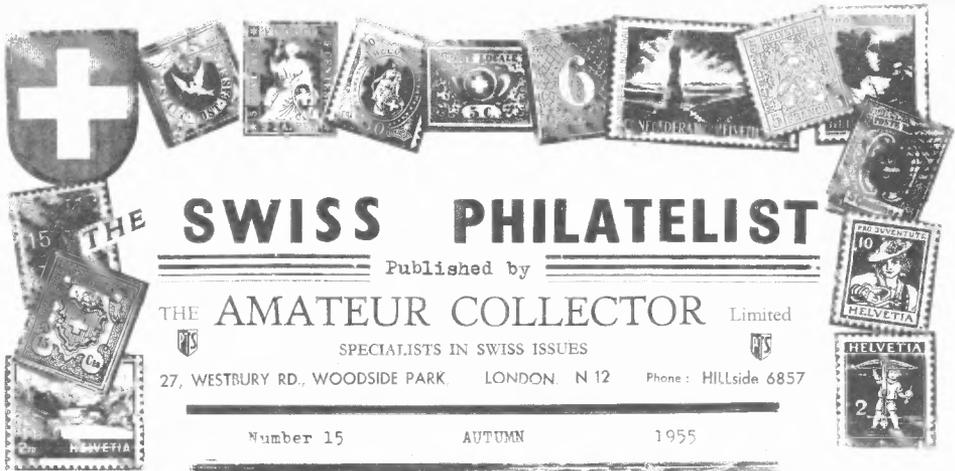


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# THE SWISS PHILATELIST

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## SWISS National Philatelic Exhibition

HELD IN LAUSANNE OCTOBER 15th. - 23rd. 1955

A collective report from our various Swiss Correspondents.

As was to be expected this Exhibition was another manifestation of the inherent Swiss ability for presenting things neatly and impressively. Although only a "National" Exhibition the material on view was worthy of any International gathering in this field.

By far the largest number of visitors arrived on the two Sundays, yet no unpleasant crush was experienced, thanks to the imposing size of the Exhibition Hall, made available by the Comptoir Suisse. There was ample room between the rows of frames so that several collectors simultaneously could view the Exhibits.

Most impressive of all Exhibits were of course the early issues of Switzerland. Of these, the most important collections on view were such as the already many times honoured objects of Dr. Leemann, Dr. Faucherre, Anderegg, etc. Special mention deserves the Imperf Block of 4 Strubelli 1.-, not forgetting the Essay Collection and Hotel Posts 1863/90 of Dr. Leemann & Dr. Faucherre. Among the former was even the complete set in 6 colours of the famous Engelberg issue. Another object which commanded considerable interest was Dr. Bosch's enormous collection of Soldier Stamps 1939/45 in their fascinating make-up.

In all over 300 Exhibitors filled the available 1,300 frames, in addition to the delectable "tit-bits" such as a complete(!) sheet of the 1846 GENEVA Large Eagle, shown by the P.T.T. Almost 25% of the 1300 frames were filled with Swiss material of all periods.

Apart from Exhibits in frames, 14 Dealers displayed their wares and it is reported that important items changed hands. The Special Post Office was constantly besieged, the Special Miniature Sheet enjoyed great popularity.

# 10 YEARS



## UNITED NATIONS



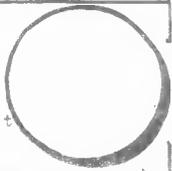
To commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the United Nations the Geneva Office of this Organisation issued a special stamp for use in Switzerland. Date of issue for this stamp, as well as for the simultaneously issued definite Series of 6 values (which replaces the now obsolete overprint set of "ONU") was October 24th, which is of course United Nations Day. Harsh criticism was again levelled at the poor PTT who is held responsible in collectors eyes for these practises. In their defense it must however be stated that, once having agreed to grant Postal Facilities of their own to all International Offices stationed on Swiss territory, it is far better and less confusing to have individual designs than to use Swiss stamps with special overprints. Let us hope that this set will be of permanent nature, as should be the sets now in their planning stage for the other International Offices.

Details of printing, etc:

- 1) 40c. Commemorative, inscribed 1945-1955. Printed by Courvoisier in Photogravure on white coated paper with the usual red & blue fibres. Sheets of 50. Colours: blue & gold-ochre. Designed by Hans Thoeni, Berne. Valid for postage from Oct. 24th. till December 31st. 1955 only.
- 2) Definitive Issue of 6 values, printed by the rotary engraving process at the PTT printing works, Berne. (Continued on page 4.)

### SUBSCRIPTION!!!

Dear Reader, if a **X** appears in the circle, your Annual Sub. is due **NOW**. Please co-operate by sending us your remittance by return - we are sorry that otherwise we shall not be able to send you the next issue. **THANK YOU!**  
(Send 2/- in Brit. Isles, 2/6 or 35¢ USA or elsewhere)





# In Search of Variety

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

Unless otherwise stated, Illustrations are by the courtesy of Zumstein & Co. Berne.

Plate-flaw of the 5 Cts. of the 1862 issue (Cat No. 30) commences with the following three items:-

In October 1862 the Strubelis gave way to the first of a series of three issues which, since the less tousled lady depicted no longer merited the old nickname, are now known by the prosaic appellation of "Sitting Helvetia". In common with the Strubelis the stamps of these series were embossed, but two fundamental changes were made: first, the introduction of perforations and, second, the replacement of silk threads by an impressed Control Mark (Kz.) as a deterrent to forgery. In most cases the impressions were made from the back, but specimens can be found with the mark pressed into the face.

The Sitting Helvetia series afford a rich field for study and research, full of flaws, errors, and other varieties. Perhaps the most interesting and puzzling are those showing a doubling of a part or the whole of the embossing; interesting because they provide clues on which to build a theory concerning the planning of the master die and subsidiaries mentioned at the end of the last instalment, puzzling because further clues appear to undermine and even wreck that theory. Unfortunately the descriptions given for many years in English catalogues have been very inaccurate, and even now are not entirely correct.

The varieties of this type mentioned in the "Amateur Collector's" Catalogue fall into four groups:-  
A. Double embossing, one inverted.  
B. Double embossing of figures.  
C. Double embossing of figure at bottom left.  
D. Double print bottom figures and FRANCO.

Since A refers to the whole of the embossing and B and C to figures only, the sole conclusion to be drawn seems to be that the figures of value were on separate plugs fitted into the master die. Variety D seems to concern the colour printing, and suggests the use of a master die for the central design together with a subsidiary frame. The illustration in Zumstein (38/Pf.1) appears to be due to a doubling of the embossing, since a double print of the coloured masses could hardly result in fine coloured lines as shown; and, indeed, the variety is described in Zumstein as "Doppelpprägung", and not as "Doppeldruck". The suggestion of a subsidiary frame distinct from the central master die is not affected and is strengthened by the examination of an actual specimen.

**Example 4.** 10 Cts., carmine. 1867-75. Cat.No. 38/Pf.1. The bottom line is similar to that illustrated in Zumstein, though the doubling of the figures 10 is much more pronounced. In addition a doubling of the side panels and ornaments is evident, particularly on the left. This doubling decreases and finally vanishes before the top is reached. There is no trace of doubling in any part of the central design.

Gibbons lists all the varieties as "whole design doubly impressed on plate, once inverted", and makes no mention of a partial double print with or without inversion. Additional varieties are given in Zumstein's Catalogue, but the meaning is not quite clear as far as doubly embossed figures alone are concerned. For instance, the list of

Pf.1.:Doubly embossed,once inverted.  
Pf.2.:Ditto, but distinct only in the bottom left 5 and in FRANCO.  
Pf.3.:Ditto, weak (slight?) in the upper half. The word "ditto" (desgl.) must surely include the inversion, but the illustration of Pf.3. shows a doubling of the top figures 5 and the word HELVETIA of exactly the same type as that described in Example 4, there being no inversion.

Space does not permit a further analysis of the technique of printing and embossing of these issues and the evidence available concerning the cause of the doubling and inversion; but it may be said that the existence of some, at least, of the varieties set-tenant with normal specimens suggests that they are due to unsuccessful attempts to correct faulty clichés.

The thickened frame line already mentioned as be-

ing due to packing between clichés must not be confused with the "Split Frame Line". In this variety, as the name indicates, one or more of the coloured frame lines is split by a thin irregular white line extending over a part or the whole of its length. The cause of this is obscure; all that can be said



38/Pf.1. Drawing by Lt.Col. Blyth.

is that the variety appears to be due to a tendency for the frame lines in the clichés to crack along their length. This theory is supported by the fact that specimens may be found with one or more very thin frame lines having the appearance which might be expected if, after the crack had occurred, the outer half of the line broke off and disappeared. I can offer no completely feasible explanation of this peculiar type of fracture, but it seems possible that it may be related to that causing the variety described in Zumstein's Catalogue as "vertical colourless lines" which, according to a footnote, start from the bottom of the letters in HELVETIA and run down into the lozenges which adorn the background. The description is a little misleading, perhaps, as the lines into the lozenges are by no means always joined to the letters. Examination of a number of specimens shows, however, that the origin of the variety is indeed in "HELVETIA", and suggests that there are three fairly clearly defined stages in its development. A clear idea of these stages may be got by imagining that the whole design has been executed in white paint on an upright coloured background, and that the paint has been applied too liberally to the letters.

It begins to run, and by the end of the first stage a number of white runnels have made their way downwards but have not reached the narrow white line at the top of the lozenges. In the second stage the runnels have not advanced: but in places drops have fallen and, touching them in their passage, have left thin white streaks through those lozenges made up of horizontal lines but have had no visible effect on those whose lines are vertical. In the third stage dribbles have reached the background and so have linked together the letters and the streaks left by the falling drops. Bearing in mind that actually no



38/Pf.1

Continued on Page 4

# Buying SWISS STAMPS FOR YOU

A REPORT ON HIS ANNUAL JOURNEY  
TO SWITZERLAND

by H.L. Katcher

My Annual trip to Switzerland is something I not only look forward to all the year round, but which I take great delight in planning in full detail months ahead. I find that a Car is by far preferable to any other means of transport, as it permits the exploration of out of the way places, and enables the driver to stop to admire the many glorious views en route. Often in the past, when in a train, I was exasperated at getting only a fleeting glimpse of some superb Panorama.

Of necessity, my journeys to Switzerland have to include two weeks solid business transactions in the Cities. But even those working days are, by virtue of being a change from normal routine, a great relaxation. Then, there is always the evening, when a perfectly cooked meal on the lakeside, or in a country Inn near the town, compensates for the chores of the day. Of course, these chores are not as bad as they may seem at first. Even though, as a Dealer in Swiss Stamps, I must not forget "business", there is, nevertheless, sufficient of the collector in me to thoroughly enjoy browsing through Dealer's Stocks in search of what I require for the next Season. It is surprising how many varieties I find, which the Swiss Dealer has overlooked. In this respect, the Swiss are very fair. Time and again such Varieties are charged to me at the normal price with the pleasant remark "Ah, well, I did not know I had it and you found it, so you might as well benefit from it."

To dwell on business for a moment, I must say that it is getting more difficult every year to find the quantities needed to replenish ones stock, and at the right prices. Since Germany, where Swiss Stamps have always been a favourite, has regained a sound currency, she has spent much money with her little neighbour and the Swiss market, especially where Airmails are concerned, is beginning to look very poor indeed. It does not take high arithmetic to calculate that in comparison to the small numbers of Commemoratives issued in Switzerland, the numerous Collectors of Europe, and not forgetting the United States, can play havoc within a very short period. All those stocks, which were speculatively salted away during and immediately after the War, have long since been exhausted, and it is perfectly safe to prophesy steep increases in value for many an item in the not too distant future. Another thing: At a time like the present when money is scarce, things generally which are in plentiful supply will drop in price. It is only commodities of which there is not enough to go round which, not only retain their value, but even increase in price - Swiss Stamps certainly are such scarce "commodities".

Let us continue in holiday mood. This year I entered Switzerland at Basle and, after a routine journey to Zurich (business) continued via Lucerne over the Brunig Pass to Interlaken and Spiez. Hence to Berne (more business) and back again to Interlaken to start the purely holiday part of my trip.

I toured the "Three Passes Region", starting at Meiringen. The Grimsel Run was interrupted at Guttanne where we stayed at one of those real alpine hotels, spotlessly clean, simple (no hot and cold) extraordinarily cheap, and with food comparable with any better-class City Restaurant. On waking next morning, we experienced one of those most unforgettable and so rarely experienced sights in the Swiss Mountains: The sun shining down from a cloudless sky, air as potent as wine and a technicolour setting in blue, green and white (the snow caps). It seemed a pity to climb into the car, but lunch was planned on the Rhone Glacier and as



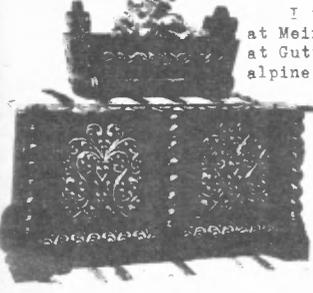
we wanted to visit the Grimsel Reservoir on the way, we had to press on.

Later that day, we continued our journey down the Rhone Valley to Brieg, and then cut off to the left into the Mountains to spend a week at Saas-Fee. This is called the Glacier Village, as on a clear day one is absolutely surrounded by snowfields. The Village is at the bottom of a kind of bowl, which has very steep sides and, because of its sheltered situation, every kind of vegetable and even some fruit is grown, in spite of the altitude of about 5,500 feet.

The Saas-Fee Village is also the centre of a very old industry of wood-carving. There are several shops in which one can buy or order beautiful hand-carved oak furniture of every description. The local craftsmen undertake to dispatch furniture to any part of the World. As a layman, I am not an authority to talk on antique furniture, but it struck me that prices asked for these various articles were well below those one would have to pay in the general way. Saas-Fee, by the way, does not permit any vehicles to enter the Village. There is a large car park some 500 feet outside, and the only traffic one meets are electric handcarts, which are used for local deliveries etc. This preserves the utter peace of this Mountain Resort.

Returning down the Saas Valley to Brieg, we doubled back on ourselves and crossed the Simplon Pass into Italy to spend, just as a change, a couple of weeks on the Riviera.

Our return journey brought us to Geneva, where we toured the Lake. I particularly remember the enchanting town of Nyon, and the trip across the Swiss Jura Mountains, where gentle vistas such as I do not remember having seen anywhere else, made leaving Switzerland all the harder. This exit, which I have travelled for the first time, has already made me resolve entering Switzerland next time by this route to explore further.



# In Search of Variety

Continued from Page 2.

such movement of paint takes place, and that all colourless parts correspond to recesses in the surface of the cliché, it does not seem entirely unreasonable to infer that there was some tendency for cracks to develop in prolongation of any straight colourless line.

The variations of colour in the Sitting Helvetia series are sufficiently numerous to provide by themselves alone the material for interesting and extensive study. The subject of colour is a difficult one owing to the almost complete impossibility of reaching any general agreement concerning nomenclature; and it is not made easier by the language of philately, which uses the single word "shades" to include differences in tint as well as variations in strength of the same colour. To avoid possible controversy I will attempt to illustrate the difference between a shade and a tint.

Example 5. 10 Cts. red. 1867-75. Cat.No.38.

The colour fades from a fairly strong pink on the left to a very pale pink on the right. Since the use of different inks would be impossible it follows that the apparent fading across the stamp is due to a gradual lessening of the strength of a single colour; or, in other words, a steady variation of shade. Close examination shows that the pale imprint of the right border line has on each side a narrow ridge of colour a little darker than that of the left of the stamp. This shows that the ink has been squeezed out on either side of the right border line by high pressure, and suggests that the cliché was tilted slightly in the forme.

Variations in tint are often combined with variations in shade, and cannot be described by reference to a single example. When, as often happens, both variations are wide and numerous in the case of a single value confusion may be avoided by making two methodical sortings in succession. For instance, a number of copies of the 2 Cts. drab, 1867/78. Cat. No. 37. would be handled as follows :-

First separate the lot into a number of piles each containing stamps of as nearly as can be judged the same depth of colour. Next select a specimen as a basis for comparison, and then sort each pile in turn into the tints which seem to be due to the addition to the chosen basic colour of small amounts of sepia, olive, ochre, etc. This done, it becomes a simple matter to make up sets of shades of different tints.

Many minor varieties exist, mainly due to faulty or damaged clichés. Being recurrent they are to be found in various tints and shades, and so provide one of the subjects for study and research which put the Sitting Helvetias among the most interesting of all the issues. (To be continued)

## SELDOM SEEN

# SWISS HOTEL



# STAMPS

We have been very fortunate in purchasing an important part of the world famous Hurt collection of Hotel stamps. Mr. Hurt's research and studies



(CONTINUED from page 1.)  
Designed by Hans Thoeni,  
(all values). Engravers:  
5c, 10c & 40c. by Albert  
Yersin. 20c, 60c & Fr 2.-  
by Karl A. Bickel. Printed  
in sheets of 50 stamps. Available  
for Postage from Oct. 24th. 1955 until



further notice. All six values are one-coloured as follows: 5c. grey; 10c. green; 20c. red; 40c. blue; 60c. brown; Fr 2.- purple. **IMPORTANT!** Both issues are on sale only at the Geneva Office of the United Nations and at the Philatelic Counter of the PTT, Berne. They are not available for Postage to the Public but can be used only by UNO personnel. Status of stamps is "Official".

## RETIREMENT

We regret to report the retirement through ill-health early in November 1955 of our partner and associate, Mr. M. Ephraïmson. After having been with the Amateur Collector Ltd. almost since the inception of the firm, his valued advice and help is greatly missed by principals and staff alike. We wish him improved health and many happy years in retirement.

## Round and ABOUT

The Editor deeply regrets the unavoidable delay in publishing the present issue of the Swiss Philatelist but would like to wish all subscribers happy reading over Easter!



### SWISS STAMPS INVALIDATED ON 31st. DECEMBER 1955:

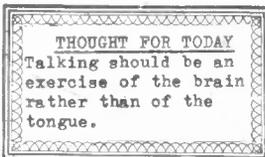
Several Swiss issues which were "retrieved" for 12 months at the end of 1954, have finally been demonetised: They include the entire Landscape set of 1936/48 (Colour Changes included), the 1937 10c Mobile P.O., 1941 Historicals 50, 60 & 70c, 1941/48 Air Mails (Note: there are no Air Stamps now remaining valid for postage!), the 1935 Frank (Hospital stamps) and several Postcards. All Tete-Beche and Gutter Pairs of the small Landscape series are also affected.

### JUVENUTE STAMPS 1954: QUANTITIES ISSUED:

The following quantities (Stamp booklets and values used by Official sources included) were sold.

- 5+5c: 9,027,387
- 10+10c: 7,021,858
- 20+10c: 5,108,884
- 30+10c: 1,383,666
- 40+10c: 1,673,739

Looks as though we will be asked for "30"s again!



in the field of Hotel Stamps is well known and to possess copies or studies from his collection has been the ambition of many collectors in the past.

Collectors seriously interested in this kind of material should ask to see a selection on approval.