

BULLETIN

"HELVETIA" SOCIETY FOR COLLECTORS OF SWITZERLAND

EDITOR: Gustave A. von Gross  
317 So. 15th. Street  
PHILADELPHIA 2, PENNSYLVANIA

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No.9

HONOR ROLL OF HELVETIANS IN SERVICE:

Pfc. Frank J. Zeltman

Addresses obtainable  
from  
Secretary

Lt. Col. A.M. Wilson

Capt. Edward H. Lewandowski, D.C.

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RE:- HELVETIA BANQUET

In response for further suggestions as to suitable localities for the Helvetia banquet, Ralph Sprenger evidently has taken time off from his business to devote a few hours in the interest of "Helvetia" and, in a letter, dated 9/11/44, has the following to say:

"As previously promised, I have investigated some possible spots for our Helvetia Banquet and list them below. For the reasons already expressed in your last bulletin professional entertainment will probably have to be dispensed with. The idea of having our own amateur performers is a good one but this remark is in no sense an invitation to call on me as I have no talents whatever. The listings are in the order of my idea of their suitability but again I have no personal preference. Wherever the committee decides to hold the banquet is agreeable. The thought in connection with Miller's is that it is on the edge of the financial district, where it is dark and dead at night, otherwise it is probably as good a spot as can be found. Should the committee, which I believe means our indefatigable Sophie Buser, desire to visit any of these sites I will be glad if I am in town to arrange to take them around.

- (1) The Architectural League  
115 East 40th. Street (near Park Ave.)

This is the private club of several New York Architects, is within three blocks of Grand Central Terminal and near all night life. They have two beautiful dining rooms and serve dinners at reasonable prices. Their clientele is loosely restricted to art groups, but because of the membership of my company in an association that meets there I can probably obtain acceptance. Dinners are \$1.75 each, plus \$20.00 rental for the dining room, plus the fee for a hat check boy, \$4.00. They do not open Saturdays. Bookings for a Friday must be made promptly as they are nearly solidly reserved already for the coming season. - A beautiful, dignified and handy spot. There will be no other people there in the evening; there is a cute barroom across the lobby and a baby grand piano, both just for our use.

(2) The George Washington Hotel  
23d. Street and Lexington Avenue

A large mezzanine dining room with wired-in music, and a nice lounge outside for our exclusive use. Will set up a private bar. We may be able to arrange for some entertainment talent from the "23" room downstairs but it is doubtful. More likely we will wander down there after the dinner. Are reluctant to do more now than reserve the night but would agree to serve a dinner under present conditions at \$2.00 a plate. - A nice convenient spot.

(3) Mayers Parkway Inn  
613 East 233d Street, Bronx

Good food, a nice private dining room, or a reserved section in one of the alcoves of the main dining room. Convenient to all northern New Jersey, Connecticut, Westchester and upper New York members. A rather long subway ride, or a short one on New York Central R.R. (one block from Woodlawn Station) for others. Friday night \$1.50 up without cocktail, Saturday \$2.00. One cocktail with dinner plus 25¢. Wired-in music in private room, direct music in main dining room.

(4) Hotel Sheraton  
37th Street and Lexington Avenue

Will open roof garden and set up a bar - convenient - dinner probably about \$2.50 perhaps less (these prices can sometimes be bargained down) - wire-in music. A not too popular cocktail bar with entertainment downstairs.

(5) Helvetia Association Club Room  
45 West 52d Street

Jacques Kilcher is a member here. The Chalet Swiss restaurant downstairs will serve the dinner. Has a bar and drinks are reasonable. Within our budget.

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Fritz Billig's Philatelic Handbook - Vol. IV.

Congratulation, Fritz, for a well done job! - Your latest edition, Vol. IV, recently come off the press, is a magnificent piece of work, indispensable to the earnest student of philately and - the specialist.

Bound neatly, it is compact, specific, up to date, and lists varieties, private - and - special issues, not mentioned in the standard Postage Stamp Catalogues. - Our members should be especially interested in the fine Switzerland section which will be continued in future volumes.

Well, Fritz, all we can say, we hope the day will not be so far away, when you ~~you~~ will give us a complete listing of our country, for American catalogues give the Switzerland collectors only scanty information.

G.v.G.

Philadelphia, Pa. Sept. 25, 1944

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, Philadelphia, Pa. with the President Mr. Gustave A. von Gross presiding. The meeting was called to order at 8:45 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 Jan. 24, 1944	\$300.09	Checks #5 to 13 inclusive to	
Collections from dues	<u>103.00</u>	cover publishing the Dec. 1943	
	Total	to August 1944 Bulletins	\$58.23
	\$403.09		
Expenses	<u>58.23</u>		
Total	\$344.86		

Balance on hand Sept. 25, 1944 \$ 344.86

Vincent Domanski, Jr. Treasurer.

Reports of Committees

Sales Circuit: The matter of starting a sales circuit among Helvetia members was discussed at some length and after examining the matter thoroughly the opinion arrived at among the members present was that the Helvetia membership was entirely too small to properly support such a venture. However, the matter was left open for further discussion by the membership at large, and, if a sufficient number of the members express enough interest in promoting a sales circuit, the matter will be given further consideration at a future meeting.

Banquet: Plans for holding the annual Helvetia Banquet next year are in the capable hands of Sophie Buser and Ralph Sprenger. A tentative date has already been set and plans are being developed to assure one of our real honest to goodness Helvetia nights. Further information regarding this affair will be published in succeeding Bulletins as further arrangements are completed. Be sure to read your Bulletins for further details.

For the good of the Society.

Mr. Domanski, our Treasurer who was elected President of the Society of Philatelic Americans at their recent convention in Chicago, announced that our President Mr. von Gross has been appointed to the board of expertizers of that organization and will specialize on the issues of Switzerland.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned in regular form at 10:00 P.M.

T.F. Harrison  
Secretary



Supplement to "Post War Developments of the Swiss Airmail Service:"

In the July issue, the special importance of feeder services in Post War Europe has been discussed. - Recently it has been reported that a special "Swiss Feeder Type" transport plane has been built in Stans, Switzerland. The 4850 lbs plane is called the "Pilatus" SB2 and it is operated by a 440 HP P and W. Waps motor. - The photo of this new Swiss plane was published in England by the "Aeroplane" (July 21, 1944).

Dr. Max Kronstein.

Supplement to "War Time Diary of the Swiss Airmail Services":

The following facts can be added:

1944

March 26 - July 13 - Great Britain temporarily suspended airmail acceptance to Switzerland during the preparations and the initial stages of the invasion of the continent.

July 13 to about Sept. 1st. - Airmail England-Switzerland resumed.

About Sept. 1st. - Airmail England-Switzerland again suspended "owing to conditions of the continent". - Surface mail continued, but subject to delay.

September 22 - Truck convoy service from Geneva to Port Bon, Spain, where goods are shipped to Lisbon for redispach to U.S.A.. - Nothing known yet about mail or airmail transportation by the new service through Allied-held territory.

Dr. Max Kronstein.

Local Italian Warstamps for Service to Switzerland  
 by A. Auberson  
 (Digested from the Swiss Stamp Journal)  
 by  
 Dr. Max Kronstein

Our friend A. Auberson reports on the "Campione" stamps in the 1944 June issue of the Schweizer Briefmarken Zeitung of which he has been Chief Editor for many years. Mr. Auberson's friendly interest in all fields of philately, his intelligent way of acting as editor of Switzerland's central philatelic paper, his strict and sincere way of doing things, impresses everyone who ever

met him, or worked with him in common efforts, or, who visited him in his fine office in the Central Post Directions in Berne. The present report also shows the efforts of the Swiss Central Philatelic Association to eliminate speculative war stamp issues.

M. Kr.

Campione is an Italian village of 600 people situated inside the Swiss countryside, is politically part of the Italian province of Como and has an Italian post - and - telegraph office. Its only way of communication to Italy is by steamboat on the lake of Lugano, or by short wave telegraphy to Milano. Campione once had a playroom for an international clientele, it was closed down by the Fascist authorities.

At the collapse of the Mussolini regime, Campione joined the Badoglio government. Since that time it is completely separated from the German occupied Northern Italy. Its only connection with the outside world is the 30 Swiss telephones in Campione. The only postal service exists to, or, across Switzerland.

When the stock of Italian stamps was used up, it was not possible to replace it. Campione requested and received through the Italian embassy, the permit to issue its own stamps, and the Swiss Postal Authorities agreed to recognize such stamps as legal francature for correspondence to Switzerland only.

A set of 5 stamps was printed by the Swiss printing house of Orell Fuessli in Zurich. They show the arms of the Campione community with the Royal Italian symbol, inscribed "R.R. Poste Italiane - Commune di Campione". The colors are: 5 centimes - green, 10 c. - brown, 20 c. - red, 30 c. - blue, 1 franc - violet.

As long as the present emergency prevails, the regular Swiss inter-

nal postal rates are used between Campione and Switzerland. -- For foreign service -- even to Italy -- Swiss stamps must be used, which will not be cancelled at Campione, but at the Swiss Postoffice at Lugano.

It occurred that speculants succeeded in getting hold of 3 from the 5 values in a few hours after their issue. The whole Fr. 1.65 set soon was offered in Switzerland for as much as forty francs.

The Swiss Central Philatelic Association, and a group of stamp dealers, appealed to the Swiss Postal Direction which had given the approval for the issue, assuming that satisfactory quantities would be printed for a normal service. The Swiss Authorities appealed to the Italian Embassy, which at first refused to interfere in the matter. Finally it was agreed to continue the printing of the stamps. (We see from advertisement that the second print was expected in June 1944).

Mr. Auberson is glad to report that the reprint is in no way different from the first print, neither in paper, color, print or perforation.

So the action of the Swiss philatelic organization made an end to a speculative attempt against the interests of the collectors.

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Vince Domanski has acquired a new hobby -- betting on horses and is still ahead of the game. Racing informations are welcome and greatly appreciated!

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