

“HELVETIA”
SOCIETY
FOR
COLLECTORS IN SWITZERLAND

BULLETIN

"HELVETIA SOCIETY FOR COLLECTORS OF SWITZERLAND

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317 So. 15th Street
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

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No. 5

APOLOGY to Cardinal De Groot and "BIPEX".

Shortly after the "1939 BIPEX", arrangements were made in New York, that exhibition material for non-competitive or complimentary HELVETIA club frames should be furnished by the relative local members where a show is held; i.e. at exhibitions in Phila. and Atlantic City, by members of this area, and in the New York area, by members of Northern Jersey, New York City and surroundings. - This arrangement has been in effect for the past two years.

Harry Salisbury who previously attended to these New York and surroundings exhibition matters, can no longer devote his time for these arrangements due to his position.

Unfortunately your editor will not have as much time to devote to HELVETIA as heretofore, and cannot do so much for the society without more assistance from the membership at large, due to his lately, newly assumed responsible position which keeps him busy all hours of the day until the early wee hours of the mornings.

My sincere apology to Mort De Groot for my neglect in getting in touch with a New York member to secure material for a "BIPEX" Helvetia frame. All I can say is, I am sorry, and had above mentioned circumstances on my part not existed, this unfortunate oversight would not have occurred. I hope my dear Cardinal will forgive me and will express my regret to "BIPEX", for it was not intentional.

Congratulations, Mort, for the successful show, and my humble praise cannot exceed that already expressed by the philatelic publications.

Since I was unable to attend "BIPEX", I would have greatly appreciated, if some New Yorker would have sent me their comment and the proceedings of the HELVETIA meeting, so they could have been printed in the BULLETIN. I believe the minutes of that meeting belong to the society and should have been forwarded to our Secretary to be included among his records.

Very sincerely yours,

G. A. von Gross
Editor.

Philadelphia, Pa., April 28, 1941

Minutes of the Meeting
of the
"Helvetia Society"

The regular monthly meeting of the Helvetia Society was held on the above date at 317 South 15th. Street, Phila., Pa. with the president Mr. Jacques Kilcher presiding. The meeting was called to order at 9:15 P.M. with eight members answering the roll call after which the minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer's Report

<u>Receipts:</u>		<u>Expenditures:</u>	
Balance on hand 3/29/41	\$ 77.20	Order #49 (ATEX frame)	\$ 1.00
Collection of dues	38.00	Order #50 N.F.S.C.	1.00
		Order #51 Bulletin etc.	6.30
Total	\$115.20	Total	\$ 8.30
	8.30		
Balance on hand	#106.90		
Balance on hand April 28, 1941	\$ 106.90		

Reports of Committees

Research: Chairman von Gross reported that he had about nine articles completed in a rough state and ready to be put into the finished form, and hopes to have the entire study completed and ready for publication some time during the coming winter season.

Special Committee appointed to revise Article VII of the Constitution and Article III of the BY-LAWS covering nomination and election of Officers and the Board of Governors.

This committee submitted the following ammendment to the Constitution and BY-LAWS for consideration.

Change Article VII, Sec. 1 of the Constitution under the caption Elections to read as follows:

Article VII, Elections

Sec.1 - All Officers and members of the Board of Governors shall be elected in accordance with Article III, of the BY-LAWS.

* * * *

Change Article III, Nominations

Article III, Nominations

Sec.1 - The President shall appoint at the September meeting a nominating committee of three members in good standing.

Minutes Continued

Sec.2. - The nominating committee shall prepare and present at the October meeting the names of their selections for Officers and one member of the Board of Governors for the ensuing year.

Sec.3 - The Secretary shall spread the report of the nominating committee upon the minutes and forward a copy of the report to the Editor of the Bulletin, who shall publish the names of the nominees and the Office to which they are nominated in the next issue of the Bulletin. The Editor of the Bulletin shall include in the November issue of the Bulletin a ballot, showing the various Officers to be elected and the names of the nominees for each Office, which can be detached and used by the members for the purpose of voting. Additional space shall also be provided on the ballot to permit members to vote for any candidate of their choice whose name is not included in the list of nominees named by the nominating committee.

Sec.4 - All ballots must be returned to the Secretary not later than December 21, in order that a report of the result of the election may be prepared for the annual meeting in December.

Moved by Mr. Domanski, seconded by Dr. Lewandowski and carried that the report of the committee be accepted and published in the next issue of the bulletin in accordance with Article IV. of the BY-LAWS covering ammendments.

For the good of the Society

Mr. von Gross advised that he has been trying to get some word concerning the Helvetia hats which have been ordered from Switzerland but has been unable to learn anything as yet when we may expect delivery. Those members who have ordered these hats will therefore have to be patient a little while longer as we are trying to get some definite information as to when these hats will be delivered.

Mr. von Gross also reported that various members of the Helvetia Society are preparing a first of August series of Articles for publication in the second of August issue of "STAMPS" magazine.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned in regular form.

The following bills were ordered paid:

Order #49	Two club frames at AT&T	\$	2.00
Order #50	N.F.S.C. dues		2.00
Order #51	Bulletin, etc.		6.50
Order #52	Postage for Secretary		5.00

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T. F. Harrison
Secretary.

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 The new Airmailstamps of Switzerland
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 May 1, 1941 issue
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 Dr. Max Kronstein
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After giving in its Pro Juventute stamps an excellent idea of Swiss national types and dresses, the Swiss Postal Authorities on May 1, 1941 issued a series of 8 splendid scene airmail stamps. They are designed and engraved by Mr. Albert Yersin from Pully (Vaud). The subjects have been selected from eight different parts of the country. The collector of Swiss stamps who knows and loves that country will be glad to in these typical pictorials memories of Switzerland's finest valleys.

The 30 cts. stamp is printed in a clear blue color. An airplane is in flight over the Jungfrau group, one of Switzerland's most brilliant glacier peaks. It might have been one of the planes of the "1st. International Glidercamp" on the Jungfraujoeh (Sept. 1935) that was crossing high over the peaks. For that occasion a similar design was used as official special cachet on the glidermail that was flown from the heights to the valleys.

The gray colored 40 cts. stamp gives an idea of the old towns, castles and valleys of the Valais with its surrounding high mountains. The red 50 cts. Sion pioneer airstamp of May 18, 1913, which was issued to the occasion of the "1st. Journée Valaisanne d'Aviation" when the first air courier in the history of the Valais made its initial flight, showed a design of similar country characteristic as does the new 1941 airmail stamp.

The olive 50 centimes stamp shows a scene on the shore of the Lake of Geneva, also known as Lac Lemman. It is a wide blue lake situated between the Swiss and the French alps blessed with green shores and its many cities, towns and villages have been a center of culture for many hundred years. Spending an evening on a hill overlooking the lake you see thousands and thousands of lights all around the wide area. One of the old cities on the lake with the surrounding hills is pictured on this stamp. Aviation and airmail experiments made early history in that region, considering the airmail flights between Lausanne and Morges (June 15, 1913) and between Vevey and Villeneuve (June 22, 1913); even an international airmail service had been planed across the lake before the outbreak of the first world war.

The 60 centimes value is printed in yellow brown and pictures the "Alpstein" with its pastures and juts rising into the skies from the old forests in the valley, the great fir-trees may be seen in the foreground of the picture. The plane crossing the landscape is just a daily occurrence throughout the year.

The 70 cts (in violet) portrays the characteristics of the Ticino, the Italian speaking part of Switzerland. A passenger flying over this route would behold the sight as pictured on this stamp, the broad southern valleys and wide "Lagos" of that canton, just as Mr. A Maffei did when he carried the first Ticinian airmail from Lugano to Mendrisio on June 8, 1913, better known to collectors as the "Lugano - Airmail" with the green, red and grey colored 25 centimes airstamp.

The "Vierwaldstaettersee", the home of the earliest Swiss Confederates, 650 years ago, is seen on the blue-green 1 franc stamp. It is characteristic of that lake which is situated on the northern slopes of the Central Alps that several of its peaks are rising precipitously directly out of the waters as high individual cliffs. In this group is the "Buergenstock" which is pictured on this stamp. In the pioneer period, as early as 1910, during the Aviation Week held at Lucerne, the Swiss dirigible "Ville de Lucerne", and the German airship "Parceval" and the "Zeppelin", which at time participated at this meet, flew over this region. For May 1913 an airplane flight had been announced at Altdorf and special cards had been issued, when the pilot Mr. Kunkler met with an accident and it became necessary to cancel the flight from Altdorf.

One of Switzerland's finest view is seen on the redbrown 2 franc stamp, the Engadina in the eastern part of the country, in the canton of Grison. The artist had in mind to picture this view as seen from a place somewhere on the "Muottas Murail" which can easily be reached by a steel cable railway. Those who have ever witnessed the sunset, or, the sunrise from that point on earth, will never forget this beautiful sight. The valley below is the famous Engadina with its dark blue lakes between forests, cliffs and glaciers and its world renown resorts "St. Moritz", "Sils Maria" and "Maloja". In the design the horizon in the valley comes suddenly to an end and falls sharply down to the Ticino with its ever green vegetation. The plane over the Engadina reminds one of Captain Jucker's pioneer flights over St. Moritz in the early days of February 1912, or the "Ad Astra Aereo" flights between Zuerich and St. Moritz in 1925.

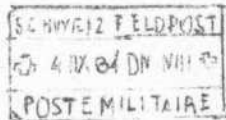
The 5 francs stamp finally is a blue stamp with one of the most interesting views in Northern Switzerland. It is a spur of cliffs that rises vertically out of the dark waters of the Wallensee. This group is called the "Churfiristen" and pictured as seen from an airplane. The mountains are free from the fogs of the valley when seen from high in the air in the bright sunshine and they appear like gigantic castles looking over the countryside.

The stamps are printed on chamois paper with blue and red fibers interwoven and in sheets of 50 stamps to the sheet. Each stamp measures 29 X 24 mm. and the design measures 26 x 21 mm. In order to give more prominence to the pictorial designs, only one line of text was used on the stamp to express the value and the designation of the country, "Helvetia". Instead of the wording "Airmail", which is usually expressed in one or more of the four official Swiss languages, merely an airplane is included in each of the eight designs

In both classes distinctive features are cancels with date marks in centerfield, and similars without the date marks. Then there are the so-called bar cancellations which serve occasionally as a substitute cancels, or in addition to the just mentioned stampers (very often in the case of registry labels). All these cancellations ordinarily were used to obliterate the military mail enjoying free franking privilege, but sometimes were also employed on franked mail such as "Special Delivery" - "Registered" - and - "Business Letters."

Metal stamps with date in Centerfield:

The hastily drawn illustrations before you should suffice for an attempt at classifying this material, but no doubt leaves many gaps in regard to the period in which these stampers were used.



The first illustration shows a rectangular stamper known to be used by the 8th Division in 1884. Presumably the same stamper or similar ones were employed also by other divisions or units. Further details are not known at the present.

At the end of the 80's the first double circle cancellations 32 mm in diameter made its appearance. Of these are known:

- 1st. In circular inscription "Armeestab - Feldpostbureau" and
- 2nd: In circular inscription "Feldpostbureau III Division", and similar ones of the "IV" and "V Division".

I take it for granted that to that time a fieldpostoffice was allotted to the "Army Staff" and each division. Whether other units were accorded the same privilege is hard to say, in as much as no information has been forthcoming, but this is not likely the case. The use of these large circular cancellations may be attributed to the period from 1889 to 1914.

During the same period, about 1893 at the latest, a second, much smaller and simplified stamper came to light, namely a single circle cancellation 25mm in diameter. The circular inscription at top reads "Feldpost", in center is the date bar, and below the designation of the respective army outfit, for instance as "II Armeekorps".



Cancellations of this type are known from the "II" and "III Armeekorps" and from the "III", "V." and "VI. Division" from 1893 to 1905. - Undoubtedly these postmarks were applied at that time by all

army corps and divisions. Just how long these cancellations were in vogue is hard to tell. It is very likely that when the reorganization of the army troops went into effect in 1907, they were replaced with other ones, or possibly later on in November 1912 with the reorganization of the fieldpost. In any case, in 1914 or somewhat earlier, the same single circle cancellation contained ordinary numerals for distinguishing the "division", instead of the former roman numerals, and the cancellation "Armeekorps" was discontinued. These division fieldpostoffice stampers are to-day still in use. For the "1st." and the "2nd. Division" they are issued in the French language, and for the "3" to "6th. Division" in German.



The German language cancellations are of 2 types:

- a. The numeral in front of the word "Division,"
- b. The numeral above the word "Division".

In 1913/14, besides the single circle "Division" cancellations, the double circle postmarks reappeared, but this time they were in form and size similar to the ones applied by the Federal Civilian Postoffice. Judging from the inscriptions on the cancellations, the number of fieldpostoffice stations were greatly increased due to their assignments to the various military units. The following new additions are to be noted:

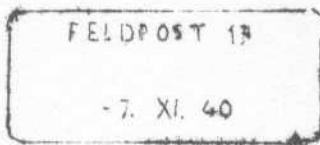


1. Division: "5" and "6";
2. Auxiliary postoffice: (Huelfs-Feldpost);
3. Temporary Postoffice; ("Endetappen-Feldpost 3, 4 and 5");

4. Fortress Postoffices, "Gotthard Feldpost," Poste de campagne St. Maurice";
5. Special cancellation: Feldpost Soldatenstubenfest, 18. III, 16. This cancellation was used only during this special festivity and was issued in black and blue.
6. Regulation double-circle cancellations of the different fieldpost stations: Numbers from 7 on up. These are being used to-day and to some extent represent the normal types.



Finally there is a rectangular, temporary metal stamper with a date line similar in design to these used temporarily by the Federal Civilian Postoffices. They have two different inscriptions:



- a. "Militaer Sache", (used in 1914 at the muster depot (6)
- b. "Feldpost 13", used at that time in retrospective places.

Of all these cancellations apparently we find only the following in service yet:

1. The single-circle "Division" stamper with the customary arabic numbers "1" - "6";
2. The regulation double-circle stamper of the "5th" and "6th Division" after the pattern of the Civilian Postoffice cancellation.
3. The regulation double-circle stamper with the wording "fieldpost" in the German and Italian designation, and the numerals from 7 on up to past 40;
4. The temporary rectangular stamper "Feldpost 13".

All of these cancellations, by necessity may be found on current stamps. Beside the metal stampers often rubber stampers were used (which shall be discussed in the next issue). The latter were mostly employed at places where there were not enough metal stampers

on hand, and occasionally they were applied to mail for specific purposes. They may be treated as sub-types and recorded separately.

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"Helvetia" meetings will be dispensed during the summer, but the Bulletin will visit your home just the same. It might be necessary to combine during the summer two issues into one, as I will have very little time to devote to Helvetia matters, due to my exhibition chairmanship for the coming S. P. A. Convention here in Philly. Those wishing to contribute an article on Swiss philately for the 2nd of August number of "STAMPS" which is devoted to the stamps of Switzerland, must submit their articles not later than July 10th, 1941, the dead line for acceptance. Help your editor along to make this issue a knock-Out, for the philatelists in Switzerland are eagerly awaiting the August 2nd number of "STAMPS".

"HELVETIA" DUES.

May I again remind you that the Secretary of Helvetia, Mr. Thomas F. Harrison, 1244 Noth 56th. Street, Philadelphia, begs the membership to give him a break and arrange to pay your Helvetia dues when you receive his notice.

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E N D .

Addenda to:

"The new Airmail stamps of Switzerland, May, 1941 issue".

Just as this BULLETIN went to press, I received from Dr. Max Kronstein the following additional information to be included with his article:

"This 1 franc airstamp has been used for a special 75 miles "Pro Aero" courier from Payerne in the canton of Neuchatel to Buochs in the canton of Unterwalden and for that occasion was overprinted "Pro Aero - 28. V. 1941", in red. A similar Pro Aero airstamp and a special airmail courier were also issued at the end of May 1938. So far there is no information available as to the amount of stamps overprinted or of covers flown by that new Pro Aero airmail.

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