



HELVETIA HERALD

SWITZERLAND

Editor: Herbert E. Du Russel

1058 Brookdale Ave.

SWISS - AMERICAN STAMP SOCIETY

Bayshore, N. Y. 11706

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1971: I want to wish each one of you a most happy, holy, and prosperous NEW YEAR, and may it be full of many pleasant philatelic interests and acquaintances.

At the start of this NEW Year "SASS" has become of age with over 105 members throughout the U.S.A., Canada, Europe, and the Far East, with much interest stirring in all the areas, what with the stamp exhibits, trading and exchanging among the members, and the formation of local chapters.

I am happy to announce the formation of the first chapter on the East Coast, by the Helvetia Society of N. J., who voted at their Dec. meeting to become one of our chapters, but retaining their name and officers, three of their members belonging, also, to "SASS". This might be an inspiration to some of you who have been attempting to organize local chapters, like Bob Westmore of Frisco, and Jan Donker of Mass. If three or more of you belong to a local stamp society and a vote is taken by that society to become a "SASS CHAPTER", if approved by the majority, then you can become one of our chapters by paying \$2.00 a year. If all of you in the chapter belong to "SASS", then just your intention is needed, with no additional fee.

In the New York area we are still searching for a suitable meeting place for the N. Y. Chapter. As has been mentioned, if ten or more of us belong to the Collectors Club, we could meet at their headquarters. Together with other interested Swiss collectors who already belong to the Collectors Club, the number is only eight or nine who do belong. Another thought is to meet at one of the YMCAs in a centrally located area in New York. Perhaps some of you might be able to find out some info for us on this. If so, kindly pass it along to me.

There are a few of you who specialize in Tete-beche stamps, and if there are enough of you, the society will obtain them for you at 10% over face value. 1960, 1968, and 1970 issues are available from the PTT, but only in full sheets of each value. To obtain all of these values would cost \$31.00. Kindly let us know if you are interested in subscribing to such a service, and if you are, the society will have these stamps on hand for you.

I would like to extend a few, well deserved "THANK YOUS". First of all, to all the members who have readily renewed their 1971 membership. No new membership cards will be issued until Jan. 1972. The new roster is being prepared and will be sent out, shortly. It will include all who have joined, up to Feb. 1st, 1971. Hereafter it will be issued one time a year. Secondly, I'd like to thank those who have sent in excellent Philatelic articles. If they have not been in print, they will be shortly. And last, but by no means least, I want to thank our fine clients who advertise in our bulletin. Kindly patronize them as you need them.

We have received word on the first 1971 issues of Switzerland, due on March 11th, 1971. Of particular note is the NABA 1971 Souvenir Sheet, which I am sure most of you will want. Because of its high value I am asking that you order them by March 1st, latest, with advance payment, the price 85¢. Also, the set of six Special Postage Stamps will be available at 60¢.

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STAMP NEWS OF INTEREST

The 1971 Special Postage Stamps of Switzerland will be brought out in two series, the first of which, due to appear on 11 March, include the values listed below;

- 10c Youth and Sports, two pictures, representing a group of three gymnasts, male/female
- 20c Children of the World, devoted to the international child welfare organization, "Enfants du monde" for promoting its benevolent work.
- 30c NABA National Postage Stamp Exhibition in Basel.
- 50c Second Decade of Development Aid, designed to call the attention of the Swiss public to the growing urgency of technical development aid, entering the 2nd decade in 1971
- 80c International Space Communications Conference, as the central motif, the most advanced satellite, "Intelstat IV".

NABA 1971 National Postage Exhibition Souvenir Sheet at Basel, 4 to 13 June, exhibition to be held in the halls of the Trade Fair in Basel.



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MORE STAMP NEWS

SWITZERLAND — For quite some time there was hardly any activity in the miniature sheet market of Switzerland, but recently I have noticed a considerable increase in advertisements in European stamp magazines wanting to buy these popular sheets. One that is definitely on the rise again is the 1936 sheet issued to raise money for the National Defense Fund, the so-called "Pro Patria" item, Scott No. B80. Mintage was only 126,000 sheets. Scott did not change the price in the 1971 catalog; it still remains at \$27.50, but dealers in Europe have "upped" the bidding quite a bit in recent weeks, and presently they are offering to pay \$14.00, and are asking around \$20.00. I understand demand is brisk, and offering prices are bound to go higher in the very near future. If you need that sheet, better start looking around and try to buy one soon. Prices are still lower over here, but not for long. They'll catch up pretty soon.

LIECHTENSTEIN — A semipostal set of three stamps Scott B1-3, was issued in 1925 for the 85th birthday of Prince Regent Johann II; the surtax of 5c went to the Prince's favorite charities. Mintage was fairly large as 191,103 complete sets were issued. The greater portion was used postally, and today this set is scarce in mint condition. I always find this set wanted on the lists from Liechtenstein, and some dealers are willing to pay about \$12.50. Until only a few years ago this set was readily available here in the U.S.A., but not at the moment.

— There has been an increased demand for the 1961-1962 Minnesingers set, Scott 359-367. The portion issued in 1961 is scarce; the 1.50fr (Scott 366) had a mintage of only 278,000 copies while most of the others ran about 500,000 each. Many collectors want these in small sheets of 20. Dealers in Europe advertise all the time and will pay about \$6.00. I can foresee a substantial rise in price for this set.

LIECHTENSTEIN — Many stamp collectors have been delighted by these attractive and well-designed stamps, and present demand for stamps for postal cards and letters by tourists is very heavy. I was told that about 15,000 tourists visit Vaduz daily during the rush season, while the total population of that city is only 8,000! The earlier issues with low mintages should be worthwhile buying. In 1947, the 5fr Coat-of-Arms, Scott 222 had a total mintage of a bit less than 60,000. This in a country where collectors look for complete panes. This 5fr stamp was prepared in panes of eight stamps. The stamp can be bought in the U.S.A. for about \$4.50 each; retailers in Europe ask \$6.00. Eventually prices will even out, and it might be well to have your supply on hand.

Membership in the Liechtensteiners, a new club of collectors of Liechtenstein, is \$2 for one year and the mailing address is P. O. Box 690, Bettendorf, Iowa 52722.

WANTED: Switzerland Propaganda Flight Covers, Zumstein Nos: 13, 228, 24, 25, 46, 63, 70, 77. Swissair First Flights: (Jet) for 1962, Zurich-Buenos Aires; Zurich-Dakar; Zurich-Rio; Zurich-Montevideo; Zurich-Hamburg; Geneva-Copenhagen; Geneva-Dusseldorf; Zurich-Amsterdam; Also, I am interested in all 1st day covers prior to 1960. Please quote best price, and stamps on cover, either as to Scott or Zumstein numbers. Write: Ed. R. Pripps, Box 444, Ojus Branch, Miami, Florida 33163



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