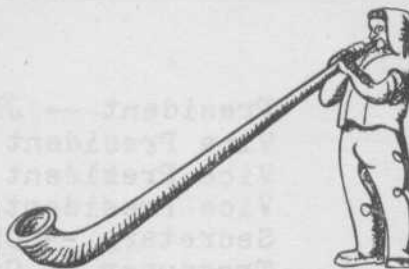


# HELVETIA ALPHORN



Vol. 26, No. 10

December, 1974

Published by the Helvetia Philatelic Society of America  
for Collectors of Switzerland

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## Helvetia Calendar

Dec. 14 -- Annual holiday dinner

Dec. 17 -- Monthly meeting, Fair Lawn Arts Center, 12-56 River Road, Fair Lawn, N.J., 8 p.m. Program: Swiss 20th century plate flaws and varieties up to 1960 by William B. Martin.

Jan. 5 -- Bid deadline for Helvetia Mail Auction No. 24

## A Farewell from the Editor

With the merger of the Helvetia Philatelic Society of America (Helvetia) into the new and larger American Helvetia Philatelic Society (AHPS) on Jan. 1, the Helvetia Alphorn will pass into Swiss philatelic history. This journal has appeared faithfully 10 times a year since September, 1969. During this more than five-year period, we have endeavored to bring you primarily original articles of lasting worth. Our modest success in this area added to the joys that far outweighed the frustrations which are part of any editorship.

Many of the joys have been obvious: the substantial articles by some of our members, the monthly auctions full of interesting material, and the special offers from supportive advertisers. But some of the joys have not been so obvious: among them the speedy reproduction of Alphorn copies by Steve Pomex earlier in the 1970's, the periodic translations by Werner Vogel to help fill the pages of the Alphorn in lean months, and the computerized mailing labels provided by Aaron Rosenberg. To both the public and private people who helped keep the Alphorn blowing, thanks.

Although we won't miss the relentless monthly production deadlines, we will miss the editorial side, and for this reason plan to assist Bob Clarke, editor of the new AHPS Tell. He will now need your writing and production support as much as we did. Let's make Tell the success we know it can be.

## First Officers Elected for AHPS in 1975

Helvetia and Swiss American Stamp Society (SASS) members have overwhelmingly elected the entire slate nominated for office in AHPS for 1975. Officially assuming their positions on Jan. 1 will be:

President -- Jan Donker of Burlington, Mass.  
Vice President -- Douglas Casper of Hollywood, Cal.  
Vice President -- Karl H. Sharp of Verona, Pa.  
Vice President -- Harlan F. Stone of Summit, N.J.  
Secretary -- Charles J. LaBlonde of Colorado Springs  
Treasurer -- George H. Wettach of Fair Lawn, N.J.

The following members have agreed to serve in appointed positions next year and are expected to be named by the president:

Editor, "Tell" -- Robert T. Clarke of Dallas  
Director, Sales Circuit -- Felix Ganz of Chicago  
Director, Mail Auctions -- Henry Gitner of Yorktown Heights, N.Y.  
Librarian -- Robert A. Scheuermann of Albertson, N.Y.  
Chairman, Awards -- Werner Vogel of Teaneck, N.J.

#### New Member

762 Robert A. Heyniger Jr., 8 Valley Pl., Upper Montclair, N.J. 07043

#### New Address

412 P. Walter Reimann, 19 Peachtree Lane, Mt. Sinai, N.Y. 11766

#### News Briefs

Ernest Kehr has available for sale one copy of the new Zumstein specialized catalog of Switzerland (\$16), several copies of INTERNABA Bulletin No. 1 with articles about Basel, the Universal Postal Union, its original headquarters building and the Swiss UPU stamps (\$1), and several copies of INTERNABA Bulletin No. 3 with full color photos of the cover with six Basel Doves and other items, plus actual Italian and South African stamps mounted in the booklet (\$2). Orders should be mailed to him at the Stamp News Bureau, P.O. Box 1, Richmond Hills, N.Y. 11419.

Ernest Madarasz of Ohio won a first prize for his Pro Patria display at the American-Hungarian Stamp Club exhibition in Cleveland on Nov. 3.

Tim Wait of Illinois has been elected vice president of the Junior Writers Unit of the American Philatelic Society.

#### FOUR "HARD AND FAST" RULES FOR INVESTING IN SWISS STAMPS

By Edwin L. Chalfant  
(Helvetia # 559)

Continued from November Issue

A certificate from a stamp's country of origin is generally more acceptable. Swiss experts have to pass an extremely difficult examination before they are permitted to issue certificates. Most dealers specializing in Swiss stamps will be able to furnish you with the names of several Swiss experts. The cost is nominal, and will facilitate the sale of items if and when it becomes necessary.

Rule 4 -- There must be a constant market for whatever you buy.

To secure this type of information you need only check the lists of prices realized from various auction firms. Those items that consistently bring the highest prices in relation to valuation given in the original auction listing will tell you where the demand is strongest. This gives you a very good idea of which issues are difficult to get. However, a considerable amount of material never reaches any auction. Since demand is so high, waiting lists abound among dealers in Swiss stamps, and prices are a secondary consideration, rarity making a secure and constant market.

Any dealer in Swiss stamps can list quite a few items that are always in demand. (Just a few examples are Scott Catalog Nos. 3L1, 1-4, 13, 14, 18, 77-81, 89-93, 103, 181-5 unused, J10-14, J15-20, all of which are on want lists continually.) Add to this many specialized items, such as early covers, proofs and essays, semi-official airmails, some military stamps, hotel stamps, rocket and zeppelin covers, rare airmail flight covers, and on and on. Since an investor in Swiss stamps buys selectively, and does not have an album to fill, there does not have to be a certain plan to follow. You can enjoy and proceed with almost anything that appeals to you, and expand on any field you like.

Your stamp dealer can help and advise you in all phases, but buying for investment means a minimum of four to five years, preferably longer, to realize the best return. You are not buying for speculation, but for investment, and the methods are entirely different. Subscription to several philatelic publications is recommended, and you also should make contact with a great many auction firms. All this can be done through any competent dealer. Membership in one of the philatelic societies is also a good idea, and a good reference.

Speculation buying might be covered in a subsequent article, and in a general world sense rather than from one country, as this type of investment buying requires a very different set of basics. Also, the sale of speculative material is executed in a far different fashion from strict investment material. A market always exists for top quality Swiss material, and you can do the selling yourself once you are aware of the methods, and thus save commissions. But very large holdings take longer, unless you work through a dealer in Swiss stamps, or one of the auction firms of high caliber.

To summarize, make contact with a dealer with knowledge of the Swiss field, of which there are several in the U.S. and many in Switzerland, of course. I might add that doing business in Switzerland is not at all unusual in these days of fast airmail service. International buying and selling of stamps is a multi-million dollar business, and I recommend using every method at your disposal. You might as well have fun while you are investing, and this hobby can provide many hours of relaxing enjoyment in letter-writing alone.

After you acquire a basic knowledge of buying the stamps of Switzerland, and the assistance of a reputable dealer, then and only then should you begin to buy. Never begin without a good contact and a knowledge of stamp collecting in general. It is not unheard of to double your money in only two to three years, and this can quite easily be done. It is also easy to make serious errors, so do your homework before, not after the money has been spent. Buy scarce material only, in top quality, being certain of authen-

ticity (I can't stress this point too much), and know the market and the demand for what you buy.

In this new era of buying for investment as a hedge against inflation, the stamps of the U.S., Canada and British North America are already being sought by many, many investors, speculators and collectors, but the stamps of Switzerland are just now being looked into, and the real price jump has not yet occurred. The next two to three years will demonstrate this, and after that constant appreciation will resume. Purchases have to be selective however, not just buying anything because it is from Switzerland. There may be times when you have to buy entire collections just to get the choice items you need, so sell off the balance of the collection immediately after you have removed what you want, and put the proceeds back into selective buying. If you want to build a collection of Swiss stamps, that is fine, but that is hobby buying. And like any hobby, your primary interest is in the many hours of enjoyment, not necessarily expecting to realize a profit, although in the case of Switzerland, after five to ten years, you will probably realize a profit. But selective buying is the accumulation of only preferred material for a profit, high profit, and this has to be done according to the four basic rules. There are no exceptions. To do otherwise is speculating, which has its inherent risks. I'm not implying that selective buying is riskless, but the risk is as small as it possibly can be, and that is the objective of investing in anything.

The End

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**RIVIERA STAMPS**

(SPA)

P. O. Box 6250, Santa Barbara, Calif. 93111

Hello!

As you all know, next month begins the new American Helvetia Philatelic Society, of which we can all be proud.

I think now is a good time to thank the many people who helped push the idea along, in particular Bob Ross, who provided the original spark, and the journal editors and officers of the two societies who supported the idea and followed it through to the present stage.

If you have any comments or suggestions for the new journal, any of the departments (especially the auction) or just the society in general, then send them along to the proper department head (or to me and I'll forward them) as now is the best time for innovation and new ideas. It will give the officers and directors a great sense of satisfaction to see that the membership is actively participating in the society in terms of giving them feedback, positive suggestions and constructive criticism.

Sincerely,

LOT #	DESCRIPTION	VALUE
1	47(Z. 34) 40c green Sitting Helvetia VF Used.....	\$18.50
2	60-8(Z.44-52) Complete set in F-VF Mint NH Blocks (10c damaged)	\$48.00
3	67(Z.51) 50c on granite paper, USED, VF appearing, w/ Moser certificate stating "stamp and cancellation are genuine, not repaired. Thinned and 1 tooth short" Rare stamp.....	\$100.-
4	68(Z. 52) 1 fr gold, USED, w/ face thin and small discoloration in part of <u>top margin only</u> -o/w Fine and Rare.....	\$175.-
5	83a(Z. 67D) 25c perf 11½x11 VF Mint O.G. L.H. & well centered.	\$ 4.00
6	162a,4a(Z.K4,12) F-VF Mint Hinged Tete Beche pairs.....	\$ 8.75
7	182(Z.142) 3fr red F-VF Mint O.G. NH copy, cent. to U.R., fresh	\$65.00
8	184(Z.131) 10 fr purple, VF well centered Mint O.G. L.H. w/ bottom sheet margin, but somewhat dull gum.....	\$110.-
9	247-55 (Z.219-27) 1st Nat. Expo set F-VF Mint L.H. & NH.....	\$11.00
10	281-3(Z? 254-6) VF Mint L.H. "Reclaim Materials" set.....	\$ 7.00
11	302(Z.271) 2 franc PAX VF Used w/ dated cancel.(the Pax set currently sells for approximately full catalogue!)	\$55.00
12	315(Z.284) 30c VF Used block of 4 w/ central cancel.....	\$ 4.40
15	328(Z.297) 3 c. gray definitive VF Mint NH - key to set.....	\$ 3.00
16	340-3(Z.309-12) Telecommunications set VF Mint L.H.....	\$ 5.50
17	340-3 Set in VF Used blocks w/ central "Olten" cancels.....	\$21.50
18	344(Z.313) 40c Kloten Airport VF Used copy.....	\$6.25
19	370-3(Z.343-6)1959 Publicity set VF Mint L.H.....	\$ 2.50
20	382a(2),3a&5a(3)90a (Z. Booklet #51) VF Mint NH booklet of 9 panes	\$16.
21	399 (Z.372) 2 fr blue F-VF Mint L.H.-key to set.....	\$ 9.25
22	422-7(Z.395-400) VF Used Publicity set.....	\$ 2.50
23	428a(Z.WIII 40) Red Cross single from Souvenir sheet VF Mint NH	\$ 1.10
24	B4-6 1916 Juventute set F-VF Mint L.H.-well centered.....	\$92.50
25	B9 1917 Juventute 10c F-VF Used.....	\$13.00
26	B15-17 1920 Juventute set F-VF Mint L.H.....	\$14.75
27	B41-4 1927 Juventute set F-VF Used.....	\$ 4.00
28	B57-60 1937 Juventute set F-VF Mint L.H.....	\$ 7.00
29	B65-8 1933 Juventute set F-VF Used.....	\$ 4.40
30	B73-6 1935 Juventute set VF Mint Hinged.....	\$ 3.60
31	(B80) (Z.WIII 5-7) VF Mint NH strip of 3 from Souvenir sheet	\$35.00
32	B89 (Z.WI 83I&84I) 1937 S.S. Fine Mint L.H./.....	\$ 6.25
33	B96-9(Z.WI 89-92) 1939 Juventute set F-VF Mint L.H.....	\$ 3.15
34	B112-15(Z.WI 97-100) 1942 Juventute set F-VF Used.....	\$ 3.70

LOT #	DESCRIPTION	VALUE
35	B158-61(Z.WI 11700) 1946 Juventute set VF Mint L.H.....	\$ 3.15
36	B187-90(Z.WI 129-32) F-VF Used set.....	\$ 3.70
37	B207-11(Z.WI 138-42) 1951 Juventute set VFMint L.H.....	\$ 8.15
38	B212-16(Z.WII 56-60) 1952 Patria set VF Mint L.H.....	\$ 6.85
39	B221(Z.WI 147/A.9) 40c 1952 F-VF Used w/ Tab in German.....	\$14.00
40	B227-31(Z.WI 148-52) 1953 Juventute set F-VF Used.....	\$ 8.75
41	B244(Z.WII 73/pf.1) 20c 1955 Patria VF Mint NH w/ top bar of 2nd "5" sort.....	\$ .85
42	B257-61(Z.WI 163-7/A.9) VF Mint L.H. w/ Tabs in latin.....	\$30.00
43	B267-71(Z.WI 168-72) 1957 Juventute set VF Mint L.H.....	\$ 5.90
44	B318-22(Z.WI 193-7) 1962 Juventute set VF Mint L.H.....	\$ 3.30
45	C9 50c airmail on plain paper F-VF Mint Hinged.....	\$10.00
46	C18 F-VF Used 90c Disarmament.....	\$16.50
47	C46 Pro Aero 1963 VF Mint NH.....	\$ 3.70
48	Ø31-6 (Z.DII/58-63) 80c-2fr Officials F-VF Used.....	\$10.50
49	9Ø1-6 UPU set VF Mint L.H.....	\$ 5.35

COVERS

50	1795(Nov.3) Folded letter from "Corcelles" to "Bordeaux" w/ "Basle" transit marking-(s.l.)-VF Cover.....	Est. \$12.00
50A	1807(March 1) folded letter from .Brig" to "Lausanne" w/ "Sion" straight line transit marking.This marking has a manuscript "3" in front of it and a "4" after it, indicating dates of arrival and departure from Sion. VF strike. Winkler rarity 10. VF.....	Est. \$60.00
*****		
51	1853(Nov. 15) F-VF folded letter from "Vevey" to "Bossinières" franked w/ 1 copy each of a Rayon I & II!#'s 8 & 10-Z. 16II & 18II. 10rp has nice margins (2 dividing lines show) but touches frame line at bottom right. 5rp margins at bottom and right cut into design, nice margins on other sides. Both stamps nicely canceled by black grid. All postal markings on front of cover. A very rare and fresh cover.....	\$215.-
*****		
52	1861(Sept. 11) Stampless f.l. from "Muri"(VF strike) w/ 2 diff. "Bern" backstamps. F-VF.....	Est.. \$ 8.00
53	1866(March 27) S.f.l. w/ "Bach" s.l.(VF strike) & "Thun" c.d.s. Stamp removed at lower right, but cover still looks F-VF.....	Est. \$ 5.00
54	1890 10c post card (H.&G.23) on back is nice privately printed view of "Pilatus-Kulm" Forerunner of picture post card. Creases but still Fine and interesting.....	Est \$ 2.00
55	1896 #74(Z.62B) 12c blue on VF Nachnahme Card from "Oerlikon" to Zurich. VF.....	Est \$ 3.00
56	1907(Oct 5) 106(Z.93A) 25c on cover (dog-eared around some edges) w/ beautiful all-over picture & advertising of "Grand Hotel-Inter laken" on reverse of cover Best Swiss advertising cover I have seen.....Fine.....	Est... \$ 7.50
57	1916 Pro Juventute Card showing drawing of "Schloss Woth" franked w/ 5c Tell Boy.....	Tanner CV.... \$ 6.50
58	1944(March 22) 272(Z.245) 70c on verge paper on Fine <del>cancel</del> cover.....	Est \$6.00
59	2 WWII Military stamps on 2 cards-1st is 1939 Terr. Mitr. K.P. Est/ IV/181 showing machine gunner, other is 1940 Ter. Regt.Bozberg.VF	\$2.50
60	1944(Aug 26)230B(Z.257) pair on cover which also has Military Internment "Portofrei" cancel & red boxed "Zuzustellen" cancel, VF on front, some stains on back of cover.....	Est..... \$ 3.00
61	1949 322-4(Z.29406) 2 complete UPU sets on cover-VF.....	\$11.00
62	1949 B183-6(Z.WII 42-5) Patria set, 2 each of low values, 3 of 40c value, all placed very aesthetically on a cover tied by sharp "Lauenen bei Gstaad" cancels. Very pretty cover-VF.....	\$17.50

LOT #	DESCRIPTION	VALUE
63	1950 B191(Z.WII 46) 5c 1950 Patria Block of 4 w/ central cds-VF	\$ 2.20
64	1953-344(Z.313) etc. on F-VF commercial cover from Bern-VF....	\$ 6.50
65	1955(Dec. 18) B247-50(Z.WI 158-61 on unusual "butterfly" pictorial Est. envelope, tied w/ auto post cancels & has "Pro Juventute Auto canc.	\$4
66	1956 358(Z.327) on official "Tag der Briefmarke" cover w/ special cancel. VF.....	\$5.50
67	1957(Aug. 23) 362(Z.331/pf.2) 40c 2000th year of Basel (w/ variety: whitish spot in house below "4") tied by Auto Post cancel and has Auto Post Commem. cancel honoring same event as stamp..Est	\$ 2.50
68	1957(Dec. 2) B271(Z.WI 172) tied to cover by "Geneve 10-Nations Unies" cds F-VF.....	Est \$ 2.50
69	CAMPIONE #2A 10c strip of 3 (1 stamp thy fault) on VF cover.Est	\$ 9.00

#### FIRST DAY COVERS

70	308-11( Z.277-80) w/ Zurich-Baden commem. F.D. cancel.No cachet	\$ 5.50
71	355-8(Z.324-7) 1956 Publicity on VF Cach.Add. w/ frenc h cancels	\$13.-
72	369(Z.338) 1958 Atomic Conference VF Cach. Unaddressed FDC....	\$ 3.00
73	B196-2--(Z.WI 133-7) on Part of FDC, w/ german cancels F-VF.Est	\$12.00
74	B262-6(Z.WII 81-5) 1957 Patria on VF Cach.Addressed FD6.....	\$ 9.25
75	B282-6(Z.WII 91-4) 1959 Patria on VF Cach Unaddressed FDC....	\$ 9.25
76	Aerogramme #1 - Unaddressed w/ March 19, 1962 F.D. cancel.....	\$ 5.50

#### FIRST FLIGHTS

77	1924(May 4) Z. V/A #4 Laufen-Zurich flight franked w/ C5-nice cachet. VF.....	\$11.75
78	1926(May 17) Z. III/B #2III La Chaux de Fonds-Basel flight franked w/ C5 F-VF.....	\$10.75
79	1933(May 30) Z. V/A #43 Touristry Congress flight from Basel-Zurich franked w/ 75c C11. VF.....	\$24.00
80	1939(Aug 30) Z. V/A #58 Geneva Convention flight from Geneva-Zurich fraked w/ 268-9,B95,C22.....	\$ 3.25

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81	11-16(Z.11-16) F-VF Mint L.H. ovpt. set.....	\$11.00
82	136-50(Z.126-39) VF Mint L.H. & NH set(key values NH).....	\$22.00
83	237(Z.22&) VF Used Universal Postal Union Commem.....	\$ 4.00
84	238(Z.W 23) VF Mint L.H. 1949 Souvenir Sheet.....	\$44.00
85	C9 13 (Z.9-13) 1935 Airmails F-VF Mint L.H.....	\$60.00

#### END OF SALE

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Standing Helvetias. Used	Air Mails. Mint & Used	International Labour Bureau
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THE AMATEUR COLLECTOR LTD.  
SWITZERLAND  
CATALOGUE  
1975



(Jointly edited by L. N. & M. Williams,  
R. F. Bulstrode, O.B.E. and H. L. Katcher)

**PUBLICATION DATE DECEMBER 1974**

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28.3.1974

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XVIIe Congrès de l'Union postale  
universelle  
XVIIo Congresso dell'Unione  
postale universale  
Lausanne 1974



Bern

Lausanne



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1835 - 1892



Heinrich von Stephan  
Deutschland  
1831 - 1897



Montgomery Blair, USA  
1813 - 1883

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