



BULLETIN

VOL. VI



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„Helvetia”

SOCIETY FOR COLLECTORS OF SWITZERLAND

BULLETIN

"HELVETIA" SOCIETY FOR COLLECTORS OF SWITZERLAND

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VOLUME VI

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No.9

HONOR-ROLL OF "HELVETIANS" IN SERVICE:

Pvt. Frank J. Zeltman, 70th. Bomb Squad, A.P.O. #913 c/o P.M. San Francisco
California

Major A.M. Wilson, N.Y. University R.O.T.C. New York City, N.Y.

1st. Lt. Edward H. Lewandowski, D.C.-1A, Surgeons Div., 1620 S.U. Camp McCoy,
Wisconsin

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Frank Zeltman greets "Helvetians".

Aug., 22, 1943

Received July issue of Bulletin yesterday and enjoyed reading it from cover to cover. We are pretty active out here and we had 4 of our men and officers decorated with the Air Medal this week for good work against Jap defensives. Our planes have been doing some fine work and so far we have not had a single loss of men or plane and they are doing their share of the bombing and strafing. Had a treat this week when Lanny Ross the Radio Singer stopped here and gave us concert under the tropical moon. Feeling fine and send greetings to all Helvetians and Happy Landings.

Signed: Frank

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Special August 1943 Issue Of The Air Post Journal.

Without doubt the 1. August issue of the American Air Mail Society is a piece of outstanding work of merit and its editors are to be congratulated for turning this fine issue into a complete success of most interesting reading.

Both - Mr. Ernie Kehr and our own Dr. Kronstein are born Swiss, well known here and abroad and have earned their laurels as philatelic writers through constant contributions of authentic articles and original works to the philatelic press.

I hope that all the "Helvetia" members have enjoyed these splendid articles as much as I have and gained considerable knowledge from these interesting Aero records. - I am sure a word of commendation sent by individual members of our society would greatly be appreciated by Mr. Kehr and Dr. Kronstein, and compensate them partly for their efforts spent in our behalf.

G.A.v.G.

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To the Members of the Helvetiā Society!

In the July issue of the Helvetia Bulletin our President & Editor published part of a letter I wrote him, suggesting a different Volunteer Editor for every month. This was in reply to an appeal for editorial assistance made by Mr. von Gross. But for his modesty he would also have added my statement, that few of us are as gifted in writing as he is. His monthly articles written over a period of more than five years displayed a deep knowledge and research dealing with Swiss History, the Swiss Postal System and above all the Swiss Postage Stamps.

In order to continue his work along these lines it will be extremely difficult to find new writing material and subjects not covered already by Mr. von Gross's articles. All of us enjoyed reading these revealing editorials and admired the well versed English of a Swiss born writer. How many of us realized the tremendous work and responsibility of true statements and facts these articles involved? No doubt, Mr. von Gross "spoiled" us with editorial series of length and quality. It would be a calamity for the Helvetia Society should he resign from his job as editor as we would find it difficult to find another one as willing and gifted as Mr. von Gross. For this reason I appeal

to all of you; let us retain our editor by offering him our assistance.

You all must know that our Monthly Bulletin is of vital importance to the existence of our society and our principal contact with each other. It is therefore the duty of every member to take an active part and do all he can to uphold the interest of the Helvetia Society. True enough, several members such as Messrs. Caldwell, Dr. Kronstein, Salisbury, Schellenberg, Kellner, Wettach and a few others have occasionally contributed articles in the past which were greatly welcomed by our editor and enjoyed by all our readers. Let us follow their good example and hope that they will continue their fine work.

In concentrating on the stamps of one country only, in this case Switzerland, even the most resourceful writers will arrive at the end of their knowledge. Since our country entered the war philatelic news from Switzerland is very scanty. We obtain little information regarding new issues, whereas such information would fill large spaces in our bulletin. To keep the interest in our hobby and society alive and also to relieve the work and responsibility of our editor I wish to submit a few suggestions:

Several of our members have substantial specialized collections of Swiss stamps. Collectors who specialize expand their collections by adding all the minor varieties of the various issues. Frequently catalogues or other philatelic literatures on hand do not provide them sufficiently with information needed, nor have they any access to a philatelic library. I would suggest that they try to obtain necessary information by publishing a letter of inquiry in our bulletin. There may be a possibility that another member is well informed on that particular subject and in good fellowship will publish in another letter the solution of such queries.

Specializing is made possible through access to quantities of individual stamps. Unfortunately both collectors and dealers cannot obtain them from sources of supply from Switzerland for the duration of the war. Most dealers'

stocks are shrinking in varieties and quantities for lack of replenishments. I admit that beginners wishing to specialize will find it difficult to locate the necessary quantities unless they acquired them before the war. Nevertheless we all could profit by the exchange of opinions or relating of experiences in articles written for our bulletin by members who specialized for many years.

In suggesting a volunteer editor, although his work might not compare with the literary talent and knowledge of our chief editor, we would obtain new ideas and a variety of subjects from different members. We are a society of stamp collectors, not of intellectuals, and therefore less harsh in our criticisms. Besides our members advanced in collecting, there are others still in the beginner's stage. The latter will appreciate simple articles which will be helpful to advance them in their hobby.

I do not expect that my suggestions will find approval by all members, I rather hope that they will start a controversy or that they may be followed by other suggestions. By exchanging our ideas and opinions openly our president and editor will know that we are taking a keen interest in the bulletin and the welfare of our society.

Sophie Buser.

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A welcome new innovation for the Helvetia Bulletin. -

Almost every Stamp Club Organ of importance to-day serves its membership with dealers offerings and a "Want list", "Exchange" and "For Sale" column by members. - This suggestion was presented to the editor some time ago and since then repeated requests made its appearance.

So far our bulletin has been devoted to philatelic news and articles only, and collectors looking for certain philatelic items, especially those not living in the East and are depending for their supply entirely on advertised matter

in magazines, will greatly appreciate this added feature.

The financial return of these adds or addlets will be turned over to the Treasury of our society and should help considerably cutting the expense of our bulletin.

Of course, as our bulletin deals strictly only with matter pertaining to Swiss philately, these adds likewise should feature only material of this nature.

Advertising rates:

| | |
|---|--------|
| Full page | \$4.20 |
| Half page | 2.10 |
| Box add $3\frac{1}{2}$ X $3\frac{1}{2}$ " | .35 |

As may be seen, the adds are priced proportionally. - A full page contains 12 box spaces $3\frac{1}{2}$ " x $3\frac{1}{2}$ " @ 35¢, or \$4.20

Only members of "Helvetia" may advertise.

Advertising copies, accompanied with remittance and made out to: "Helvetia" Society For Collectors of Switzerland", must be in the hands of the editor not later than the 1st of each month.

Trusting this much needed feature will benefit both, dealers and collectors, the experiment is worth a try.

G.A.v.G.

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"Helvetia" Editor Injured:

Three weeks ago Gus met with an accident. Refusing to go to a hospital and submit to an operation, he now walks around bandaged tied and iron strapped. What a mess and what torture in this hot weather.

Thomas F. Harrison.

* * *

Vincent Domanski Trophy Winner at S.P.A. Convention at St. Louis.

His "Stampless Covers" of Poland did it! It's a beaut and holds almost a gallon of beer. - One more and he'll have to build a wing to his house.

Supplement to Air Post Journal

 * From the earliest days of *
 * * * * *
 * Airmail in Switzerland *
 - - - - -
 - by -
 - - - - -
 - Dr. Max Kronstein -

After carrying the first Swiss Airmail at the Basel Airmeeting on March 9, 1913, Oskar Bider left for the captol at Berne, where he carried the second Airmail in the month. On his flights, Switzerland's first airmail pilot Oskar Bider passed in the air over his home town at Langenbruck, March 11, 1913. All church bells rang in his honor.

Bider dropped two letters; one was addressed to his home committee, and according to the Bund (a Bern newspaper) March 13, 1913, it reads as follows:

"To the Monorazy Committee of Langenbruck. - Sincere greetings from an altitude of ⁵⁰⁰ meters to the Home Committee. Georges Bid~~er~~er and Askar Bider. March 11, 1913".

They dropped flowers over the cometary where their parents rested. The second letter was a birthday salute for their grandfather, and read:

"T our grandfather, the teacher Glur, on his 72 birthday. - In this unusual way our sincere congratulation to your 72nd birthday. - Georges and Oskar Bider.

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New Member:

Dr. Robert Brupbacher, Jr. 1302 * 17th. Street Altoona, Pa.

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