



"Helvetia"

SOCIETY FOR COLLECTORS OF SWITZERLAND

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- Feb. 17 -- Monthly meeting, Fair Lawn Arts Center, 12-56 River Road, Fair Lawn, N. J. Program: mounting of two frames for BEPEX, display of pages for Collectors Club of New York program. Guests welcome.
- Mar. 12-14 -- BEPEX club competition
- May 6 -- Helvetia program at Collectors Club of New York
- Oct., 1970 -- Co-sponsorship of NOJEX

Swap and Sale Session Successful

Despite a snow storm the night of the January meeting, 11 members showed up with their stock books for the first formal swap and sale session. A brisk business in national fete postal cards, perfins, official stamps and a variety of other philatelic items created a profitable evening for several. By consensus the members agreed that the swap and sale of duplicates should be a part of every meeting. Those who missed the January meeting are urged to bring material in February.

Helvetia Society Becomes "Philatelic"

By a substantial margin, the members voted at the January meeting to change the name of the Helvetia Society for Collectors of Switzerland to Helvetia Philatelic Society. The new name clearly identifies the nature of the society, thus avoiding confusion between it and Swiss-American cultural groups. However, the editor of the newsletter plans to continue using the old letterhead as an economy measure.

May Program Spurs Mounting Spree

With the Helvetia program at the Collectors Club of New York only three months off, many members are working their tweezers overtime as they mount pages of their favorite stamps and covers. The first status report will come at the February meeting, when members will display the pages they have prepared to date. So far 16 members have agreed to take part in the Collectors Club program. They are Albert Adams, Herbert Biederman, Caroline and Henry Blum, Sophie Buser, Justin Fuelleman, Edward Hochuli, Otto Hug, Ronald Lowden, Walter Reimann, Aaron Rosenberg, Harlan Stone, Werner Vogel, Ludwig Weinhofer, George Wettach and Benjamin Wood. The program chairman, Ronald Lowden, will determine what gaps exist in the overall display and seek more volunteers to help insure a complete showing of Swiss stamps. Members who need help in mounting their stamps will receive aid at the meeting.

New Group Called SASS

Herbert E. Du Russel of Bayshore, Long Island, has started the Swiss-American Stamp Society (SASS). He writes that the purpose of SASS is to create a nationwide correspondence society. The society will sponsor the study and research of the postal history and issues of Switzerland, publish a bi-monthly bulletin listing the interests of members, run a mail auction twice a year, sponsor group tours to the PTT Agency in Bern, and provide stamp supplies, new Swiss issues and a service for the exchange of duplicates. Dues of \$2 a year should go to Mr. Du Russel at 1058 Brookdale Ave., Bayshore, N. Y. 11706.

In an interesting aside, Mr. Du Russel said his interest in Swiss philately greatly increased when his research turned up the fact that one of his Swiss ancestors designed the postage due stamps J1-9 and J29-34.

News Briefs

The society voted at the January meeting to place a half-page ad in next month's BEPEX program. The ad will note that Helvetia has won the BEPEX club trophy in 1967 through 1969, is now an A.P.S. chapter, will present a display and talks at the Collectors Club of New York in May and will co-sponsor next fall's NOJEX.

Several members have not paid their 1969-70 dues of \$2. Delinquent members soon may no longer receive the society newsletter. Members can give their dues to Treasurer George Wettach at the February meeting or mail them to him.

The February meeting is the deadline for members to submit pages for inclusion in the society's two-frame BEPEX exhibit. BEPEX club competition rules state that no club member can show more than two pages.

Werner Vogel has translated introductory passages of the recently purchased German handbook on Swiss cancellations 1843-1907, which describe how the handbook's listings are arranged.