



## "Helvetia" ALPHORN

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### SOCIETY FOR COLLECTORS OF SWITZERLAND

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Vol. 25, No. 10 December, 1973

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#### Helvetia Calendar

- Dec. 15 ----- Annual Helvetia Christmas dinner, Homestead Restaurant, Hasbrouck Heights, N.J., 7:30 p.m.
- Dec. 18 ----- Helvetia Society monthly meeting, Fair Lawn Arts Center, 12-56 River Road, Fair Lawn, N.J., 8 p.m.
- Dec. 29 ----- Bid deadline for Helvetia Mail Auction No. 14.
- Mar. 14-16 -- Special Swiss exhibit competition sponsored by Helvetia at BEPEX, Paramus, N.J.
- May 1 ----- Swiss program at Collectors Club of New York.

#### Hochuli Nominated for Helvetia President

Helvetia Society Vice President Edward S. Hochuli of New York has been nominated for 1974 president. Other officers recommended by the nominating committee at the November meeting for elected positions next year are Werner Vogel of New Jersey for vice president, Gerald S. Diamond of New Jersey for secretary, Treasurer George H. Wettach of New Jersey for treasurer again, and Librarian Otto Hug of New Jersey for librarian again.

Mail nominations can be sent to Secretary Harlan F. Stone (address above) up to the Dec. 18 meeting, and floor nominations will be accepted at the meeting. If the already nominated slate is unopposed, the new officers will assume their positions at that time. However, if more than one member is nominated for any position, an election will be held for that position, with all mail and voice votes to be tallied at the January meeting.

#### New Members

- 691 Dr. Gaetano Lo Presti, 4604 North Federal Highway, Fort Lauderdale, Fla. 33308.
- 692 John Demeure, 1116 Olive St., Santa Barbara, Calif. 93101.

#### Second Call for 1974 Dues

The response to the first call for payment of 1974 dues has been gratifying, but many of our almost 200 members have yet to mail theirs in. Since the Alphorn will continue to go only to members in good standing, it is important to send \$3 for the coming year (\$5 for overseas dues) without delay. Checks and money orders should

go to the treasurer, George H. Wettach, 17-20 Well Drive, Fair Lawn, N.J. 07410.

### BEPEX Entry Forms Available

Helvetia members who live in the New York metropolitan area and/or have participated in BEPEX will find an entry form for this year's annual exhibition accompanying their Alphorn. Helvetia is again sponsoring special awards for Swiss exhibits at the 40-year-old event to be held March 14-16 in Paramus, N.J., by the Association of Bergen County Philatelists. The deadline for submitting entry forms is Feb. 10. Helvetia members desiring forms may obtain them from the editor (address on page 1). Last year BEPEX attracted eight Swiss exhibits.

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## Eagerly Awaited For Over A Year —

The "SWISS PHILATELIST" has just made one of its rare appearances!! To make up for this long delay we have published three numbers in one: 64, 65 and 66. The twelve illustrated pages contain among other items of interest, the following articles:

The Dr.A.E.Thill Revenue Collection.

An Issue is Born: 1972 Spannörter.

Swiss Stamp Booklets 1904-1936.

Investment: 22 Years of Market Progress.

Special Offers: Some Outstanding Rarities For All Pockets.

Of course our usual series of articles are also being continued.

Send 10c postage for a free sample copy which will be sent to you by airmail.

Everything You've Ever Wanted to Know  
About Wild Mushrooms But Were Too Bullied to Ask

By Ronald D. Lowden, Jr.  
(Helvetia # 417)

Continued from November issue

Meanwhile, in June of 1949, another prominent Swiss revenue collector in Milan, by name Paolo Cometta, distributed to his various revenue collecting friends a typed manuscript and photostat-illustrated listing of the cantonal issues of Lucerne and Schwyz, the beginnings of what was evidently intended to be eventually a complete Swiss revenue catalog, judging from its covering title, which reads "Essai de Catalogue des Timbres-Fiscaux Suisses." In June of 1953, he distributed his second "essay" on the cantonal issues of Tessin (Ticino). This appears to be the only addition to the first "essay" that ever came to fruition, although he was still living in November, 1957, his "68th year of philatelic activity," when he distributed copies of all three of the same typescript and photostat lists from before, updated by hand and accompanied by three pages with English translations of the three original French texts, to his English-speaking compatriots. No prices were quoted in any of his works.

Why Cometta chose to initiate his own Swiss revenue catalog, separate from Schaufelberger's, is unknown. Certainly the contents of his three essays, while more comfortably set out and consequently easier to comprehend, did not significantly enlarge or conflict from the coverage of the same subjects issued at almost the same time by Schaufelberger. But at least what he wrote was produced in two languages different from that of his "competitor." Oddly enough, in Cometta's 1949 list the dedication was stated to be in memory of five collector friends, among whom was H. J. Schaufelberger, Georg's father.

It should be noted that both the works of Cometta and Schaufelberger, while having initially received some degree of very limited distribution, are sadly today very expensive to obtain, and are likewise very rarely encountered. Also, as stated much earlier in this article, all Swiss revenue catalogs that contain prices make no effort to distinguish mint versus used copies.

#### VIII. Collections

There seems to have existed between the turn of the century and the mid-1950's what began as a coterie of pioneer world-wide and/or European revenue collectors, from which later developed, from the overlapping and overcrowding of succeeding generations of new collectors, a more specialized splinter group having primarily Swiss, Italian, and French revenue interests. Among the early group was H. G. Schaufelberger, who enjoyed the friendships of pioneers Forbin and Moens. Others whose names also appear at either this time or at later intervals include Moroy, Hoffmann, Schumacher-Kopp, Breitschmied, G. Schaufelberger, Cometta, Buttafava and Gauchet.

Some almost unbelievably enormous private collections, a few which later became part of dealer "hoards," were acquired by these and other pioneer collectors living in several countries. Slowly but surely, and as time passed, these vast accumulations and estates have found their way to the open market place, and one by one they have been decimated beyond recognition, in the process losing much potentially valuable knowledge and research that could

have been derived within such singular, large "study collections." The already existing, unromantic putdown was further enhanced thereby. The fates of obscurity, disparagement and destruction were further sealed. Despite a few whimpering cries of "Their value is increasing!" heard recently within even an antique dealer's sale, oblivion is now nearly complete. There now is hardly anything left that is worth even being rereped by dealers.

Hence, today, collecting Swiss revenues, at least, has become an almost ridiculous specialty, purely from the viewpoint of availability, rather than from any consideration of dealer-flap. Without exaggeration, Basle Doves show up more frequently in auction house lists than do Swiss revenues!

Only one or two of the pioneer Swiss collections still exist intact -- for how long one can only conjecture. Foremost of them is the Schaufelberger collection of Swiss revenues, which was gathered together by two generations of the family in Bern: H. B., the pioneer mentioned at the beginning of this section, and his son, Georg, whose great works in cataloguing are described in the previous section. In December, 1960, this famous collection was purchased by Carlo Buttafava, shortly after the demise of the latter Schaufelberger. Its present owner describes this Swiss revenue collection, combined with his own, as consisting of 23,000 stamps, including varieties!

The Cometta collection was rumored several years ago to have found its way to England, where it was held, over quite a period of time, for sale by private treaty. As could be expected, a letter of inquiry to the internationally famous auction house and dealership in whose hands it lay evoked neither the simple confirmation requested nor even the common courtesy of acknowledgement.

Among some of the more recent collections to receive attention are those belonging to two stalwarts of the Helvetia Philatelic Society of Great Britain, Messrs. Highsted and Lienhard. Their various writings for and "showings" to the society, now and then, continue to draw praises, keeping an otherwise poorly fueled lamp lit with renewed oils of interest. It is through several kindnesses shown by Mr. Lienhard several years back, that your writer, near the beginnings of his interest in revenues, obtained some much needed background and incentive to swim underwater in this nearly waterless lake.

Over his long and illustrious collecting career, the much earlier mentioned George W. Caldwell acquired a relatively modest total of about 1,000 Swiss revenues. Cantonals for the most part, they were sold in March, 1968, at a worldwide-publicized auction, arbitrarily broken into eight lots of one, two and three cantons each. While the size of this collection makes it barely worth mentioning, it is curious to note that, because the winning bidder of four of these lots later decided that he would not have any time to do anything with them, they were sold again on the same block less than two years later, offered in the exact same words describing them within the original auction list, but this time within only a regional scale auction, and realizing just about twice the bid amounts that won them two years earlier! Obviously, the demand is present, but the supply is going, going ...

(To Be Continued)

Hello!

The new 1974 catalogues are out (Zumstein, Amateur Collector & Scott) and no doubt you will find your collection has greatly increased in value. Many bargains will be found in this auction as only 1973 catalogues were used here. It might be a good time to buy the scarcer items before they go up even more.

I want to wish all of you a happy, healthy, and peaceful new year.

Sincerely,



\*\*\*\*\*

LOT #	DESCRIPTION	ESTIMATE OR CATALOGUE
1	#8 Rayon II small margins (only 2 frame lines) but stamp is sound & has nice bright color & sharp black grid.....	\$45.00
2	#10 Rayon I nice even margins, 1 full dividing line + parts of all others, black grid + small pen cancel, few slight corner creases + a small tear in margin only, o/w/sound. F..	\$52.50
3	#10a bright color, even margins all around w/ 2 full dividing lines, black grid, thinning on back but appears VF.....	\$52.50
4	#37 10rp "Strubeli" VF Mint not quite 4 frame line copy with margins around almost all 4 sides. Original gum is about 2/3 present. Very bright & fresh color. A VF stamp.....	\$40.00
5	#112 25c re-engr. St. Helvetia Mint Block. Vertical perfs badly off center but o/w F-VF O.G. Lightly Hinged (2 are NH)	\$ 8.75
6	160 & 168C VF Mint NH vertical se tenant pair (Zum. #Z 14)..	\$1.00
7	273a-8a VF Mint NH new paper colors.....	\$ 5.05
8	328 F-VF Used Block of 4 w/ centered cancel.....	\$ 9.00
9	363-4,74-5,400-1,10,11,29,38-9,69,77-8,82 Swiss EUROPA issues complete to '67 minus 376-7 & 416-17 VF Mint LH & NH.....	\$ 7.48
10	440-55 Definitives VF Mint NH Face Value \$5.60.....	\$ 9.46
11	B12-14 F-VF Mint Lightly Hinged 1919 Pro Juventute.....	\$ 7.50
12	B18 VF Used Block of 4 with centered cancel of Lugano 1/11/22 A very scarce block & rarely seen in such nice condition. Zum	\$39.00+
13	B262-66 VF Mint Lightly Hinged set 1957 Pro Patria.....	\$ 4.65
14	B341 1964 20c Pro Juv. VF CTO Used Block with postmark oddity canceled 1.XII.44! Unusual.....	??
15	B345-9 VF CTO Used Blocks of 4 1965 Pro Patria.....	\$ 6.50
16	C27-34 F-VF Used Complete Airmail set.....	\$ 9.45
17	C34 VF Used Block of 4 with centered cancel. Scarce block...	\$30.00
18	7021-6 VF Mint Lightly Hinged United Nations set.....	\$10.50
19	901-6 VF Mint Lightly Hinged Universal Postal Union.....	\$ 5.00
COVERS		
20	1868 Official stampless w/ sharp Rte. Bulle st. line (A&E 27/A #5 15 francs) & Fribourg 8/1/68 bkstp. Addressed to Bureau of Finances & has large blue circular official hand-stamp. Interesting contents. Nice little (2½"x5½") folded let.	\$10.00
21	30c envelope (H&G 11) w/ Schuls cds to Italy and 6 backstamps also boxed PD (sharp strike) on front. F-VF H&G cat..	\$ 5.00+

Please bid early! On tie bids, the earliest bidder gets the lot. Airmail bids if time is short.

LOT #	DESCRIPTION	ESTIMATE OR CATALOGUE
22	Intragna TICINO OVAL (VF strike) on 5c envelope (H&G 12) w/ Cavigliano 1/28/74 transit mark & Lugano bkstp. A truly Superb and immaculate cover. You will be pleased!.....	\$12.00
23	H&G 30 1843-93 Jubilee card of Zurich Cantonal stamps.....	\$ 2.50
24	119,53(3),171,86 on a F-VF commercial cover. Very late usage (4/5/24) for a standing Helvetia.....	\$ 2.00
25	160a, 68a,76(2)+ extra horiz. se tenant pair from same booklet pane. (Zum. K18,Z10,Z11 etc.) F-VF very pretty cover....	\$10.00
26	219(5),220(block of 219) on cover w/ cancel of 1st Automobile Post and red 2-line "Swiss Mustermesse-Basel 1937" cachet VF.	\$ 3.00
27	281,3 the scarcest vertical se tenant pair (Zum. Z34e) on a registered cover front. Very hard to find commercially used.	\$ 6.75
28	B145,150 VF Used blocks w/ centered cancels on commercial covers. 1945 Peace & 1946 5c Pro Juventute F-VF.....	\$ 2.75
29	B191-4(2 copies 20c, 1 creased) on VF commercial cover.....	\$8.00
30	B196-200 1950 Pro Juv. Complete sets of pairs on F-VF commercial cover to US. Canceled Herzogenbuchsee 12/21/50.....	\$19.60
31	C44 pair of the good shade on the scarce 1954 Geneva-Sao Paulo First Flight, properly cacheted & bkstpd. This shade was specially printed for this flight & used exclusively for it.	\$30
32	FRANCO label Zumstein #3-the scarce one, on a F-VF Official PTT window envelope tied by a Lucerne cds. Looks commercially used and not the usual CTO. Rarely seen on cover.....Zum.	\$ 6.60++

#### FIRST DAY COVERS

33	365 -8 VF Cacheted Unaddressed FDC-French cancel.....	\$ 6.00
34	370-3 VF Cacheted Unaddressed FDC 1959 Publicity.....	\$3.75
35	410-11,429 1961,3 EUROPA FDC's Cacheted Unaddressed.F-VF....	\$ 2.50
36	434-7 VF Cacheted addressed FDC 1964 Publicity.....	\$ 1.35
37	B201-5 1951 Pro Patria on VF Cacheted addressed (typed in red) registered FDC (French cancel) w/ unusual Egyptian backstamps tying stamps to cover.....	\$25.50
38	B247-51 1955 Pro Juventute VF Cacheted Unaddressed FDC.....	\$13.50
39	B298-302 (extra copy B302) on VF commercial FDC from PTT....	\$ 6.50

#### MORE COVERS

40	Nice lot of 20 covers & cards includes slogans(nice WW I slogan),registered, censored, semis, airs (incl. C42), official, Condition is mixed but a very interesting lot. Most are F... \$ 7.50	\$ 7.50
41	lot of 4 covers & cards from Liechtenstein, includes one used as label on US cover in 1930's. Fine lot.....stamps cat..	\$2.00

#### LITERATURE

42	1893 Baedeker's Travel Guide-the most comprehensive guide to Switzerland. Should be owned by any postal historian. Outside covers somewhat faded but contents are VF. 500pp & 50 maps etc.	\$10
43	1913 Baedeker's as above but covers are VF. Includes 3 pages of itinerary of traveler who originally owned volume. (Just found them now while I was looking through the book.).....	\$9.00

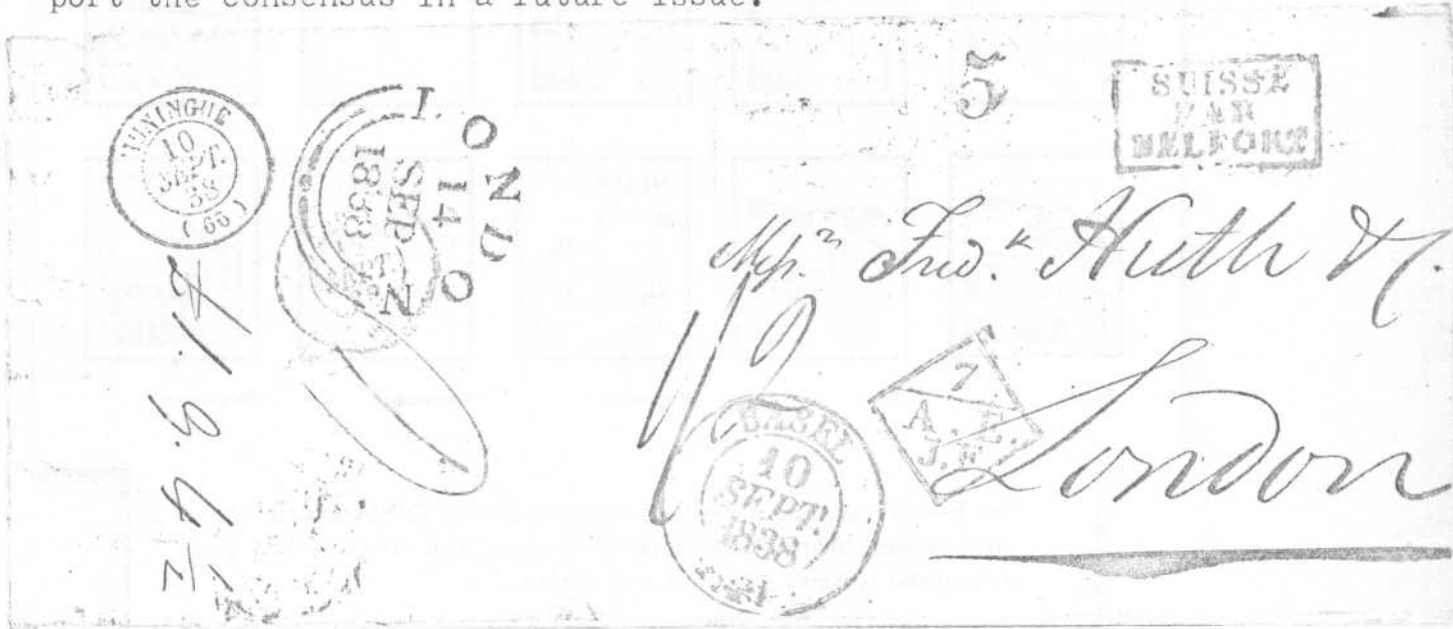
-END-

Please send all bids (including membership #) to:

Henry Gitner  
P.O. Box 382-A  
Baldwin Place, NY 10505

## The Meaning of the Marks

Several months ago Helvetia member Karl H. Sharp of Pennsylvania suggested that the Alphorn reproduce early Swiss covers bearing a variety of postal marks, and ask interested members to identify each mark. Here is the first cover. The large "5" is of particular interest. According to one explanation, it is a French postage due mark signifying 5 decimes (50 centimes). A second theory holds that the 5 is a French mark showing the number of postal zones the letter passed through, thereby indicating the route and thus the postage due. A third hypothesis maintains that the 5 is a Swiss mark standing for the particular daily collection when the letter was picked up for dispatch by the post office. All members are invited to send their opinions on this and all the other postal marks to the editor, who will report the consensus in a future issue.



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