This issue of the Helvetia Herald is a bit late this time because I was the Co-chairman for the three day stamp exhibition (PARPEX '74) put on by our local club on November 1-2-3. It was a big "extravaganza" with 219 frames of exhibits, 28 dealers and a 40 page program plus a few other assorted things. Incidentally, if you just can't live without one of the programs from the show, send me two 10¢ stamps for postage and I'll send you one...plus a souvenir card. We have a bundle of them left over!!

The nomination for new AHPS officers were kept open until November 8 to allow Helvetia members time to get nominations in. The Alphorn was delayed in mailing until late October. That date has passed now, and a ballot is enclosed for your vote on the 1975 officers of the American Helvetia Philatelic Society. To be counted, ballots must be received by the SASS Secretary (Robert T. Clarke, 1338 Naples Drive, Dallas, Texas 75232) by December 6, 1974. Please note...persons who are members of both SASS and Helvetia will receive their ballot from SASS only. Helvetia will distribute ballots to Helvetia only members. Results of the election will be announced in the December Helvetia Herald, as well as the Alphorn. I have also enclosed a dues notice here for 1975. If you want to pay now for 1975 (and why not do it now while you are thinking about it!), send $3.00 to the current SASS Treasurer, Maj. Charles LaBlonde, 3815 S. Midsummer Lane, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80917. Make your check payable to SASS. The funds will be transferred to the new AHPS account shortly after the first of the year.

That's all for now. Pleasant reading of the next to the last Helvetia Herald, and have a Happy Thanksgiving.

Bob Clarke, Sec.-Editor SASS
Sales Circuits 1974-1975 -- First Report

Late in September, and early in October, as a direct result of the merger materials mailing, the Sales Circuit Manager was literally inundated with requests for circuit participation. Eighty-five (85) hopeful applicants sent in their forms by October 15. Of these, three had to be returned because their Canadian addresses at present are not making them eligible to receive circuits because of registration complications across the border. It is hoped that members in Canada may become eligible for circuits, and if there is a minimum of six, then it becomes possible.

Unfortunately, the submitting of sales books is not keeping pace with this rush for circuit packets, and through October 22 only 9 initial circuit parcels could be mailed out. PLEASE SEND IN YOUR DUPLICATES. There is a great demand for covers, for anything that has to do with military mails, and the adhesives of all periods, and for mint singles (DO NOT HINGE THESE INTO THE BOOKS -- YOU DECIMATE THEIR VALUE IMMEDIATELY) earlier than 1962. There are enough blocks of four submitted for the time being; but any decent material will sell. Damaged and heavily cancelled items will NOT sell.

It has become mandatory, to retain a semblance of circuits (from: circulate, i.e.: to move rapidly !!) to request forwarding by SPECIAL HANDLING. Please, participants, expend the extra $0.25. It saves days and will enable everyone to receive more circuits during this still infant-age season.

Felix Ganz, Apt. 3303, 1130 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60605

A SASS Welcome to the following new members

Mark Ellis
R R 4
Wellington, Kansas 67152

Robert Snyder
52 California Street
Buffalo, New York 14213

Alfred Morris
2106-D NE 85th
Seattle, Wash. 98115

Elizabeth C. Watson
2825 Rothgeb Drive
Raleigh, North Carolina 27609
Piece of the Month

This new feature of the Herald should give owners of interesting, though not necessarily always expensive items (interesting cancellations, stamps, covers) a chance to describe them and explain them to the other society members for their unusualness, or whatever. -- Whoever wishes to participate may do so by sending a photograph (or very good xerox copy) to this paper's editor, as well as a descriptive thumbnail sketch of that piece.

Today's cover is most interesting (and very infrequently encountered). It features combination franking of Switzerland and Liechtenstein, and legally so, in the form of two copies each of Liechtenstein # (Zumstein) 64, 66, and 84, plus a Swiss 15 cts. airmail stamp (C3, or Z Fl.3). This adds up to ONE centime above the official rate, and the letter is undoubtedly philatelic--but what flight cover of that period (1930) is not?

The Swiss/Liechtenstein expert who authenticated the cover states that the piece is "a very beautiful airmail cover and document". Also, he remarked that "Up to the issuing of separate Liechtenstein airmail stamps, Swiss airmail stamps were valid in Liechtenstein alongside Liechtenstein's other issues--and in earlier years, even cancelled in Liechtenstein". This is not true of this piece (which was estimated to have a value of about $175), but the combination of these two countries' stamps nevertheless is VERY rarely seen. The cover was posted in Schaan and canceled with a hand slogan device. In Zürich, it received an arrival strike of the same day; but it was not flown to St. Gallen until two days later (no connection--somebody could have WALKED it there faster!!). The Swiss stamp is canceled "Zürich", airport.
Swiss Internment Cancellations and Other Markings
by Robert C. Ross and Karl Sharp

(continued from the October Helvetia Herald)

FIRST, NO CAMP NAME MARKS

FIRST CAMP NAME MARKS
SOURCES

Several collectors have contributed to this study, and it would be difficult to list them all at this point. However, special mention must be made of the important contributions of Felix Ganz, Chicago, E. Georges Schild, Berne, and R. K. Eadie, Ottawa. Mr. Schild plans to publish a listing of the World War II camps in the near future, which should lead to important new information in this field; unfortunately, this information is still classified by the Swiss government, and the work will probably not be definitive.

FRANCO PRUSSIAN WAR

Swiss Red Cross Stamps and Special Franchise Stamps 1870/71, Dr. Leemann, undated.

Berner Briefmarken-Zeitung, nos. 9 and 10, 1935, M. Henri Bauer.

Zumstein Specialized Catalogs.

WORLD WAR I


WORLD WAR II

"Die Interniertenpost In Der Schwiz", Berner Briefmarken-Zeitung, pages 116-18, December 9, 1940 (?), no author given; this article was translated and appeared as "Swiss Internment Posts", pages 124-125, of the December, 1940 "Stamp Lover". The "Stamp Lover" translation was republished apparently without credit, with minor additions, and with some new, inaccurate information by P. W. Stratton in the "Helvetia Newsletter" for February, March and April, 1958.


Polish Post: Seven Years War (1939-1945), H. M. Smith.

"Swiss Internment Camps in World War Two with a Tentative Checklist", Jesse B. Thomas, "War Cover Bulletin", April, 1951. (The April part was descriptive; the checklist part was not published in the bulletin apparently through loss of the editor. The manuscript was for a time in the War Cover Library, but that librarian is now dead, as is Thomas, and the list is no longer part of the library. The second part would, of course, be a major source of information if it still exists.)
SECOND CAMP NAME MARKS

Mürren
Schweiz

Mühledorf
(Sol.)

Savernahk
(S.W.)

Weissbad

Schönenberg
a.d.Thur

Oberwil
b.Büren
a.Dera

Wiler
b.Saedorf
(St.)
Now, A Basel Dove Cloisonne Stamp

The 99 Company has added to their cloisonne stamp "collection" with a Switzerland No. 3L1, Basel Dove stamp. I have one and they are really quite attractive. I've illustrated all three Swiss cloisonne stamps that the company offers. They make great tie tacks...the stamps, not the company!! If your wife, girlfriend, boyfriend, husband or family has no idea what to get you for Christmas, here's an idea. Order from 99 Company, P.O. Box 99, San Clemente, California 92627. (If you do order, please say you saw this note in the Helvetia Herald. Thanks. Editor).

Bulletin Board and Marketplace Features

These two items are not getting the "nourishment" needed to stay alive and healthy!! Remember, only you can keep them "happy" with your notices. (Editor)
SWISS EXPRESS LABELS

I. Tillen

**Editor's Note** - Due to space limitations, only the bottom label or two of Types 16 and 17 are shown. Type 16's occur in strips of 10, whereas Type 17's occur in strips of 5.
Type 18 1942

Characteristics

Illustrated above

Colour of label:— Brick Red

Wording:— Eilsendung Expres Espresso in two lines. Large E forming part of middle word: that is Expres only.

Size of label:— 47 x 17 mm.

Probable dates of printing:— 1932, 1933, 1934

Known period of use:— 30.1.V.32 to 30.3.39
Type 19

Characteristics

*Illustrated above*

Colour of label:— Red
Wording:— One word only: EXPRESS in very large letters
Size of label:— 55 x 23 mm.
Only known use of label:— 22.XI.48
Type 20

This label has been in use over the years on PARCELS only and if you ask at the counter for a strip of five labels they will NOT give you one as with other labels. The reason is they are numbered as on the strip illustrated (which I obtained somehow from Bern—I should not have been given it unless I may have got it from the Philatelic Agency at Bern). I cannot remember the year nor where I obtained it and as they do not bear a date of printing on the Tab at the foot there is no method by which one can ascertain dates of printing or when the sub-types to be described and illustrated came into use.

This is the only type to bear the name of a Post Office on the label and a number, e.g., the strip illustrated bears: Bern 1 Annahme and the numbers 141 to 145.

I only possess two other labels of this type. The first bears the wording Zurich 23 Hauptbahnhof and the number 463 (it evidently came off a parcel at Zurich station), the second one is a modern one I obtained at Crans recently and is illustrated on the entire cover of the parcel and bears the wording 3963 Crans-sur-Sierre and the number 752. It is thus the newest type with the Postal code number before the name of the town and this is sub-type (C). It was in 1965 the Postal Code numbers were introduced so probably this type (20C) was printed from that year till today.

Complete strip of Type 20A
Type 20C. Postal code before name of town. Round stop between Exprès Espresso. Also word EILSENDUNG level with top of lateral E not above it as in types 20A & B
Swiss Auction Houses and Sales Results - No. 2

KLEIN-AUKTION Zurich (August Gross, Weinplatz 10, Zurich 8001, Switz.)

Mr. Gross, an amiable, old fashioned, honest, and interested dealer of stamps of mostly Switzerland, resides with his office in an ancient house, recently remodeled, in downtown Zurich, right on the Limmat River, and practically across from Zurich's principal church, the Grossmunster.

About three times a year he conducts what he calls "Mini-Auctions" of about 600 lots, in the restaurant of Zurich's main railway station. Those of you who receive the Swiss Philatelic Review undoubtedly have seen the lot enumerations in that journal's back pages. Only trouble: sea mail to the USA generally prevents overseas bidders from participating, and Mr. Gross is not particularly determined to mail out dozens of auction lists to overseas customers. As a matter of fact, if you are successful in convincing him to be put on his airmail customers list, then you are indeed a very special customer.

Thus, one must be lucky enough to visit him shortly before such a sale. The last one took place on September 7, 1974, and of the 617 lots, 500 were Swiss items. These cover the entire range of philately from pre-stamp letters to box lots of thousands of commercial letters of relatively recent vintage. Any successful bids are taxed 10%, plus 1 Sw. Fr. extra charge (for the auctioneer, and the seller also forks over 10%). All lots have minimum bids, and since it is extremely difficult to get a list of prices realized, one must assume (from previous experience) that lots sell at about 40% above the "limit" prices below which one may not bid.

The most interesting lots usually are listed last, such as lot 605; 1390 special envelopes with town propaganda cancels (K-cancels; Werbestempel): limit Sw. Fr. 220.; Lot 603; 1500 business letters period 1900-1930, with a wide array of town cancellations: limit 110 Sw. Fr.; Lot 609: fieldpost cards: limit, 60; Lot 601: 17 letters and cards with postage due franking: limit 65; But, there are also National Fete Cards, Souvenir sheets, tête-bêches off or on cover; officials; first day covers; airmail; early straight-line cancellations on and off cover; early special cancellations on Strubeli and seated Helvetia; and usually a bundle of Cantonals and Rayon stamps !

Competition for many lots is said to be keen: and the last two times I did not get any of the lots, even though my bids were double the limits given. -- Now, if you can just get the proprietor of these auctions to send you the bid sheets, then you will have a good thing going. Or, if you get the Swiss Philatelic Review by airmail, then you are "in" also.
Oh Sweet Mystery!!

by FRED R. LESSER

Perhaps the most mysterious stamp among ALL Swiss stamps ever recorded and monographed is the 1924 UPU (50th Anniversary) 20 cts. red with 24 (11-3/4) vertical perforations.

A great deal has been written about this stamp series. Yet, there is no evidence of any mint 20 cts. copy with 24 vertical teeth having ever been seen. In its cancelled condition, reference to two or three specimens has been made in various monographs. On the other hand, the 30 cts. blue version with its 24 vertical (11-3/4) perforation can be found in most specialized Swiss stamp collections with its white or yellow gum coloring. What happened??

The mystery surrounding this 1924 UPU issue begins with a series of rather "goofy" problems. In the first place, both stamps were produced under unusually hasty circumstances. The date of issue was October 9, 1924 and preparations for the design of the stamps were only completed in the spring of the same year. Originally, the Federal Topographic Institute (Mint) was supposed to print the 20 cts. value, whereas Orell Fussli in Zurich was contracted to produce, i.e. print, the 30 cts. stamp. Because the Mint was unable to print at such short notice, Orell Fussli was supplied with the 20 cts. plates as well and was contracted to print both. The official issue for the 20 cts. was 2,437,338 and that for the 30 cts. was 2,309,260. That Orell Fussli printed at least 100,000 of the 20 cts. stamps is known, but how many more and what part of the 2,437,338, nobody knows for sure. The Mint may have 'come in' at a later stage, but exact figures are not known. This is Switzerland!!

The paper for these stamps was manufactured and supplied by the Papierfabrik Sihl. Orell Fussli soon noticed that the paper, which had to be wetted prior to printing, tended to 'stretch' or expand due to the 'swelling up' of the organic fibres in the paper when the paper was moistened. This resulted in the printed sheets being of unequal dimensions. The stamps themselves were all of exactly equal size. The Federal Mint in Bern was responsible for the perforation of the sheets, and to cope with the sheet size variations, adopted two different perforation processes: the so-called 'harrow' perforation and the so-called 'comb' perforation methods. The difference
between the two methods is simply that the 'comb' perforation 'cuts' or 'runs' into the white margins which form the sheet's frame, whereas the 'harrow' method perforates each stamp without 'running off' into the margins of the sheet. The reason why these two processes were employed was a function of coping with the different sheet sizes in order to ensure that each stamp was properly perforated for separation from the sheet. The end effect was that a sheet of 25 stamps perforated by the 'comb' process resulted in the following:

1st row of 5 stamps - 23 vertical teeth
2nd row of 5 stamps - 24 vertical teeth
3rd row of 5 stamps - 23 vertical teeth
4th row of 5 stamps - 24 vertical teeth
5th row of 5 stamps - 23 vertical teeth

Therefore, in each 'comb' perforated sheet there were only 10 stamps with 24 vertical teeth.

Prior to perforation the sheets had to be gummed. More problems. It was September and the date of issue was October 9th. Two companies were pressed into the gumming task, Kummerli & Frey and the Lithographie Lips & Cie. The former used a whitish gum which tended to penetrate the paper. To combat this annoying problem, the gum's consistency had to be changed which caused longer and very tedious drying processes. More loss of time. The Lips & Cie people used a yellowish gum and had to experiment for awhile to get the proper consistency of their gum. During this experimentation process they used various chemicals, and one of them turned the gum into a greenish color. They promptly made changes and finally ended up with the original yellowish gum color.

All this does NOT explain the great mystery of all. WHAT HAPPENED TO THE 20 CTS, 24 VERTICAL TEETH STAMPS??

Did the Mint destroy all 20 cts. 'comb' perforated sheets, or were the ten 24-teeth stamps simply 'extracted' from each sheet prior to issue?? Why were the 30 cts 'comb' perforated stamps allowed to reach the public?

There is an interesting input concerning this issue. For some reason or another, never fully explained by the PTT, the post offices throughout Switzerland were actually advised to sell these 1924 UPU stamps only upon request. Despite the official issuance figures, why this hesitancy? After all, to sell something like close to five million stamps in less than two months (this UPU issue remained
valid until November 30, 1924 - one of the shortest validities of any Swiss stamp issue) could not possibly be contemplated on a sale 'by request only' !

And now we come to the most intriguing facet of this stamp. Considering the fact that no mint 20 cts UPU 24 vertical teeth specimen has ever been seen, and that only two or three cancelled copies have ever been mentioned, how come that the cataloged price is a fraction of that of the 'Double Geneva'? If supply and demand should affect a stamp's price - what's wrong with the assessment of the used 20 cts. (11-3/4 perforation) copy ???

Who is holding back what ??????
Pro Juventute 1974

Poisonous forest plants

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