



HELVETIA BULLETIN

SOCIETY FOR COLLECTORS OF SWITZERLAND

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Message of the President of "HELVETIA"

On the occasion of the 16th ANNUAL MEETING of our Society that was held at the Liederkranz Club in New York on Saturday, January 23, 1954 the complete slate of outgoing Officers was re-elected to serve for another year.

For the benefit of those members who were not able to attend we quote as follows from the speech of our President - Henry A. Gieffers:

"...While I am grateful to the Officers and to all of you who have so diligently co-operated with me during 1953, I am happy that all officers have been re-elected to serve during 1954 and I shall be pleased to work with them for the welfare of our Society.

In the discussion about our Society and its future development we have to take a practical and realistic point of view. We are fully aware that the life, the vitality, the strength and the efficient performance of any organization is based upon the measure of the cooperation of the single links and upon the effort of the individual members. It is a privilege to belong to a Philatelic Society of the caliber of "HELVETIA" and it should always be foremost in the minds of all and every member to endeavor to serve our Society in any capacity, in any field and under all circumstances.

We are happy that such a solidarity exists to a large extent as it is evidenced in the hearty co-operation of the most active Branch of our Society, the Northern New Jersey Branch, that is so well represented here at our Annual Meeting, upholding the fine tradition of leadership.

Unfortunately we are not in a position to make a similar statement concerning the other Branches and we shall try to find during the discussion new ways for the strengthening of these groups, maybe by reviving their interest through stimulating suggestions as to planned programs for every meeting.

Continued from the speech of our President at the ANNUAL MEETING:

"The "SPOKESMAN" of our Society is the "HELVETIA BULLETIN" that puts on record the formal developments of our Society conveying to our widely scattered membership in the United States and abroad the reports of the events in the various Branches as well as some worthwhile and up-to-date articles on the many aspects of our diversified interests in the various fields of collecting philatelic material of Switzerland and Lichtenstein.

We want to improve the BULLETIN and publish it regularly every month except during July and August and expect to bring interesting articles written by our own members, who are again earnestly invited to contribute such material for publication.

Also on behalf of my fellow Officers of our Society I thank you and the membership at large for the renewed confidence in re-electing us for the year 1954. It goes without saying that we shall do our best to insure a healthy development and the welfare of "HELVETIA."

Report on the Annual Dinner at the Liederkrantz Club

After the 16th Annual Meeting of "HELVETIA" had been concluded some forty members and their guests assembled in the appropriately decorated Dining Room of the Liederkrantz Club on Saturday, January 23, 1954 where the traditional "Roast Beef Dinner with all the trimmings" was served shortly after 7:00 P.M.

When the final cup of coffee had been poured, President Gieffers addressed briefly the festive gathering and introduced our member, William C. Webb, who graciously served as Master of Ceremonies in an eloquent and witty manner and calling on all the present members and guests.

Experienced musicians played old and new melodies during the dinner and performed lively dance music that kept our members and their guests graciously swinging in lovely dances.

Our 2nd Vice-President, Max Juestrich, flashed many pictures that will certainly become a documentary record of the pleasant evening spent in good fellowship that was thoroughly enjoyed by all present.

DUES ARE DUE

Those members who have not yet paid their membership dues for the current year are cordially invited to do so at their earliest convenience sending their check to our Secretary George H. Wettach, 17-20 Well Drive, Fair Lawn, New Jersey. Thank you.

Report on the 16th ANNUAL MEETING of "HELVETIA"

From the MINUTES of the 16th Annual Meeting of our Society for Collectors of Switzerland that was held on January 23, 1954 at the Liederkrantz Club in New York as submitted by our Secretary George H. Wettach, we quote as follows:

"The Meeting was called to order by President Henry A. Gieffers at 5:00 P.M. with a few appropriate words of welcome.

The Secretary read the Official Call to Meeting in accordance with our Constitution and By-Laws, Article IV, Sect. 1A.

Mr. Karl Posch, Chairman of the Credentials Committee, made his report on the Election of Officers for the new year 1954 that showed the following results:

Re-elected as President:	Henry A. Gieffers
" " " 1st V. Pres:	Fred V. Loeliger
" " " 2nd V. Pres:	Max U. Juestrich
" " " Secretary:	George H. Wettach
" " " Treasurer:	Vincent Domanski, Jr.

Concerning the Referendum on the question about the publication of our membership list it was decided, after adequate discussion, that no list be published at this time, because percentagewise there were not enough opinions to allow any correct decision on the basis of the voting by mail.

The minutes of the preceding Annual Meeting were accepted as read.

The Treasurer's Report for 1953 was read by our Secretary in the absence of the Treasurer, who had asked to be excused because he was not able to attend our meeting. The Report was accepted as read.

Our President gave a detailed Report on the activity of our Society touching briefly upon some suggestions on how to strengthen and to develop further the efficient work of our Branches.

President Gieffers dealt extensively with the necessity to improve our BULLETIN and asked for full cooperation by the membership in order to make the SPOKESMAN of our Society an up-to-date philatelic publication.

Thereupon our President asked the members to rise for a minute of silence to honor the memory of A. H. Walters and A. Schellenberg and of the wife of member W. Schlumpf who passed away last year.

Mr. Gieffers concluded his speech thanking the members of our Society also on behalf of the other Officers for the renewed confidence and promising the utmost effort in the performance of their respective duties.

Continued from the Secretary's Report to the ANNUAL MEETING:

There were numerous communications of which one from member G.V. Luerssen gave some constructive suggestions that will be submitted to the next meeting of the Board of Governors. In the ensuing lively discussion participated Mrs. Sophie Buser, Dr. von Gross, Harold Weideli, William C. Webb, Ed. Buser, R. Reinfrank and others, thus showing the deep interest in the many suggestions on how to further develop our Society and to improve our Bulletin by supplying contributions and articles for publication.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS' Election

At the Annual Meeting of "HELVETIA" on January 23, 1954 took place the election of members to the Board of Governors to replace those whose term of office expired.

The result of the election was as follows:

for a three year term: Dr. Gustave von Gross and Jack Bruy/bacher
for a two year term: Harold Weideli and Mrs. Fred Paulstich

EXHIBITION: We are pleased to inform our members and readers that Dr. Max Kronstein, our faithful contributor, is showing all the covers described in the series of articles that we have brought in the course of the last years concerning the early Postel Service in Switzerland at the SEPAD at the Philatelic Museum in Philadelphia from the middle of January to the middle of February 1954. Can we still arrange an excursion to view the show and to pay a visit to our Philadelphia Branch?

PHILATELIC Publication: Recently appeared in "The Nineteenth Congress Book" of The American Philatelic Congress an interesting article on "The Swiss Hotel Posts" by our member G.W. Caldwell. While we compliment George Caldwell sincerely for that fine piece, we do not want to pass by this opportunity to express our hope that our own "BULLETIN" may soon bring again one of his interesting contributions.

Foreign Publication: Among the philatelic magazines and catalogs from abroad that may be of permanent interest to our members we like to mention the "Berner Briefmarken Zeitung, Journal Philatelique de Berne" that appears monthly in its 46th year in Bern and is edited by the well-known philatelic specialists Zumstein & Cie, whose catalogs are a great source of information. For the benefit of those members who do not read French or German, we shall provide translations of some of the more valuable and interesting articles. Volunteers for such translation-work are asked to please get in touch with our editor.

EDITOR'S Note: We cordially invite our members to send in any original article or contribution related to the collecting of philatelic material of Switzerland and Lichtenstein to our Editor: Henry A. Gieffers, 283 Union Street, Hackensack, New Jersey.

ANOTHER ADDITION TO THE SUBJECT OF TRIAL AND FIRST FLIGHTS
TO AND FROM SWITZERLAND IN APRIL AND MAY 1926

By Dr. Max Kronstein

In a series of reports W. Von Adelson, Roland Kohl, and myself developed in this BULLETIN in recent years the history of the inaugural period, which preceded the regular air services between Switzerland, Germany and Holland. And we felt in our last report that the subject had been completely clarified for later catalogue listing.

Recently another item was found here in New York which indicates another step which preceded the inauguration of the Swiss BALAIR service between Frankfurt-Karlsruhe-Basle in connection with the additional route to Geneva and Lyon. The date for this first flight of the Swiss service had been identified as April 19, 1926 and 62 covers were flown on the first flight from Frankfurt and received the Airpost cancellation of Basle the same day.

The newly found card had been dispatched expressly for this flight as indicated on the card. But since the day of the cancellation in Frankfurt and the date of the Basle Airpost backstamp preceded this flight by 24 hours, it was evident that another temporary route had been used here to fly this card to Basle. This is our opinion about this temporary route whose duration can be assumed to have been limited to certain flights between April 12 and April 18, 1926.

On April 12, the Balair inaugurated jointly with the German Lufthansa flights from Nurnberg to Basle with an intermediate stop at Stuttgart.

At that time there was already a Lufthansa air service between Frankfurt and Stuttgart and from there a Swiss Ad Astra Airservice to Zurich.

Since this start of the Swiss Balair service between Stuttgart and Basle preceded the inauguration of the direct service between Frankfurt and Basle by one week, it was possible in that week to dispatch airmail from Frankfurt to Basle via Stuttgart. With the beginning of the direct route on April 19, this way of directing mail must have been ended. How many - or how few - items have been flown on this round-about way, is not known.