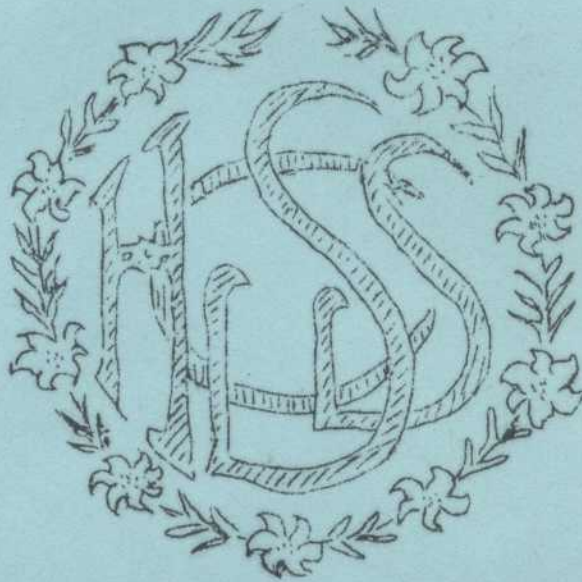




# BULLETIN

VOL. V.



NO. 10/11

“Helvetia”

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SOCIETY FOR COLLECTORS OF SWITZERLAND

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BULLETIN

"HELVETIA" SOCIETY FOR COLLECTORS OF SWITZERLAND

EDITOR: Gustave A. von Gross  
317 So. 15th. Street  
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

VOLUME V

Oct./Nov., 1942

Nos. 10/11.

EDITORIAL.

It has been my intention to issue the October Bulletin on time. The articles were prepared and ready for print, but unfortunately I have trouble getting supplied with stencils from my wholesale stationary merchant. - It seems to me that gradually we have to be satisfied with less and less of much needed commodities that is being used for Uncle Sam's Office Forces, and which in time might spell a greatly curtailed sale of mimeograph stencils to private individuals and organizations. Under these circumstances, I beg our membership to bear with me and in a patriotic manner accept these shortcomings caused by conditions beyond my control.

\* \* \*

Members in the Armed Forces:

An echo from Canton, Ohio, reports that John Randolph was not seen in that city. - I should have known better - since the S.P.A. Convention was held at Detroit, Mich., and his disappearance dates back to this event. - In the mean time the errant wanderer paid a visit to the "Helvetia" headquarter only to vanish again. A veteran of World War No.1, John again has been called to serve his country. His address is unknown. We wish him all the good luck in the world, and may he return safe and sound with war trophies from other countries and exhibit them at a future "Helvetia" get-together.

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Frank J. Zeltmann is out for adventure again and from all indication will try his best to corner the market for "African Stamps." Some months ago he enlisted in the Army and up to lately was stationed in Florida. News came through that his present address is:

Pvt. Frank J. Zeltmann  
Tech. S. Squad  
769 Bks E 426  
Buckley Field, Colo.

He is only one rank lower than Lt. Col. AM. Wilson. - Frank's son joined the Armed Forces about the same time as his father, but ad-

vanced to Sargent in the interim, serving in the Ordinance Corp stationed at Camp Chanute. - Both expect to meet shortly in Africa, bringing home Rommel's wardrobe.

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Philadelphia, Pa., October 26, 1942.

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. Gustave A. von Gross, presiding. The meeting was called to order at 9:15 P.M. with seven members present.

Treasurers Report

Receipts:

Balance on hand 5/29/42	\$173.35
Dues	<u>44.00</u>
Total	\$222.35

Expenditures	<u>3.30</u>
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Balance	\$219.05
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Contingent Fund	<u>16.65</u>
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Balance in Treasury	\$235.70
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Expenditures:

Order #66 Postage for Bulletin	\$ 3.30
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Balance on hand 10/26/42	\$235.70
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Reports of Committees:

Research: The second of a series of articles by Mr. von Gross appeared in "STAMPS" Magazine in the August 1st. Issue and those who have not as yet read this article will do well to secure a copy of this issue from Harry Lindquist for their permanent files. Gus has also completed the drawings of the Swiss Classics. These drawings are really works of art of a high degree as will be attested by those who have been fortunate enough to have seen them and will truly be an unfailing guide in detecting counterfeits.

Nominating Committee:

Chairman George W. Caldwell reported that his Committee presented the following nominations for Officers for the ensuing year: President, Mr. Gustave A. von Gross; First Vice President, Mrs. Sophie Buser; Second Vice President, Mr. Mortimer De Groot; Secretary, Thomas F. Harrison; Treasurer, Dr. Edward H. Lewandowski, and for Board of Governors, Mr. Martin Neumann.

Anyone desiring to make any further nominations for any of these Offices will please forward them to the Secretary at once.



covers it would seem fitting that so-called collateral groups might well be included in a collection of Hotel Post stamps.

Down through the years following the suppression of the Hotel Posts by Federal decree many Government post offices were established in hotels throughout Switzerland and a collection of the postmarks used by these post offices might add interest. The search would not be easy, but the rewards certainly worth the effort. The only limitation on this group would be the number of denominations of each postal issue and the number of such issues. Covers naturally would add interest.

A second group, one which the economist might call marginal, would consist of hotel corner cards. The collectors of old Swiss covers are familiar with the name and address of the sender applied by means of a rubber stamp. Many of these are found with oval framing, while others take the form of a straight line. Some hotels and even business firms used designs resembling the contemporary postmarks and applied them on any available clear space on the cover, very much in the manner in which postmarks were applied. In many cases, particularly by the uninformed, these could be readily mistaken for Government postmarks as some of them contain the complete date. To carry the idea further we might also include the corner cards applied by mechanical means, such as typography, lithography, and engraving.

The inclusion of corner cards may be controversial, and undoubtedly will be criticised and condemned by some, but, what phase of collecting is not? Such difference of opinion may well be considered a healthy condition, but the controversy should be conducted in a friendly spirit; to quote a trite saying--"Smile partner when you say them words."

#### F I N I S

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Author's Note ---- The material used in this account of the Swiss Hotel Posts has been obtained from many sources. Some of these data have been contradictory, and it was necessary to separate the wheat from the chaff. Errors of fact and of conclusion are common experiences in any research, and it would be vain to believe this small article has escaped such. In keeping with the editor's policy of giving the most authoritative information in our bulletin, it is hoped that any errors found by our membership will be brought to his attention or to mine. Recognition of such will be noted in subsequent issues of the bulletin, and due credit will be given.

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COUNTERFEITS OF THE "DOVE OF BASLE"

by

Gustave A. von Gross

NINTH FORGERY.

Lithographed on rather thick, white wove paper. The dove, and the letter in its beak, are surrounded by a thin, black outline in this counterfeit. The hyphen after STADT is very short and looks rather like an oval stop; the hyphen after BASEL is a little longer, but rather wedge-shaped. The network is extremely coarse. There is a little line, joining the P of POST to the outline above it, and the O leans very much to the right. There is a prominent black dot, touching the inner outline of the red shield, above the B of BASEL; the head of the S looks bigger than the tail; and the L slopes slightly to the right, so that a line along its lower edge would pass clear above the S of STADT. The large 2 has a very curly foot, the front of which touches the left-hand frame. The fraction-line slopes sharply down to the right; so that, if prolonged, it would cut through the bottom of the stamp, under the beginning of the O of POST. The foot of the R of RP touches the bottom frame; the top of the shaft of the P is about level with the central division of the R; and the stop is level with the top of the head of the P, and nearer to it than to the frame. The central boss of the crozier contains four horizontal, white lines, but the lowest line is only half the length of the one above it. The white line in the top half of the crozier is too long, and turns partly over into the bend. The two side-points of the crozier do not touch the sides of the little shield. The two leaves on the left side touch the frame, but the two on the right side do not.

TENTH FORGERY.

Lithographed on rather thick, white wove paper. The color of the shield is orange-red, very different from the sort of crimson-red of the genuine. The dove is very slightly embossed. There is no hyphen after POST. The network is fairly like the genuine. The O of POST is nearly upright. The L of BASEL slopes very much down to the left; so that a line drawn along its lower edge would pass very nearly clear under the S of STADT. The large 2 has a perfectly straight foot; the little 1 and 2 both touch the fraction-line; the said fraction-line slopes a good deal, so that, if prolonged, it would cut through the bottom of the stamp, below the space between the OS of POST. The foot of the R of RP very nearly touches the bottom frame; the P and the stop are like the genuine. The central boss of the crozier contains four horizontal, white lines; but the top line extends further to the left than the second one; whereas the second one extends furthest of all to the left, in the genuine. The two halves of the crozier are not in one line, the upper half and the boss being set too much to the left. The curled top is only about  $1/3$  mm. from the top of the

frame, and the white line is too long, and goes up into the bend. The two side-points just touch the sides of the little shield. The hanging leaf ornament, over the S of STADT, just touches the frame, but none of the other three leaves touch the frame.

#### ELEVENTH FORGERY.

Lithographed on thick, white wove paper. The shield is in brilliant scarlet. The dove shows hardly any trace of embossing. The network is an easy test, for it is merely a lot of small, irregular dots, on a white ground. The O of POST is nearly upright, but it is of a clumsy shape. There is a dot in the outer outline of the red shield, between the O and S of POST. The L of BASEL slopes greatly to the left, so that if a line were drawn along its lower edge, it would graze the T of STADT. The fraction-line in the left lower corner is about horizontal; and if prolonged, it would cut through all the letters of POST, and also through the RP, in the other corner. The head of this P is too large and round, and the shank does not project above it. The stop very nearly touches the head. The boss in the centre of the crozier is small and inconspicuous, but I think there are four horizontal, white lines in it. The crozier is quite as wide above, as it is below the base. The curled top of the crozier is about  $\frac{1}{3}$  mm. from the frame above it; the bottom point is blunt, and  $\frac{3}{4}$  mm. from the base of the little shield; the right side-point touches the side of the shield, but the left point does not touch. The upper leaf-ornament on the left side touches the frame, and the hanging leaf ornament below it almost touches the frame. The upper leaf on the right side is at some little distance from the frame, and the hanging leaf below it does not touch the frame, though it is rather close.

#### TWELFTH FORGERY.

Mr. Pemberton says that this is a very poor production, with the dove printed, instead of embossed. The corners are of blue dots on a white ground, instead of a network. The  $\frac{1}{2}$  of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  is so smudged that there is no space between the fraction-line and the numerals.

#### THIRTEENTH FORGERY.

This is the commonest of the falsifications. The bottom point of the crozier is a long way above the bottom of the shield. The O of POST slants to the right.

#### FOURTEENTH FORGERY.

This one is very like the counterfeit just described, but better done. The bottom point of the crozier is a very long way above the bottom of the shield.

#### FIFTEENTH FORGERY.

This is the sixth forgery in M. de Reuterskiöld's book. He says that it belongs to a set of Swiss stamps, sold at Geneva, with facsimile printed in violet, on the upper part of the stamp. The corners are composed of blue dots on a white ground, instead of a network. The O of POST is vertical, but it is taller than the other letters. The L of BASEL is horizontal. The dove

is not embossed at all. The fraction-line in the left corner, if prolonged, would cut into the O and S of POST, and touch the feet of the P and T.

SIXTEENTH FORGERY.

M. de Reuterskiold describes this one as the product of Messrs. Senf, of Leipzig. The corners have blue dots on a white ground, instead of a network. The dove is slightly embossed, and it has a black outline round it, which should be an easy test. As in the fifteenth forgery, the fraction-line, if prolonged, would cut into the O and S of POST, and touch the feet of the P and T.

SEVENTEENTH FORGERY.

M. de Reuterskiold describes this one as follows: "The dove is not embossed. The network of the corners is formed by crossed lines, oblique white lines, on a blue ground. There is a large black dot or stop between STADT and POST. The O of POST is vertical, and exactly in the centre of the label. In the genuine, and all other forgeries, the space between OS is the centre of the label.

F I N I S .

ESSAY.

This is printed with the corner-network in light green, and the shield in brick-red. These were the first stamps sent to Basle by the Frankfort engraver, but the postal authorities decided to have the colors altered. Messrs. Mirabaud and de Reuterskiold, in their fine work on The Postage Stamps of Switzerland, say that they have several times met with the above stamps, with the green network chemically changed to blue.

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Jacques Kilcher, our former President, is the only stamp dealer at Atlantic City, N.J., without a commercial window display; a single service flag with three stars holds the honor place.

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I M P O R T A N T !

DON'T FORGET TO VOICE YOUR PRIVILEGE!!!!

USE ENCLOSED BALLOT and

VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE CANDIDATE!

OFFICIAL BALLOT  
OF THE  
"HELVETIA SOCIETY"

The following nominees for Officers of the Helvetia Society have been selected by the nominating committee for the year 1943. Any member desiring to vote for any candidate not included in this list of nominees will insert the name of their candidate in the space provided for the office to be filled.

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OFFICE:	NOMINEE:
President	Gustave A. von Gross _____ _____
1st Vice President	Mrs. Sophie Buser _____ _____
2nd. Vice President	Mortimer De Groot _____ _____
Secretary	Thomas F. Harrison _____ _____
Treasurer	Edward H. Lewandowski, D.D.S. _____ _____
Governor	Martin Neumunz _____ _____

Members will vote for the nominees of their choice by inserting an X beside the name of the candidate. All Ballots must be returned to the Secretary not later than December 21, 1942.

T. F. Harrison  
Secretary