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# THE SWISS PHILATELIST

Published by

## THE AMATEUR COLLECTOR Limited

SPECIALISTS IN SWISS ISSUES

27, WESTBURY RD., WOODSIDE PARK, LONDON, N 12 Phone: HILLSIDE 6857

Number 18 SPRING-SUMMER 1957

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION  
2/- (35cents) Postfree

### REVIEW

THE AMATEUR COLLECTOR'S

### STAMP CATALOGUE of SWITZERLAND SUPPLEMENT

The end of March, 1957, saw the publication of the long awaited 1957 Supplement to the Amateur Collector's basic 1955 Edition. (Price 2/6 plus 3d post). This 16 page booklet, with no less than 64 illustrations has proved such a good seller that only a very small quantity is still available and these will no doubt be snapped up before the end of the summer. The necessity of keeping back a certain number of copies to be sold only with the basic edition will no doubt create a shortage and for those who have not already done so it is advisable to order without further delay.

Apart from the 1538 price alterations, 1385 of which are upwards, many new features were introduced: listing of new shades and varieties; bringing up to date of the Stanley Gibbons key; the published list of invalidated stamps and quantities printed; THE ADDITION OF AIRMAILS TO THE IMPORTANT USED BLOCK OF 4 SECTION fully illustrated new issue chronicle and the 1955 Tax "overprint" listed for the first time in any catalogue! AT 2/6 THE BEST MONEY'S WORTH ON THE MARKET!

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# Semi Specialising IN Swiss STAMPS

By PATRICK HAMILTON

Final Instalment of

A most interesting Article reprinted by courtesy of the Publishers of "STAMP COLLECTORS ANNUAL 1954".

RECESS PRINTED PICTORIALS. A new series of pictorial stamps, produced by rotary recess printing, appeared in 1936, nine values ranging from 3 to 40c. being released. All of these may be found on smooth white wove and also on grided paper. Re-entries, affecting the figures of value and HELVETIA at the base of the design may be found on the 5c. and 50c. There are also two dies each in the 10c. and 20c. denominations. In the 10c. the middle of the "6" in 10 is filled by vertical lines of shading in Die I; in Die II these vertical lines are crossed towards the base by two diagonal lines.

The 20c., which shows a view on the St. Gothard railway between Lavorgo and Giornico, is more difficult to describe. In Die I, the shading is fine and the posts placed alongside a horseshoe bend in a road seen beside the railway track are very small. Impressions from Die II are more deeply engraved and the posts on the roadside are larger. Stamps from both dies are found on both papers.

The design of the 20c. was changed in 1938, a new pictorial showing Lake Lugano and a view of San Salvatore being issued; the colour remained the same - scarlet. The 10c., originally purple, had its colour changed to red-brown in 1939 and was again changed to orange-brown in 1942. Finally, in 1948, the 5c. formerly blue-green, appeared in yellow-brown, the 10c. came in green and the 20c. Lake Lugano design, in red-brown. At the same time the 25c. was issued in a new design and the colour was changed from brown to scarlet, and the 30 and 40c. were given new shades. Of the issues subsequent to the original, 1936, emission, the 20c. of 1938 and the 10c. red-brown of 1939 are found on both papers; the other values are only known on smooth white wove.

During the currency of these stamps, the practice of perforating vertically through the column of blanks on the booklet sheets ceased, and a new sheet layout for booklet panes was introduced. This con-

tained panes of stamps inverted one to the other, and similar panes separated by a blank upon which two rows, each of eight crosses in the colour of the stamps, were printed.

These sheets, which were sold intact as before, produced tete-beche pairs, and pairs, tete-beche separated by a blank. There are no mixed denomination panes and therefore no se-tenant varieties. This procedure was begun in 1938, and soon afterwards the number of rows of crosses on the blanks was increased to three. The following varieties may be noted: TETE -



BECHÉ: 5c. blue-green, and yellow-brown; 10c. purple, Die I and Die II, and green; 20c. Railway, Die II; 20c. Lake Lugano, scarlet and red-brown. Of these, all except the 5c. yellow-brown, 10c. green and 20c. red-brown, are to be found on both smooth and grided papers. TETE-BECHE, SPACED, ADDITIONAL PERFORATION: 5c. blue-green; 10c. purple, Die I, and 20c. Railway, Die II - all on both papers.

TETE-BECHE, SPACED, THREE LINES OF CROSSES: 5c. blue-green, and yellow-brown; 10c. red-brown, orange-brown, and green; 20c. Lake Lugano, scarlet, and red-brown only on smooth white wove paper.

From all this it will be seen that the collection of modern Swiss general issues is by no means as dull as might be imagined, and a complete presentation will prove an interesting pursuit, well worth the completing, as these stamps, in specialised series, command a ready market.

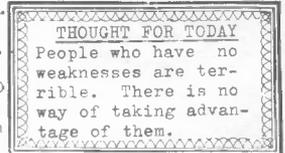
The tetes-beche and other booklet varieties, of course, cost more than normals, but most of them are within the bounds of the average collector's pocket. All in all, for the philatelist with limited means, who is looking for a new field of specialisation, modern Swiss will take a lot of beating.

## The Swiss Pioneer Air Mail Issues of 1913

Continued from Page 3.

Postal Card with special black metal cancellation, \$16.50 (£6). Postal Card with special blue cancellation, \$63.00 (£22.10.-). Postal Card with special blue rubber cancellation, \$120.00 (£42). Postal Card with special violet rubber cancellation, \$138.00 (£50). BASEL: (Zumstein No. 2) Issued for first "Swiss Air-mail Basel-Liestal", March 9, 1913, Pilot Oskar Bider. The 50c. stamp, light blue, shows an alpine panorama with Bider's plane. Issue, 10,000 printed in sheets of 18 stamps, in 3 rows of 6 stamps each. Sale on date of flight, 5050, and 5800 cards and covers were flown. Value mint, \$18.00 (£6.10.-). Postal Card with special blue or violet cancellation, \$8.50 (£3). BERNE: (Zumstein No. 3) Issued for special flight Berne-Burgdorf, March 30, 1913. Pilot Oskar Bider. The 50c. stamp, brown red on rose paper shows a silhouette of the City of Berne with plane. Total issue unknown, \$

stamps sold on date of flight 1300, balance disposed of later. 13141 pieces of mail were flown. Printed in sheets of 20 stamps in 4 rows of 5 stamps. Value mint, brown-red, \$14.00 (£5); blood-red, \$20.00 (£7). Postal Card with special violet cancellation, \$3.00 (£26) BURGDORF: (Zumstein No. 4) Issued for first flight Burgdorf-Berne, March 30, 1913. Pilot Oskar Bider, 50c. stamp designed by Ferd. Schott, Jr. dark green on white paper or light green on coloured paper, shows scenery near Burgdorf and plane. Total issue unknown, printed in sheets of 20 stamps, 5 rows of 4 stamps. Sold on date of flight, 2940, balance disposed of later. 2765 pieces of mail were flown. Value mint, dark green on white paper, \$17.50 (£6.10.-). Light green or dark green on coloured paper \$ 17.50 (£6), Flown cover with special violet cancellation \$ 17.50 (£6.10.-).



# SWISS

# PIONEER

# AIRS

First Instalment of an article reprinted from "The Weekly Philatelic Gossip Magazine", U.S.A. by kind permission of the Author. Illustrations taken from the Zumstein Specialized Catalogue.

By Fred V. Loeliger

The average Swiss collector in England or the United States, who uses only a Gibbons or Scott Catalogue has never heard of, nor seen, any of the Swiss airmail semi-official stamps. Although I have been collecting Swiss stamps since 1910, it was in 1945 when I became "Pioneer Minded". During my stay in Switzerland in 1946 I attempted to obtain some of the eleven stamps of this type that were issued originally in 1913. I soon found that they were very difficult to obtain, and, in fact, many dealers had nothing to offer. A study of the Zumstein Catalogue showed me that the amount printed of each issue was quite small, and in some cases not even available (the listing showing only the amount of mail carried). The unique quality of this type of issue combined with its limited availability was all the spur required to interest me in this fascinating phase of Swiss philatelics.

The largest issue was the Bernes Pioneer stamp, of which 1,300 stamps were sold. The smallest, of which about 900 covers and cards exist, was the Laufen Pioneer stamp, which was issued for the Laufen-Solothurn Flight of September 28, 1913, for which but a total of 3,000 stamps were printed.

At the International Congress in 1933 it was ruled that the Swiss Pioneer stamps of 1913, having received an official cancellation even though privately printed, must be considered semi-official stamps. This is not true of the vignettes of 1924 and subsequent issues of similar type. According to a ruling of May 23, 1924, so called official air mail stamps being sold to the public by organizations sponsoring "Aviation Days" are not considered as postage stamps by Postal Authorities. These stamps have no franking value and their sale by post offices is prohibited. From this the collector can reason that these vignettes do not have the philatelic interest characterized by the Pioneer Issues because they were printed and sold to partially cover the costs of Air Mail flights by Committees sponsoring them. In the case of the 1913 Pioneer issues, the stamps were issued by the organizing committee with approval of the postal authorities and the money collected for these stamps represented the air mail fee. (In addition to the air mail fee regular card or letter postage in current Swiss stamps was required.)

These Pioneer covers and cards were cancelled by the Post Office with special postmarks for each aviation day, and after their use these special stampers (killers) were given to the Postal Museum in Berne for storage. The money collected from the sale of the Pioneer Issues was ultimately given to the Swiss National Military Aviation Fund by the Committee that sponsored them.

Because the Swiss postal authorities had no interest in the collection of the air mail fee, cards or covers slipped through without the Pioneer stamps affixed. Such items are scarce and rarely seen today as they were generally destroyed by the recipients who mistakenly thought such covers would have no postal value.

In the case of the Lugano flight for which about 4,000 stamps were issued, there were actually 7,000 pieces of mail carried. Of these about 3,500 paid the special aviation fee without receiving the Lugano Pioneer stamp. One would think under the circumstances that finding such a cover or card without the Lugano stamp would be easy, but on the contrary it was many years before I was able to find one. The reason is obvious, the people who received them destroyed them, thinking they had no philatelic value.

While Sanabria has listed these Pioneer Issues in the catalogue, both Scott and Gibbons Catalogues have so far omitted them. However, since 1948, the Swiss Biella album has included them, and, as a result of this, there has been a good demand by collectors in Switzerland. With the exception of the Lugano, which catalogues over \$100.00 used, the stamps can be obtained at prices varying from about \$2.00 for the Solothurn to a maximum of \$28.00 for the Liestal (15/- and £10 respectively). In other words, one can purchase all the stamps other than the rare Lugano for less than \$120.00 (£42).

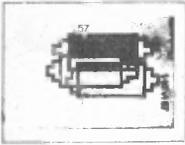
It is my opinion that the Swiss Pioneer Airmail stamps will prove to be the classic issues of the 20th Century. Because of their small issues I feel that their current value is too low and will be enhanced in the future. To justify my opinion one can compare unused values of the stamps in the 1947 and 1957 Zumstein catalogues. This comparison will show that in this ten year period, the stamps increased in value from 15 to 50%. The largest increase was shown by the Lugano stamp, followed closely by the Aarau and Solothurn issues.

For the benefit of those who do not possess either the specialized Zumstein or the Swiss Airmail Catalogue issued by the Swiss Aerophilatelic Society, I give you a complete description of the issues below.

AARAU: (Zumstein No.1) Issued in connection of flight Aarau-Olten and Lensburg, April 6, 1913. Pilot, Oskar Hiden. The 50 c. stamp, blue-brown, yellow, shows the upper tower of Aarau with plane. Total issue 10,000, printed in sheets of 50 stamps in rows of 10 stamps each. Sold about 4,500, balance disposed of later - 4,400 pieces of mail were flown. Value mint, \$3.00 (21/-).



# SWISS PUBLICITY 1957 PRO PATRIA



The appearance of this year's Publicity issue, gave rise to heated collectors. Some of the revolutionary decried it as a

National Stamp Exhibition gave your Editor an excellent opportunity of sounding public opinion and it is indeed interesting to note that the number of indifferent comments was quite negligible compared with the passionate feelings in the opposite camps. True to form, your Editor falls into one of the groups, and always having believed the original to be preferable, he does not apologise for praising the stamp. Regarding the other values, no doubt the 10c. will be acclaimed as one of the most elegant ever issued. Let us pass over the 20c., only finally to criticise slightly the overcrowding of the 40c. value. This stamp also might have been delightful, but for that one fault.

**Details:** The 5c. was issued to commemorate the Graphic International Exhibition in Lausanne (June 1st-16th). Colours: grey, yellow, red and blue (modernistic conception of the inking device of a printing machine). The 10c. commemorates the 75th Anniversary of the St. Gotthard tunnel. Colours: leaf green, light green and brown (Constructions on the southern ramp of the Gotthard Railway). 20c. Civil Defense (a reminder to the population, symbolized by the protective shield over the Swiss Coat of Arms). Colours: red and grey. 40c. Commemorating the 2,000th Anniversary of the foundation of Basle. Colours: blue, yellow-olive, violet and grey. (Munatius Plancus, the founder of Basle with Cathedral and Rhine navigation.)

All four values were printed by Courvoisier in the rotogravure process, on white paper with red and blue fibres. Designers: 5c. E. Wilzig, Lausanne; 10c. W. Muhlemann, Berne; 20c. E.&M. Lenz, Zurich; 40c. D. Brun, Basle.

The stamps will be on sale until December 31, 1957, unless stocks are exhausted earlier. They will also be invalidated on that day.

of this year's on February 27th, arguments among were delighted with design, while others monstrosity. The

When the P.T.T. announced last year that the series of lakes and waterways would be discontinued, everybody looked forward to another attractive series, replacing an issue which was somewhat overcrowded with detail. Instead, we have just been shocked to find that for the first time in the history of the Pro Patria stamps, 4 stamps will carry the same design, and that not even attractive. The motive for this year's issue is, of course, most laudable and everybody will be pleased that 90% of the proceeds of the charity surcharge of this issue will go to the Swiss Red Cross. This organisation is badly in need of funds after the exhausting year it has come through. The pity is that this excellent cause could not have been served by more attractive presentation which no doubt would have boosted sales even in the non-philatelic world. Your Editor is pleased to report that after correspondence with the PTT on that subject he has been assured that another very delightful series is in store for us, starting next year. Details are still on the secret list.

**Details:** Date of issue - June 1, 1957; on sale till August 31 at all post offices and Sept. 14 at the Philatelic Agency, Berne. Valid for postage until December, 31, 1957. The 5c. value was designed by E.&M. Lenz and engraved by A. Yersing. It is printed in a combined rotogravure and line engraving process at the P.T.T. Printing Works, Berne. Paper: White. The other 4 values were designed by the recently deceased P. Gauchat and K. Mannhart. They are printed in the rotogravure process by Courvoisier. Paper: white, slightly coated with red and blue fibres. Colours: 5 c., grey and red; 10c. green, violet, brown and red; 20c. vermilion, grey and red; 30c. brown, grey and red; 40c. light blue. light brown and red.



## NEW PAPER VARIETIES ON 20c. TELL (NO. 174z)

We learn from the Schweizer Briefmarken-Zeitung that the grilled paper variety of this stamp has been discovered on two kinds of basic paper. In one the coloured fibres appear quite normal as in all other stamps of this period, while the other shows an infinitely greater accumulation of such fibres which are not only more numerous but seem much longer. Your Editor examined the used stocks of the Amateur Collector Ltd. and found to his surprise that among some 100 copies only 6 were of the latter variety. If we want to ascertain the comparative rarity, this test in itself is insufficient, as the Amateur Collector's stock may have been acquired

from one accumulation. Nevertheless, the variety may turn out to be comparatively scarce and will no doubt deserve a catalogue listing.

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