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THE SWISS PHILATELIST

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SPECIALISTS IN SWISS ISSUES

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1953

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OUR

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SUMMER DISCOUNT

is in operation from
JUNE 15th to SEPTEMBER 15th
and applies to
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Many prices will go up in the 1954 edition of our Catalogue which will be published in the autumn. It is WISE TO FILL THE GAPS NOW WHEN YOU CAN TAKE ADVANTAGE OF LOWER PRICES AND SAVE MONEY!

THE SWISS PHILATELIST'S CORONATION

£25 MUST BE WON **QUIZ**

**DO YOU KNOW
YOUR SWISS
STAMPS ?**

43 Prizes

WE INVITE ALL OUR REGULAR SUBSCRIBERS TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING EIGHT QUESTIONS RELATING TO SWISS POSTAL HISTORY, STAMP DESIGNS ETC. YOU CAN FIND THE CORRECT ANSWERS IN YOUR OWN ALBUM AS NONE OF THE STAMPS IS A RARITY BEYOND YOUR REACH

WILL BE AWARDED FOR CORRECT

SOLUTIONS BY THE AMATEUR COLLECTOR LTD. as follows:

- 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
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£25



QUIZ QUESTIONS

1. WHICH WAS THE LAST SWISS STAMP PRINTED ON WATER-MARKED PAPER ?
2. THE PICTURE ON THE RIGHT SHOWS PART OF A SWISS STAMP - WHICH STAMP IS IT ?

Rules

- ★ (1) ONLY ONE ENTRY FROM EACH REGULAR SUBSCRIBER WILL BE ACCEPTED
- ★ (2) A JURY OF THREE INDEPENDENT PHILATELISTS (COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF THE "HELVETIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY" WILL JUDGE ENTRIES ON A POINT SYSTEM. IF THERE ARE MORE CORRECT ENTRIES THAN PRIZES, POINTS AWARDED WILL DECIDE THE ORDER OF PRIZES.
- ★ (3) DECISIONS OF THE JURY ARE FINAL

LATEST ENTRY DATE: SEPTEMBER 15th 1953. SOLUTIONS AND PRIZEWINNERS WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE AUTUMN.

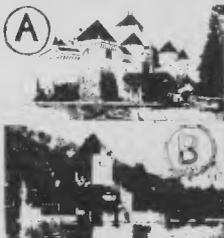


3. ON WHICH STAMP IS THIS FLOWER AND WHAT IS ITS NAME ?

4. ON WHICH ISSUE THE DATES OF VALIDITY ARE ACTUALLY ON THE STAMPS (as opposed to the usual marginal inscriptions)

5. WHICH ARE THE TWO "STANDING HELVETIA" STAMPS WHICH EXCHANGED THEIR COLOURS ?

6. HOW MANY VALUES WERE IN THE PRO JOUVENUTE SET OF 1914 (Nineteennundredfourteen) ?

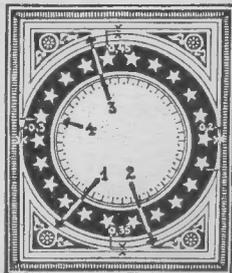
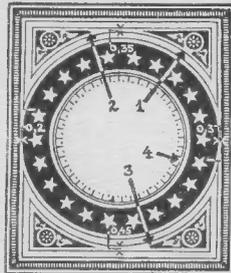


7. ONE OF THESE TWO CASTLES APPEARS ON SWISS STAMPS. IS IT (A) or (B) and WHAT IS ITS NAME ?

8. ON WHICH STAMPS CAN YOU FIND THESE TWO FAMOUS FIGURES ?



POSTAGE DUES



TYPE I NORMAL FRAME

TYPE I INVERTED FRAME

TYPE II NORMAL FRAME

TYPE II INVERTED FRAME

Postage Due stamps are the Cinderellas of the stamp family. The postman dislikes them because they delay him on his rounds, the recipient of a "taxed" letter resents them, the sender - if he hears that his missive had been adorned with them - feels guilty, and -- finally the collector of Switzerland is full of apprehension to tackle these "difficult" issues.

But the Swiss postage dues provide a fascinating and wide field to the keen philatelist. And they are by no means as "difficult" as some beginners think.

One reason that they are less popular than other stamps is that few catalogues in English provide full lists and give a comprehensive explanation of the very interesting frame types. Indeed the AMATEUR COLLECTOR'S CATALOGUE OF SWITZERLAND is the only English publication which tackles this job. In this short series of articles we shall endeavour to provide more details than it is possible in a catalogue.

First of all we must address our minds to the TWO TYPES OF FRAMES which occur in almost all issues from 1878 to 1908, and to the TWO DIFFERENT POSITIONS OF THE FRAME.

The two diagrams on the left show TYPE I, the first a normal position of the frame, the second with the frame inverted.

The main characteristics of TYPE I are:

- (1) The dark corner triangles are all closed;
- (2) and (3) The triangles taper into a sharp tip;
- (4) The double circle is NOT interrupted

On the second diagram we see an INVERTED frame of Type I. To discover it is a little more difficult, but will be mastered after some practice. In the inverted

frame, the triangles are NEARER to the thin half-circle at the BOTTOM than they are at the top, and the dark circle containing the stars is NEARER to the outer frame on the RIGHT than on the left.

Incidentally, the reason why this issue exists with normal and inverted frames is quite simple. The value figures were printed separately, and it often happened that the sheets - with the frames already printed - were put into the machine the other way round.

The two different frame positions are often referred to as N (Normal) and K (Kehrdruk - Inverted) by Swiss handbooks.

Now let's look at TYPE II (shown on the two diagrams on the right side of this page).

The main characteristics of TYPE II are as follows:

- (1) There is an opening in the dark triangle in the right top corner, just under the winged wheel;
- (2) and (3) The triangles taper into a BLUNT end;
- (4) The thin inner circle is INTERRUPTED on right.

The "open wheel" is such a distinct flaw that it is quite easy to distinguish TYPE II from Type I at a glance.

And it makes also easy to recognise the INVERTED frame, because the "open wheel" must logically be found in the inverted frame at the left bottom corner, and similarly, the interrupted inner circle line shows now the break on the left.

If you compare figures 1 - 4 you will find it all out by yourself!

Having acquainted ourselves with the two types and the two frame positions, we may now look at the history of this issue.

It was a pretty checkered one. The design, which not even the kindest man can describe as particularly attractive, was supplied by M. Durussel. The printing works of Staempfli & Co of Berne printed all postage due stamps from 1878 until the Federal Mint took over the printing in 1906.

The first issue appeared on July 1st. 1878. It was the 1 C. value with the rays behind the figure. Of this stamp total printing amounted to 1,362,675, of which 141,718 are known to have been printed with inverted frame. (Zum.No.1)

Although eight more "editions" of the blue postage dues appeared between 1878 and 1883 when the colour was changed to green (with a red centre value figure), the 1 C. value was never printed again, and its die adapted for later printings of the other values, by removing the ray background.

In subsequent articles we shall deal with the other values, the various colour changes, and describe the main varieties.



Pro Juventute 1952 VARIETIES

INTERESTING RETOUCH



Several values of this issue show major flaws, and we were fortunate to secure a few copies of the following varieties, all of which will be catalogued in the next issue of the AMATEUR COLLECTOR'S CATALOGUE, and are listed by Zumstein. We can now supply:

- 20c. WHITE SPOT IN WING, in pair with normal, mint 4/-
 30c. BROKEN BAR in A of HELVETIA, single mint 4/6

30c. LONG VERTICAL LINE FROM LEFT WING UPWARD

(This occurred on Sheet B 111 only and was retouched)
 RETOUCHE Stamp in pair with normal M or U. 6/-
 The stamp (41st on the sheet) BEFORE RETOUCHE 2 5.00

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SWITZERLAND'S LEADING STAMP DESIGNERS

(Continued from No. 7)

**BERNHARD
REBER**



showed his artistic talent already as a schoolboy. Born in 1910 in Biel, he came at the age of 13 to Lucerne, where as a pupil of the Cantonal High School he produced some excellent reproductions of the first Swiss issues. His early interest in stamp designing prevailed throughout his distinguished career. After studies at the Art academies in Lucerne, Leipzig, Prague and later in Paris, he was commissioned by the Swiss

Federal Railways to design many propaganda posters, and we find him soon in the forefront of the young generation of European artists.

In 1937 comes the first of a long series of commissions from the P.T.T. - the design for the Automobile P.O. stamp, which - after 15 years - is still current and pleasing.

The years before the outbreak of the second world war Reber spent in France, Belgium and Italy where exhibitions of his pictures and drawings attracted great attention and praise. From 1940 on, after his return home, he created many of the finest Swiss postage stamps. Two of the dignified monumental designs for the National Fête set of 1940, the Geneva Centenary miniature sheet, the Swiss Air stamp for the first America flight, the 5 C. value for the Railway Jubilee set of 1947, with the first Swiss steam engine, and many other beautiful stamps bear witness of Reber's great art.

To produce an attractive, dignified, and yet clean and simple stamp picture within a severely limited space, and

at the same time to comply with the often exacting instructions of the postal authorities, is no mean feat for an artist. And this is just what Reber has always succeeded to accomplish. Many foreign postal authorities enlisted his art, and among his other little masterpieces are Luxembourg's air mail stamps of 1946, issues of the United Nations, San Marino etc. We hope to see yet many more Swiss stamps to come from this distinguished artist.

BERMANN EIDENBENZ is the representative of the younger generation of Swiss graphic art. He is first and foremost a master of lettering, and what is called in Britain - rather ambiguously - a "commercial artist". He is well known as the designer of scores of excellent posters, advertising Switzerland's tourism and products. He was the winner of a competition for the official IMABA poster in 1948, had designed several items of postal stationery for the P.T.T., executed all the beautiful lettering for the National Fête series from 1946 to 1949, and crowned his success in stamp designing by creating the commemoratives

for the Tercentenary of the Peace Treaty of Westphalia (5 C. value with the portrait of Rudolf Wettstein), the Centenary of the Neuchâtel Revolution (10 C. value), and the symbolic presentation of Helvetia (20 C. value). This stamp is reminiscent of the 10 C. Peace stamp of 1919, but it shows a much more pleasing conception than the be-veiled and be-flowered Helvetia of 1919.

(More about other Swiss designers in the future) E.H.S.



This year's set of Pro Patria stamps again comprises five values. The 5+5c. commemorates the 6th centenary of the admission of Berne into the Confederation; it was designed by Paul Boesch, engraved by Albert Yersin and printed in combined copperplate engraving and photogravure by the P.T.T. printing works. It is in grey (the shield in red) and was printed on smooth white paper, in four sheets (1-4) of 25 stamps each per cylinder.

The four other values continue in the "Lakes and Waterways" design, began last year. All are designed by Professor Otto Baumberger, and printed on coated granite paper (with red and blue fibres) by the



Impr. Courvoisier, La-Chaux-de-Fonds, in photogravure in two sheets (A and B) of 50 stamps each per cylinder.

The four values are as follows:

- 10+10 c. green and light green (River Reuss at Schoellenen;
- 20+10 c. carmine brown and reddish light brown (Lake of Sihl);
- 30+10 c. brown and light brown (Biese at Valais)
- 40+10 c. blue and light blue (Lake of Geneva)

The surtax is to benefit (at 90 p.c.) the Fund of Swiss Nationals Abroad, and (at 10 p.c.) a fund for the incorporation and resettlement of disabled persons into the national economy.

The set was issued on June 1st, and will be valid until November 30th, 1953, but sold at the post offices only until August 31st, 1953.

A special postmark (which is shown above) was issued by the P.T.T. for the cancellation of First Day mail by the Philatelic Agency in Berne. It was designed by Hans Thoeni.

OUR REGULAR CUSTOMERS WERE SUPPLIED WITH THESE SETS AT 3/- MINT or USED, 3/5d FDC. ORDERS NOW ACCEPTED AT OUR CAT. PRICE (p.4)



Newspaper
wrapper





Newsreel



THE NEW BUILDING OF THE UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION

In Berne was ceremoniously opened on May 9th. It will house the international office of the world postal organisation. The P.T.T. issued for the occasion a special postmark, which is illustrated above. The postmark was used only on opening day by the post office Berne 15, Schlosshalde.

THE SIXTY-THIRD SWISS PHILATELIC CONGRESS

takes place on June 27th and 28th at Wattwil, Canton St.Gall. All Swiss philatelic societies and clubs will be represented and there will be an exhibition of Swiss stamps. A mobile post office, served by the Automobile P.O. will apply a special postmark on all mail posted at Congress on the two days.



TWO ATTRACTIVE FLAG POSTMARKS were issued in May.

SWITZERLAND HAS NO SPECULATIVE ISSUES - ONLY 14 STAMPS in 1952

Statistics of new issues show that the Swiss G.P.O. laudably pursues a cautious policy as regards new stamp issues. Only fourteen new stamps appeared last year (and most account for the two charity sets, Pro Juventute and Pro Patria). Compared with other countries, this shows that collectors of Switzerland are not being taken for a ride. Some of the worst sinners are the East European states. Rumania issued 75, Czechoslovakia 74, Poland and Hungary 61 new stamps. Even Belgium, with 40 and France with 21 are taking advantage of collectors, not to speak of such countries as Venezuela, which had 133 new issues in 1952. "General collectors" (if any still exist) were confronted last year with 2,236 new stamps at a total face value of over £100 !! Little wonder that Swiss stamps enjoy an ever increasing popularity all the world over.



THE AMATEUR COLLECTOR'S STAMP CATALOGUE of SWITZERLAND 1953

ADDITIONS AND PRICEALTERATIONS

ADD on page 39
1953. 600th ANNIVERSARY OF BERNE'S ADHERENCE TO THE SWISS CONFEDERATION, AND SWISS RIVERS AND LAKES. Des. P. Boesch (No. 61) and O. Baumberger (all others). In aid of Funds for Swiss Nationals Abroad and Disabled Persons.

1 5+5 c. grey & red o	6 o 6	64 30+10c. brn & l.brn	1 2 1
2 10+10c. grn & l.grn.o	7 o 4	65 40+10c. bl.& l.bl.	1 5 1 4
3 20+10c. brn & r.brn.o	9 o 4	Compl.set of 5 val...	3 9 3 o

PAGE	No.	New Price
16	188 ...	1 6 o 6
	Set 185/190 ..	12 o 2 3
21	Set 297/308 ..	9 6 2 6
	(12 values)	
33 to 36	PRO JUVENTUTE SETS	
	1929 ...	3 o 2 4
	1930 ...	3 o 2 4
	1931 ...	3 6 2 9
	1932 ...	3 3 2 4
	1933 ...	3 3 2 2
	1934 ...	3 3 2 2
	1935 ...	3 3 2 2
	1936 ...	3 3 2 2
	1937 ...	3 o 2 2
	1938 ...	3 o 2 o
	1939 ...	3 o 2 o
	1940 ...	3 o 2 o

	1941 ...	3 o 2 o
	1941 Min. Sheet ...	12 6 17 6
	1942 ...	3 o 2 o
	1943 ...	3 3 1 10
	1944 ...	3 3 1 10
	1945 ...	3 3 1 10
	1946 ...	3 3 1 10
	1947 ...	3 3 1 10
	1948 ...	3 3 2 o
	1949 ...	3 3 2 o
	1950 ...	6 o 3 3
	1951 ...	4 9 3 o
	1952 ...	4 3 3 o

Page 36 Compl.set of Pro Juventute (147 values) 28 105/-
Ditto with Min.Sh. 175/- 125/-

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The rare Double Print
Slight thinning, no gum
INSTEAD OF £ 10
O N L Y... 52/6

POSTAGE DUE No. 17 B

A MINT BLOCK OF SIX (CONTAINING five INVERTED FRAME and one NORMAL stamps (cat. £ 55.-) SUPERB... 70/-



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37 to 39 NATIONAL FÊTE SETS	
1942 Min. Sheet ...	11 o 12 6
1946 ...	3 3 2 3
1947 ...	3 3 2 3
1948 ...	3 3 2 3
1949 ...	33 3 2 3
1950 ...	5 6 3 3
1951 ...	4 9 3 3
1952 ...	4 3 3 o
Compl.set (51 values)	42 6 27 6
ditto 56 values ..	52 6 37 6
dto.with Min.Sheets	102 6 110 o
41 No. 25	o 8 o 8
26	o 10 o 10
27	1 1 1 1
28	1 9 1 9
Compl.set of 4	4 o 4 o