



"Helvetia"

SOCIETY FOR COLLECTORS OF SWITZERLAND

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Summit, N. J. 07901, 273-4175

Helvetia Calendar

Jan. 19 - Monthly meeting, Fair Lawn Arts Center, 12-56 River Road, Fair Lawn, N. J., 8 p.m. Program: relationship of condition to price of Rayon II stamp by Stephen Pomex. Guests welcome.

Mar. 11-13 - BEPEX club competitions.

Helvetia Affiliates with SASS

By seven to five the Helvetia members voted at the December meeting to become the New Jersey Chapter of the Swiss American Stamp Society. As such, Helvetia will retain its name, officers and programs. The \$2 check for SASS dues will bring Helvetia a copy of the Helvetia Herald, SASS's monthly publication.

Helvetia members must join SASS individually to be eligible for national office in SASS or their own copy of the Helvetia Herald. At present the Herald is publishing a series of articles by Dr. Felix Ganz of Chicago on different types of present-day postal cancellations found on Swiss stamps. So far he has dealt with temporary (emergency) postmarks and circular date stamps with postal direction (zip code) numbers.

The most recent SASS membership list shows that three Helvetia members belong to SASS. They are William Debetaz, Harlan Stone and George Wettach.

19 Attend Christmas Dinner

A total of 19 Helvetia members, spouses and friends attended the annual Helvetia Christmas dinner, held Dec. 12 at the Homestead Restaurant in Hasbrouck Heights, N. J. The entertainment was Swiss yodeling on a record provided by George Wettach.

Members present were Albert Adams, Henry and Caroline Blum, Edward and Sophie Buser, Henry Gieffers, Edward Hochuli, Otto Hug, Walter Reimann, Frederick Schumacher, George and Frieda Wettach and Benjamin Wood.

New BEPEX Club Competition

The Association of Bergen County Philatelists this year will offer an award to the club whose members individually display the best five exhibits. To promote this competition, the BEPEX committee will give preference to entries from members of BEPEX clubs until Feb. 4. At the exhibition on Mar. 11-13, the judges will assign points to each exhibit. The club with the winning point total, based on at least five exhibits by members, will take the prize.

BEPEX will also sponsor its traditional club competition, in which an award will go to the club that exhibits the best two-frame exhibit. These 16-page exhibits can include no more than two pages from any one Helvetia member. Helvetia has won this award every year since 1967.

Again this year Helvetia will sponsor its award for the best Swiss exhibit.

These three competitions offer Helvetia members a greater incentive than ever before to enter exhibits. The society's display at the Collectors Club of New York last May proved that there is more than enough material already mounted on pages to provide for five separate exhibits. Plans for the society's participation in BEPEX will be discussed at the Jan. 19 meeting.

New Membership Drive

Membership chairman Edward Hochuli is heading a new membership drive based on the American Philatelic Society handbook's list of northern New Jersey area collectors interested in Swiss philately. At his suggestion, the society members will split up the list and personally invite prospective members to attend future meetings. New members will bring new ideas, programs and leaders into the society at a time when some of the older members are becoming inactive.

January Program: Condition and Price

Stephen Pomex, one of Helvetia's newest members, will conduct a slide program on the Rayon II stamp, its various conditions and different prices. He will use some 15 slides prepared from photographs he has taken to show the condition of his own Rayon II copies. After members study the slides, he will ask them to write down what percentage of the catalog price they would pay for each, based on its condition and redeeming features. The different answers will be the subject of a discussion on condition and price.

Steve is also preparing a spring program on fakes of the cantonal stamps. He has asked members to bring any fakes they possess to the January meeting so he can borrow and photograph them to make slides.

Expansion of Helvetia Collecting Interests?

Helvetia members, concerned about the lack of new members, discussed in January the possibility of expanding the club to take in members who collect countries besides Switzerland and Liechtenstein. Although the society took no action, the following proposed expansions were raised for future consideration:

Central Europe -- Germany, Austria
Alps -- Germany, Austria, France, Italy
German-speaking -- Germany, Austria, parts of others (?)

New Members

Stephen Pomex, 1035 Fifth Ave., New York, N. Y. 10028, (212) 288-3482

John F. Palmer, 806 Morris Turnpike, Short Hills, N. J. 07078,
(201) 379-5595

Collector Wants Franchise Stamps

Helvetia members with franchise stamp duplicates may be able to sell them to Mr. Richard J. Beck, 2106 Wilkes Ave., Biloxi, Miss. 39530. He is trying to build a collection of all the different franchise numbers used on the different sets of stamps. In a letter to Harlan Stone he says that so far he has 532 out of the some 1200 different numbers assigned to different charitable and welfare organizations. He has offered to correspond with any Helvetia member who wants to pursue this specialty.