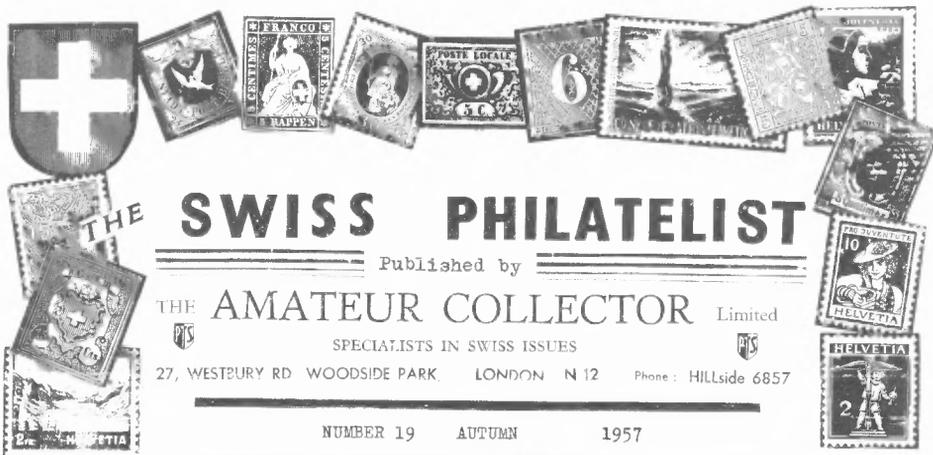


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THE SWISS PHILATELIST

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Catalogue REVIEWS.... NEW ISSUES

1958 ZUMSTEIN: The 41st edition of the Europe catalogue was issued on 2nd September 1957. In their preface the Editors write the following about European issues generally: "The upward line for prices shown already in the 40th edition maintained during the past year. From all countries we receive news about animated stamp collecting, brisk demand and steady increases of prices. As long as they remain in a reasonable frame, they certainly are welcome, for a great number of the reductions which took place after the war were due to forced sales on account of political and economical difficulties. Certain favourite countries such as Vatican City, Saar, Western Berlin, East Germany, Italy and France have suffered some extraordinary increases, so that we recommend a certain caution. There is an unabating flood of new issues! Thematic collectors are strongly favoured by the postal administrations. Result: 48 pages more than last year's edition!" In this column we are, of course, far more interested to learn the fate of our "own" country, Switzerland. We quote the above to give a general background to what is happening to Swiss stamps in particular. More price increases have taken place this year than ever before and increases are, in many cases, the most spectacular we have seen in years. To-day, Swiss stamps are among the most popular half-dozen countries in the world and, as a small country, the number they print are naturally limited. Small printings - great demand - steep price rises! To collect Swiss today is synonymous with accumulating an investment which is safer than money or shares. The new catalogue quotations amply prove that we are receiving far better interest on our Swiss collections than either banks or industry would pay us.

1958 MULLER (Switzerland & Lichtenstein): This excellent catalogue annually grows in volume through most welcome additions of valuable information. It is now in its 27th year of publication and contains 970 illustrations and 10,152 separate prices. The following statistics pertaining to the Swiss Section only, are revealing indeed:

Year	Price Increases	Price Reductions
1957	2,531	44
1958	2,510	18

In fact, one out of every four prices contained in the catalogue has been raised! The Editor especially draws attention to the following in his foreword: "I have deliberately remained conservative in raising prices, and this for good reasons; it has always been my endeavour to provide the philatelic world with a useful catalogue showing absolutely net prices. The quotations of Müllers catalogue are not only best on objective market analysis, but are backed by 35 years experience in the International stamp trade. The demand for Swiss stamps has reached unexpected proportions, especially from abroad.... Swiss stamps by now have emerged as a top investment in philately. 'BUY NOW is my tip!' The Editor of the "Swiss Philatelist" believes that the above pointers will more than convince collectors that our repeated forecasts during the past few years have been realised. We now go one step further and say that we are only a little way up the ladder of Swiss price increases. Anybody who sells his Swiss collection to-day will indeed be sorry in the not too far distant future.



Lack of space in this issue does not permit more than a brief review, giving essential details only of the several new issues which came out during the last three months, and a preview of forthcoming Juventute Issues. **EUROPE STAMPS:** 2 values, 25c. red & 40c. blue. Issued on 15th Jul. 1957, to remain on sale until further notice. Strands of twine, symbolising the different countries of Europe, combine to form a thick rope - sign of European unity. Designed by Werner Weiskoenig, engraved by Heinrich Heusser, printed by P.T.T. Printing Works on white paper.



WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION:

New designs: Issued on Sept. 16th 1957. They will replace the current overprinted set of 20 values, which has to be withdrawn from sale very shortly. The six new values are:- 5c. Grey, 10c. Green, 20c. Red, 40c. Blue, 60c. Brown, 8s. Purple. The symbolic design (identical for all values), is the International Health emblem with the wan of Aesculapius superimposed. Designed by Hans Thoeni, engraved by Albert Yersin, printed by P.T.T. Printing Works on white paper. The stamps are not available to the public for ordinary postage purposes and are only for use by the O.M.S. Organisation. **STAMPS FOR USE BY THE UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION:**

(This issue creates a new Section



Please turn to Page 4.





In Search of Variety

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

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

In April, 1882, the embossed issues came to an end and two new designs appeared, the "Cross and Numeral" for values up to 15cts. and the famous "Standing Helvetia" for values from 20cts. up.

The Cross and Numeral designs were surface printed from brass blocks or clichés locked in a forme, and the varieties to be found are not of very great interest as they consist for the most part of breaks and notches in the design due to imperfections of the printing surface, probably caused by damage to the clichés, and blurred or solid areas of colour suggesting that the cleaning of the plates has been neglected. The scarcest recurrent variety is probably that due to a mal-adjustment of the forme some time in the eighties, when the iron frame was raised to the level of the printing surface and was inked with the clichés with the result that the sheets were printed with a coloured border. The values affected were the 2, 5, 10 and 12 cts.

To those in search of varieties the Standing Helvetia issues offer a rich and well-nigh inexhaustible field; it is more than likely, indeed, that unrecognised treasures lie hidden in many a beginner's album. No records appear to have been kept by Mullhaupt and son, who designed and printed the first issues of all the values except the 30 cts. and 3 francs, of the details of the methods of preparing the plates; but enough is known to understand why the varieties are so numerous.

The stamps were recess printed from copper plates in the way in which engravings are printed; that is to say, the ink was held in lines below the surface of the plate and the paper, having been dampened, was put into the printing press and subjected to heavy pressure by means of a roller. This forced the paper into the recessed lines from which it picked up the ink. It should be remembered that in this method of printing the depth of colour depends upon the depth of the line in the plate.

The original engraved die was used to prepare impressions on a lead sheet, the lines being raised of course, and the printing plate or "electro" was made by electrolytically depositing copper on these lead sheets. The electro plates when removed from the lead and polished would have the appearance of an engraved copper plate but, unlike the plates used for direct engraving, copper deposited in this way is soft, easily prone to damage, and wears badly. This characteristic of the metal gave rise to the majority (but not all) of the many known varieties. In considering these it will be convenient to adopt Zumstein's grouping, namely "Varieties", "Plate Faults", "Worn Plates", and "Retouches".

The first group "Abarten", contains varieties occurring during the process of printing and production after the electros had been made and which in general, do not depend upon any peculiarity of the printing plate. Such varieties are off-sets, blurred prints, blind perforations, etc., and some cases of the rare double prints. Referring to the double print of the 20 cts. of the 1882 issue (No. 66A) Zumstein says that this was caused by

can be applied to all cases. I have in my collection a double print of the 25 cts. of the same issue so pale in colour that a more probable explanation is that the lines in the electro were shallow and that it is, in fact, a specimen of what might be described as a double entry; and instances are to be found in which the doubling has been largely disguised by extensive re-engraving. It seems, therefore, that some of the double prints should be classified among the "Plate Faults".

In the second group many of the faults are coloured marks suggesting that the surface of the printing plate has been scratched and similarly damaged. As the plates were inked and polished by hand it would be surprising if the soft copper face remained entirely unscathed, but it would be a mistake to suppose that all such marks were made during the process. Evidence of damage to an electro would appear as a recurrent variety only on sheets printed from that electro, and as soon as it was worn out the variety would disappear. Such a variety might be of a common type, but would be scarce individually and difficult to duplicate. For instance, in the process of polishing by hand hair line scratches would be made if any grit were present on the surface of the electro, and these would show on the print. Such hair lines are by no means uncommon, but I have never found two specimens with identical lines.

Some flaws, however, persist through a number of issues of the same value, especially in the case of the 25 cts. of the first type. There is to be found, for instance, a short scratch in the left hand label of value, insignificant in itself, but interesting in that it appears in all the 25 cts. issues from 1882 to 1901. As some 400,000,000 stamps of this type were issued the possibility of the mark being caused by damage to the electro can be ruled out, and it follows that it must have been present on the lead plate (or plates). How it got there is anybody's guess.

An interesting variety of the 25 cts. is that with the "fahnenartiger" or "banner" flaw, an irregular blotch of colour extending into or across the top right hand label of value. The size of the blotch varies, suggesting that it may be due to an increasing patch of corrosion on the plate; but as the variety is found on the issues from 1882 to 1889 the flaw must have occurred before the preparation of the electros.

The softness of the copper led to such rapid alterations of the states of the electros that plating is considered generally to be impracticable. The signs of wear are a steadily increasing lack of sharpness of the printed lines, leading in some cases to seemingly solid areas of colour in, for instance, the background of the oval, and in others to the disappearance of the finer lines and colourless patches.

This is the "White Helvetia", which is to be found in most values.

(To be concluded)



a sheet having accidentally been passed through the printing press twice, but it seems unlikely that this explanation

A familiar example of

THOUGHT FOR TODAY
Miracles sometimes occur but one has to work terribly hard for them.

SWISS PIONEER AIRS



Conclusion of the article reprinted from "The Weekly Philatelic Cossip Magazine", U.S.A. by kind permission of the Author.

Illustrations taken from the Zumstein Specialized Catalogue.

By Fred V. Loeliger.

HERISAU: (Zumstein No.5) Issued for II Swiss Air mail flight, Herisau - Niederglatt, March, 31, 1913, Pilot Charles Favre. Printed in sheets of 21 stamps each by Walter Marty & Co., Herisau. Total issue, 10,000; sold about 5,000; 1,300 sold later, balance was destroyed. 2170 pieces of mail were flown. The 50c. stamp, blue on white or grey paper shows a plane over Herisau. The committee engaged for Easter Monday Pilot Instructor at Hesseheim - Muelhausen, Bobby Zuest of Heiden, but due to bad weather and an accident to the pilot, the flight had to be postponed to March 30th. The pilots, Favre and Addeoli were engaged for March 31, 1913. The mail was carried by pilot Favre who was scheduled to fly to Geneva. He was forced down at Niederglatt from where the mail was forwarded through ordinary channels (The writer's research work at the Archives of the Swiss General Direction of PTT Library and Documentation Department "Dr. Robert Paganini collection") Value mint on white or grey paper, \$5.00 (35/-). Flown cover with special black cancellation, \$15.00 (£5.10)

LANGNAU: (Zumstein No.6) Issued for the flight from Langnau - Berne, May 4, 1913. Pilot, Oskar Bider. The 50c. stamp, violet-light yellow, showing a plane in the clouds, was designed and printed in sheets of 36 stamps, six rows of 6 stamps each, by Ambruster Sons, Berne. Total issue, 4032, of which 2050 were sold, 300 destroyed, 1700 held in the archives of the Feldschuetzen Gesellschaft, Langnau (Shooting Society) never to be sold. 1800 pieces of mail were flown. Value mint, \$10.00 (70/-) Flown cover or card with special black cancellation, \$16.50 (£6).

LAUFEN: (Zumstein No.7). The 50c. Laufen stamp, green, showing the Berne Tower in Laufen with plane was issued in connection with the Laufen - Solothurn flight, Sept. 28, 1913. Pilot, Th. Borrer. Total issue was 3,000 printed in sheets of 50 stamps, 5 rows of ten stamps each, by G. Fentzling, Solothurn. There are five distinct different types in each sheet of 50 stamps. Type I, thin "5"; Type II, robust "5" but bottom of the figure "5" slightly pressed in; Type III, right half of "0" thin; Type IV, both "5" and "0" robust; Type V, "0" on right top of figure pressed in. Amount 900 pieces of mail were flown. Value mint, for Types I-V, \$8.50 (£3). Postal card or cover with special violet or blue cancellation, \$28.00 (£10).

LIESTAL: (Zumstein No.8) This stamp was sold for 30c. and shows people admiring Bider's plane in flight and was used for the first air mail from Liestal to Reinfelden on April 27, 1913. Pilot, Oskar Bider. The stamp was designed by the artist Otto Plattner and printed by Luedin & Co., both of Liestal. They were issued in sheets of six stamps in two rows of 3 stamps each. Total issue was 5000,

3,800 were sold on date of flight, balance later. 3,800 pieces of mail were flown. Value mint; colour light brown and olive yellow (A) \$28.00 (£10); dark brown and yellow (B) \$32.00 (£11.10.-). Flown cover with blue cancellation (A), \$22.50 (£8); (B) \$25.00 (£9)

LUGANO: (Zumstein No.9) The 25c. Lugano stamp is a horizontal rectangle on white paper with the printing Lugano 1913 and "Pro Aviazione Nazionale" (for National Aviation) & is the least attractive stamp of the Pioneer issues. They were printed by the Societa Tipografica, Lugano in sheets of ten stamps in five rows of two stamps each. Total issue 4100. 3385 stamps were sold, the balance returned to the committee after the flight had taken place, for this reason 3625 pieces of mail for which the 25c. fee was charged were flown without the Lugano stamps. Total pieces flown, 7000. The Lugano stamp was issued for the flight Lugano - Mendrisio, June 8, 1913. Pilot was Atilio Maffei. There are five different types of Lugano stamps in a sheet of ten stamps. Value mint: green, red grey, \$130.00 (£45). Flown cover with special black cancellation \$50.00 (£18). Flown cover with special blue cancellation \$70.00 (£55).

SITTEN (SION): (Zumstein No. 10). The 50c. Sitten, carmine printed on both glossy and dull paper showing the city of Sitten with plane, was used in connection with the flight of Sitten Siders, May 18, 1913. Pilot was Oskar Biber. Printed by P. Pfefferle, Sitten, in sheets of ten stamps, five rows of two stamps each. The stamp was designed by A. Martin, Arden. Total issued 4000, sold 1600, destroyed 70, balance sold later. 1500 pieces of mail were flown. Value mint on dull paper, \$14.00 (£5). On glossy paper, \$12.50 (£4.10.-). Flown cover with special violet cancellation, glossy paper \$42.00 (£15). Same on dull paper, \$55.00 (£20) (very rare).

SOLOTHURN: (Zumstein No.11) The 50c. Solothurn stamp showing plane over church, red brown, white, was issued in connection with the flight from Solothurn to Weissenstein, August 17, 1913. Pilot, Th. Borrer. The stamps were printed by G. Fentzling, Solothurn. In sheets of 50 stamps, in 5 rows or ten stamps each. Total issue unknown, about 1700 stamps were sold at the date of the flight, balance liquidated later. Value mint, \$2.30 (16/-). Flown cover with special violet cancellation, \$28.00 (£10).

THE 1913 OLTEN PIONEER STAMP A VIGNETTE OR ESSAY? The Olten Pioneer stamp was printed for the flight Olten-Oensingen, May 5, 1913, which did not take place due to the accidental death of the Pilot Ernst Rech. He was killed on a flight from the Pilot School, Duebendorf to Langenthal, where he was an Instructor. A special cancellation was prepared by the Postal authorities "First Air Mail, Olten - Oensingen, May 5, 1913" and about 5 or 6 postal cards were mailed on May 5, 1913, by regular mail which received the special cancellation. I have a postal

(Continued on Page 4.)



PRICE ALTERATIONS

FEDERAL ISSUES		Mint	Used
85	7/- 1/6	217A 14/-	218A 50/-
94A	2/-	216A/18A 82/6	243* 2/3
94Ab	2/2	244* 2/9	245* 3/-
96A	3/3	243/51* 26/6	256 4/6 1/3
97A	4/6	256c 4/6 1/3	266 1/8 2/2
98A	3/4	271 14/- 20/-	272 - 18/-
99A	10/6	273 Delete prices	not available sing.
95B	3/6	274 45/- 20/-	262/70 £6 150/-
100B	55/-	262/74	(9v)..25/- 35/-
122	4/3	295 - 2/-	296 - 1/4
122c	4/9	294/96	297 1/7 1/7
129	190/-	312 - 1/3	309/12 - 1/7
130	30/-	309/12 - 1/7	
131	57/6		
141y	4/6		
142	22/6		
162z	4/3		
176	8/-		
177	21/6		
177b	24/-		
178	30/-		
179	57/6		
214	7/-		
211/14	11/- 3/3		
216A	14/-		

*hinged copies only! unhinged price remains unaltered.

INTERNATIONAL OFFICES

REFUGEES:Delete prices for singles. These are no longer available & will be quoted when in stock.
Complete Set 1-8 Mint: £5. Used: 105/-
U.N.C: Singles of 1-17 will be supplied at prices quoted in 1957 Supplement. Nos. 18, 19, & 20 available in complete Sets only.
Complete Set 1-20 Mint: 210/- Used: 210/-
21 " 4/- " 4/3

We shall do our best to supply all stamps not listed above at 1955/57 prices until our 1958 Catalogue is published, but as old stocks are used up further changes may become necessary.

WHAT'S YOURS?

An interesting variety of the 10c Publicity Stamp, 1957 Gotthard Railway, has been discovered during early printing of the stamp (estimated to be 100,000), the brown and green colours were reversed in sequence, resulting in the floor of the train appearing brown. On all later printings, running into many millions, the floor is a deep balck. While the brown variety is available in fair quantities, used and mint copies promise to be extremely rare (current price estimates put the stamp at 7/6-10/-), this colour variety was discovered long after the first printing was sold out and it is generally believed that new issue subscribers would have received the rare brown variety in their supplies. As all our first supplies were distributed immediately we are not able to verify this, but it is hoped that our subscribers were lucky.

QUICK - Get out the Album and look!

(Continued from Page 1)

of official stamps). Design: Monument of the Universal Postal Union in Berne (5c. 40c. & 2Fr), Pegasus Sculpture on the walls of the U.P.U. building in Berne (10c. 20c. and 60c) Colours, printers & paper are the same as in the O.M.S. issue (see p.1). Designers: Eric Poncey (Pegasus), Hans Thoeni (U.P.U. Monument) All these values were engraved by K.A. Bickel

AIRS		Mint	Used
11	9/6	37/40	17/-
11c	9/6	41	15/-
11z		42	13/6
18	9/6	43	3/-
16/18		44	5/-

NATIONAL FESTIVALS		Mint	Used
9	30/-	17	8/-
10	30/-	18	8/-
12	60/-	19	15/-

MINIATURE SHEETS		Mint	Used
1	130/-	23	17/6
12	8/-	29	6/6
13	8/-	30	6/6
14	15/-	31	12/6
17L	8/-	32	35/-
17R	8/-	33	5/6
18	15/-	34	5/6
22	9/-	35	10/-

UNITED NATIONS 1949/50

(5c to FR 10.--, 20vals.) ONLY 26,000 SETS EXIST !! A few sets available, subject unsold, at £10:10:0 mint or used. BUY NOW - BEFORE PRICE DOUBLES!

1957 JUVENUTES
To be issued on 30th Nov. 1957, remaining on sale until 31st. Jan. 1958 (15th Feb. at Philatelic Counter of the P.T.T.) 5+5c, Leonhard Euler (1707-1783) mathematician, who gained renown for his calculations on planetary movements. Recess printed on P.T.T. Printing Works on white paper. Other values (10+10c, 20+10c, 30+10c, 40+10c) Rotogravia process by Courvoisier on slightly coated paper with a mixture of fibres. Details of designs and names of designers to be announced later.



The Swiss Pioneer Air Mail Issues of 1913

(Continued from Page 3.)

card in my collection which was addressed to F. Liechtensteiger, Basle (Postal Director) which has the Olten vignette and the special cancellation mentioned above. Some time later the committee made arrangements with the pilot, Th. Borrer for a scheduled flight on August 31st. 1913. The pilot, after inspecting the flying field, declared same as unusable and the flight was cancelled for the second time.

J. Tribelhorn of Herisau reported in an article published in the Swiss Stamp Journal published November 11, 1947, that the Olten Pioneer stamps never having received the official cancellation, same could not be considered as semi-official stamps in accordance with the terms of the International Congress of 1933, and that same must be considered as vignettes.

Mr. Werner Lang-Buerger reported that from the engraving original printing in sheets of four stamps were to be made. Contrary to the listing in Sanabria same were printed as follows:
1st Trial Essay: Blue green and light yellow - 16 stamps
2nd Trial Essay: Light green and white - 24 stamps.
3rd Trial Essay: Dark green and white - 32 stamps.

The Olten Pioneer stamps were to be printed at the last minute, after positive assurance that the flight would take place.

I was fortunate to pick up a copy of all three of the above mentioned trial essays, in addition I have a cover with a black Olten stamp from the original engraving, which was used by a member of the committee, but no details as to the origin of the black Olten stamp are known to me.

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(Send 2/- in Brit. Isles, 2/6 or 35c USA or elsewhere)

