



HELVETIA BULLETIN

SOCIETY FOR COLLECTORS OF SWITZERLAND

Vol. XVI

October 1953

No. 10

Advance Notice: The ANNUAL MEETING and DINNER OF "HELVETIA" will be held on Saturday, January 23, 1954, at the LIEDERKRANZ CLUB, 6 East 87th Street, New York City.

The Annual Meeting, Election and Installation of new officers for the coming year will be at 4:00 PM.

Our SIXTEENTH ANNIVERSARY DINNER will be at 7:00 PM.

Please keep this date in mind and make arrangements to attend as an important program is being prepared. The details will be published in the November BULLETIN.

BOARD MEETING: At a recent meeting of the Board of Governors of our Society, the following decisions were made:

Nomination of Officers: The Board asked the present Officers to continue their work for another year. After a long discussion about the suggestion of our President to nominate at least a new President it was decided to submit to our members the re-election of:

Henry A. Gleffers as President
Fred V. Loellger as 1st Vice President
Max U. Juestrich as 2nd Vice President
George Wettach as Secretary
Vincent Domanski as Treasurer.

Publication of our Constitution and By-Laws: At the suggestion of our President it was decided to have reprints made of our Constitution and By-Laws to be sent to all our members, so that amendments may be prepared and submitted at our next Annual Meeting.

Referendum on the Publication of Our Membership List: Our President suggested a referendum by our members on the question whether our membership-list should be published. It was decided to poll our members in this delicate matter on the occasion of the mailing of the ballot for the election of Officers for the coming year.

NEW MEMBERS: We cordially welcome into our Society the following new members:

Miss Daynell Gettel, Enid, Okla.
Mr. Robert B. Brandeberry, Wilmington, Del.
Mr. Samuel Stein, Brooklyn, N. Y.
Mr. Hans R. Steinhardt, Evansville, Ind.
Mr. Max H. Rohde, San Francisco, Cal.

RESIGNATIONS: We regret the resignation of the following members:

Mr. H. Lansing Mace, New York, N. Y.
Mr. K. A. Rogers, Chicago, Ill.
Mr. Carl Mangold, Montreal, Can.
Mr. Max H. Rohde, San Francisco, Cal.

**MEETING OF THE NORTHERN NEW JERSEY BRANCH OF
THE HELVETIA SOCIETY**

Held at the Johnson Public Library, Mackenaack
N. J., Wednesday, October 14, 1953.

The meeting was opened at 8:05 PM by President Walters, with the following 15 members present: Jack Brupbacher, Ed Buser Sr., Max Buser, Ed and Sophie Buser Jr., Henry Gleffers, Richard Hagemann, Max Juestrich, Fred and Elsie Loeliger, George Miller, Karl Posch, Emil Spinden, Otto Reichelt, George Wettach. A total of 16 members.

The minutes of the September 14th meeting were read and approved.

The revised Constitution and By-Laws of the Branch were distributed to all members and subsequently approved with minor changes.

The following members agreed to attend the Philatex 1953 dinner held at the Hotel Robert Treat, Newark, N. J., on Saturday October 31st: Henry Gleffers, Ed & Sophie Buser, Fred & Elsie Loeliger, representing the Helvetia Society.

The annual Christmas dinner is scheduled to be held on December 5th (Saturday) and Henry Gleffers and Harold Weideli were appointed to serve on the dinner committee.

The cash balance of the Branch being but \$9.00, every member was assessed \$1.00 to put the Treasurer in funds to settle the meeting charges and other expenses for the year 1953.

Max Juestrich was elected Chairman of the Nominating Committee, with Sophie Buser and Elsie Loeliger serving as additional members of the Committee, the new slate of officers of the Branch to be announced at the November meeting.

After the business meeting, the stamp program, namely Airmail Issues of Switzerland were displayed. George Miller showed a large collection of Swiss Air Mail covers, to be followed by another collection of covers by our senior member, Pop Buser. Fred Loeliger showed a volume of his Pioneer Issues and early airmail stamps. The meeting adjourned at 10:00 PM sharp. Next meeting, Monday, Nov. 9, 1953.

Respectfully submitted

Elsie A. Loeliger, Secretary.

The 1953 PRO JUVENTUTE issue

Our Past President Jack Bruppacher, informs us that the PTT Gazette of October 23, 1953 announces the 1953 PRO JUVENTUTE stamps that will be issued on December 1, 1953 and that will be valid for postage through June 1954.

There is as usual a surcharge for these stamps that amounts to 5 cent. on the 5 centimes value and to 10 centimes on the 4 other values.

We are able to give the description of the designs as follows:

- | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|-------|-----|----------|-------------------|----|-------------------------------|
| The 5 + 5 centimes | shows | the | portrait | of | a | girl. |
| The 10 + 10 | " | " | a | Nun-moth | in | 3 colors. |
| The 20 + 10 | " | " | a | Camberwell Beauty | in | 4 colors |
| The 30 + 10 | " | " | a | Purple Longicorn | in | 3 colors |
| The 40 + 10 | " | " | the | self-portrait | of | Ferdinand Hodler (1853-1918). |

The 5 and the 40 cent. stamps are on white paper while the 10, 20 and 30 centimes values are on granite paper.

Special envelopes will be available at 20 centimes each. Special postmarks will be used again on December 1, 1953 the day of issue.

NEW STAMP BOOKLET

The 1953 PRO JUVENTUTE issue will include a new Stamp Booklet.

This booklet will go on sale on Dec. 1, 1953 and will prove to be of special interest to every Swiss Specialist.

Not since 1915, when the 5 centimes value, depicting a boy in Appenzell costume was issued in booklet form has any PRO JUVENTUTE issue appeared that way.

This booklet will contain the following values: 6 at 5 + 5, 6 at 10 + 10, 4 at 20 + 10 and 2 at 30 + 10 cent.; a total of 18 stamps that will sell at 4 francs including an extra charge of 20 centimes.

The especially printed sheet to make up the booklet pane, will be available at the PTT at the price of 8 francs.

Contributions:

We are glad to be able to publish in this issue the article on "LIECHTENSTEIN", the beautiful principality by our member William C. Webb that appeared in the American Philatelic Congress issue of the Weekly Philatelic Gossip.

We ask our membership to contribute articles for our BULLETIN and to share with our fellow members the fruit of their labor and of their pleasure in our hobby.

Please send any communication concerning the BULLETIN to your Editor Henry A. Gleffers, 283 Union Street, Hackensack, N. J.



LIECHTENSTEIN --- The Beautiful Principality

By William C. Webb
American Philatelic Congress



another the building of the drainage canal along the Rhine, a work similar but of course on a much smaller scale to our own Ohio Canal project which we, too, considered worthy of a special stamp.

Do you look for excellent engravings—Liechtenstein has them. Do you want historical interest—here again you can dig it out of the story behind the stamp. One of the old fortress castles has an interesting story—it has stood for upwards of 800 years and has never been captured by an enemy—not because capture was not attempted.

The Principality has another unique point of interest: it was named for its ruling family, not they for the country. John Adam Andreas von Liechtenstein was raised to the rank of Prince by his Emperor—and other Princes of the Empire protested that he had no princely realm. What did he do: he purchased the holdings of the Counts of Montfort and Vaduz, united them, and thus came into being the Principality of Liechtenstein.



If you want an interesting, colorful specialty try forming a specialized collection of the stamps of little Liechtenstein. When you start it looks so easy but the further you get into it the more you become interested and the more there is to learn about it.

You will get to know the beautiful Principality and you will have a lot of fun doing it. And, if you are investment minded, your investment will be one which, in addition to the return of pleasure all true collectors value most, will probably pay out as well as or better than most modern issues of many countries which (my friends tell me) do not make stamps to sell to collectors.

I am not selling the stamps of Liechtenstein—my collection is housed in eighteen Jefferson Albums and I need about five more to finish the mounting job—and I still find new items.

According to reliable information, a very small percentage of the revenues of the Principality comes from the sale of stamps to collectors, common "misunderstanding" to the contrary notwithstanding. There are no more stable investments in philately than the issues of Switzerland and the Swiss administration of the postal affairs of Liechtenstein. You get them as issued—just as you get our own commemoratives—and you know how many will be issued which you do not know about our issues.

Because of the small size of the country, it makes an interesting field to try to get all issues used from all post offices on other than philatelic covers (and for those who scorn such I ask what are our first day covers). Commercial covers of the National



Administration issues, for example, are really something to hunt for and I know from experience. The more recent issues are not quite so difficult to get since there is a large volume of business mail originating in the Principality due to the fact that it is the registered home of many international corporations (in Europe the Principality fills the same "role" in corporate activities that used to be taken by our own State of Delaware).



The stamps are colorful — nearly each one has a story to tell. One series pictures the long line of rulers,

different angles. The National Administration issues (as called in the Scott Catalogue) came into being. But the "syndicate," like all such organizations, was greedy. It caused unnecessary values to be printed—all sorts of errors (!) to be made—and generally over-reached itself. In so doing it "killed the goose" instead of gathering the "golden eggs" and failed to make its guaranty to the Government. All these issues—listed by Scott as "National Administration" issues were produced in far greater numbers than could reasonably have been expected to be used. Yes, they were made for collectors. These issues do, however, have certain interesting features too long to go into here and are the subject of intensive study at that, after the many years since they were made, they now appeal to the specialist. (Incidentally, try to find them in full sheets—in that form they, too, are scarce.)

Because of the failure of the syndicate to keep its guaranty to the government their contract was canceled and a new arrangement, still in force, was entered into with the Swiss Postal Administration under which the postal affairs of Liechtenstein were to be administered by the Swiss. The first Swiss issue (so-called) was made from plates which had been prepared by the syndicate, and apparently from the number of proofs and "freak" varieties which have appeared on the philatelic market the makers of the plates had kept from the Swiss authorities proof impressions, etc., when



the plates were turned over—or, possibly, they did the printing for the Swiss of this issue. However, the Swiss did cut the quantity issued down to such numbers of the various values as were needed for postal use.

Subsequent issues have all been made in quantities related to the normal use of stamps and the normal demand for them by collectors.

And the Swiss Administration—unlike some others, including our own—do not ever increase the number printed after announcing how many are to be made. If any value is exhausted in use and sale the replacement, even when the same plates are used, is always in another color, and generally is in a new design.

Many times the question has been asked—why do you collect Liechtenstein? Without writing a book (and I have one in process, if time will ever permit completion) this is an effort to answer the question, without becoming too technical.

The stamps of Liechtenstein, we are told, are made to sell to collectors and should not be collected. Now, just what is there behind this statement? The Principality has a long and interesting history—much too long to review. It stands at the old cross roads of the courier routes between Austria and Germany. Mail has been carried over and through the vest pocket size country for centuries. As a matter of convenience, in early days an agreement was made between the ruling Prince and the Austrian Empire by which Austria supplied postal service to the Principality, using, of course, its own stamps for the purpose. Of these issues, since the Principality was small both in size and population, specimens canceled in the Liechtenstein Post Offices are of necessity very rare—although not what one can call very expensive.

In 1912 the Principality desired more identification and asked for and had the Austrian postal authorities prepare definitive stamps for use in the Principality. In the catalogue of the immediate period, and in albums of that vintage, they are listed and shown under the heading "Austrian Offices in Liechtenstein."

Then came World War I—and with it, although Liechtenstein was a neutral, censorship by the Austrian and German governments. They could not afford the loop hole of uncensored mail out of territory so intimately connected with them. Of course this caused discontent with the Austrian Administration of the post. (Incidentally, censored Liechtenstein covers are another rare item.)

The war ended, and we now come to the episode in Liechtenstein Philately which gave its issues a "bad name" among most collectors.

The Austrian Postal Treaty was abrogated and the Liechtensteiners were going to run their own postal affairs. A group of politically influential natives, together with some foreigners, formed a "syndicate" which proposed to the Principality they would furnish stamps, etc., and offered for the operation of the post office of the Principality and guarantee a certain revenue to the Principality, in exchange for the "exclusive" right to sell the stamps abroad for philatelic purposes and such an arrangement was entered into—a European "Seebeck" proposal with some

CHRISTMAS PARTY AND DINNER

The Northern New Jersey Branch of HELVETIA invites all of our members and their friends to attend the traditional Christmas Party and Dinner, that will be held on Saturday, December 5, 1953, at 7:00 PM at the RED LION INN at Main Street, corner Euclid Avenue, in Hackensack, New Jersey.

We sincerely hope that many of our members who reside in Greater New York and even as far south as Philadelphia, will be able to come to this lively celebration.

The usual grab-basket, with gifts in the value of One Dollar, will supply pleasant surprises.

Please send your check in the amount of \$3.75 per person, as soon as possible, to Henry A. Gieffers or to Harold A. Weideli so that the reservations may be made in due time.