



HELVETIA BULLETIN

SOCIETY FOR COLLECTORS OF SWITZERLAND

Vol. XVII

November 1954

No. 10 ¹¹

Advance Notice: The ANNUAL MEETING and DINNER of "HELVETIA" will be held on Saturday, January 22, 1955, at the LIEDERKRANZ CLUB, 6 East 87th Street, New York City. (Please note the new date. We had to advance it by one week in order to have all the comfortable facilities at our disposal.)

The annual meeting, election and installation of new officers for the coming year will be at 4:00 P. M.

Our SEVENTEENTH ANNIVERSARY DINNER will be at 7:00 P. M.

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

NOMINATION OF OFFICERS FOR 1955: Because our Secretary, G. Wettach, has not received additional nominations of officers for 1955 we confirm the list submitted by our Northern New Jersey Branch as follows:

Mrs. Edith M. Fischer FAULSTICH	as President
Mr. Fred V. Loeliger	as 1st Vice President
Mr. Max U. Juestrich	as 2nd Vice President
Mr. George Wettach	as Secretary
Mr. Vincent Domanski	as Treasurer

Reelection of the two Governors	Dr. G. von Gross, and Mr. Jack Brupbacher
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The usual order of business as foreseen by our Constitution and By-Laws will be observed.

All members in good standing are cordially invited to attend this important annual meeting that will give us the opportunity to reaffirm the vitality of HELVETIA.

For the convenience of our members we are enclosing the Official Ballot that should be returned duly filled in to Mr. Karl Posch, 13-04 Morlot Avenue, Fair Lawn, New Jersey, utilizing the also enclosed franked envelope.

Editor's Notes : The preliminary announcement of our 17th annual meeting to be held as usual in accordance with our Constitution is the best indication that we are rapidly approaching the end of the current year.

Of course, the magnificent show that "Mother Nature" has again put on with the multi-colored variety of leaves on our beautiful trees and the approaching Thanksgiving celebrations are also inexorable reminders of the rapidly drawing near of this eventful year.

We are, therefore, preparing for the concluding sessions of our meetings in the various Branches and I want to take this opportunity to ask the Presidents and Secretaries of our Branches to send me in time a written report covering their activity during the past year.

Unfortunately I have not been able to pay the promised visits and I ask our members for their kind indulgence if even in my forthcoming vacation I should have to forego that pleasure.

I may as well tell you the whole story. When this issue of the BULLETIN will reach you, I will have been operated on my knee for the removal of the cartilage (meniscus.) You may recall that I had to admit in the May BULLETIN that a minor mishap had marred my European trip. Well, I am still suffering from the consequences of that fateful accident. But in a few weeks I expect to be up and around again.

In the meantime I want to thank very sincerely all those members who have sent me their good wishes on this unpleasant and even painful circumstance.

But I want to come back to the important part of my talk, and it is to my great regret that it is not good news. Notwithstanding my repeated invitation to the membership at large and my solicitations to the better known authors and writers of HELVETIA, there is no special article or report available. However, it may be just a strange coincidence and some good articles may be in the mails and may reach me in a few days.

So much better for us all, because we will all enjoy reading these expected contributions in our December BULLETIN that is slated to become a real Christmas issue. Therefore, let's go to work and surprise our membership with something outstanding and along the lines of our spirited and interesting reports of not so long ago.

For this issue I have selected to reprint an article for the benefit of our new members who are interested in the historical aspects of our Swiss philately.

The Western Stamp Collector of October 6, 1951, published an interesting article on the "History of the Swiss Official DAY OF STAMP Cancellations" by Gaudenz Muller that is reproduced on the following pages.

Mr. Norman Hill of the T.P.O. and Seapost Society has given us the permission to reprint two articles on "SWISS SHIPS - and such" that appeared in the November-December issues of the T.P.O. in 1952 and 1953 respectively. May I hear from you whether you would enjoy reading them?

Your Editor, H. A. Gieffers, 283 Union St., Hackensack, N. J.

HISTORY OF THE SWISS OFFICIAL DAY OF THE STAMP CANCELLATIONS
By..Gaudenz Muller.

When the F.I.P. (Federation Internationale de Philatelie)- International Philatelic Federation held its congress at Luxembourg in 1936 a decision was taken, that any country allied to the federation will celebrate on one Sunday every year "The Day of the Postage Stamp." The delegates at the congress, being representatives of the Philatelic Federations of many European countries, followed this decision by recommending their National Federations to denote the date of the "Stamp Day" and since that year collectors are celebrating their Stamp Day with local exhibitions, bourses, instructive movies and wireless transmissions about philately, these activities attract a lot of persons who were never interested in philately before.

The Swiss Federation of Philatelic Societies, which represents about 40 stamp clubs, followed the decision of the F.I.P. Congress for the first time in the year 1937. The first Sunday in December was chosen as the "Swiss Stamp Day" and since this year "stamp day" has taken place every year at this date.

The Stamp Day has the full support of the press, the radio and of the Swiss PTT Administration who contributes to the occasion with a nice special cancellation for philatelic mail. The Central Committee of the Swiss Federation of Stamp Societies is doing its share by printing a special postcard referring to the occasion. Collecting of these cards and the appropriate special cancellation has become very popular with Swiss stamp collectors during these 14 years of existence of the Swiss Stamp Day and a short study of the cancellations and cards issued since 1937 is therefore well justified and will be a welcome addition for the collectors of Swiss stamps in the United States.

The Cancellations and Cards

The Swiss Federation of Stamp Societies chooses each year a different place in Switzerland to receive the special cancellation. The selection is submitted to the PTT Administration in order to have a special cancellation struck. The special cancellation is a round date stamp with inscription "Tag der Briefmarke" (Stamp Day) and the place where it is used. With the exception of 1938 there was one cancellation only in existence for this purpose, 1938 there were three, one for any part of Switzerland (German, French and Italian,) 1942 pictorial round date cancellations were introduced, showing a typical attraction of the place to which the date stamp was given. The cancellations used were:

- 1937: Round date cancellation inscribed "Tag der Briefmarke" - "Journee du Timbre" 5.XII.37 Bern " with Swiss Cross and Posthorn and two stars.
- 1938: Three similar cancellations but in three different languages and for three different places: (1) "Tag der Briefmarke 4.XII.38 Basel" Swiss cross and posthorn; (2) "Journee du Timbre 4.XII.38 Lausanne" Swiss cross and posthorn; (3) "Giornata del Francobollo 4.XII.38 Lugano" Swiss cross and posthorn.

- 1939: "Tag der Briefmarke--Journee du Timbre-Giornata del Francobollo 3.XII.39 Bern" Swiss cross and posthorn.
- 1940: "Tag der Briefmarke-Journee du Timbre-Giornata del Francobollo 1.XII.40 St. Gallen" Swiss cross and posthorn.
- 1941: "Schweizer Tag der Briefmarke 7.XII.41 Zurich" the date in a large Swiss cross.
- 1942: "Journee Suisse du Timbre 6.XII.42 Geneve" with a view of the Rousseau Isle above and a posthorn under the date.
- 1943: "Journee Suisse du Timbre 5.XII.43 Fribourg" with a view of a part of the old city of Fribourg and its cathedral St. Nicolas.
- 1944: "Tag der Briefmarke Winterthur 3.XII.44 with two lions (Arms of Winterthur) in the central portion.
- 1945: "Tag der Briefmarke Bern 2.XII.45" with three bears in the central portion.
- 1946: "Journee Suisse du Timbre Sion 8.XII.46" with a view of the Cathedral of St. Valere at Sion and three grapes.
- 1947: "Tag der Briefmarke Luzern 7.XII.47" with a stilistic representation of the Wagenbach Fountain before the Museum of Fine Arts at Lucerne.
- 1948: "Tag der Briefmarke Schaffhausen 5.XII.48" with a ram in the central portion (the ram belongs to the arms of Schaffhausen.)
- 1949: "Journee du Timbre 4.XII.49 Vevey" with a typical old tower of the old fortresses of Vevey.
- 1950: "Grenchen 3.XII.1950-Tag der Briefmarke" with a portion of a dial-plate above the date (referring to Grenchen's famous watch factories) and a portion of the Grenchen coat of arms under the date inscription.

It must be noted that the above mentioned description of the official cancellations for the Stamp Day does not include all special cancellations used on this day, for many exhibitions which are held at this same date, have had their proper cancellations too, mostly used by the Swiss Mobile post offices which were in use at these exhibitions. The above list, however, is complete as to the official Stamp Day postmarks.

These postmarks together with the official cards issued by the Swiss Federation of Stamp Societies form the special side-line collection of Stamp Day cards. The cards, differing each year, are very attractive. In 1937 there were two different; one in yellow and brown colors, the other in dark blue and light blue. In 1938, there were three different in the same color and design but in three different languages (German, French and Italian.) 1939 again three different, in three languages and also in three different colors. 1940 saw the issuance again of three cards, similar in design and color but in three different language inscriptions. In 1941 there was one card only, the three different languages being written on the same card. A very nice card was printed in 1942, depicting on the address side the "Gotthard Mail Coach" after the famous painting of R. Koller, in full colors; the inscription being either German, French or Italian. Since 1943 only one card was issued per year with attractive pictorial designs relating to the occasion or to the special cancellation of the respective year.

It is not easy to get the collection of these cards complete. Especially the earlier ones of the years 1937 to 1942 with all their different languages are difficult to obtain. A complete collection suitably made up on album pages or cardboard is a very attractive and colorful addition to any Swiss collection.