended to celebrate the formation of the 23rd Canton of Switzerland. In my opinion, this is not a very imaginative design and printing was left in the hands of the famous printer, Hélio Courvoisier AG of La Chaux-de-Fonds. Apparently no competition was held to find the most suitable design.

The design focussed on the emblem depicted in the lower left corner of the principal Swiss shield. Why was this very stylized layout chosen? I believe that it all centres around the shield inset in the lower left portion of the stamp. The left-hand part of the shield is the inverted horn of the ancient Bishopric of Basel. The Bishopric was generally despised in the Jura region of Switzerland, as the people of the region were regarded as serfs and were heavily taxed, so much so that in the year 1730 three envoys were selected by the local people to go to Berne to seek help to overthrow the oppressor – but without success. Indeed it was a catastrophe in that on their return they were captured on the orders of the Bishop, and executed in a brutal manner.



The seven Districts



The referendum results (1974)

The red and white bars in the right-hand panel of the stamp aimed to show the three Districts (white bars – Porrentruy/Ajoie; Delémont ; and Franche- Montaigne) which voted in a referendum to form the new Canton, and the four Districts – red bars - who voted to stay with Canton Berne (Moutier; Courtelary; La Neuveville; and Laufen). Above are postcards showing on the left hand card the seven Districts and their emblems. On the right is a postally used card, with the outcome of the vote written in red ink within each district area; the total is given at the top of the card. There was no philatelic celebration of this district referendum, held on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 1974.

The strange aspect of stamp z621 was that it was prepared to celebrate the outcome of the national referendum held on 24<sup>th</sup> September 1978 [a Sunday]. After the result was announced at 5pm, the national news was broadcast at 8pm showing the stamp BUT the stamp was not issued until the next day, and all first day covers bear a date which has no significance.

We can reasonably surmise that the outcome of the national vote was not thought to be sufficiently clear to take the risk of allowing the distribution beforehand from the eleven main offices within the postal districts concerned to local post offices. The packages of stamps were kept secret from all except the head postmaster of each district. Also the preparation and distribution of first day covers was not thought to be wise on the grounds of uncertainty over the outcome.

Many of the sheets of stamps were cancelled at the PTT office in Berne. The only other cancel which was created was deployed at Delémont 1. It is said that there was also a special cancel for Delémont “au coeur du Jura”, although I have not seen one. Does anyone know of a ‘FDC’ cancelled in this way? (Continued at bottom of the next page).

NOT RECOGNISED AS PRINTED MATTER

ROBERT BAUML

The Society wishes to thank the Editor of the 'Schweizer Briefmarken Zeitung' (SBZ) and the author for enabling us to publish this article and to Eric Lienhard for the translation.



The “special item” in issue 12/2014 of the SBZ, the cover illustrated above, was sent from Germany as printed matter but was not recognised as such and consequently was taxed with a 500c postage due stamp.

The cover (32.5 x 14.2 cm) was posted in Germany as printed matter, subject to the 8th weight step (350 to 400 g) and franked with 2 x 20RpF (Reichs Pfennig), comprising 5RpF per 5 g (or part thereof).

The sender, perhaps underestimating post office employees' attention to detail, added a message by hand “Respectful greetings and get well. Dr Birmer”. On its arrival at the small post office of Tarasp Kurhaus the clerk recalculated the required franking from printed matter (8th weight step) to that for a letter (12th weight step), indicated by blue crayon notation “Written: 12 fold.” The charge for this should have been 2.40RM (Reichs Mark) comprising 12 x 20RpF. After deducting the 40RpF in stamps, 2.00RM remained unpaid. In line with UPU regulations (from 1.4.1879) this was doubled, calculated as postage due of 4.00RM.

Based on conversion rates the outstanding payment for postage due came to exactly 5f00. This is recorded on the cover with a single 500c postage due stamp (Mi No. 22AXdaN, Zu No. 22D II). Measured against the currency value at the time, the question arises, did the cure have the desired effect?

Our librarian Bob Medland has commented as follows:

“This is a fascinating and rare cover. I believe that there are only 10 or so known covers with a single 500c postage due stamp used for collection of tax. The short, hand-written message invalidated the item from the reduced printed matter rate and rendered it subject to the much higher letter rate.

In most countries the checking of franking and assessment of tax due on under-franked mail from other countries was carried out at inward exchange offices. This is where the expertise in dealing with foreign mail rates lay. I understand that Switzerland was no different and in this case the office would have been at Basel 2. I believe this is where the ‘T’ mark was struck and (most likely) the blue-crayoned annotations were made. This amount was recorded in post office central accounting and Tarasp Kurhaus post office was then liable to collect this tax and to account for it.

The calculation of tax was usually done on the basis of the arrival country's rates, less any amount franked. In this case, the Swiss printed matter rate was 25c per 15 g. Thus 25c x 12 steps = 3f00. From this had to be deducted 40RpF (which was the equivalent of 50c) = shortfall of 2f50 which was then doubled = 5f00 tax. But it was generally swings and roundabouts as to which way around it was calculated. Switzerland was part of the Latin Monetary Union at that time but Germany was not, hence the variance in rates between the mark and the franc.”

THE FORMATION OF CANTON JURA continued

The same stamp was intended to be used with a special cancel to celebrate the official incorporation of Canton Jura as the 23rd canton of Switzerland. That date was scheduled for 11<sup>th</sup> May 1979, but the cancel was never issued, despite all the covers being prepared by the PTT, due to petty objections from the political ‘remainders’ within the Jura region. (Now, where have I heard about that attitude recently?!). It may well be that some of these cancelled items re-emerge in due course. 40,393,000 copies of this stamp were issued overall.

Acknowledgements: I am indebted to Swiss websites and to various individuals for much of this information.

A REMINDER TO COLLECTORS OF BUNDESFEIER CARDS

EDITOR



Thumbing through recent issues of SwisStamps' 'Treasure Trove' I was reminded of some of the complexities of collecting the Bundesfeier cards issued by the Swiss Federal Commemorative Fund. Like almost all aspects of 'Swiss Philately', as you delve further into a particular collecting area there is much to learn and achieving "completeness" may be much further away than you initially realised.

The Bundesfeier or National Festival is celebrated on the Swiss National Day, the 1<sup>st</sup> August, each year. From 1910 to 1934 the Bundesfeier Committee, later the Pro Patria Foundation, sold Pictorial Postal Stationery Cards (with an imprinted stamp for posting within Switzerland and illustrations by Swiss artists) at a premium in aid of worthy national causes. Varieties include the two Foreign Rate cards issued in 1927, special airmail cards with appropriate imprinted Airmail stamps in 1928 and 1931 and cards with small vignette pictures on the address side in the years 1931 to 1934 (see illustrations above). In 1933 alone there are 16 different vignettes to find. Some cards were misprinted and these sell now at a premium.

When the cards with imprinted stamps became invalid, the Bundesfeier Committee had the cards overprinted "Entwertet- Annule - Annulato" and the post office refunded the face value. All cards Nos. 1 to 85 exist with the overprint. In 1915, the overprinted cards of 1914 were given to schoolchildren.

In 1914 cards without value imprint were issued to the Swiss Overseas Colonies. During the WWI years, cards Nos. 7 to 24 without value imprint were also issued to military personnel entitled to free postage. The pictures on the cards were identical to those on the Pro Patria Postal Stationery cards in those years. Today, these cards with a Feldpost cancel are more valuable than the standard used card.



Official Bundesfeier Art/Picture Postcards (i.e. without imprinted stamps and therefore not classified as "postal stationery") were introduced in 1938. They were intended to be used with the new Pro Patria stamps, the first to be issued being that depicting the Tellskapelle. The Art Cards continued to be issued until 1960. In 1991, the Jubilee Year, the tradition of Pro Patria Pictorial Postal Stationery Cards (with imprinted stamp) was revived with the issue of two cards depicting the new 'Swiss Path' (see illustrations above). Collectors of both the Pictorial Postal Stationery Cards and the Art/Picture Postcards are particularly keen on used cards cancelled on National Day, but this was not necessarily the first day of issue, the cards were on sale before then. Cards with special Bundesfeier machine cancels can be found, as well as a wide variety of related Automobilpost cancels.

A REMINDER TO COLLECTORS OF BUNDESFEIER CARDS (Continued)

More detailed information on the cards with imprinted stamps can be found in Zumstein's 'Ganzsachen Schweiz' catalogue. But beware, researching always throws up further queries. For example:

- Where could they be acquired – from Post Offices, shops or elsewhere?
- What were the prices/premiums charged for the Pro Patria Postal Stationery Cards and Pro Patria Art Postcard sets? Were they only available in sets (in envelopes)?
- Are the “first date of sale” or “earliest known use” of each card recorded anywhere ?
- Why is the card of 1920 depicting the “Gymnast” particularly rare and expensive to buy ?

I believe that there were a number of Bundesfeier/Pro Patria-related postcards produced officially, or more likely, unofficially, prior to 1910. Could anyone provide us with further information on these and perhaps show us some examples from their collection!

The Editor acknowledges the help of Eric Lienhard and the “collecting tips” of Werner (ref. his “Treasure Trove”) in the preparation of this article.

The Society is grateful to Swiss Post for enabling it to reproduce illustrations of their products.

THE SOCIETY'S OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS' CONTACT DETAILSEDITOR

For your convenience here is an up-to-date schedule of our current officers and committee members with their contact details should you wish to seek help, advice or information from them. Members' general inquiries should be directed through the Secretary, including more detailed contact information for the services of the Librarian and Packet Secretary.

Chairman, Bob Medland – Email: [chairman@swiss-philately.co.uk](mailto:chairman@swiss-philately.co.uk)  
 Secretary, Neville Nelder – Email: [secretary@swiss-philately.co.uk](mailto:secretary@swiss-philately.co.uk) Tel. 01453 765937  
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 Other Committee Member – Werner Gattiker – Email: [werner@swisstamps.co.uk](mailto:werner@swisstamps.co.uk)

Our website is: [www.swiss-philately.co.uk](http://www.swiss-philately.co.uk) - a valuable information source and answer to many queries.

THE SOCIETY'S ANNUAL NATIONAL MEETING 2020

The Society's ever-popular annual event will be held at the George Hotel in Huntingdon on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2020. Full details together with a booking form were sent out with the January Newsletter. If you wish to attend either for the whole weekend or, if you are short of time, one of the two days please send a completed booking form to our Treasurer Norton Wragg (his postal address is on the form) or contact him direct for further information on: tel.: 01625 613654 or email: [norton.wragg@gmail.com](mailto:norton.wragg@gmail.com)

## 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.

W. Gattiker, 7, Friars Oak Road, Hassocks, West Sussex, BN6 8PT – 01273 845501 - [werner@swisstamps.co.uk](mailto:werner@swisstamps.co.uk)

THE AMERICAN HELVETIA P.S.'s JOURNAL 'TELL'

EDITOR

Those members of the HPS who receive their Newsletter electronically, automatically receive copies of 'Tell'. Any member who currently receives the Newsletter by post can request the Newsletter Editor to send a regular electronic copy of 'Tell' to their email address. All members can access back-copies of 'Tell' which are housed in the HPS's library. The American society's bi-monthly publication is a mine of information on Swiss Philately and, since our agreement to exchange our two societies' journals, has become a major additional benefit of HPS membership. Subjects covered in articles last year included:

November/December - 'The 'Vaud 4' Celebrates Its 170<sup>th</sup> Anniversary' by Jean-Louis Emmenegger.

September/October - 'Jean de Sperati – Forger or Artist?' by Roberto Lopez (first published in 'Rhône Philatélie').

'New Information about Tübli No. 21, 22h and 24h Envelopes' by Florian Domenjoz (first published in the 'Ganzsachensammler').

July/August - 'Swiss Postage Rates 1849 to 1917' (detailed tables from a Rölliphila auction catalogue).

'Can an Internationally Known Expert Make an Error?' (subject – a 1913 Lugano pioneer air forerunner stamp) by Hugo Ruoss (first published in the 'Schweizer Briefmarken Zeitung' – 'SBZ')

'The Liechtenstein – Switzerland Postal Agreement' by Fritz Graf

May/June - 'A Philatelic Tour of the Landi: the Postage Stamps' by Richard T. Hall (Part II in October featured the Postal Stationery and Part III in November, the Special Publicity Flights).

'Philately on the Radio' - a transcript of the radio programme "Calling all Stamp Collectors" first broadcast on 1<sup>st</sup> February 1941 (first published in the Helvetia Society Bulletin March 1941) - an interview with three of the leaders of the Helvetia Society giving us a nice glimpse of that era.

March/April - 'Combinations of Federal Stamps' by Roberto Lopez (first published in 'Rhône Philatélie')

January/February - 'Official Paper Wrappers with Private Cachets' by Peter Menzi (first published in the 'SBZ').

'Emergency Cancels' by George Struble (based on an article published in 'Tell' in the 1980s).

NEWS FROM THE ABPS - WINTER 2019

Notable among the many events of its members recorded in its journal were the celebrations of the Bradford and District Philatelic Society for the 125th Anniversary of its foundation and the British France and Colonies and Netherlands Philatelic Societies for their 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversaries. Which reminds us that it will soon be the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our Society.

Joint Societies Meetings are becoming increasingly common, in part because the membership of individual societies are shrinking. However meeting together has been a long tradition of collectors of philatelic material from some countries of Central Europe. The 22nd joint event between the Austrian, Czechoslovak, Hungarian, Polish and Yugoslav Philatelic Societies was held in 2019. This long-running fixture in the calendar remains very popular, providing a great opportunity to mix and discuss. Their latest event attracted 24 participants featuring 16 displays on a wide range of subjects, with a predominance of Censored, Refugee and other mail during various wars. The British Austrian and German collectors societies also held joint events last year. Perhaps it is time for the Helvetia P. S. to meet up with our "several neighbours" ?

The 'Stamp Active Network' - this organisation set up several years ago to promote Philately as a hobby for children, has recently released their latest publication in the 'Stamp Fun' series. It concerns 'Transport on Stamps' and is filled with puzzles, facts, collecting sheets and lots of other ideas for collecting transport themes on stamps. This complements the earlier books in the series which have all been reprinted and are also available. The books have a face price of £3 plus postage and packing, but are free for young collectors at Stampex. They are available free to organisers of school stamp clubs and will also be distributed free to active members of the ABPS's postal Kidstamp club. Copies are available through John Davies at [davies1890@btinternet.com](mailto:davies1890@btinternet.com)



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THE AMERICAN PHILATELIC RESEARCH LIBRARY

EDITOR

In the latest copy of the American Philatelic Research Library's 'Philatelic Literature Review' several Swiss-related items are mentioned in the Recent Acquisitions section:

'Les Agences Postales Suisse a l'Étranger et les Bureaux de Poste Étrangers en Suisse' Nos. 1-5 by Albert Auberson (1937) Buhler and Werder S. A. Library index: G6041. P856 W775g 1945

'Gersau Einst der Kleinste Republik der Welt: Sonderdruck der Schweizer Briefmarken-Zeitung' Nr. 10/1945 Buhler and Werder A. G. (1945) Library index: G6041 .P856 W775g 1945

'Bahn und Post in der Schweiz: Zusammenarbeit von 1848 bis 2004 mit Historischem Hintergrund zur Bahngeschichte' by Reinhard Stutz. Villmergen Post and Geschichte 2005 – 2010 Library index: G6041.R152 S937b NEW

The latest version of the popular catalogue ZUMSTEIN SCHWEIZ – LIECHTENSTEIN 2020 by Verlag Zumstein has been published. Softcover in German and French; section introductions in German, French English and Spanish. 1024 pages. More than 6,000 colour illustrations of the issues – a wealth of standard listings and valuations. Conversion table for Swiss francs to Euros, lengthy dictionary of philatelic terms in German, French, English and Italian. Listings of variety and forgery information for many issues.

Further information regarding this catalogue at: website [www.briefmarken.ch/zshop](http://www.briefmarken.ch/zshop) or by post to Zumstein and Cie Inh. Hertsch and Co., Zeughausgasse 24, 3001 Bern Schweiz.

If you wish to contact the American PRL further details are on their website: [www.StampLibrary.org](http://www.StampLibrary.org) By post: APR Library, 100, Match Factory Place, Bellefonte, PA 16823, U.S.A. ; Phone 814-933-3803 ; Email: [library@stamps.org](mailto:library@stamps.org)

POST CARRIED ON THE ORIENT-EXPRESS

In the latest edition of the American Philatelic Research Library's 'Philatelic Literature Review' there is a review of 'Der Orient-Express 1883 – 1914: Philatelistisch-postgeschichtliche studie' ('The Orient-Express 1883-1914: A Philatelic and General Historical Study') by Ute and Elmar Dorr. Hardcover in German, 168 colour pages, 21cm x 30cm. Published by the author Ute Dorr in 2019. Available from [philabooks.com](http://philabooks.com)

The book is a mine of information on this historic and very romantic means of travel across Europe. The reviewer states that: "It identifies all the routes travelled and the post offices in Constantinople that handled the mail delivered by this deluxe long-distance passenger train service created in 1883 by 'Compagnie Internationale des Wagons-Lits'. The offices of the German Empire, Great Britain, Austria, the Ottoman Empire, Romania, Italy, and France are all covered in the book giving a historic glimpse of the diversity (and international intrigue) that existed not only in the different train routes taken, but also in the different types of Orient Express covers created. The transported letters all bear the words "Express d'Orient" in different cancels and colours (red, brown or black), but vary from one-line to the oval postmarks of the Romanian post office. There are clear and understandable listings of the varieties, with ample descriptions and illustrations. Much of the extensive material was previously unknown, but it is still fascinating and astounding."

Editor - For many years after the period covered in this Study part of the Orient-Express's route passed through Switzerland - Do any members have details of these routes/periods and any examples of covers clearly carried on the Orient Express through Switzerland and/or placed on board the train in Switzerland with appropriate cancels/'Express-d'Orient' cancels (including on the current service)? If so, please send them to me so that all our members can share the information and perhaps develop a new collecting interest.

'LONDON 2020' INTERNATIONAL STAMP EXHIBITION

This event will take place on 2<sup>nd</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> May at the Business Design Centre, 52, Upper Street, Islington, London N1 0QH. It is a Specialised World Stamp Championship Exhibition with FIP patronage and FEPA recognition. Consisting of 2,750 frames (change-over of material after 4 days) covering the following competitive classes: Championship, Traditional, Postal History, Aerophilately, Revenue, Postal Stationery, Thematic, Literature (including digital), Open, Modern, Picture Postcards and Youth. 'LONDON 2020' is substantially oversubscribed. So many collectors wanted to exhibit at the event, that an allocation of the frames available had to be made. Equally, all the stands have been sold, and there is a waiting list. Rölli Auktionen have informed us that they will be there in person on Stand No. 142. Further information on the Exhibition can be found on the website: [www.london2020.co](http://www.london2020.co) The UK Commissioner is Mike Roberts. Assistant Commissioner: Kim Stuckey. The Organising Committee have been recruiting volunteers to help run 'LONDON 2020'. If you would like further information, please go to [www.london2020.co](http://www.london2020.co) and click the "Sign up here to Volunteer" link.



BAEDEKER AND SWISS PHILATELYHENRY TOWERS

In the March 2003 edition of the Newsletter our former member Henry Towers wrote this endorsement of Baedeker's famous guides (Ed.): Those of us who like to go beyond the immediate boundaries of philatelic literature find considerable satisfaction in roaming through the English editions of Baedeker's pre-war guide books. Not only do the prefaces give a wealth of information useful to our hobby, but the outstanding maps and indexes can also be most informative.

For instance, in my 15th English edition of 1893 entitled "Switzerland and the adjacent portions of Italy, Savoy, and the Tyrol" the preface will give you full information about exchange rates, types of coinage, costs of letters and postcards - letters of 250 g, prepaid, within a radius of 10km, only cost 5c. Parcel post rates are also included as well as details and tariff for the telegraph system. There is also a good summary history of the Swiss Republic.

For those interested in the development of railways, the 36 regional maps, mostly on a scale of 1:250,000 are particularly clear and astonishingly accurate, and there are 12 town/city plans. The 12 panoramic views, beautifully etched, will delight those who have had the pleasure of ascending the Faulhorn, or looking towards St. Moritz and beyond from Piz Languard. The index too is remarkably comprehensive, giving a list of over 5,500 names of settlements, mountains, lakes and other features.

Karl Baedeker was born in Essen in 1801, the son and grandson of bookseller publishers. In 1827, at the age of 26, he set up his printing firm at Coblenz, the same year that a passenger service was established between Cologne and Mayence. In 1828 he published a very successful guide book on the Rhine, in 1836 a traveller's manual of conversation and, in 1839, the first editions of 'Holland and Belgium', inspired by Murray's "Handbook for Travellers on the Continent". Karl Baedeker died in 1859 but the business was carried on by his sons and in 1872 the firm moved to Leipzig. It remained there until 1943 when the works were bombed and all the archives and stocks tragically destroyed.

The first Swiss Baedeker was in German (Schweiz), published in 1844. Then 39 more editions followed up to 1937. There were 30 editions in French (La Suisse) from 1852 through to 1928. The first English edition was published in 1863 (very scarce), to be followed by 28 others ending in 1938. Interestingly, 1863 was also the first year of Thomas Cook's organized trips to Switzerland.

The development of the Swiss railway system can also be seen pleasingly through successive editions and for those of us who delight in collecting used cards relating to hotels, there is much to enjoy. For instance, in 1893 the 'Victoria' in Interlaken, soon to be merged with the 'Jungfrau' hotel, was already regarded as expensive, and had a lift. A week's pension would have set you back £3.10s. In 2003, at the 'Victoria/Jungfrau' Kuoni will charge you £137 a day!

For those of us who are unable to holiday in Switzerland too frequently to taste its many delights, Baedeker's are pleasing bedside companions. The 1893 edition warns that "The traveller is cautioned against sleeping in chalets, unless absolutely necessary. Whatever poetry there may be theoretically in 'a fragrant bed of hay', the cold night air piercing abundant apertures, the ringing of cow-bells, the grunting of pigs, and undiscarded garments, hardly conduce to refreshing slumber".

Then a little warning about umbrellas in the 1863 edition: "Umbrellas change hands with astonishing rapidity; they are articles which should never be lost sight of, being of great service and not easily replaced"; or on waiters (1893): "The mental arithmetic of waiters is apt to be exceedingly faulty though seldom in favour of the traveller".

Pre-war Baedeker's are now increasingly collectable. Practically all, except the very rare one on Madeira, were bound in Rexine covers with distinctive gold lettering in a size 11 x 15cm, roughly foolscap octavo. "Switzerland" was the most popular of the English editions. If you are lucky, reasonable copies can still be found for about £10. After 1945 the firm restarted but the old format was not kept on and post-war editions do not have the same flair for detail. The pre-1939 ones remain a yardstick of outstanding printing, typography and accuracy and are still very good value for money, and all this produced in the pre-computer age.

Note from the Editor – the modern versions of Baedeker's guide to Switzerland can still be recommended. In my 1990 edition there are 100 pages of Practical Information and over 70 pages of background information on aspects of Switzerland including quite detailed History, Arts, Literature, Folk Customs and Society sections.

'SWISS' SUBJECTS ON BRITISH CIGARETTE CARDSRICHARD DONITHORN

I drew the attention of readers of this Newsletter to this collecting area in the February 2011 edition of the Newsletter (pp 9/10) hoping that some of you might come back with information to augment the story. I'm sure there are many interesting "Swiss-related curiosities" amongst the wealth of cigarette and associated cards which were coveted by some of us, our parents and grandparents in the heyday of this collecting hobby. I would love to know if there were similar cards produced in Switzerland or elsewhere? I look forward to hearing from you.

Meanwhile, here are a few more examples of common British cards. The pictures and the original descriptions on the backs, give some insights into various aspects of Swiss transportation and technology:



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

Fig. 1 W.A. & A.C. Churchman's card series 'Wonderful Railway Travel':

'Rhine Falls Bridge' – "About 30 miles from Lake Constance, the Rhine Falls are situated in picturesque country. These falls, although not of any importance amongst the world's great waterfalls, are used for the generation of industrial water-power. Our picture shows the situation of the stone arch bridge which carries the line of the Swiss Federal Railways between Zürich and Schaffhausen, towards which latter town the train is travelling. A fine view of the rapids and falls can be obtained from the carriage window. As can be seen from the picture, this is one of the stretches of line on which steam locomotives are still employed in Switzerland."

Fig. 2 W.A. & A.C. Churchman's card series 'Wonderful Railway Travel':

'Niesen Railway' – "The Niesen is a funicular railway divided into two sections, starting at Mülenen, from which point Schwandegg is reached. The maximum gradient is 66%, beyond the capabilities of even a rack line, and so the coaches are hauled up by electrically-driven cables. The first section from Mülenen to Schwandegg lifts the train 3,090 feet in 2 miles, and on the upper section from Schwandegg to Kulm, 2,280 feet are climbed, also in a distance of about 2 miles. From Mülenen the journey takes 50 minutes, and the Niesen peak, which is about 80 feet above the summit station, is easily reached on foot."



Fig. 3

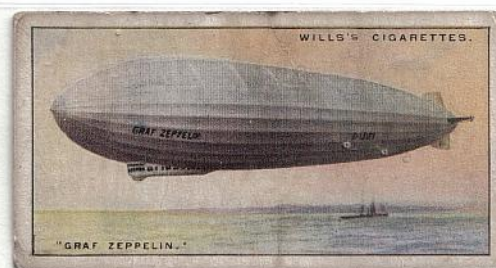


Fig. 4

Fig. 3 W.A. & A.C. Churchman's card series 'Wonderful Railway Travel':

'St. Gotthard Railway' – "Here we see the spiral planning of a railway at its most advanced development. Tremendous difficulties confronted the builders in maintaining a reasonable rate of climb, and the only way of accomplishing this was to lay the track in spirals tunnelled out in the mountain itself. Thus the train seen crossing the Piano-Tondo Viaduct on the left of the picture has completed two spirals in tunnels, having entered on the first one at the bottom centre – where a train can be seen leaving the Travi tunnel, 315 feet below. In the 140 miles between Lucerne and Chiasso there are 80 tunnels altogether with a total length of 28½ miles."

Fig. 4 W.D. & H.O. Wills' series 'Speed':

'The Air: Graf Zeppelin' - "In 1925 a public subscription was opened in Germany for the Zeppelin Airship Works and by 1926 over 2,000,000 marks (£10,000) had been collected. With this money the LZ 127 airship (Graf Zeppelin) was built. On 11<sup>th</sup> October 1928 this airship left Friedrichshafen with a crew of 40 and 20 passengers and arrived at Lakehurst, U.S.A. 111½ hours later. She left Lakehurst on the return trip on 29<sup>th</sup> October and reached Friedrichshafen 71 hours later. Since then she has flown round the world. She has five Maybach engines of 530 h.p. Her length is 772 ft. and her maximum diameter 100ft., her gross lift being 107 tons and her maximum speed 80 m.p.h."



Fig. 5



Fig. 6

Fig. 5 Card from Brooke Bond Tea's series 'Transport Through the Ages':

'The Mesoscaphé' Electric Power - "The possibility of using submarine cargo and passenger carriers is becoming close to being realised. To the knowledge gained from the use of nuclear submarines has been added the ideas of the late Dr. August Piccard, who gave us the Bathyscaphe with which man can explore the deepest ocean chasm. His son, Dr. Jacques Piccard, invented the Mesoscaphé which, launched in 1964, has already carried over 25,000 fare-paying passengers beneath the waves of Lake Geneva in Switzerland."

Fig. 6 Promotional card for Lyons Teas' series 'Wings Across the World':

Modern jet airliner of the Swissair fleet. (n.b there were no further details on the back of the card. Does anyone know the type of aircraft illustrated?)

If anyone knows the dates of issue of these card sets or information on other collecting card series related to Switzerland (including any produced in Switzerland), "cigarette" or otherwise, please let me know.

### THE SOUTHERN GROUP

The next meeting will be on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2020 commencing at 10.00 for 10.30am and finishing at approximately 4.00pm at Harnham Scout Hall, Lower Road, Harnham, Salisbury SP2 8HB (on the south west side of the city off the A3094 Harnham Road). Red bus 5 runs regularly from the town centre. Refreshments will be available, including lunch at a local hostelry. The main theme of the meeting will be "Swiss Lakes". Members attending should bring along items from their collection for display. Displays on other themes will be welcome and shown if time permits. Please let Werner Gattiker know in advance if you are coming (and if so, whether you will bring a guest/partner) as tables for lunch are to be pre-booked at the nearby Old Mill Inn. Future meetings in 2020 are scheduled for Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June and Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October. Further information from Werner Gattiker: Tel. 01273 842 135 or [werner@swisstamps.co.uk](mailto:werner@swisstamps.co.uk)

### NEW PREMISES FOR THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY LONDON

The RPSL are now well settled into their new premises at 15, Abchurch Lane, EC4N. Their library has now opened, The new facilities include an environmentally controlled store to ensure the long-term preservation of material and a purpose-built research room for reviewing rare books and archive material (including a bound full set of the Helvetia Philatelic Society's Newsletter). Although the storage area is greater than that at their traditional premises in Devonshire Place it has already been partially filled with new acquisitions for the library, including the contents of the National Philatelic Society's Library and a significant donation from the Canadian Philatelic Library and Archives.

The Society will be holding the International Philatelic Libraries' Symposium there during 'LONDON 2020' on 6<sup>th</sup> May. Further information from the Head of Collections Nicola Davies at [daviesn@rpsl.org.uk](mailto:daviesn@rpsl.org.uk)

ASSAULTS ON OUR SENSES OR DELIGHTFUL SURPRISES ?

EDITOR

For most collectors the beauty of stamps is squarely “in the eye of the beholder”. But occasionally the postal authorities try to tempt us through our other senses. People with impaired sight can feel the message in the braille stamp (Z1080) and the rest of us notice the texture of the embroidered (Z999) and wooden (Z1133) stamps, the embossing on (for example) the “Ammonite” (Z1543) and the “Goldvreneli” gold foil stamp (Z1471) and the flocked paper used in the “Pig” (SG2242) and “Skin” (Z1553) stamps. One can even hear a Swiss brass band on the “Swiss Music” record (Z1524). Perhaps more subtle is Swiss Post's appeal to our sense of smell.



Stamp from SGMS2175 'Swiss Fruit of the Year' Z1024 Centenary of Chocosuisse J364-368 Roses – Christmas Rose and 'Frühlingsgold'

Their first attempt was on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2001 when a stamp celebrating the Z1024 Centenary of Chocosuisse was produced. It was impregnated with the scent of chocolate (believed to be the last stamp printed for SwissPost by Courvoisier). Next was the Pro Juventute set ( J364 – 368) produced in 2002 Litho Enschede was the fourth to feature roses - J364 Christmas Rose impregnated with the fragrance of cinnamon and cloves J365-368 with the perfume of roses. The most recent scented item was produced in 2017 by Litho Gutenberg AG - a miniature sheet SGMS2175 featuring the Swiss Fruit of the Year which turned out to be quince. Hence the scent of quince released when the stamp is rubbed. How about nosing around your albums to detect traces of these delightful sensations! So far, taste in stamps has been restricted to licking the gummed side – a fast disappearing opportunity as self- adhesives become the order of the day.

The Society is grateful to Swiss Post for enabling it to reproduce illustrations of their products.

THE LENGTH OF VALIDITY OF STAMPS

EDITOR

In the February 2020 edition of the Newsletter (Page 18) there was an article on how long the various postal authorities allow their stamps to remain valid for postage. I asked members to inform me which other countries (as well as Great Britain, Australia and Switzerland) come into the “delayed action” category and whether any country has maintained the validity of some of their stamps longer than Switzerland. John Barrett, our regular correspondent from “Across the Pond”, has informed me that all USA stamps issued since 1865 are still valid! More information would be welcomed.



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