



"Helvetia"

SOCIETY FOR COLLECTORS OF SWITZERLAND

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Summit, N. J. 07901, 273-4175

Helvetia Calendar

Sept. 21 -- Monthly meeting, 8 p.m., Fair Lawn Arts Center, 12-56 River Road, Fair Lawn, N. J. Program: APS slide program "How to Collect Air Mail Covers." Guests welcome.

Pomex Elected President

Stephen Pomex has been elected Helvetia Philatelic Society president for 1971-72 in recognition of his active participation in monthly programs during the past year and his authorship of recent articles in the Helvetia newsletter.

Other officers elected for the coming year are Walter Reimann, vice president, Albert Adams, secretary, and George Wettach, treasurer, a post he has already held two years.

Among the positions that the new president will consider filling by appointments will be three trustees, two BEPEX representatives, an A.P.S. representative, an editor, a librarian, and the following chairmanships: publicity, membership, program, sales and translations.

News Briefs

Member Jacques Simpson has reported that the Zumstein 1972 specialized catalog for Switzerland and Liechtenstein, published last May, has already sold out. Jacques and his wife Millicent, who operate the Helvetic Stamp Company, are authorized dealers in the U.S. for the catalog.

Ben Wood reported at the June meeting that the BEPEX Committee is considering restricting the annual club competition to topical subjects in an effort to broaden the competition. Helvetia has won the award the past five years in a row on the strength of its members' specialized Swiss material.

Editor Harlan Stone reports that he distributed a news release reporting the 1971-72 officers to New Jersey newspapers and philatelic publications in early August.

Helvetia members took under consideration at the June meeting a proposal for an annual wine and cheese fondue party.

The August 23 issue of Linn's Stamp News carried a photo showing one of the automatic cancelling machines that the Swiss Philatelic Service is using on all outgoing mail. Because a small beam of light illuminates the spot on a stamp where the postmark will appear, the machine's operator can adjust the letter to insure perfect centering. An automatic arm applies the cancellation with controlled pressure to give it the appearance of having been printed.

The American Philatelic Society has scheduled four slide programs for Helvetia's use as monthly programs during 1971-72. They are "How to Collect Air Mail Covers" on Sept. 21, "Collecting Postal Stationery," Part I on Jan. 18 and Part II on Feb. 15, and "What We Can Learn from Our Stamps" on June 20.

The annual \$2 dues are payable as of Sept. 21, the opening Helvetia meeting for the coming year. Members who have not paid last year's dues will no longer receive the newsletter.

Only Ordinary Postmarks Identify Some First Flights

Walter Reimann, who presented a program on Swiss air mail flights at the June meeting, pointed out that although many first flight covers bear special postmarks, others have no special markings. To spot the latter, a collector must know the flight dates and inspect ordinary postmarks accordingly. Walter also pointed out that four pioneer flights in 1913 used no semi-official stamps as 11 other flights did that year. The Sept. 21 slide program on "How to Collect Air Mail Covers" is a follow-up to Walter's talk.

Pomex Urges Working Together

President Steve Pomex, as his first official act, has issued the following statement:

"As the new president of the 'Helvetia society,' I hope to do a lot for and with our society. I have an obligation to you, but at the same time I feel that you have just as important a duty toward your fellow members and the club as a whole. I expect to see far greater participation on the part of many.

"To me the word 'society' implies a group of people working together for their mutual benefit and advancement. So let us make the Helvetia Society into a true society."