

BULLETIN

"HELVETIA" SOCIETY FOR COLLECTORS OF SWITZERLAND

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HONOR ROLL OF HELVETIANS IN SERVICE

Cpt. Edward H. Lewandowski, D.D.

U.S.A.

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Editor's Comment

Due to break down of the typewriter and its stenciling facilities, the delay of the November and December Bulletins was unavoidable.

I trust everyone spent a joyous holiday season and, it gives me pleasure to offer at this belated date "PROSPERITY", "HAPPINESS" and "GOOD HEALTH" throughout "1946"

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Essay Proof Society
David Lidman, Chairman of Publicity
50 W. Schiller Street
Chicago 10, Ill.

Members of the Helvetia Society who are not acquainted with the Essay - Proof Society nor its quarterly Journal may be interested in a series of articles by George W. Caldwell, Helvetia's chairman of the board of governors, which is appearing in the E-P Journal.

The series began in the July 1945 number, is continued in the October 1945 issue, and will appear in subsequent Journals. It is entitled "Switzerland, Its Essays and Proofs."

Beginning with a brief history of Switzerland, The article will cover regular and special postal adhesives, postage dues, franchise and offi-

cial franks, stamped envelopes and wrappers, postal cards and other postal stationery, telegraph, railroad and revenue adhesives.

The cantonal posts: Zurich, Geneva and Basel, the period of transition from 1849 through 1850, the development of the postal districts, the locals and rayons, the "Strubeli", Munich and Bern impressions, and a cataloguing of the issues under discussion have already appeared in the Journal.

Helvetia members might consider membership in the Essay-Proof Society for this series of articles alone. However, there is much in the E-P Journal that will prove of interest to them, especially if they are collectors of other countries, including the United States. While much space is given over to U.S., it is possibly so because so much more is available of U.S. material than other countries. The Journal, however, will cover all known essays and proofs, not confining this information strictly to these items, but delving into history, background and other pertinent facts.

Membership in the society is \$3.00 a year. If George Caldwell can't provide a membership blank, drop a note to Sylvester Colby, 333 W. 56th St., New York 19, N.Y.

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November 19, 1945

Minutes of the meeting
of the
"Helvetia Society"

The meeting was held on the above date at 317 So. 15th Street, Philadelphia, Pa. at 8:00 P.M., President von Gross presiding. There were 7 members present. Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

New Members admitted into the society:

Althea Harvey, Windsor, Conn.	Miss Jane Webb, E. Orange, N.J.
Dr. Arthur Swenson, Leonia, N.J.	Donald D. Burgess, Binghamton, N.Y.
John J. Navilio, Kearney, N.J.	F/O R. J. Lockhart, Clovis, N.M.
	Home - N.Y.

Committee Reports: No reports received.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None

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

Signed: Ernest Philpona
Secretary

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100 YEARS OF THE DOVE OF BASEL

By

Nick Augustin

With Due Credit to the
Berner Briefmarken Zeitung.

During the jubilee exposition of the "Dove of Basel", which began on April 14, 1945, at the Gewerbemuseum at Basel, many hereto unknown little details were first made public. It is only now that many of the news-releases etc. are coming into the United States and they of course are of great interest to the collector of Swiss philatelic material. Such information is still fragmentary, since some of the fine works issued in conjunction with the exposition are possibly not yet available over here. This is therefore just a small part of such releases and is by no means complete.

There were two books issued during this exposition, one by the organizations committee of the exposition, entitled "100 Jahre Basler Duebli", by Dr. G.A. Froy and the other one, which is referred to as merely an article by Mr. A. Abele, with title "Nach 100 Jahren Gefunden" (Found after 100 years). The latter probably is only an excerpt from above mentioned book issued by the exposition committee. There is however another little book, a second book, entitled "Wie die Briefmarke vor 100 in Basel eingefuehrt wurde" ("Just Now 100 Years Ago The Postage Stamp Was Introduced at Basel").

For the collector and lover of the "Dove of Basel", the article by Mr. A. Abele, "Nach 100 Jahren Gefunden" is of utmost interest, since it does

give the first information on the possible numbers of the "Dove of Basel" that were sold to the public.

It was never fully known just how many "Basler Duebli" were printed by Krebs at Frankfurt am Main, nor how many of these stamps were received at Basel, or, how many were sold and it must be said right from the start, that Mr. Abele, nor anyone else of the specialists of this stamp in Switzerland, claim to know conclusively just how many stamps were issued. In the years 1931 or 1932 there appeared in the Swiss philatelic press the note that " based on records the number of pieces issued was 20'880". It was, however, not long until some of the eminent collectors of these classics, and foremost amongst them, Mr. Abele and Mr. Hertsch, made public their contention that this should not be considered as correct, since too little information has been unearthed up to then. Mr. Abele has continued to search in this direction and has come up with some very interesting details, hitherto unknown. It was Mr. Hertsch, who, back in 1932, pointed out that this stamp comes in a very vivid blue and in a somewhat dull blue, and, that both shades occur often enough to indicate that at least TWO printings might have been made, or could have been made and, therefore, the fact, that one record claims those 20'880 stamps, a greater number of such stamps must have been printed. The difference in the color was noticed more than 20 years previous by the same specialists and they at least seemed not to take it as the final "word". Mr. Abele and Mr. Hertsch pointed out, that since the architect Berry of Basel designed this stamp, it might be worth while to look into the records of this man Berry, because it might be very possible that he interested himself beyond just the design of the stamp. And it is here that Mr. Abele and Dr. Frey did their research work, which was made easier by the fact that architect Berry's records were saved at the "Basler Staatsarchiv".

The latest figures that are available from Switzerland "ESTIMATE" that

a total of 41'500 Dove of Basel were printed. In reaching this figure, the following details were used to compute the total issue:

The "Aktennotiz" of June 30, 1845, gives the number of 522 sheets of "Frankozettel" as per bill of June 18. Since there are 40 stamps to the sheet, this then will give the number of 20'880 Basler "Duebli". It is also stated that it is not clear if in this figure the so-called essays as "as not issued", the one's with the green corners, are included. -- In the quarterly balances of the Postbureau of 1846 - 48, there appears the following quotation "1847 August 17, per Frankaturzettelchen von Frankfurt erhalten, laut Nota No. 17, Fr. 27.05". It is in the inventory, taken on December 1, 1848, that the cost of printing of the stamps appear and are figured at 53 Kreuzer per thousand. It thus can be ascertained that there were delivered 20'500 stamps under this date of approx. August 17, 1847. -- In another accounting of the experts, the cost of the stamps is given as 52 Kreuzer, which would give us not the above mentioned 20'500, but 20'600 stamps, a difference of 100 stamps.

It seems that as of December 1, 1848, the Local Post of Basel ceased to exist and was taken over by the Federal Government, thus the inventory and the compensation for the REMAINDERS of the "Dove of Basel". This inventory shows that there were then in Basel still 12'320 stamps for which Basel was credited with F. 16.00. This then would give us the indication that all in all either 41'480 or 41'380 stamps were received at Basel, whichever figure should be correct. This would give an actual use up to December 1, 1848, a total of roughly 29'000 stamps as having been sold.

The question naturally arises of what became of these 12'320 stamps. Were they destroyed, or are they sleeping somewhere, to be found eventually and then to plague those proud owners of the Basel Dove in unused condition? Mr. Hertsch does believe and actually proves that neither of the two happened, but that all these stamps were actually sold and used right after December 1, 1848.

The Cantonal stamps were declared out of circulation as of October 1, 1854. The first Federal stamps (Ortspost & Poste Locale) were put in use only in April 1850. In figuring an average use of 700 stamps per month up to 1948 it can be safely assumed that more stamps should have been used as the Postal System became more frequented, or using more stamps. The period from December 1848 to April 1850 is 16 months and therefore, this period just about would use up all those remainders accounted for in the inventory of December 1, 1848. Actually, the Basel Dove was used late into 1850, some cases of later use are also known. They even exist on covers with light-blue Rayon L, which stamp did not make its appearance until 1851.

Again, it should be remembered that the above quoted totals of stamps are not claimed to be final. It could be possible that in finding other records the thing might change somewhat one way or the other. But it does give at least a much clearer perspective into the question of "how many Basler Duebli were there". So much for the latest in this old question.

A notation in the inventory also states that the plates, ~~which~~ which cost Fr. 270.00, are by Krebs of Frankfurt am Main. - This notation would thus say that all plates for the three-colors were by Krebs and, that therefore, the "essays" were also made there. Should there have been galvanos from the original plates in Basel itself, they certainly would have been accounted for in the inventory.

A few notes on the exhibition itself should be included. - There were, as Mr. Hertsch says, an overpowering amount of the "Basel Doves" to be seen. The piece to catch special attention was the mint block of fifteen, which, as we know, comes from the collection once held by Mr. Hind of Utica and, which was bought and brought "home" to Basel by airplane after its acquisition. - The other Cantonal stamps were likewise to be seen in large quantities and it

almost seems as though some of the real show pieces from the Burckhard collection, sold at New York just a few years back, made already their way to Switzerland.

The Post Office Department showed again their "stuff" which was first shown at the exposition held at Geneva. This department does not do anything in just a half way measure, as all collectors of Switzerland know well enough. The department showed in what is referred to as a "running band", the creation of postage stamps from the first sketch of the artist - to the finished product as it is bought over the counter. Needless to say, the department furnished its guests with comfortable chairs to really make it most enjoyable.

In a room of their own, the young philatelists had their own show and some fine material was shown by those youngsters.

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