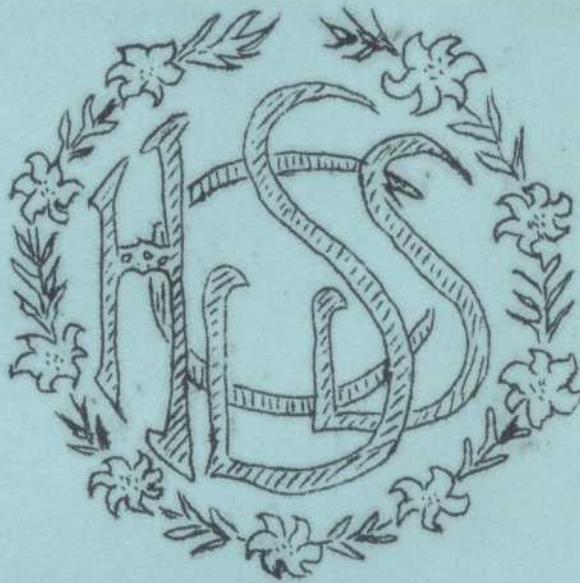


# BULLETIN

VOL. VI.



NO. 1

“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 VI

January, 1943

No. 1

# HONOR - ROLL HELVETIANS IN SERVICE



27th. #606  
Pvt. Frank J. Zeltmann, U.S. Army, 769 Tech. S. Squad - Bks. B-426  
Buckley Field, Colorado.  
Jefferson Barracks, Mo.

FIFTH ANNIVERSARY BANQUET FEBRUARY 13th. at Meyer's Hotel, Hoboken, N.J.

If you do not want to miss this swell affair, BE A PAL and make reservations for your party at once. - Remember - there is a fine floor show. Get your tickets NOW through your Banquet Chairman

Jack Brupbacher, 422 Anderson Ave., Cliffside Park, N.J., or  
Mrs. Sophie Buser, 87 Nassau Street New York, N.Y.

\* \* \*

Accepted into the Society:

August J. Bastien, D.D.S. 35-64 Eighty-Fourth St., Jackson Heights, N.Y.

\* \* \*

INFORMATION WANTED

Conducted By

George W. Caldwell  
5512 Hadfield St.  
Philadelphia, Pa.

Again Swiss Revenues find their way into this column. Mrs. Hilda Yant, our enthusiastic revenue collector in Canton Ohio, submits the following questions:

Question #2. "Where can Swiss Revenues be bought --- or can't they?"

Question #3. Can anyone supply listings of those stamps issued subsequent to those listed in the Forbin catalog?

An answer to the first of these questions should be forthcoming from those of our membership who are in the stamp trade. It occurs to the conductor of this column that there may be some odds and ends of these stamps in the private collections of our members or in our dealer's stocks. Can owners of such help Mrs. Yant?

As to the answer of the second of these questions, your conductor sometime ago after much inquiry concluded there was no published information available. However, it is possible some of our members may have personal notes on the subject.

Now folks, come forth and encourage this enthusiastic Swiss collector!

\* \* \* \*

In Reference to Above:

Question #2. Watch for Auction Sales. - There are many local dealers who have these stamps in collections and do not recognize them, and they usually sell them for a song.

Question #3. The library of the Collectors Club in New York has a book entitled "Revenue Stamps of Germany and Switzerland" by F.G.C. Lundy. There might be much useful information from this author.

G.A.v.G.

\* \* \*

Helvetia Night at the Collectors Club in New York.

The Collectors Club has invited the Helvetia Society to exhibit at their premises on the night of Wednesday, June 2nd, 1943. - Lets give them a worthwhile showing that will give credit to our society. Attend en mass!

\* \* \*

Philadelphia, Pa. Dec. 28, 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 P.M. with seven members present and answering the roll call, after which the minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Treasurers Report

<u>Receipts:</u>	<u>Expenditures:</u>
Balance on hand 10/5/42 \$219.05	Order #67 Postage for Secretary \$ 5.00
Dues ..... 22.00	
Total \$241.05	Order #68 Paper, Postage etc for mimeographing Bulletin 7.75
Expenditures 13.75	Order #69 Postcards for notices for Secretary 1.00
Balance \$227.30	Total \$13.75
In contingent fund 16.65	
Balance in Treasury .... \$243.95	

Balance in Treasury Dec. 28, 1942 ... \$ 243.95

Edw. H. Lewandowski, D.D.S.  
Treasurer.

Reports of Committees:

Research: The series of articles featuring the Cantonal Issue of the Dove of Basel published recently in the Bulletin is the third in the series of articles on the Swiss classics and our Editor and author of these articles Mr. von Gross certainly deserves a vote of thanks for the splendid work he is doing.

Banquet: The Banquet Committee, composed of Jack Brupbacher, Karl Posch and Sophie Buser report that arrangements for our annual get-together have been made with the management of Meyer's Hotel in Hoboken, N.J. for our 1943 Banquet. This is the same place the 1942 Banquet was held and it was due to the wonderful time we had at that affair which prompted the selection of Meyer's Hotel for the 1943 Banquet. The same committee is again in charge this year, so let us all get behind them and help make this the biggest and finest affair we have ever held.

For The Good Of The Society: The Secretary called attention to the fact that the supply of notices for dues, membership applications and membership cards was getting low and a new stock would soon be needed. Chairman von Gross appointed Dr. Edw. H. Lewandowski and T. F. Harrison to secure prices on the printing of these items.

Dr. Lewandowski moved that the names of all Helvetia members who are serving in the armed forces of our country and their mailing addresses be printed in the Helvetia Bulletin each month and the members urged to write to them as often as possible. Motion was seconded by Mr. Domanski and carried. If you know of any member who is in the service, please send their name and service address to our Editor Mr. Gustave A. von Gross to be published in the Bulletin and added to our honor roll. To date we have one member in the service, Mr. Frank J. Zeltman, whose service address up to January 2nd, 1943 is:

Pvt. Frank J. Zeltmann, U.S. Army  
769 Tech. School Squad - Bks. E 426  
Buckley Field, Colorado.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed in regular form at 10 P.M.

Signed T. F. Harrison  
Secretary.

\* \* \*

Philadelphia, Pa. Dec. 28, 1942.

Minutes of the Annual Meeting  
of the  
"Helvetia Society"

The fourth annual 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 10:05 P.M. with seven members present and 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 Dec. 22, 1941	\$ 120.95	For publishing Bulletin paper,
Dues	152.00	postage, stencils etc. \$ 50.85
Helvetia Hats	12.00	Postage for Secretary <u>10.00</u>
Donations	3.20	Total \$ 60.85
Contingent Fund	<u>16.65</u>	
	Total \$ 304.80	
Expenditures	<u>60.85</u>	
Balance in Treasury	\$ 243.95	
Balance on hand Dec. 28, 1942,	\$243. 95	
	Edw. H. Lewandowski, D.D.S. Treasurer.	

During the year eighteen new members were added to the rolls of the Society, the balance in the Treasury was more than doubled, all bills have been paid and our Society has indeed enjoyed a very good year and we have just cause to be proud of our progress during the short life of our Society.

As there was no old or unfinished business to come before the meeting it was moved by Mr. Domanski, sec. by Mrs. von Gross, and carried that we go into the election of Officers.

President von Gross therefore appointed Mr. Ernest Philipona and Mrs. von Gross to act as an Election Committee.

Report of the Election Committee: The committee appointed to count the ballots received from the members have completed that duty and wish to make the following report.

For President: Mr. Gustave A. von Gross .....	received 25 votes
For 1st. Vice President: Mrs. Sophie Buser .....	" 25 "
For 2nd. " " : Mr. Mortimer De Groot .....	" 25 "
For Treasurer: Dr. Edw. H. Lewandowski .....	" 25 "
For Secretary: T. F. Harrison .....	" 25 "
For Board of Governors: Mr. Martin Neumunz .....	" 23 "

The above members were therefore declared duly elected to serve for 1943. There were 25 ballots cast.

Moved, seconded, and carried that the Election Committee be discharged with a vote of thanks.

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

Signed: T. F. Harrison,  
Secretary

\* \* \*

ERRATA: Referring to Bulletin Vol. V - No. 12, article "SITTING HELVETIA, Perforated", kindly make the following correction:

Page 5 - 7th. line, counting from the bottom, the engraver's name is J.P. Riess, and not Tiess.

Page 7 - 16th. line from the bottom should read: "the brown was printed over a red basic color;"

\* \* \*

Pvt. Frank J. Zeltmann announces his new service address and says: " Graduated Jan 2nd and shipped here to O.R.T.C. for some advanced training and don't no for how long but kept busy as hell.

Regards to All  
Signed: Frank, 27th. Tech. School Squad, Rks. 606  
Jefferson Barracks, Mo.

Now boys - Write to Frank!

%%%  
 %%%  
 %%% "SITTING HELVETIA, PERFORATED" %%%  
 %%% 1862/82 ISSUES %%%  
 %%% by %%%  
 %%% Gustave A. von Gross. %%%  
 %%%  
 %%%


Continuation:

Up to 1871, the Federal Mint at Bern printed the postage stamps under the supervision and direction of Director A. Escher of the Mint. On July 21 of the same year, the administration of the General Postoffice requested the Federal Council that the printing of postage stamps be given again to private concerns on a competitive basis as in 1854. The Federal Council realizing that competitive bids might lower the price of the manufacture of stamps below the cost of previous government production, empowered Director Escher of the Mint with the closing of the contract. This contract went into force on January 1, 1873, and lasted until 1882, when another new serie of stamps was issued. - Mint Director Escher, with a few other associates then founded a private institution for the purpose of manufacturing of these postage stamps and envelopes. - Notwithstanding the fact that these postage items were supplied by a private association, now, as before, they were printed on the government machines and partly in premises of the Federal Mint.

In 1874 some changes were made. In place of the hard, stout paper, a thinner and very white paper was chosen which produced a much better and clearer print in colors. At the beginning of 1874 the color of the 2 cts denomination was changed and the 15 cts value added to the serie, partly at the request of the bookseller's shop of Hintermeister of Basle in April 1874. - After the entry of France into the Universal Postal Union on January 1, 1876, the 30 cts value was unnecessary, and in its place the 40 cts denomination was issued to simplify the franking of mail to specific countries. The remainder of the 30 cts stamps after its exhaustion, were not reprinted again.

Examining closely the perforations of the 1862 - 81 issue, one finds many stamps with irregular, ragged perfs, on which, in contrast to the normal perforations, the holes were not exactly in horizontal or vertical position, but somewhat shifted to the side. In order to understand the reason for this irregular manipulation, one has to picture the construction and operation of the perforating machine. - This machine is composed of a so-called perforating plate on which the holes are bored out; also of an upper plate on which pins are fastened, and an intermediate guide plate, which serves as a leader for the upper plate with attached pins in its up and down movements. The plate with the pins then descends on the perforating plate which causes to pierce holes through the paper, the latters being known as perforations. In order so that the pins fit exactly into the holes of the lower plate, both plates, the upper and the lower, were bored out in one action at the same time. Of course, with constant wear, it happened that the attached pins of the upper plate became slightly bent, and in this manner did not meet precisely the

holes of the lower plate and caused the perforating to become irregular and shifted from its true, original position.

In compliance to a request from the firm of Volkart Bros. of Winterthur, on April 22, 1876, by official decree, the Swiss Postal Administration allowed the practise of marking perforated initialed letters on their stamps for their private contral of their mail. Other business houses used a small stamping device for impressing their initials on the face of the stamp, such as  in blue for instance.

The steady development of the postal system brought with it increased reports on technical pursuits of stamp production principles between individual States. The governments interchanged amongs themselves information on the advantage and disadvantage of the diverse treatise in the manufacture of postage stamps. - Likewise - they exchanged their current series of postage stamps for approval for their crrectness and legality of the use of the respective values.

It is but natural that with the growth of the international postal service thoughts were entertained of founding a Universal Postal Union. In 1863, at a conference held in Paris, the United States of America animated a movement for regulating international commerce. In September 1874, a conference was held at Bern to discuss the drawn-up outline of an international postal regulation as submitted by Postmaster General von Stephan, whose integrity for developing the German and International postal system were well known. At this Congress, aside of other important resolutions, the rudiments for a universal rate for ordinary letters in international traffic were laid; also here it was decided that Bern should be the site of the International Postal Bureau. With the exception of Franco, delegates from all parts of the world attended. France joined the Universal Postal Union on May 3, 1875. The Universal Postal Union was founded at Bern, October 1874 and went into force immediately, signed by the delegates of Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Egypt, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Norway, Netherland, Portugal, Roumania, Russia, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey (inc. Bosnia, Herzegovina and Bulgaria) and the United States of America.

The execution of the Bern Convention of 1874 met with so many difficulties that in 1876 another conference had to be called. In 1878, at the Conference in Paris, the regulations of the Universal Postal Union had to be completely revised and further clauses were added to it. Since the establishment of the International Postal Bureau, it was the duty of this office to notify every postal administration of new postal issues.

To render counterfeiting more difficult, and for other various technical reasons, from 1881 on, a different paper variety was used which contained small shreds of red and blue silkthreads, and known by us as granite paper. This paper was very thin; the gum was good but somewhat thick and brittle. Outside of this, the serie remained the same as the previous issue, with the identical control mark.

1881 Issue, Granite Paper, Perf.  $11\frac{3}{4}$   
Control Mark

Zumstein No.	Scott No.	Value:	Year:	Color:
44	60	2 cts		bistre yellow
a.				yellowish fawn bistre
b.				dark bistre
c.				yellow bistre
45	61	5 cts		brown
a.				black brown
b.				lilac brown
c.				dark lilac brown
d.				sepia
e.				brown gray
46	62	10 cts		carmine rose
a.				rose
b.				pale rose
47	63	15 cts		yellow
a.				light yellow
48	64	20 cts		orange
a.				dark orange
49	65	25 cts		green
a.				dark green
b.				blue green
50	66	40 cts		gray
a.				pale gray
b.				dark gray
51	67	50 cts		violet
a.				dark lilac violet
52	68	1 Frc.		gold.

As per decree of May 14th, 1883, all previous stamps, including the 1862/81 issues, on Oct. 1, 1883 were declared obsolete. All postoffices were informed to return by October 20, 1883 the remainder of the unsold stock. The period for the public to exchange these stamps originally was set for January 1, 1884, but was extended and expired finally  $2\frac{1}{2}$  years later, on June 30th, 1887.

A declaration issued by the postal administration July 1, 1887, announced that the remainder of these issues would be sold to the public for

collecting purposes at the following rates:

<u>Purchases in lots of 100:</u>				<u>Purchases in lots of 10'000</u>			
2 cts . per	%	.....	frcs. -.60	per	%	.....	frcs. -.50
5 " "	"	.....	" 1.00	"	"	.....	" -.80
10 " "	"	.....	" 1.00	"	"	.....	" -.80
25 " "	"	.....	" 1.50	"	"	.....	" 1.20

Lots of less than 100 stamps were not considered.

The remaining values were sold only in sets, and not in singles. - Price per 50 sets ..... frcs. 15.00, including the nine denominations, namely: 2, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 40, 50cts and 1 frc.

Purchases in lots of .....10'000 sets, price per 50 sets ,, frcs.12.00  
 " " " " " more than 10'000 " , " " 50 " ..... " 10'00  
 Price per single set ..... frc. -.50

The above offer included solely stamps without any kind of overprint; neither was there made a difference between white, or granite paper. In as much the remainder of stamps on white paper was very small. to-day these stamps command a higher price than the granite paper issue; although originally both were sold for the same price.

The purpose of overprinting the postage stamps with the word "AUSSEER KURS" (obsolete) which is found on many stamps, was to prevent their re-sale at their nominal value during the second exchange period of 1884-87. These "AUSSEER KURS" stamps compare in price to those of the mint stamps.

A Word of Warning: The stamps of the 1881 issue, GENUINELY USED, are very scarce. The majority of the canceled stamps of this issue, especially Scott's Nos. 63 - 68, bear counterfeit cancelations, i. e., the cancelations were back-dated. This has been made possible, since many postoffices still use the same form of cancel as employed in 1881.

Up to now, this is the first instance that the Swiss Postal Administration did not destroy their remainders but sold them to the public on a commercial basis. Fortunately this transaction proves to be an isolated case in the postal history of Switzerland.

\* \* \* \*

Counterfeits:

Very few of them exist in the 1862/81 issues.

There is a poor imitation of the 2 cts red brown, originally a 2 cts bistre, painted over with a reddish tint to resemble the shade of the 2 cts red brown, 1867-78 issue, Scott's No. 51.

The 30 cts counterfeit, Scott's No. 46, vermillion, is easily recognizable due to its size and the extra wide white margin.

The 40 cts. green, (Scott's # 47) and the 60 cts. bronze (Scott's # 48) are very poor imitations and should not mislead anyone. - About around 1924 a second, and much better imitation of the 60 cts. bronze (Scott's # 48) appeared on the market; also the 1 frc. bronze (Scott's # 49) with fairly accurate counterfeit control marks. The specialists of these issues should not experience any trouble in differentiating between the genuines and the counterfeits.

Now that this story has come to a close, I hope many of you will benefit by it.

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F I N I S.

See you at the banquet and don't forget, I'll count the noses. Get acquainted with your new members. Get your tickets now; final count for covers must be rendered to the hotel by February the 6th. Wear your "Helvetia scull cap" and bring your good humor.

G.A.v.G.