

BULLETIN
"HELVETIA" SOCIETY FOR COLLECTORS OF SWITZERLAND

EDITOR: Gustave A. von Gross
317 So. 15th. Street
PHILADELPHIA 2, PENNSYLVANIA

VOLUME VII

May 1944

No. 5

Pfc. Frank J. Zeltman

Capt. Edward H. Lewandowski, dc.

Addresses obtainable from
Secretary

* * * * *

ATTENTION:

I understand that Major A.M. Wilson has retired from service and would appreciate if someone would be kind enough to send me his current address, also Frank Zeltman's latest whereabouts. Thank you!

G.v.G.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE SOCIETY: -- Articles for the Bulletin by Ralph Sprenger*

Have the membership of "Helvetia" generally reflected on how much it owes to the efforts of the following three or four members for the intensely interesting and informative character of our Bulletin? -- Few of us have the education, the knowledge due to deep study, and also the collection to write of the Postage of Switzerland as have:

G.A. von Gross
Dr. Max Kronstein
G.W. Caldwell
H.W. Salisbury.

In the index of the articles that have been contributed as listed in the last Bulletin (Vol.VII, No.3) the above names reoccur and reoccur. Yet is it quite fair to allow them to do all the work as we have been doing? Cannot we less gifted members contribute something, to an occasional Bulletin? -- Let's try it. -- Send in something if it is only a topical joke or experience in hunting an elusive stamp etc. etc.

* * *

The Brupbacher' in Miami, Florida.

There message:- Dear Folks - We're enjoying our stay here and are lucky to have hit mild weather.

Sincerely: Betty and Jack Brupbacher.

How many of us wish we could say the same thing? Probably Domanski!

* * *

Albert schellenberg from Warner Robins, Ga. writes:

"I want to advise you that I am going to be back home in Columbia at the end of this month.-I ga hei zum Mameli. -- I am going to enter my private practise again as Landscape Architect. I have an opportunity to do Post War Planning, preparing plans for future development for the S. Carolina State Parks."

P.S. Nice doing Mr. Schellenberg, and good luck! Nuet isch zgut fuer a Schwyzer.

* * *

Captain Lewandowski informs me that for the past six month he has pulled enough teeth of Uncle Sam's forces which in his private practise would have enabled him to retire, and live more than comfortable. He has also built enough bridges to span on ordinary river and could qualify for the Engineers Corp. He is due for a promotion and it won't be long before we will have to address him as "Major".

* * *

WHO IS J. SPRENGER?

About ten years ago the writer, who is American born of Swiss parents, attempted to interest his daughter in a hobby and selected the collection of stamps. Perhaps, because he presented her with two large a packet so that a young child became too tired and bored with identifying so many stamps, the daughter was not infected. However, Papa was and how! Because he was

of Swiss decent, and the stamps were generally so beautiful and also because he realized from his daughter's reaction that a general collection was too great a Chore (for her and for him) and last but by no means least because he found his name on some of the stamps (See Scotts designs #A29-- A 31, A 32, A 33, A 34 etc.) there was no stopping him.

Therefore "who is or was J. Sprenger"? - If any members of the society can enlighten me I will very much appreciate it. The man may well be a relative, close or remote. At any rate I would like to know and I think if some one has the answer, with a bit of biography, it would be appropriate as an item for the Bulletin.

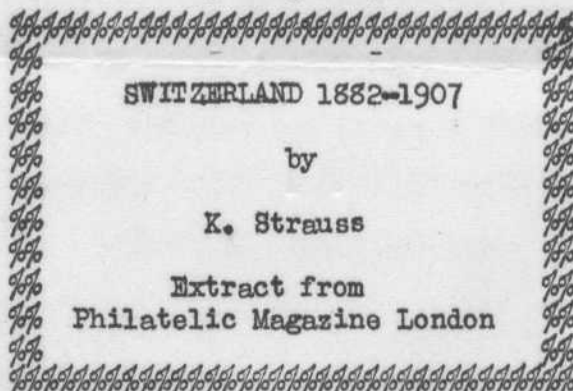
Ralph Sprenger.

* * *

TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE

J. Sprenger is still very much alive and a personal letter addressed to him to the Government Printing Office at Bern will reach him. The famous Graveur I am sure would set you right on the relationship, if any, by you giving him your family tree. For this though you will have to wait until the United States lifts the ban for mail to Switzerland. G.v.G.

* * *



Continuation:

The same year saw yet another innovation, viz. the re-introduction of the Granite paper: --

1907: 25 c. pale blue, re-engraved 40 c & 25 c., Granite Paper, Wmk. III

Perf. $11\frac{1}{2}$ x 12:-

20 c. orange-yellow	50 c. green
25 C. blue (re-engraved)	1 fr. carmine
30 c. brown	3 frcs. bistre-brown
40 c. gray (re-engraved)	

Another change in perforation gauge for those values which required re-printing yields a final short set:-

1907: Granite paper, Wmk. III, Perf. $11\frac{1}{2}$ x 11:-

25 c. blue (re-engraved)
30 c. brown
1 fr. carmine
3 frs. bistre-brown

The question naturally arises: What caused all these manifold changes? We can account for the alterations in colour: International agreement for some (5 c., 25 c., 50 c.) expediency for others (15 c. and 1 fr.) because the original colours proved too indistinct or unstable. The changes in watermarks and paper are easily accounted for as well: Swiss constitutional changes (wmk. I to wmk. II) and endeavors at an improved technique of manufacture (wmk. III and various kinds of paper). The same probably applies to changes in design, when the values of 25 c. and 40 c. were re-drawn on steel plates instead of on copper plates as hitherto employed.

When we however, consider those constant changes in perforations, it becomes doubtful whether the search for an improved method of perforation alone was responsible. I think it is more probable that chance played a certain role in the arrangement of the perforating machines and that only such definite changes, as those to $9\frac{1}{2}$ and back again to $11\frac{1}{2}$ x 11, were deliberate and preconsidered. The fact, however, remains that these changes took place and will have to be regarded as such.

One final word with regard to the wmk. I and II. It is not always easy to be certain as to which one of the two one is dealing with. In

clearly postmarked stamps the date will, of course, clinch the question; if the postmark, however, is indistinct, or, in the case of mint copies, it is necessary to measure the horizontal diameter of the ovals very carefully as the most obvious distinctive feature. Once one has gained sufficient experience, the eye becomes sufficiently well trained to distinguish between the two watermarks: the arms of the cross in wmk. I are squares, whereas in wmk. II they are oblongs.

In conclusion, I append a list of all variations.

Coat of Arms Type.

	Plain wove paper		Granite paer	
	Wmk. I	Wmk. I	Wmk. II	Wmk. III
	Perf. $11\frac{3}{4}$		Perf. $11\frac{3}{4}$	
2 c.	X	X	X	X
3 c.		X	X	X
5 c. marone	X	X		
5 c. green			X	X
10 c.	X	X	X	X
12 c.	X	X	X	X
15 c. yellow..	X	X		
15 c. violet		X	X	X

Plain wove paper

	Wmk. I			Wmk. II			Wmk. III		
	$11\frac{3}{4}$	$9\frac{1}{2}$	$11\frac{1}{2} \times 11$	$11\frac{1}{2} \times 11$	$11\frac{1}{2} \times 12$	$11\frac{3}{4}$	$11\frac{1}{2} \times 11$	$11\frac{3}{4}$	$11\frac{1}{2} \times 12$
20 c.	X	X	X	X	X		X		X
25 c. green	X	X	X	X					
25 c. blue, T.1				X	X		X		
25 c. " T.2							X	X	
30 c.			X	X	X		X		
40 c. Type 1	X	X	X	X	X				
40 c. " 2						X	X	X	
50 c. blue	X	X	X	X					
50 c. green				X	X		X		X
1 fr. claret	X	X	X	X	X		X		X
1 fr. carmine				X	X		X		X
3 frs.				X	X	X	X		X

HELVETIA TYPE

Granite paper

Wmk. III

11½ x 12

11½ x 11

20 c.	x	
25 c. blue, Type 2.	x	x
30 c.	x	x
40 c. Type 2	x	
50 c. green	x	
1 fr. carmine	X	x
3 frs.	x	x

This conclude the article by Mr. K. Strauss.

* * * * *

Additional information on this issue will be furnished by your editor in next month's bulletin.

G. v. G.

* * *

NOTICE:

During the Summer months the Helvetia Bulletin will be greatly curtailed in reading matters.

* * *

Due to popular demand, assurance is given at this time, That HELVETIA will celebrate and hold again its customary Annual Banquet in the New York region, around February 1945.

**