



Pro Juventute 1951

This year's set again comprises five beautiful stamps, the 5-5 C. value honouring Johanna Spyri, the Zurich writer on the 50th anniversary of her death. Among many books, she wrote "Heidi" the story of a Swiss girl which was translated into English. The other four stamps depict butterflies, the 10-5 C value a dragon-fly, in green, light and dark blue, the 20-10 C. a black-veined Swallowtail in lilac-grey and yellow, whilst on the 30-10 C. we find an Orange-Tip, in olive, grey and orange, and on the 40-10 C. a Peacock moth, in blue, grey and carmine.

The 5 C. was designed and engraved by K. Bickel and printed in recess by the PTT works, all others were designed by Hans Fischer and printed in rotary intaglio etching by Courvoisier.

(Turn to Page 4)

SPLENDID NEWS! for ALL SWITZERLAND Collectors

A STAMP CATALOGUE OF SWITZERLAND IN ENGLISH
TO BE PUBLISHED IN NOVEMBER

We announce with great pleasure that the AMATEUR COLLECTOR'S CATALOGUE OF SWITZERLAND will be published in November 1951, and will be supplied by us at 2s.6d. (postfree 2s.9d)

It is for the first time that a catalogue of Swiss stamps from 1843 to the present day has been compiled in the English language and with price quotations in Pound Sterling.

Edited by Mr. Edward H. SPIRO, Hon. Secretary of the Helvetia Philatelic Society and Member of the British Philatelic Association, the Catalogue is the result of arduous work and independent research over many months.

It will be welcomed by the beginner and specialist alike, containing many varieties, the major plateflaws, listing all different papers, perforations, control and watermarks, mentioning distinct colour shades etc., and, by including "Simplified Lists" also giving guidance to those collectors who desire to disregard intricate varieties. There are 19 sections (see full Index on Page 4) and over 350 illustrations from original photographs. Bound in a stiff cover and of handy size, the new little handbook is indispensable to all collectors of Switzerland.

The Editor
and the
Directors of
THE AMATEUR
COLLECTOR LTD.
send to all readers
their
Christmas Greetings
and Good Wishes
for a Peaceful and
Prosperous New Year

All
Keep
Collectors
Need

Price
2/6

THE AMATEUR COLLECTOR'S
STAMP
CATALOGUE
OF
SWITZERLAND



1952



Postmarks and Cancellations

By **Eduard Greninger** (Direction general of PTT)



The decree of August 1, 1853, mentioned before introduced for the first time a classification of postmarks for the various post offices.

The decree refers to the postmarks as the new "cancellation instruments", and says:

"Post Bureaux with a large outgoing mail will receive 1-st Class instruments; all smaller bureaux, 2-nd Class instruments. The 1-st Class postmarks will have the name of the bureau, the date, and the hour of posting; those of 2-nd Class only the name and the date."

All postmarks were to be circular and of a diameter of at least 20 to 23 Millimeters, and the lettering was to be in "Antique" or in "Grotesque", i.e. in "Latin" type, as contrasted with the Gothic type then still widely used in printing.

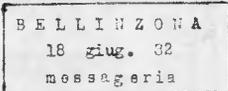
The name of the month, the figures for the year and hour (forenoon - Vormittag, afternoon - Nachmittag) were to be abbreviated. A decree of May 23, 1857, finally ordered that all post offices must return the lozenge, grille, grate and any other old postmarks to headquarters.

The Universal Postal Union agreement of 1874, brought about a great simplification in the international postal rates, and this resulted in Switzerland in the withdrawal and abolition of the P, PD and FF postmarks. The PP mark however, remained in use, although for a quite different purpose. It denoted pre-payment of postage, and is being still used for mass-mailing, as a sort of pre-cancellation.

From 1874, therefore, the main two types of postmarks in use were as follows:

- (a) The bar postmarks, with or without a date.

They consisted of either one-line or two-line bars, with or without a frame, but at the beginning of the Eighties we also encounter three-line postmarks of this kind, of which a good example is



- (b) The circular postmarks.

Of these the French model with a diameter of 20 to 23 Millimeters and 28 to 30 Millimeters became the most widely used. The name of the post office is in the top segment arch, the date between two lines in the centre of the circle, and in the lower segment arch a description of the post office, such as FILIALE (Branch office) or the name of the district, specially in larger towns. Indeed, this method has, on the whole, survived to the present day in many cases.

From 1867, onwards the technical progress is shown by an important improvement in setting the daily date. Up to then, the post office clerk had to adjust the date by removing the tiny cast figures, one by one. The new improved "instrument" had a built-in disc on which the figures 1 to 9 and I to XII were engraved on the disc in relief, and the disc could be moved by turning a screw, allowing the setting of the daily date, the month and the year.

A little bolt prevented the slipping of the disc once it was set for the date required. The days were denoted in Arabic figures, the months in Roman figures, the years in Arabic, whilst the hours of the forenoon were Roman and those of the afternoon in Arabic.



On many of these postmarks the space between the upper segment and the date bridge, and again between the bridge and the lower segment, were filled in by fine or bold vertical lines. (See the illustrations of the Lucerne and Aaldorf postmarks.)

In the Seventies a number of small post offices was issued with simpler cancellation instruments, which had only one disc, and thus produced only the date of the day and month, without the year and the hour of posting. These "d w a r f" postmarks (sometimes, quite wrongly, described as "thimble" postmarks) had a diameter of 20 Millimeters. Three different designs of these cancellations are known, in addition to the slightly larger postmarks, used by post offices in the Canton of Graubünden. (See the illustration of the postmark of CEVIO).



By the end of 1880, 2,852 post-offices operated in Switzerland, nearly three times as many as 30 years before. With the progress of railway transport and comple-

tion of many new railway lines, many "ambulant" or train post offices came into existence, although the first ambulant post office goes back to 1857. It ran between Zurich and Brugg. Each of the train post offices was issued with special postmarks for cancelling the mail in transit, and one of the earlier postmarks of this kind is shown in our illustration (CHUR-ZURICH). The number 85 is the number of the train, and of course, not the hour. The expert can deduct from these



numbers whether the letter was carried by a Express, slow or goods train, and in which direction, and at what time.





LUNABA

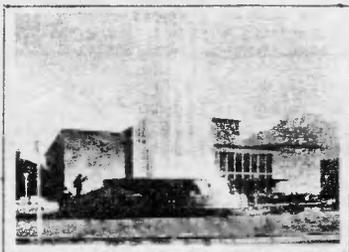
NATIONALE BRIEFMARKEN-AUSSTELLUNG

29. SEPTEMBER BIS 7. OKTOBER 1951

LUZERN

The "LUNABA" exhibition provided undoubtedly the highlight of Swiss philatelic activities of 1951. Being a national exhibition, it was only fitting that the accent was on Swiss exhibits. Considering that M. Ian Bally, Dr. Jeemann, Mr. E. Lueller - to mention only a few - were among the exhibitors, one was not surprised to find a display of magnificent stamps, classics in great abundance and in the finest possible condition.

Dr. Jeemann exhibited in 20 frames a small part of his extensive collection, showing the issues from 1842 to 1852, containing choicest copies of mint stamps, used on covers, rare blocks, varieties and re-entries.



Furthermore, he showed essays of 1842-1852, and a very fine selection of Hotel - stamps with many on rare entires.

Mr. Ian Bally exhibited in five frames Orts-Post and Poste Locale mint and used, Rayon I and II, pre-paid entires

with bi-sects, mixed franking of Cantonals, Rayons and Imperforate Helvetia, and many other rarities.

In the Switzerland group 44 exhibitors competed, and among the most interesting exhibits were complete plate-tables of the Orts-Post, Rayon I dark blue and pale blue Rayon II and III. Mr. Klausner showed a particularly fine specialised collection of the Imperf. Sitting Helvetia, which was awarded a Gold Medal. M. Aujour'd'hui received a gilt silver medal for a magnificent specialised collection of Sitting and Standing Helvetia issues; two more exhibits of the Standing Helvetia (the first with a large number of re-entries and retouches), were awarded a silver medal and a bronze medal respectively.

Modern stamps were well represented, and one exhibit, showing all issues from 1900 to the present day in blocks of four aroused special interest. All the Officials, and S.d.M., B.I.T. etc. were shown in one collection.

Among specialised collections of postmarks one showing all the different cancellations of Rain (a town in the Canton Lucerne) was awarded a bronze medal.

The P.T.T., as usual, was represented with a magnificent show, the most interesting part of which was this time the famous collection of Air Mails, bequeathed to the PTT by the late Dr. Pagarini. It is truly hard to say what pleased best the visitors' eyes. Here you were amazed by a stately array of classical rarities; there you were charmed by a display of Standing Helvetias in strips, panes and blocks, abundant with varieties and plate-flaws. But to my mind the most interesting show was the unique collection of Postage Dues - which are often so badly neglected. It was exhibited by Dr. Ritter, the well known Dues specialist.

F.W.



I.

II.

The two enlargements of the 20 Centimes value of the Landscapes and Industry set of 1949 show better than any description the differences in the two printing dies. The first printing was begun on May 28th 1949, but already two days later the PTT officials decided to stop it, and another die was ordered from Herr Karl Bickel, the designer and engraver, with the request to engrave it much more deeply, so that the plates made from it should stand up better to the wear. Of the first printing only 18,000 sheets of 50 stamps each, were produced, a total of 900,000 stamps. Because the two printings were admitted by the PTT only 18 months later, it has practically escaped the attention of both dealers and collectors. Mint copies have not been encountered at all so far, and most of the used copies must have been lost with the destruction of commercial envelopes.

The main differences are as follows:

- DIE I.**
- Grimsel-Hospice WITHOUT base
 - THREE lines between the peak of the rock on the left side of the hospice and the foot of the mountain in the background.
 - Five lines in the shadow of the snow-covered peak at left
 - The criss-cross background behind 20 and H is light and does not reach beyond figures and letter.

- DIE II.**
- The hospice has a clear basis line.
 - TWO lines between rock and mountain, the third is interrupted by the rock.
 - Three lines in the shadow, one long and two short.
 - The criss-cross shading is bold and covers a much larger area, reaching above the 20 and H, into the horizontal shading of the Grimsel base.

We have been fortunate in obtaining a few USED copies of the first die of the 20 C. described above, and offer these, subject unold at the

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LUNABA



LUZERN

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The publication of THE SWISS PHILATELIST'S Autumn issue was slightly delayed, in order to announce the date of publication of the AMATEUR COLLECTOR'S STAMP CATALOGUE OF SWITZERLAND 1952, which in turn was delayed owing to technical difficulties of our printers. The next issue of THE SWISS PHILATELIST will appear in February.



Pro Juventute 1951

(Continued from Page 1)

The stamp size is 24 by 29 Millimeters, the size of the pictures 21 by 26 Millimeters. The stamps are printed in four sheets to each cylinder, numbered 1 - 4 for the 5 C. value and A - D for the other four values.

The paper is white for the 5 C. and white granite, with the admixture of red and blue fibres for the other values. The gum is smooth.

The surtax is in aid of the Pro Juventute Fund and the Swiss Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis. The first will receive 90 per cent, the latter 10 per cent of the proceeds.

The Pro Juventute set will be valid from the 1-st of December until the 31-st of May 1952, but will be sold at the post offices only during December 1951.

SUBSCRIPTION for THE SWISS PHILATELIST

It is greatly regretted that in view of the high cost of paper, printing and postage, a modest subscription will have to be charged for our publication in future. We shall endeavour to maintain a high standard, and whenever practical, a six-page edition will be made. In the next issue we will publish an interesting article on the Swiss Postal Museum, with many exclusive illustrations. Articles on designs & essays of Swiss stamps, on the "Standing Helvetia" & on the Landscapes issues of 1936 will follow.

THE SWISS PHILATELIST will appear quarterly, and if you wish to receive it in future, please fill in and return to us the enclosed SUBSCRIPTION FORM, together with your remittance of 2/- for four issues. The small outlay will be amply compensated by the useful information passed on to our readers.



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