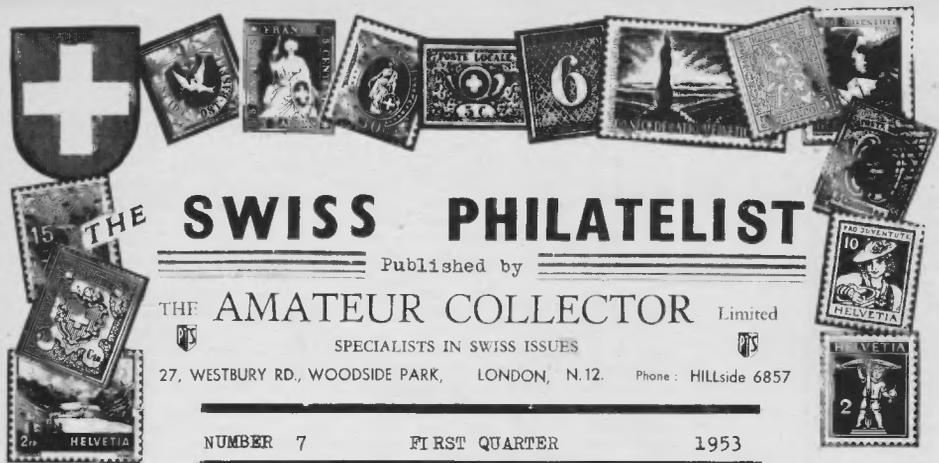


ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION
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THE SWISS PHILATELIST

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Facts about The Unique Stamp

The discovery of a "new" Swiss stamp forty-seven years after its issue is a rare occurrence.

But this is exactly what has happened to a Mr. A.W. of Zurich, a well known Swiss philatelist. When looking through his duplicates, he found a 40 C. Standing Helvetia of 1907, the No.97, Type II, granite paper with Watermark Crosses, but - - perforated 1½ by 1½.

The only 40 C. value on granite paper known so far is perforated 1½ by 1½ and listed by Zumstein as No.97A. In the March issue of Zumstein's "Borner Briefmarken Zeitung", the catalogue firm announce that they have decided to acknowledge the "new" stamp which will be catalogued in future under No.97B.

However, the discovery provides several puzzles, which will have to be solved before the rarity, at present known in ONE copy, can be fully accepted.

Zumstein's say that the stamps shows a postmark "ST. ALGER" and a date which appears quite distinct as 3.XI.03. This would mean that the stamp was used in 1903.

However, the granite paper was introduced only four years later, namely in 1907, and the Watermark Crosses in 1905.

With all due respect to Messrs. Zumstein's, whose expert knowledge and long and excellent services to Swiss philately no one appreciates more readily than the writer of these lines, it will need at least a few more items of this stamps to be discovered before the new perforation rarity can be accepted quite unchallenged.



THE SWISS PHILATELIST'S CORONATION QUIZ



£25
MUST BE WON

Simple, easy-to-enter competition



In the next issue of the SWISS PHILATELIST we will publish the details and conditions of the competition, which will be open to all regular subscribers. The QUIZ will consist of a number of questions relating to Swiss stamps, postal history, designs etc. The questions will not be too difficult to answer for any keen collector of Switzerland, yet sufficiently pertinent as to provide some food for thoughts for everyone.

The entries will be judged on a point system by well-known members of the HELVETIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

Three main prizes, ten other prizes and thirty consolation prizes will be awarded by the AMATEUR COLLECTOR LTD., as follows:

- | | | |
|------------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| £25
MUST BE
WON | FIRST PRIZE £ 10 | in rare Swiss stamps |
| | SECOND PRIZE £ 5 | in rare Swiss stamps |
| | THIRD PRIZE £ 3 | in rare Swiss stamps |
| | FIVE PRIZES at 10/- each, | FIVE PRIZES at 6/- each |
| | THIRTY CONSOLATION PRIZES at 2/- each, all in stamps | |

All prizes have been selected to represent items not found in average collections. In the case of the main prizes the publishers will offer a choice of items to the winners. Several of the lesser prizes will consist of the elusive DIE I of the 20 C. Landscape stamp.

WE HOPE THAT ALL OUR READERS WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE COMPETITION BY SENDING WITHOUT DELAY THE ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION FOR THE "SWISS PHILATELIST" WHICH IS ONLY 2/- a year postfree. WATCH OUT FOR THE DETAILS IN OUR NEXT ISSUE !

IMPORTANT A number of Readers have not yet renewed their SUBSCRIPTION for the SWISS PHILATELIST, which expired with the last number. For their convenience, a renewal form is enclosed. We regret that we shall be unable to forward further issues unless the subscription of 2/- s. for one year (postfree delivery) is received without delay.

Cross and Figures ISSUES OF Switzerland



Many printings of these stamps were made during the long currency of this issue, with the result that there exist considerable colour variation. The difficulty of matching colours in printing is well known, stamps of one and the same printing may often vary between those done at the beginning of the run and those of its end. Much of this variation is due to the settling of the heavier pigments.

Printing flaws as well as plate varieties of this issue provide an interesting field for the collectors who desire to specialise. Such items exist in fairly large number, some are quite common, others more elusive.

The most frequent and recurrent varieties are:

- (1) Colour spots, particularly in the cross and tablet;
- (2) Light or colourless areas, particularly in corners;
- (3) Background of the cross solid or nearly solid, in stead of lined;
- (4) Missed perforation holes (so called "Blindzahn")

There are also a number of plate flaws consisting of broken or interrupted frame lines occurring in nearly all values.



Solid Background behind the Cross

Of the 10 C. rose (No.55) on white paper the most interesting variety is "Dented lines" in the frames of the Cross, which looks asymmetric. The dent or break is quite distinct in the right hand cross bar. Of the 15 C. yellow (No.57) on white paper one or two copies are known with missing value.

In the issue on granite paper (with blue and red fibres) several values exist with blunt or rounded corners of the outer frame, usually only in one corner.

A major flaw occurs on the 15 C. yellow (No.63A), on granite paper, wide Controlmark. It shows several white lines from the left hand lower corner across the stamp to the right hand outer frame.

A similar white line can be found on some of the 15C. values of the colour change of 1889, purple, (No.64 A) leading across the word FRANCO. A distinct break in the lower frame exists on the same value with narrow Controlmark (No.64 B), as shown on the illustration.



Break in lower frame

Several values of the 1894 issue (narrow Controlmark) have interesting plateflaws, for instance the 2 C. (No.58 B) on which a broken C in FRANCO looks like an U. The same value exists with badly dented upper cross bar; and a rather common flaw has the A in HELVETIA missing.

Our Approval SERVICE

IS GROWING RAPIDLY AND IT HAS BECOME NECESSARY TO ENLARGE ITS SCOPE. READERS WILL FIND ENCLOSED WITH THIS ISSUE AN UP-TO-DATE LIST OF AVAILABLE SECTIONS. WE KINDLY REQUEST A L L CLIENTS TO FILL IN THIS NEW LEAFLET, EVEN THOUGH THEY MAY ALREADY HAVE COMPLETED THE OLD ONE. THIS WILL AVOID SENDING UNWANTED APPROVALS. CLIENTS WHO HAVE RECEIVED APPROVALS IN THE PAST NEED NOT GIVE FURTHER REFERENCES.

Flaws in the value figures occur in the 12 C. stamps (No.62 B). One is a broken or missing apostrophe of the 1 another a defective 2.

There are quite a few interesting varieties in the 5C. colour change of 1899, green. There are eight different flaws in the frame lines, four different "dents" in the outer frame, various defects of the two upper triangles, broken O in FRANCO, that looks like G, open O, looking like U, and a "flag" on the upper-stroke of the 5.

Several values are known with two in stead of one Controlmark, and these varieties are catalogued as high as 40 fra. Zumstein's Special Catalogue provides a comprehensive listing of all the main varieties and some of the minor ones, but the field is wide open for anyone who is plucky enough to embark on specialising.

The 1905/06 issue of this design but on paper with "real" Watermark Crosses, offers also a number of varieties worth study. Many are similar to those described, such as defective Cross bars, broken frame lines, white lines etc., but there are also some which do not occur on the stamps printed on the Controlmark paper.

Among those is a broken I in HELVETIA on the 2 C. value, a comma after the H in HELVETIA, the second E in HELVETIA with an 'accent' (these two on the 10 C stamp, No.83) and a defective 2 (without the upper curve) in the 12 C value (No.84).

The Cross and Figures issue was superseded in November 1907 by the stamps in the new designs of Tell Boy and the Helvetia allegory, but retained franking value until the end of 1924, when it was demonetized.



THE AMATEUR COLLECTOR'S STAMP CATALOGUE of SWITZERLAND 1953

PRICE ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS

<u>Page 13</u>					<u>Tête-Bêche, 56-tenant etc.</u>
No.106a	1	6	1	4	
<u>Page 27</u>					<u>Page 22</u> K 23... 2 3 1 6
No.14	12	0	11	0	Z 27c 4 6 8 3
No.15	17	6	15	0	Z 27b 4 6 8 3
No.14z	7	0	9	0	Z 27c 4 6 8 3
No.15z	15	0	15	0	(adjust also simplified list)
<u>Page 28</u>					<u>Page 25</u>
No.23	2	9	3	0	S 47 ord.pap. 2 6 1 8
No.24	2	9	3	3	grill.pap. 2 6 1 10
No.25	3	9	3	0	S 49 ord.paper 8 0 7 6
Compl.set of 7 val. 15 0 15				
<u>Page 29</u>					<u>CORRECTENDA</u>
No.43	2	6	0	10	<u>Page 11</u>
No.44	3	0	1	0	No.67Ad used 4/-a, (not 4d)
<u>Page 32</u>					<u>Page 13</u>
No.20	5	6	7	3	No.95Ab should be no.95Ab
Compl.set (1921) 6 6 7 6					<u>Page 14</u>
No.24	5	6	6	9	No.124c should be 3 c deep violet (not 5 c)
Compl.set (1922) 6 10 7 6					<u>Page 48</u>
No.28	3	6	5	3	No.71 mint, price is 1s.5d.
Compl.set (1923) 4 6 5 6					<u>Page 54</u>
<u>Page 37</u>					Delete text after 13B, and substitute 1945 for 1245 in text after 16Bz.
No.5	1	6	0	8	
Set of 6 val. 8 6 5 9					
<u>Page 41</u>					
No.23	11	0	13	6	

SWITZERLAND'S LEADING STAMP DESIGNERS



KARL BICKEL

High over the Wallensee, 4455 Ft. above sea-level at the foot of the steep rocks of the Churfirsten, lies the home of the Father of the Modern Postage Stamp Design.

Karl Bickel, painter, sculptor, engraver, can unhesitatingly be thus described. In more than twenty years of active work he has presented Switzerland with well over 50 of her finest postage stamps, and has also produced many more for other postal authorities.

Born in Zurich, Bickel studied in Italy, Munich and Berlin and at an early stage of his career exchanged the brush for the engraver's burin. As a poster artist he won world fame and in 1923 the Swiss Post Office entrusted him with the first assignment - the production of designs for the first definitive Air Mail stamps.

His idea of making the the hard and brittle steel plate his slave, well typifies his upright and strong character. Clear, impressive, unmistakable and bold lines distinguish all his designs.

He says that he found pencil and charcoal drawing unsatisfying, lithography and etching too much under the influence of chemical reactions. They cannot express his artistic perceptions. He likes what is distinct and clear, and therefore he has devoted himself to engraving on steel and copper and to mosaic in relief.

While his many stamp and other designs made him famous, his real masterpiece -- the crowning of his artistic career -- is the imposing Peace, which he has residence above

Monument of erected near above Wallensee.

The magnificent mosaic relief representing men and women, living and working in peaceful happiness, shows the idealism and humanity of the great artist.

Karl Bickel designed so many beautiful stamps that only a few can be mentioned here. Among them are the Landscape

issues of 1936, the Historical Series of 1938-1941,

the two lower values of the National exhibition set of 1939, many Pro Juventute stamps, the high values



of the Pax series of 1945, the restalozzi stamp, the three frank stamps, showing the deaconess, nun, and Dr. Dunant -- and above all the current Landscape set.

Bickel says that his own two favorites are the 5 C. value of the 1948 Pro Juventute set, bearing a portrait of General Ulrich Wille, and the picture of the Grimsel dam on the current 20 C. Landscape value - which rather strangely has become so famous for die and printing varieties.

In spite of his fame, Bickel has remained a modest man, happiest in his lofty artist's home almost isolated from the world. Far from the turbulent crowds, he lives there for his art. We hope that his talent and dexterous hand will still provide us with many more of his beautiful stamp designs.

ALBERT YERSIN

belongs to the young generation of Swiss artists. Born in Montreux, he spent his childhood in U.S.A., and later in Chile. He completed his art studies in New York, Paris and at the Royal College of Art in London, where he has still many friends.

Yersin is proud of having been Bickel's pupil, under whose guidance he designed some of his earlier efforts in the field of postage stamps. One of his earlier successes was the Red Cross issue in 1939. Then, in 1941 came the Air Mail set - beautiful designs of scenery cleverly arranged in a limited space.

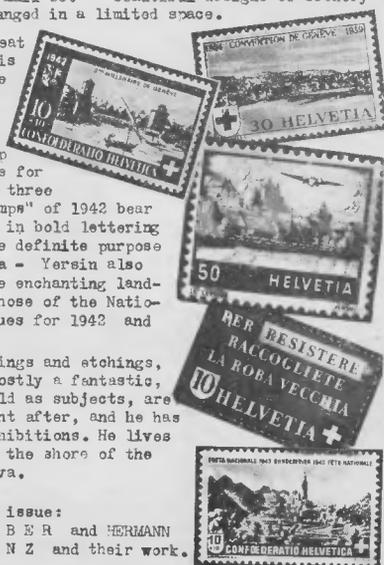
His great versatility is shown by the very varied subjects he had chosen for his stamp designs. While for instance the three "Salvage stamps" of 1942 bear only slogans in bold lettering - serving the definite purpose of propaganda - Yersin also produced some enchanting landscapes, as those of the National Fete issues for 1942 and 1943

Yersin drawings and etchings, which have mostly a fantastic, abstract world as subjects, are greatly sought after, and he has held many exhibitions. He lives at Lutry, on the shore of the Lake of Geneva.

In the next issue: BERNHARD REBER and HERMANN EIDENBENZ and their work.



ALBERT YERSIN



Newsreel



THE WORLD ICE HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES brought two attractive special cancellations of the Automobile Post Offices. They were used by the travelling post offices No. 2 and 3, at Zurich and Bale, respectively, bearing the dates 6 - 15 th March 1953. We illustrate the postmark applied by the Zurich P.O.

A SPECIAL POSTMARK TO ADVERTISE THE BALE INDUSTRIAL FAIR is in use by the post office Basel 2 from March 16 to April 20. The inscription in a flag reads: "Schweizer Mustermesse Basel".



TWO NEW PROPAGANDA POSTMARKS were granted by the P.T.T. to the well-known resorts of Glis (showing the ancient church, visited by pilgrims) and Balerna the beautiful Ticino village, between Chiasso and Mendrisio, with its old castle and fine



Romanesque church with a baroque facade.

VARIETIES OF THE 20 CENTIMES LANDSCAPE, DIE II - DOUBLE PRINT - AND WORN PLATE. We have been fortunate in securing a few copies of each of the following two recently discovered varieties of this most interesting modern stamp (No.301 A):



Double Print of the right frame line. We can offer this variety, in pair with a normal stamp, mint, at.....9s.6d.
Worn Plate: Entire stamp resembling DIE I, Base line of house missing, two lines in dam below power house missing, stone wall to road in foreground mostly missing, shading of road very faint, appearance of the whole stamp lighter. Mint....17s.6d.

Both varieties are scarce and will be included in our next issue of the Amateur's Stamp Catalogue of Switzerland 1954. We are negotiating for a few copies of the double print used. Clients interested may book now, and subject to safe arrival, the price will be about 10/- for each used copy.

SPECIAL OFFERS

We are breaking up a very fine collection of 19-th century Swiss POSTAL STATIONERY

This collection is perhaps the finest to come on the market in many years, and contains a number of outstanding rarities. All the items are priced singly and range from a few pence to several Pounds It would be difficult to duplicate some of the rarer items, many of which are not even priced, though listed in Zumstein's Ganzsachené Catalogue.

APPROVALS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



Postage Due No.19 G TYPE I fine used40/-

Tell Boy No.132, Overprint, 1c on 2c. mint Half Sheet of 50 showing slanting ovpt. Stamps on left are normal, while those on the right have displaced overprint, leaving origin value free Only.. 45/-



A RARITY! Sitting Helvetia No.45/1 Double Embossing, one inverted, Superb used on beautiful cover fr. Geneva. ONLY... £ 11



SOLDIER STAMPS OR COVERS

A lucky purchase enables us to offer a few of the elusive covers and cards from World War I. They are rarely seen and quickly snapped up by enthusiasts. Also a small number from World War II. (AVAILABLE ON APPROVAL).

BREAKING UP A COLLECTION OF **Postmarks** 1843 - 1882

enables us to offer good approvals of these interesting cancellations. Ask to see them before the best had gone.

THE AMATEUR COLLECTOR LTD.
27 Westbury Road, Woodside Park, London, N.12

THE AMATEUR COLLECTOR LTD. STAND at the National Stamp Exhibition



We had the great pleasure of greeting many of our customers, and meeting many new ones during the National Stamp Exhibition at Central Hall, Westminster, last January. Our stand, although quite sizeable, was often beleaguered by a large throng of visitors, and business was brisk and satisfactory for both sides of the counter. Our picture shows (from left to right): Mrs. B.E. Katcher, Mr. A.S. Gill and Mr. H.L. Katcher, who were assisted by our staff from headquarters.