



"Helvetia"

SOCIETY FOR COLLECTORS OF SWITZERLAND

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Helvetia Calendar

- Nov. 18 -- Monthly meeting, 8 p.m., Fair Lawn Arts Center, 12-56 River Rd., Fair Lawn, N. J. Program: official stamps, including Swiss officials, International organization stamps, franco labels, covers and literature. Guests welcome.
- Dec. 13 -- Annual Christmas party, Homestead Restaurant, 307 Terrace Ave., Hasbrouck Heights, N. J., \$6.50 per prime ribs dinner including tax and tip.
- Apr. 12-14 -- BEPEX
- May 6 -- Swiss program at Collectors Club

Collectors Club Schedules Helvetia Program

May 6 will be the evening when the Helvetia Society presents a program on Swiss philately at the Collectors Club of New York. Three of our members will speak during the hour and a half program. On display in the club's frames will be pages from the collections of Helvetia members. All Helvetia members can contribute pages and attend the meeting. The Collectors Club, following a long tradition, will take the three Helvetia speakers to dinner before the meeting. Vice President Ronald Lowden, our program chairman, will organize the program. Part of our November meeting will be devoted to a discussion of material available for the display. The goal is participation by every member.

NOJEX Wants Helvetia as 1970 Sponsor

Sidney Schneider, president of NOJEX, has invited the Helvetia Society to be one of several small club sponsors for the 1970 NOJEX show. He has said that sponsorship will involve only the following: first, as many exhibits of Swiss material as our members can enter, second, a society lounge to be staffed by our members during the show, third, a meeting to be held by the society sometime during the show, and fourth, publicity for the show in any news releases we distribute. There will be no obligation on our part to provide financial support or manpower for the exhibition committee.

Mr. Schneider has also invited the Helvetia Society to become a member of NOJEX. The initiation fee is \$10 and annual dues \$5. Member clubs receive sales circuit books and the "North Jersey Philatelist," This publication, which appears five times a year, contains NOJEX news and articles of interest to New Jersey collectors.

The November meeting of the Helvetia Society will include a vote on whether to become a 1970 NOJEX sponsor and/or a NOJEX member club.

News Briefs

Ludwig Weinhofer is our new A.P.S. representative. He succeeds Justin Fuelleman, who will soon move to California. The October issue of the American Philatelist listed our society as a new applicant for chapter status in the A.P.S.

Walter Reimann is our new awards chairman. Whenever our society awards a trophy, he will see that it is suitably inscribed.

Henry Gieffers of New York, president and editor of the society in 1953 and 1954, has written, "It is certainly gratifying to know that finally the publication has been resumed and that the old traditional form has not been discarded."

At our October meeting the members tabled a motion to join the American Academy of Philately.

Last month four members helped paint the exhibition frames used at the annual BEPEX show. They were Walter Reimann, Frederick Schumacher, Werner Vogel and Ben Wood.

At the October meeting Jacques and Millicent Simpson of the Helvetic Stamp Company described current Swiss philatelic literature (he showed copies of some 25 publications) and discussed the market demand for 20th century Swiss stamps (she noted several, such as B3, that have gone up in price because of their popularity among collectors in Switzerland).

At the October meeting the members tabled a motion to subscribe to the Schweizer Briefmarken Zeitung (SBZ), the publication of the Swiss Philatelic Societies. Werner Vogel, who offered to translate its articles, will obtain more information about a subscription.

The Postal History Societies of the Americas is translating into English the recent "Handbook of Swiss Prestamp Philately (Vorphilatelie) 1695-1850" by Jean J. Winkler, which is in German. The tentative price will be \$18.

Mrs. Edith Faulstich, the speaker at our September meeting, is the society's newest member.

THE HELVETIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

by Mrs. E. J. Rawnsley
Secretary and Editor

The Helvetia Stamp Club, as it was first called, began in a very modest way through the initiative of Mr. E. H. Spiro, a keen Swiss collector, who in the early stages ran it virtually single handed as Secretary, Treasurer and producer of a small News Sheet, which gradually developed into our now flourishing 'Helvetia News Letter'.

For a while communication was by correspondence, then an inaugural meeting was held in London on 5th October, 1948, which was very well attended, and thereafter regular meetings have been held throughout the years.

As the Society grew, duties had to be delegated to other members of a Committee, but Mr. Spiro remained as Editor until a change of occupation necessitated his being out of the country on occasions. Mr. P. W. Stratton, a founder member, then took over the Editorship for one year (1958) until ill health intervened, and since 1959 the Secretary, Mrs. E. J. Rawnsley, has combined the two offices.

Meanwhile, a considerable number of members residing in Yorkshire had built up an active Group under the leadership of the present Society President, Mr. L. Moore. The Group holds its own meetings in Bradford at the homes of the members, on the same lines as the parent Society, and has done valiant work in promoting interest in Swiss philately in the North of England.

In recent years membership has been greatly increased by the addition of keen collectors in the United States, Canada and South Africa, and it is hoped that some active Groups, on the lines of our own Northern Group, may be formed in areas where sufficient members can meet.

As a result of the pooling of resources many excellent studies of varying aspects of Swiss philately have been written and recorded in the 'Helvetia News Letter' and much valuable information has been made available to collectors. The chief aim of the Society is to continue and expand this work for the benefit of all its members.

Editor's Note -- At least three members of our Helvetia Society belong to the Great Britain society. They are Ronald Lowden, Aaron Rosenberg and Harlan Stone.