

BULLETIN

"HELVETIA" SOCIETY FOR COLLECTORS OF SWITZERLAND

EDITOR: Gustave A. von Gross
317 So. 15th Street
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HONOR-ROLL OF HELVETIANS IN SERVICE:

Pfc. Frank J. Zeltman

Addresses obtainable from

Capt. Edward H. Lewandowski, D.C.

Secretary

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Philadelphia 2, Pa.
May 29, 1944

Minutes of the Meeting
of the
"Helvetia Society"

The regular monthly meeting of the Helvetia Society was held on the above date at 317 South 15th Street, Philadelphia, Pa. with the President Mr. Gustave A. von Gross presiding. The meeting was called to order at 8:45 P.M. with seven members present and answering the roll call after which the minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer's Report:

As the Treasurer was unable to attend the meeting and the Secretary has not been given a Treasurer's Report to date, a Treasurers Report can not be included at this time.

Reports of Committees

Research Committee: - Progress.

1st of August - Helvetia Issue - for "STAMPS"

Articles of interest for publication in "STAMPS" have been promised by George Caldwell, Sophie Buser, Dr. Kronstein, Jerry Marcus and Gustave A. von Gross.

For the good of the Society

Our President Mr. von Gross has received quite a number of complaints that the regular Helvetia banquet was not held this year as usual and also requesting that steps be taken to assure that the banquet be held without fail next year. It is gratifying to know that so many of our members are really interested in this affair which we feel has been the means of promoting much of the good fellowship and friendships for which the Helvetia Society is noted. - Plans

are now being made to assure that a banquet will be held next year.

We are indebted to our good friend and fellow Helvetian John Boyce for the splendid job of compiling the minutes for the Helvetia meeting and exhibition which was held at the Collectors Club on April 19. - Good work, John, and much appreciated by your Fellow members.

Mr. George Caldwell suggested that articles which have appeared in the various August 1, (Helvetia Issues) of STAMPS Magazine be reprinted in the Helvetia Bulletins thus assuring the Helvetia members a complete record of all articles written for, by and in connection with the Helvetia Society and its members.

The Secretary advanced the suggestion that the Helvetia Society inaugurate a sales circuit among its members for the disposal of duplicates or other items which a member has for sale to the fellow member who might be greatly helped to add some items to his collection which he may need. - Mr. von Gross appointed Jerry Marcus to look into this matter and report back at our September meeting.

It was moved, seconded and carried, that the July and August meetings be dispensed with and the next meeting be held in September.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 P.M.

Signed: T.F. Harrison
Secretary

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Olympic Jubilee Jssue.

by

Gustave A. von Gross.

In 1894, at the meeting of the International Olympic Committee held at Paris, it was decided to

re-introduce the Olympic games. - The city of Lausanne,

situated on the shores of the lake of Geneva, then laid claim for the 1944

Olympic games.

Unfortunately, due to present world conflicts, this event will greatly suffer. International competition, if any, will be very meager, nevertheless, the International Olympic Committee instructed Lausanne, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Olympic games in appropriate dignity this summer. The program, as well as arrangements of events will be advertized by the daily press.

In honor of this occasion, on March 21st, the Swiss Postal Administration issued a set of Olympic Jubilee stamps which are sold at all post offi-

ces, and replace for the time being, and until its supply is exhausted, the regular issue of the current postage stamps.

The set comprising of 3 stamps, namely, the 10, 20 and 30 Rp. value, shows a half-length portrait of the classic figure of Apollo of Olympia and the five Olympic rings.

The stamp was designed by engraver, Miss Maya Allenbach of Bern, from the Olympic Jubilee poster by H.R. von der Muehli of Lausanne.

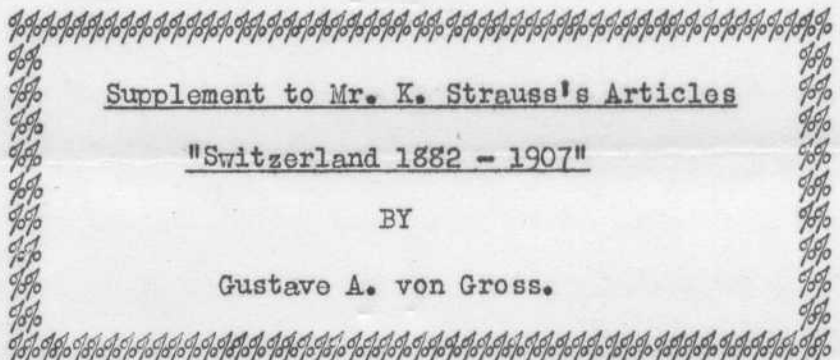
It was engraved and printed in bi-color by Courvoisier, S.A. of La Chaux de Fonds on white granite paper containing red and blue silk shreds. Two sheets, A and B, were fed simultaneously through the press, each sheet representing a 50 stamp subject.

the colors are as follows:

The 10 Rp. value	-	gray-black	on	orange
20 "	"	-	"	" " red
30 "	"	-	"	" " blue.

These stamps retain their franking value until December 31, 1944.

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Supplement to Mr. K. Strauss's Articles

"Switzerland 1882 - 1907"

 BY

 Gustave A. von Gross.

Although Mr. Strauss has given a fine account on the 1882 - 1907 issue, he has told very little about the printing of these stamps. - Without this information, I feel the article is incomplete, and have chosen to supplement the following data:

Numerals: The lower values up to and including the 15 cts. denomination were

typographed. The original die was furnished by engraver Burger of Bern. The entire subject was engraved on a steel plate. In order to spare the original, or master die, the Federal Mint then made additional duplicates in steel, which were then used to produce the separate molds for the sinking of the brass dies. The less used values, 3, 12 and 15 were printed in entire sheets of 100 (10 rows of 10) stamps. One hundred individual brass dies were used, and fastened into a frame to produce the 100 subject plate. -- The printing of the 2, 5, and 10 cts value was done in similar fashion, but with a 200 subject plate, printing two entire sheets of 100 stamps each, in one action. -- The paper was cut by the Paper Mill an der Sihl, Zurich, to accommodate the printing of 400 stamps, so naturally, when printing the 3, 12 and 15 cts values from a 100 subject plate, the paper had to be fed through the press four different times, whereas, the 2, 5 and 10 cts denominations, on a 200 subject plate, only twice.

The printing of these stamps was done by Staempfli & Cie. of Bern, up to the summer of 1906, when the newly built Federal Mint at Bern took over the printing of the stamps on their especially constructed new printing presses for this purpose.

The Standing Helvetia! The higher values, from 20 cts and up, were produced from copper plates.

From the original steel die, molds were prepared, and from these again duplicate relief plates. These were then treated by an electrogalvanic process which deposited a coating of copper on these working plates. The original plates served only for producing the work plates, never, or extremely seldom, for printing the stamps itself.

From 1886 to 1900, these stamps were printed on hand-presses accommodating a 200 stamp subject plate. -- Since 1900, the contractor, Engraver Girard of Bern, of his own accord, secured a copper plate printing speed press of greater capacity, which enabled him to print from plates holding 400

stamp subjects. These plates were divided into four sections of 100 stamps each and corresponding intermediate margins.

As mentioned before, up to 1900, these copper engraved stamps were printed from a hand-press. The inking was done by hand, as well as the moistening of the papers, consequently, the mode of manipulating by hand, produced different results, unless the printer observed utmost attention and care. To the former we attribute the differences in shades, clean and clouded prints and other abnormalities. The speed press remedied this to a great extent. The new press printed decidedly more uniform and clearer, since all operations were mechanically done, but even here, we encounter irregularities due to faulty functioning of the inking roll.

In 1901, the working plates of all denominations were gone over. The repair consisted of polishing and retouching the defect or weak spots on the individual clichés to bring about a better image of the stamp design. This accounts partly for the small deviations from the original design found on the stamps of the 1882/1907 printing from copper plates.

Especially interesting is the study of developing stages from the gradual wearing off of determined parts on the subject picture to the appertained retouched plate, which can be seen with the help of a good magnifying glass. Naturally, such a study requires a goodly amount of comparison material, which, unfortunately, today is unavailable.

The worn plates were securely put away by the Post Office Department; later on, all were destroyed, with the exception of one well preserved plate of each denomination, which found its way into the Postal Museum for postal history purpose.

The last plates for the 25 and 40 cts value were not produced by the electrogalvanic process any longer but from a newly improved engraving process on steel.

At the end of 1906, the contract with Girardod of Bern came likewise to a close, and was not renewed, as the Postal Department had in mind the printing of the new 1907 issue typographed at the new Federal Mint Printing Office at Bern.

For various reasons, in 1905, the Federal Mint was only in the position to print the low values up to 15 cts for the new issue, and the supply of the higher values had to be supplemented. -- The Postal Administration awarded the printing of these stamps to the Publishing House Benziger & Cie. A-G. of Einsiedeln, and supplied them with remainders of Granite paper left over from the stock used for printing the low value stamps and for which they had no further use.

The printing was done on a speed press with plates of 200 stamp subjects.

The total issue of stamps printed by Benziger & Cie. is as follows:

20 cts value.....	8,000,000
25 " " ...	27,000,000
30 " " ...	4,600,000
40 " " ...	6,800,000
50 " " ...	4,400,000
1 Fr. " ...	3,200,000
3 " " ...	500,000

Due to badly worn plates, there are great many varieties of shades and differences in print.

All values of this issue have a plate number in Roman numerals on the white sheet margin.

The greatest majority of the used work plates sent to Benziger & Cie. were in corroded condition. Amongst this lot, and unknown to the Postal Authority, the re-engraved plate of the 20 cts denomination of 1905 was erroneously included. Just as the others, this plate also was cleaned thoroughly, and a few sheets were printed from it. -- This second printing by Benziger

varies from the 1907 issue. The printing is much cleaner and more exact, the color is much darker, and the retouched engraved lines are vertical.

This printing consisted of only about 1500 stamps.

This is about all that may be said about the printing of the 1882/1907 issues and should give the student a clearer understanding of these stamps.

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