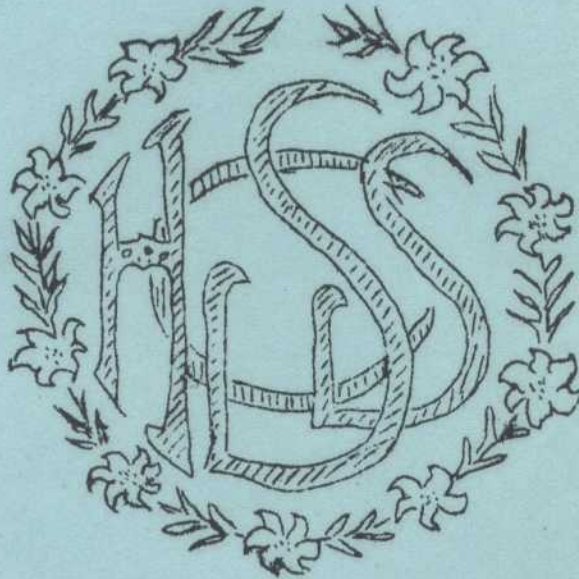




BULLETIN

VOL. VI



NO. 5/6

„Helvetia“

SOCIETY FOR COLLECTORS OF SWITZERLAND

BULLETIN

"HELVETIA" SOCIETY FOR COLLECTORS OF SWITZERLAND

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VOLUME VI

May/June 1943

Nos.5/6

HONOR-ROLL OF "HELVETIANS" IN SERVICE:

Pvt. Frank J. Zeltman 70th Bomb Squad A. P. O. #913 c/o P.M. San Francisco
Calif.

Major A.M. Wilson N.Y. University R.O.T.C. New York City, N.Y.

1st Lt. Edward H. Lewandowski, Ser.O. 523652 - S.V.(Sta Com) Camp Mc.Coy, Wis.

Frank Zeltman writes: Bula! Bula! -- Well at last I have been assigned to a Squadron and doing Armament work on the line, so that the Boys can take a Healthy Sock at the sneaking rat of a Jap. -- Have had a few plane trips so far and visited several places that I can not write about due to Censor, but you can rest assured Uncle Sam has plenty here and needs more of it to bring this thing to a finish and the Boys can do it if the Folks back home will send it. -- Will write soon as I am writing a few lines to everyone while I have a chance and I send Best Wishes to all Helvetians as ever

Frank.

Note New Address

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SEND FRANK - A LINE TO BOOST HIM ON.

ATTENTION - ERRATA

Kindly make the following corrections in Bulletin Vol VI - No.4:

Page 5 - Paragraph 5 and Page 6 - Paragraph 6 should read "Valais"

instead of Vaud. -- Valais is a Catholic canton, Vaud -- Protestant.

In order to comply with recent post office request, and to help speed up delivery of mail, kindly supply Editor and Secretary with the necessary postal district key number to your address.

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THE 1943 JUBILEE ISSUES

We are indebted to "The Official Bulletin #6" issued at Bern February 11, 1943 by the Swiss Postal, Telegraph and Telephone Administration for the following information in regard to the 100 Jubilee of postage stamps in Switzerland.

In commemoration of 100 years of Swiss postage stamps a special Jubilee brochure and the following commemorative stamps have been issued.

1. Centenarian Postage Stamp:

Issue of a centenarian postage stamp with franking value of 10 Rappen. First day issue - February 26, 1943. In choosing the subject for the stamp, preference was expressed for the classical Cantonal stamps Zurich 4 and 6. The entire stamp measures 41 X 24 mm.; the design 38 X 21 millimeters. The design and the original steel-engraving were executed by Albert Yersin of Lutry. The stamp, in black-gray and orange, is a combination of rotary copper engraving printed at the Government Printing Office. The paper stock used for the stamp on the surface shows red horizontal hatchings. The printing was done on white engraving paper; smooth gum. A pane contains 25 stamps; 4 panes comprise a sheet.

The commemorative stamp is on sale at all post offices as long as the supply lasts, but not later than March 31, 1943. The philatelic sheet on the other hand is only available at the Government Printing Office. Price per sheet with stamp affixed - 30 Rp; without stamp 10 Rappen. - The period of their validity (Dec. 31, 1943) is printed on the margin of the sheet.

The double stamp, composed of the numerals 4 and 6, and enclosed in an inscription frame contains the lettering "1843 Centenarium 1943" at top; two "post horns" and the word "Helvetia" at the bottom. They are only valid as postage in the combination. Halves of the stamp, respectively the 4 or the 6 severed, will not be accepted as postage, neither will they be cancelled by the post offices.

2. The Centenarian Block:

The block is composed of set-tenant pairs, i.e. a 4 Rp. and a 6 Rp. stamp as described above. Price - 3 francs; the net proceeds being turned over to the Swiss National Defense Fund. The subjects on the stamps are likeness of the Zurich 4 and 6 and are the art work of engraver Albert Yersin. The individual miniature sheet measures 70 X 75 mm; each, including the small rectangular outer-frame 21 X 24 mm, without outer frame 17,5 X 21 millimeters. The curved decorative ribbon embellishment enclosing the stamps is designed and printed by Orell Fuessly A.G. at Zurich, who 100 years ago printed the Zurich cantonal stamps. The block is printed on white paper; smooth gum. - Original sheets, containing 20 blocks (pairs) to the sheet and numbered on the back, are not for sale. - The inscription (in three languages) on the face of the block reads: "100 Jahre Schweizerische Postmarken 1843-1943" (100 years of Swiss postage stamps 1843-1943), and on the back "25 Jahre Schweizerische National Spende" (25 years Swiss National Defense Funds).

First day issue, sales period and period of validity are the same as for the centenarian stamp. In contrast to the centenarian stamp, each stamp of the centenarian block may be cut out and used as postage.

A special philatelic sheet for stamp collectors is available from the Government Printing Office with stamps affixed and sells for Frs. 3.20; without stamps - 10 Rappen.

First day cancellations resembling a modernistic Zurich rosette and bearing the date February 26, 1943, were used for the centenarian stamp and the centenarian block.

3 The "De Luxe" Sheet:

This sheet, containing 12 imperforate stamps, was printed only on a subscription basis, i.e. orders had to be received by the Government Printing Office between January 15 - 31, 1943, and sold for Frs. 5.00 (franking value Frs. 1.20). The net proceeds went to the Swiss National Defense Fund. The pane measures 164 X 140 mm; the stamp and the design are the same size as of the centenarian stamp. The ornamental decoration was done by engraver Hans Thoent of Bern. The stamp was printed by the Government Printing Office in the combination rotary copper engraving process on yellow faced security granite paper (smooth gum) containing black and red silk shreds. The entire sheet is composed of 4 panes, each pane consisting of 12 double stamps. - This philatelic may be bought by non-subscribers only without the stamps affixed for 10 Rappen. sheet

4. "Jubilee Brochure":

The P.T.T. Administration also issued a Jubilee brochure which in compact form sketches the development of the Swiss postage stamps, and describes in details the different styles of printing technics employed. The booklet, 18 X 25 centimeters, printed in off-set, contains 64 pages of reading matter, over 150 stamp illustrations, special tables and 6 colored art plates and is solidly bound in an appropriate sturdy cover. Price per copy Frs. 3.50 (which includes the luxury tax and shipping fee. The Jubilee brochure, either in the German or French language, may be procured through the Government Printing Office P. T. T., Bernastrasse 28, Bern and the District Main Post Office by pre-payment or C.O.D. Since there is only a small issue printed, they will not be on sale at bookstores or local post-offices.

G.v.G.

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Excerpt from "STAMPS" magazine June 19, 1943

Wednesday, June 2, 1943, was Swiss night at the Collectors Club in New York, and members of the "Helvetia" Society for Collectors of Switzerland entertained with some interesting exhibits and talks.

George W. Caldwell showed a highly specialized collection of the Postage Due stamps of Switzerland, with a talk on the many shades and different printings. He also explained the frequent uses of these stamps due to the fact that Switzerland is a tourists' mecca.

Vincent Domanski had a showing of a complete collection of all Pro Juventute Postal Cards and Christmas Cards. It was a most interesting exhibit, and only a native Swiss would be qualified to fully appreciate the beautiful and hard to complete collection.

A splendid collection of all the Swiss Pro Juventute stamps in mint singles and blocks of four was shown by Mrs. Anna V. Elkins. She also exhibited the block of four of the Pro Juventute miniature sheet on cover on cover. Mrs. Elkins discussed the beauty of the designs, and the purposes for which the surtaxes on these stamps were used.

A display in two frames of a collection of mint Swiss stamps in Tete-Beches, Se-Tenants, and Booklets, was made by Edwin H. Elkins. In showing also a sheet of ninety stamps, Mr. Elkins explained the original form in which the booklets are prepared, and why it is possible to find large blocks used on covers in combinations of different denominations known to collectors as Se-Tenants".

Thomas F. Harrison showed two frames of a specialized collection of the Swiss 1900 Jubilee issues - the 5, 10, and 25c. stamps commemorating the 25 anniversary of the Universal Postal Union. The collection is a deep study of numerous plate varieties found in these issues due to manufacturing or engraving under rushed conditions. An outstanding item in this group is the 25c. re-engraved which made its late appearance at the end of December. The stamp could not be used after December 31, 1900. Mr. Harrison also showed a few pages of his collection of Swiss Postal Cards.

A collection of the famous Swiss Pioneer Flights of 1913 by such well known fliers as Oskar Bider, Th. Borrer, Favre, and Maffei was exhibited by Dr. Max Kronstein. The Pioneer Air Mail stamps were sold to raise a national fund for airplanes for the army. A complete article on the research of these issues by Dr. Kronstein will appear in the coming August issue of the Air Post Journal.

Karl Posch had a very fine display in two frames of Swiss Tete-Beches, Se-Tenants, and Booklets similar to that of Mr. Elkins, who was kind enough to talk on this exhibit before referring to his own. Among many interesting items was a cover with the only Pro Juventute stamp which exists in Tete-Beche. The mint pairs of this particular stamp are more plentiful than the used pairs. In a third frame Mr. Posch showed a group of Swiss stampless covers used throughout a period dating from the early 19th century (before stamps were used) well into the era following the inception of postage stamps.

Stephen G. Rich showed a page with two stamps used in a town called "Schweizer Reinecke" which was besieged by the British during the Boer War. The name of this town originated from a Swiss native named Reinecke who owned a grocery store in Union of South Africa. The settlers around this store eventually formed a township, calling it "Schweizer Reinecke".

The most outstanding exhibit was undoubtedly the frame showing the classic of the Swiss postage stamps, the Cantonal and the Federal stamps of the Transition Period, the latter bridging the gap between the Cantonal and Federal Postal Service of 1848-1850. This was shown by Lucien Rosso, who is not only the proud possessor of single copies of cover mint and used, but also of these rare stamps on cover. A few of the outstanding items are the 4 Rp. Zurich on cover, the so-called Double Geneva in bright color on cover, a cover of the 2½ Rp. Dove of Basle, and a used stamped envelope of the 5c Geneva. Mr. Rosso also showed a frame of the 1913 Swiss Pioneer Flights as exhibited by Dr. Kronstein, also a post card flown by balloon under the command of Captain Ed. Spelzerini. In a third frame he showed a collection of the Swiss Hotel Posts.

George Wettach showed a frame of Swiss Meter Mail of many varieties, even used on steamship mail on the lakes. He gave a most interesting talk on this subject.

Gustave A. von Gross showed and talked on a collection of Swiss Soldier labels issued by the various military divisions during World War I and II. He explained that the funds raised from the sale of these labels were used to aid needy families of the soldiers in the army. He also related that the designs were drawn by artists in the military service and for the division in which they served.

All in all it was a very delightful evening for all in attendance, and exhibited once more the unlimited talents within the membership of "Helvetia".

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ATTENTION:

There will be no Bulletin printed for the month of August in as much every "Helvetia" member will receive the August issue of the Air Post Journal containing highly interesting data on Swiss Pioneer Flights written by Helvetia's co-editor Dr. Max Kronstein. - A supplementary to this article will follow in the September issue of the "Helvetia" Bulletin.

FURTHERMORE

A special 1st of August issue written by members of "Helvetia" will again appear in "STAMPS" magazine. Every member, not a subscriber to above mentioned publication should endeavor to secure a copy of this issue.

Due to war conditions and lack of time it has been decided to reduce our Bulletin for the duration to a three page issue appearing regular every month rather than combined or single issues of 10 pages as previous.

* * *

John Randolph is in circulation again and has recovered completely from insomnia. He is scanning for news daily from the "Meadow Brook Farm", offering his off-time for services along agricultural lines

* * *

Since "Helvetia's" treasurer - First Lt. Edward H. Lewandowski serves Uncle Sam in the Dental Corps of the armed forces, the President appointed

Vincent Domanski, Jr.
4545 North Carlisle Street
Philadelphia 40, Penna.

to serve his unexpired term. He is well qualified for this position having served in this capacity for the national Society of Philatelic Americans and was commended highly for his improved book-keeping system and thoroughness.

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E N D .