

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  
Secretary

Lt. Col. A.M. Wilson

Cpt. Edward H. Lewandowski, D.C.

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X          U.S.A. - Switzerland Airservices          X
X          by          X
X          Dr. Max Kronstein          X
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In the July issue of the Bulletin, a review on the Post War Possibilities of Airmail Services in Switzerland ended with a "dream" of an American Transatlantic Clipper landing at Geneva sometimes after the war.

This dream has come through. - November 21, 1944, the first American air-mail plane arrived in Geneva.

It was not a Clipper, but a giant land plane, a four-motored C-54 of the U.S. Army Transport Command, and it landed at the recently enlarged Cointrin Airport.

The bi-weekly service between Geneva and the United States, for the present serves the dual purpose of fast exchange of mail, U.S. Prisoners of War and Internees abroad. This exchange is carried out by the International Red Cross in Geneva and is one of the noble accomplishments of this great institution.

The actual flying route has not as yet been announced. - Some reports refer to it as a nonstop air service between New York and Geneva. Although this has not been announced officially, it is possible, that the flights are made from Paris, an extension of the New York - Paris service, which was inaugurated October 5, 1944, carrying General George C. Marshall as its first passenger. It is also likely that the flights are nonstop between America and



the "Helvetia" bust", denomination 10, 12 and 15 cts. which were selected for the 1907 issue, and "Helvetia sitting on a rock". The latter at that time was withheld by the postal authority for the higher values of this serie and issued in 1908 for the denominations 20 cts to 3 francs.

The theme is plain, yet effective. - Majestically, the figure of Helvetia, facing to the right, is seated on a rock. Her left hand rests lightly on the right knee, while the right gracefully holds the laurel encircled sword. The Federal cross adorns her breast. The base of the rock contains the inscription "HELVETIA". To the right of the leg fold of the figure Helvetia, minute bits of Swiss scenery are seen. The dark colored background prominently raises the two denominational numeral in the upper corners.

All values were printed in bi-color process; Helvetia and the denomination numerals in delicate tint and the background and hatching lines in decided darker color.

Printed on granite paper by the Federal Mint at Bern, two plates of 100 stamp subjects, each (10 rows of 10 stamps) were used.

The plates and electrotypes again were furnished by Henzi & Co. of Bern. Four brass blocks, each containing 25 stamp clichés (electrotypes), just as in the 1907 issue, formed the printing plate. After usage, the plate was taken apart, so when required for a reprinting, could be set up arbitrarily. This accounts for the shifting of defects discovered at certain positions in the sheet to either five fields to the left or right, or, of being repeated in the upper, as well as in the lower half of the sheet.

Experience had proven the disadvantage of etching on brass, inasmuch as it was very difficult to etch (burn) all cliché blocks alike. Left a few seconds too long, or, too short in the acid, meant a difference in the stamp subject; it either became sharper, or, grew hazy. In 1910, to overcome these difference, new working plates (electrotypes) were made from the original master plate.

The printing was done on a modern constructed duo-color speed press on which two colors were printed simultaneously on the stamps.

Two plates were needed for this bi-color print, namely, a contour or key plate and a tone plate. The contour plate contained the entire dark background, the design and the hatching lines of Helvetia. - The tone or tint plate printed the tint or subdued colors in the figure, denomination numerals and the frame.

The 40 cts stamp was the first issued of the new serie whereas, the design for the other denominations was subjected to minor alterations. The design of this first 40 cts stamp differs in likeness from the other values of this serie in the shading of the neck, where these lines are much clearer; furthermore, the hatchings in front and on the shaded left side of the rock, and under Helvetia's right arm are much clearer and heavier. In the hatching, on the left side of the rock, the name of the artist is written in full but somewhat indistinct, while on the other denominations, we find only the initials C.L. , and only two laurel leaves below the right hand, where previously there were three.



Due to lack of larger plates, the stamps were printed in sections of 100 subjects, the paper being cut to hold 400 stamps, it had to be fed four times through the press.

The stamps in this issue often show decided differences, especially, the hatching lines of Helvetia's garment. - On the plates of the 1st. issue these lines are broad and hard while on later issues they are much finer.

In order to meet the least objection, the General Postoffice Department had a few sets of the complete serie printed on especially fine texture paper for the members of the Federal Council, - the Archives - and - the Postal Museum. Although these special stamps were never sold by the post office, they are valid for postage and have an exchange value. The entire serie is comprised of 15 denominations, namely, 2, 3, 5 cts Tell boy Type I 1909; 10, 12, 15 cts. Helvetia 1909; and 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 50, 70 cts., 1 frc. and 3 frcs. of the bi-colored issue. ( This complete serie is listed at about 1 000 francs.

Since July 1910, the Swiss General Postoffice Department catered to the wishes of stamp collectors and if so desired, sold them in entire sheets of 100 postage stamps; later, the postage dues were also included. - This enactment affected mainly the 1908 issue (Tell boy and Helvetia bust, and the bi-colored serie from 20 cts on up); although there were at that time a few sheets of the 1907 Tell boy issue available, due to the small amount on hand, a moderate premium was added which seemed justified.

In 1911 and 1912, stamps of the denominations 5, 10, 25, 35, 40, 70 cts and 1 frc. reached the public of seemingly different perforations. Accurate information from a reliable source revealed, the case was not one of trying out a different perforation, but the failure of a perforating machine functioning properly, and a number of sheets were run through the machine twice causing the larger perforations.

August 1908 - New Design  
Bi-color Print - Granite Paper  
Watermark Greek Cross  
Perforation  $11\frac{1}{2}$

First Design

(Name of Artist written in full)

- 40 cts. red violet and yellow, Type I      4 000 000
- a. slightly changed color
  - b. rounded corner to left on 41st. stamp upper half of sheet
  - c. yellow print shifted
  - d. name L'Eplattenier imperceptible
  - e. small colored, lightly outlined spots, dots or strokes
  - f. small light spots, dots or short streaks.

Second Design - Type II

(Artist's initials C L only)

Only two laurel leaves below the right hand.

- |         |   |             |
|---------|---|-------------|
| 20 cts  | red & yellow  | 121 000 000 |
|         | a. red & deep yellow  |             |
|         | b. lightly outlined colored spots, dots or short streaks                                  |             |
|         | c. small light spots, dots or short strokes   |             |
|         | d. small colored spots, dots or short strokes.  |             |
| 25 cts. | deep blue & light blue  | 318 000 000 |
|         | a. numeral 2 bigger and heavier to left<br>on stamp 1, 11, 21, 31 and 41 lower half sheet |             |
|         | b. diminishing letters towards right in text.   |             |
|         | c. white outlines around head   |             |
|         | d. shaded denomination numerals   |             |
|         | e. colored light outlined spots, dots, short strokes<br>and broken frame lines.           |             |
|         | f. small light spots, dots or strokes   |             |
|         | g. small colored spots, dots or strokes.  |             |
| 30 cts. | yellow brown & pale green   | 148 000 000 |
|         | a. brown & deep green   |             |
|         | b. background dark green, numerals not standing out                                       |             |
|         | c. incomplete H   |             |
|         | d. shifted green print  |             |
|         | e. colored light outlined spots, dots or short strokes                                    |             |
|         | f. small light spots, dots or strokes   |             |
|         | g. small colored spots, dots or strokes.  |             |
| 35 cts. | yellow green & yellow   | 52 600 000  |
|         | a. dark green & yellow  |             |
|         | b. heavier paper  |             |
|         | c. diverse varieties, for instance, white spot on back of head.                           |             |
|         | d. on chalky paper (1933)   | 3 400 000   |
| 40 cts. | red violet & yellow   | 103 000 000 |
|         | a. <del>perishable</del> color as 1st issue   |             |
|         | b. hazy print   |             |
|         | c. O of 40 to left, closed  |             |
|         | d. stream to right (scenery) missing or distorted   |             |
|         | e. colored light outlined spots, dots or short strokes                                    |             |
|         | f. small light spots, dots or strokes   |             |
|         | g. small colored spots, dots or strokes   |             |
| 50 cts. | dark green & pale green   | 179 000 000 |
|         | a. bluish green & whitish green   |             |
|         | b. letter I like L  |             |
|         | c. numerals 5 and 0 connected   |             |
|         | d. stream missing   |             |
|         | e. colored light outlined spots, dots or short strokes                                    |             |
|         | f. shaded denomination numeral  |             |
|         | g. diverse minor varieties  |             |

50 cts. dark green & pale green, chalky paper (1933)

70 cts. dark brown & buff ( exist also with 21 000 000  
double perforation)

- a. shortened H
- b. small light spots, dots or strokes
- c. colored light outlined spots, dots or strokes

1 frc. deep claret & pale green 85 800 000

- a. pale green print partly or entirely missing
- b. shaded numeral and letters
- c. partly missing stream
- d. shifted green print
- e. small light spots, dots or strokes
- f. small color spots, dots or strokes

on chalky paper (1934)

3 frc. bister & yellow 4 000 000

- a. diverse minor varieties

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Notice:

Referring to article "The 1907 Tell's Boy & Helvetia Issue" in last month's bulletin, VOL. VII, No. 10, the folling should be noted and corrected:

Page 5 - 3rd line - inartistic design instead of unartistic.

Page 6 - 2nd paragraph, to make it clearer, the English term for "Galvanos" is "Electrotypes".

Page 6 - last paragraph should read: "A series of rolls gradually distributed the ink in even layers, etc.

Page 7 - 12th lines, instead of strane substances it should read "foreign substances".

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Every once in a while I get "Dutch" and have no time to proof read it. -- Thanks.

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A V E R Y M E R R Y X M A S A N D P R O S P E R O U S

N E W Y E A R T O A L L !

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