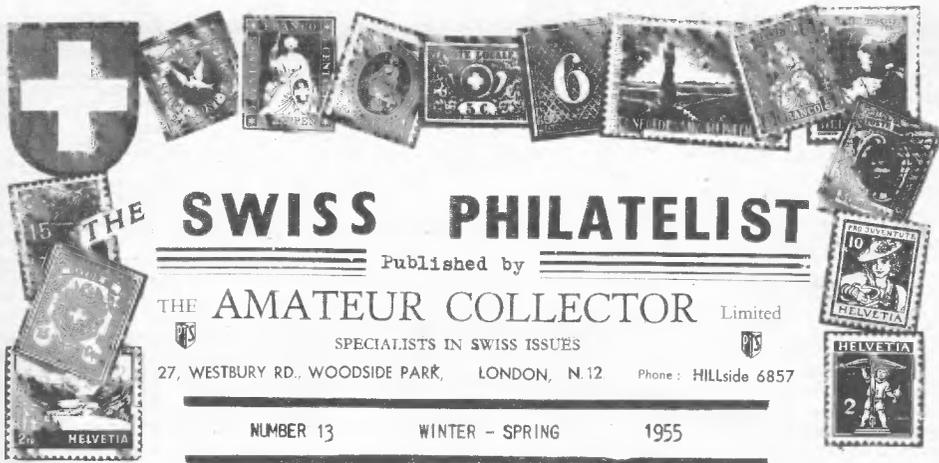


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THE SWISS PHILATELIST

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NUMBER 13 WINTER - SPRING 1955



EDITED by L.W.Haydon. PUBLISHED by AMATEUR COLLECTOR LTD. PRICE 4/- (+ 3d) This Catalogue, now in its 4th Edition, is so well established on the market that there must indeed be few collectors of "Swiss" who are not acquainted with it. As has been the Publishers annual policy since its inception, improvements and additions have again been made in the 1955 Edition: a complete overhaul of the Imperf. Helvetia (Strubeli) issue was a long felt want and this Section, in its present form, should suffice for all but the most advanced specialists. The addition of the 1909 Kocher Stamps has been acclaimed and many more useful shades were added throughout the Catalogue. Specially noteworthy is the now separate key of S.G./Amateur Collector Nos., which can be used side by side on the corresponding page of the Catalogue. Space does not permit the quoting of many bouquets awarded to this Catalogue by the Philatelic Press of the World. Below are just a few which will be of interest to our readers" ... considerable improvement on previous editions ... a work which every collector of "Swiss stamps will need" (Stamp Lover London) " ... one of the few available sources of information in English in this popular field". (Stamps, U.S.A.) " .. can be .. proud of this publication .. this should be the Anglo-Swiss philatelists's bible" (P.T.S.Journal)

NOW ON SALE

Publicity STAMPS



Continuing their new policy of combining several events into one "publicity" set, the Swiss PTT released this years quartette on Feb.15th. In chronological order of date of events they represent, the following are details of purpose of the individual stamps:- (1) 40c: 25th International Automobile Show at Geneva (Mar. 10th to 20th) (2) 10c: Winegrowers Festival at Vevey (Aug. 1st to 14th) (3) 20c: Swiss Alpine Herdsman & Costume Festival at Interlaken (Sept. 3rd to 5th) (4) 5c: Nat. Philatelic Exhibition at Lausanne (Oct. 15th to 23rd For this latter event a miniature sheet has also been issued (See illustration below) the denominations being 10 and 20c. (+ Fr. 1.70 sur-charge in aid of the Exhibition Fund). The following, briefly, are further details PRINTERS: Courvoisier in Heliogravure on a coated paper with usual admixture. DESIGNERS: 5c.: Andre Rosselet, Auvornier. 10c.: Maya Allenbach, Berne. 20 c.: Paul Boesch, Berne. 40 c.: Kurth Wirth, Berne. Miniature Sheet, Andre Rosselet, Auvornier. DATE OF SALE: February 15th as long as stocks last, but not later than 31st December 1955. CYLINDER NUMBERS: These can now be found in the right hand margin of Stamp 25 instead of, as in the past, on that Stamp's lower margin. DESCRIPTION OF MINIATURE SHEET: Lausanne Cathedral & Posthorn, in 8 colours (green, carmine, vermilion, yellow, dk.<.grey,dk.<.olive).





In Search of Variety

First
Instalment
in a Series of Articles
By Lt.Col. J.D.Blyth.

different issues, but for the time being we will agree to describe every sheet as having been printed from a "plate" which, when inked & brought into contact with the paper, produced a number of identical coloured impressions. If for any reason one of

Real stamp collecting, it is said, begins where a standard catalogue leaves off. Some to whom this saying is new may brand it as highbrow snobbery; while others, fearful of complexities, will dismiss it as a subject for experts only. Both will be wrong. The catalogue is like a railway guide to a line running through the years, joining past and present. Issues, like stations, are recorded, but there is never a hint of the alluring land of varieties which lies unheeded beside the track.

There can be few who do not realise how dreary and uninteresting collections with no varieties can become, with their monotonous repetition of the catalogued series, and differing only in their degrees of completion. Many have taken the obvious course and have turned to include varieties, but there are still those who, discouraged by misrepresentations and deterred by false beliefs, hold an unswerving course along that unyielding line. What are the delusions from which the latter suffer, and how did they originate? My own impression is that these sufferers fall mainly into two classes; first the unduly modest who believe that they can never aspire to the expert and specialised knowledge which they imagine to be essential to an understanding of the subject; and, second, those who think that a variety must be a rarity and therefore believe that collecting beyond the catalogue is only for those with well filled pockets. I think that it might not be unreasonable to suggest that these delusions are no more than unrecogised memories of that first stamp album, given on a bygone birthday, and of the awe and respect commanded by those god-like elders to whom such cantrips as "Manyar Kir" and "Riksbank Skilling" presented no difficulty. However that may be, my sole purpose in writing is to destroy those delusions by showing to the uninitiated and the timorous that a quite ordinary collector, such as myself, can find great interest and enjoyment in searching for any studying varieties - and that in spite of a very shallow purse.

This, then, is an invitation to those who will to accompany me in imagination on a trip down the years, searching where we will and finding what we may, examining the normal specimen and the abnormal variety with equal care and interest, for they are complementary and depend upon each other for their very existences. Before we start, however, it will be as well to make a brief survey of the whole subject in order to get a general idea of what varieties are, why they occur, and how we may recognise them. At present we cannot go fully into details, for these depend largely upon the various methods of printing and production and so must wait until we reach them in their turn.



24C/A1. Partial Double Print
(Illustrations from Zumstein Cat.)



24C/Pf6. Line through RAPP.

For our starting point we will choose the Strubelis (Imperf.Helvetias) of 1854, for in that year were produced the first sheets in which all the stamps were printed from replicas of the original die and should, therefore, have been identical. The methods of holding together the number of replicas required to print a complete sheet varied with the

the replicas differed from the normal the stamp printed from it displays the same abnormality and so become a "variety". This type of variety is called "recurrent", as it would appear in every sheet printed. Its presence in the plate might be due to faulty workmanship, accidental damage, retouches or repairs made necessary through any cause, or (most commonly) to wear.



Worn Plate:
white Helvetia & frame



103/Pf5. Tell-boy with white "Dirty Face" (large ink spot).



113/Pf6: Broken "5"

(All illustrations are by courtesy of Zumstein & Co. from their Special Cat.)

To a true stamp lover the thrill of discovering a new variety is completely detached from any thought of its financial value; but, the question of wear having arisen, we have reached a point at which a general view of the type of influence affecting the price of varieties may be considered. Apart from complete double prints and similar errors it will be found that in many cases the costly varieties are those which are so pronounced that they attract immediate attention without any need for a search. A probable explanation is that as soon as signs of wear or damage etc. become evident the plate is removed for retouching or repair with the result that very limited numbers of such varieties are printed. The less obvious minor varieties, however, even if they do not escape notice may be regarded as being of too little importance for immediate action, and so are printed in considerable numbers. The list prices, of course, are low; but in spite of this such varieties are often very elusive, and it is not unusual for a dealer to return an order with the note "Not in stock!" This does not mean that the list prices are too low but is due to the fact that the normal stamp and the varieties are so alike in appearance that it would not be a commercial proposition to spend the time needed in sorting out and classifying the varieties out of a pile of stamps.

At this stage the neophyte will be well advised to begin to look for varieties. The fact that he knows only that a variety and a normal specimen are in some way different will be of great value to him for by learning to search with no preconceived idea of what he may find he will form the habit of thoroughness and avoid the risk of missing varieties through concentration on a single feature. My own practice is to scrutinise every stamp through a magnifying glass of moderate power. This is not as tedious as one might suppose; complete familiarity with the details of normal stamps is soon acquired and after a little practise most varieties can soon be detected immediately. Valuable experience can be gained by making a genuine attempt to fathom the reason for every abnormality found, before referring to a Specialised Cat. Before we finish some mention must be made of perforation, paper & shades of colour. The first two are simple, as we shall see later; but when describing a colour no two people seem to speak the same language. The only practical way in which I have got over this complication has been to ignore nomenclature & rely only on comparisons with other specimens of the same stamp.

(Continued on Page 4, Col.1)

We hear that ...

...all dealers in Switzerland were caught without stocks of the 1941 Historicals 50, 60 & 70c mint, when they went off sale about a year ago. In consequence, they promise to turn out modern varieties and already bring almost three times face. (We hear a bird whispering something about the two 1948 Air Colour Changes 30 & 40c mint being even rarer!)

...among the many attractive pictorial Postmarks used in Switzerland during the past months were the ones illustrated below:



...The following numbers were printed of the 1954 Publicities:
 10c 16,998.311 25c 2,481.890
 20c 11,914.091 40c 3,998.382
 and of the 1954 Pro Patria Set:
 5c 1,879.360 10c 3,399.730
 20c 2,816.409 30c 963.609
 40c 1,121.493

...total sales (official figures) for the January 1955 CORINPHILA AUCTION (Zurich) amounted to Fr 902,614.-- (£75,217 approx.) Did somebody say there is a shortage of money?

The Special Stamps of Switzerland

- 1 Air Mail Vignettes
- 2 Military Stamps 1914 18 and 1939 45
- 3 Federal Railways
- 4 Pre-B.L.E. Issues
- 5 Hotelpost-Service
- 6 Fiscal Stamps



Messrs Paul Locher, Spiez, in conjunction with The Amateur Collector Ltd. have just published a most useful 4-page illustrated folder, devoted to the above 6 sections of Swiss Stamps. All items are priced (in U.S.Dollars) but prices are easily converted into £,s,d. If Collectors interested in these stamps will send us a stamped addressed envelope, a copy will be sent them GRATIS.

news & views

Forgery!
 Collectors are warned of forged postmarks on the 1941 Juventute Miniature Sheet (now twice as dear used than Mint) The forged obliteration reads: LAUSANNE 1 DEPOT LETTRES and is dated 1.X11.41.10. Take care if such a Sheet is offered as a "bargain"!

YOU LUCKY PEOPLE!

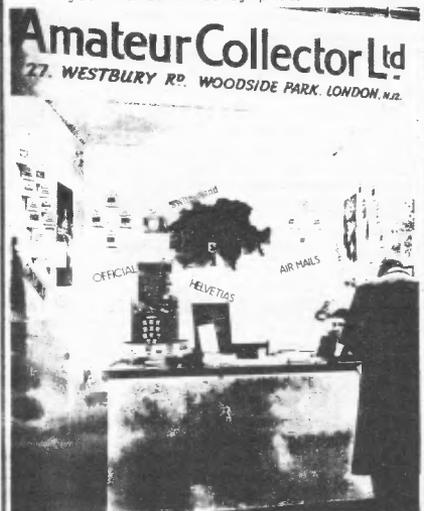
The following is an extract from a Market Report in an American Wholesale Journal: "Switzerland's stamps are regarded with great affection by innumerable American collectors. The postage issues since 1921 in mint condition are the cream of the modern issues, while the more colourful and attractive Pro - Juventute and Fational Fete sets are more plentiful. However, the earlier Pro - Juventute issues, especially Nos. 2 - 9 are going up in Europe and bear watching. The miniature sheets of Switzerland are excellent property and this holds equally true of the airmails, sound in mint or used condition." Is your collection complete?

INVALIDATION OF STAMPS.

We regret that the information given in our last Number was invalidated by a PTT Announcement, postponing their earlier decision by one year to December 31st 1955. It was unfortunate that our announcement was already in print when the PTT postponement became known.

Stand 31, NATIONAL STAMP EXHIBITION

As in past years, we were very pleased to welcome at our stand the many clients who braved the elements for this pilgrimage! Thank you for your custom and please remember that we can, till we meet again, fill your wants-lists by post.



DONT FORGET!

We can fill all Swiss Wants-Lists within a few days. We supply only the best quality! Fill those gaps which spoil the look of your collection & invest in "SWISS"

REVIEWING RECENT BOOKS



STAMPBOOKLETS, FETE-BECHE & GUTTER-PAIRS OF SWITZERLAND 1904 - 1954

Published by Ernest Mueller, Basle. Price: 25/- + Post 1/- (DeLuxe edition 37/6 " free)

It is not often that a reviewer can apply all known superlatives to a publication. In this case however no praise can be too high. This book has been produced in such exceptional quality that a much higher price might have been expected. The collector of these issues will find about everything that can be said about them in this book. 108 pages of text, 121 illustrations in Black & White, PLUS 10 full-colour tables reproducing 79 pairs & part-sheets in their original and life-like colours! A book which should not be missed.

SOLDIER STAMPS OF SWITZERLAND 1939/45: SUPPLEMENT 1942/45.

Published by Paul Locher, Spiez. Price: 4/6d Post free.

This useful booklet of 36 pages contains many illustrations not included in the main Catalogue of Soldier stamps. The first 23 pages are devoted to listing all those Soldier Stamps which were issued (or become known) after the publication of the main work. The remaining pages are devoted to price-alterations, to bring the main Catalogue up to date. Naturally, every collector of Soldier Stamps will need this booklet.

(Note: All Locher Soldier - Stamp Catalogues sold by the Amateur Collector Ltd., will in future include this supplement at no extra charge.)

THOUGH FOR TODAY

Just when you think you can make both ends meet, somebody moves the ends.

(Contd. from Page 2.) Our brief survey done, there is no more to be said till we meet in 1854. Till then, for "home work" lovers here is an exercise in observation & deduction: The Strubellis & the Sitting Helvetias were printed by the same "letterpress" process, but the latter were perforated. The change from the imperf. sheets led to the appearance of a variety which did not occur in the Strubellis. Can you find and explain it?

(TO BE CONTINUED NEXT TIME)

Pro Juventute 1954



DOUBLE PRINT 5c.

What promises to be one of the most important varieties on Juventute Stamps has recently been discovered on the 5 cent stamp of the 1954 Set. Estimating the total printing of this value at 8 million, the variety being once on every fourth sheet, 40,000 double prints should theoretically exist. It is fairly safe to assume that half this quantity will be permanently lost in the waste-basket, leaving only 20,000 available to collectors. Not an excessive number considering the popularity. Details; The double print occurs on Stamp 19, sheet NO.1 and is most marked in the lower part of the left frame line, first 5, Helvetia and in the eyes (See our illustration, which we reproduce by courtesy of Messrs Zunstein & Co., Berne). The variety has also been found on a few Stamp Booklets. We have had considerable difficulty in accumulating a small stock which we offer as follows, subject unsold:

Double print in	14/-
" " in complete sheet of 50	23/6
" " in Stamp Booklet	30/-

Customers' goodwill must be retained whatever the cost..

...and it appears our readers are not satisfied unless this page contains the usual Bargain Offers! Our last number, because of lack of space, contained-but one and by popular request we now make up for this by listing a surfeit of them. We certainly can never complain of lack of enthusiasm shown by our readers towards these special tit-bits. Alas our stocks are never adequate to satisfy demand!



COVERS!

Only one each available!
The following are unusually attractive ZEPPELIN FLIGHTS, from a recent lucky purchase (Nos. in brackets indicate Cat. Nos. of stamps used on each cover):

- Cover 4th. South America Flt. 1932, to Pernambuco., Map Cancellation. (12 & 18) 33/-
- Cover 1934 Argentine Flt. to Parana, Brazil (13 only) 36/-
- Card RARE 1931 Polar Flt. red setting sun Pmk.. (4b, 13a & 15) also with Arctic Pmk! 75/-
- Card 1933 Rome Flt. with Romulus & Remus Pmk, also Ital. Zepp. Pmk (10, 16 & 17) 21/-
- Cover 1932 Holland Flt.. Windmill Pmk., 1 stamp with Variety (10, 12, 16 & 18) 42/6
- Cover 1934 Switzerland Flt. Chillon Castle Pmk. 26/-
- Cover 1932 3rd. Sth America Flt. Palmtree Pmk, also add'l. Extension Flt. Pmk. to Pernambuco (12, 16 & 18) 35/-

- 1852: Cover with Rayon III (average) Bern Pmk, only 85/-
- 1854: Cover Rayon II (average) with rare uncat. RUSSWYL Pmk from official body. Only 80/-
- 1881: Cover Charge Pmk and GRANITE Paper 20 & 25c Sttg. Helvetia. A rare item! 35/-
- 1943: Cover with 4 Cut-Outs from Min. Sheets: 4, 6 of Zurich MS & left & right halves from Geneva MS. all used separately on same Cover! Unusual! 30/-

USED BLOCKS

- TELL 10c. Blue-grn. Block of 20 fine used 2/3
- Ditto, Block of 40 5/6
- TELL 20c. Carmine Blk. of 25 3/-
- !!! 5 Diff. Blocks of 4, fine u. special BARGAIN offer 1/9!

MINT BLOCKS OF FOUR:

1912 JUVENTUTE I, II & III in superb Blocks!! An object one would have trouble finding even in stock of leading Swiss Dealers!! ONLY £25

ERRORS & VARIETIES

- 1881 No. 48 Sttg. Helv. Gran. Paper 20c with Control mark halved. Interesting. Mt. 5/-
- 1881 No. 50 (40c) mint, Coloured Shield 3/9
- 1900 U.P.U 5c (77b) Pf. 10, Missing "D" U. 4/6
- 1949 Current Landcs., white gum (from first print?) 10c. or 15c. 2/- each, 50c. or 60c. 3/- each.

- 1954 JUVENTUTE 40c. Broken "H" Mt. or U. 3/6
- 1955 PUBLICITY 5c. Retouch (B1111 22nd) 1/-
- Ditto 10c. Ret. right of hat (B1111 14th) 1/-
- " 10c. Ret. under "G" nr. hat (B1111 24th) 1/-
- " 40c. Broken "O" in 40 (A2222 8th) 2/6
- " 40c. Ret. left of wheel (C2222 15th) 2/-
- " 40c. Ret. under gear lever (C2222 19th) 3/-
- " 40c. Nick in wheel (C2222 14th) 2/-

THE ABOVE 7 JUV. & PUBLICITY VAR'S for 15/-
1936 PRO PATRIA 10c white Pestal Mt. 3/6
1950 UNITED NATIONS: The rare EUROPEAN error in overprt.: Only known on first print, as immediately rectified when discovered! Compl. Set 11v. 5c-70c 110/- only! (Mt. or u.) We also have a few single vals (all same price) mint at 10/- each

MISCELLANY

The very popular HOLIDAY POSTMARKS (Pictorial) on Official PTT Folders with varying stamps: 10 Differt. at 12/6 (1), 13/3 (11) or 18/6 (11) Or the above 3 Diff. Collections for 42/-

CORRIGENDA & PRICE ALTERATIONS TO THE AMATEUR COLLECTOR CATALOGUE 1955

The Publishers of the above Catalogue apologise for the several printing errors discovered after publication and users of the Catalogue are invited to note the following corrections in their copies:

Page 9: 25B read orange; P. 16: Note after 138B alter to: "... see note at top of page 15"; P. 26: No 220 substitute (195/ for 197); P. 27: No. 52 alter (B107) to (B117); Z38c used should be 5/- (not 65/-); P. 29: Pioneer Flights: read VI instead of IV on Langnau Stamp. Read June instead of April on No. IX Lugano; P. 33: Flight 30 alter date to 1929; P. 35: No. 24 used price is 9/- (not 3/-); P. 44: Paragr. "Compl. N.F. 1938/54 is all wrong and should read: 61 cheapest Var. 50.0 37.6 -- Ditto, all 66v. listed 60.0 47.6 -- Ditto, incl. Min. Sheets 109.0 120.0; KEY S.G. /AMATEUR: P. 1 SG3ua = 25Bc; P. 2: 373 = 203z, 373a = K33Ay, 373b = 203Ay, 373c = 242y, 373ca = K36, 373da = K37, 375 = 205z, 375a = 205y, 375b = 205Az, 375c = K34Az, 375d = 215y & 375e = K35y. PRICE ALTERATIONS: P. 38 Min. Sheet 98/99 used increase to 25/-, P. 40 Compl. Set Juv. with Min. Sheet used inc. to 155/-