

PRICE 4d PER COPY  
(6 d. postfree)



ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION  
2/-s. postfree

# THE SWISS PHILATELIST

Published by

THE AMATEUR COLLECTOR Limited

SPECIALISTS IN SWISS ISSUES

27, WESTBURY RD., WOODSIDE PARK, LONDON, N.12. Phone: Hillside 3857

NUMBER 9 AUTUMN ISSUE 1953

READY  
DECEMBER, 1953

THE AMATEUR COLLECTOR'S

## ★ STAMP CATALOGUE ★ of SWITZERLAND ★ SUPPLEMENT

1954

PRICE

1/9

Post Free

MANY NEW FEATURES

include



★ KEY OF STANLEY GIBBONS  
AND ZUMSTEIN CAT. NUMBERS

★ PRICE QUOTATIONS FOR  
USED BLOCES OF FOUR

★ A LIST OF  
SPECIMEN  
OVERPRINTS

★ AN ILLUSTRATED MONOGRAPH  
OF SWISS SOLDIER STAMPS

★ MUNICH AND BERNE PRINTINGS OF  
THE 1854/62 ISSUES

★ ALL NEW ISSUES ARE ILLUSTRATED  
AND DESCRIBED, RIGHT UP TO DATE  
AND INCLUDING THE PRO JUVENTUTE  
1953 SET TO APPEAR IN DECEMBER

900  
PRICE ALTERATIONS  
AND ADDITIONS

Can  
You  
Afford  
To Work  
With  
An Old  
Edition?

### ORDER TO-DAY

Published by  
THE AMATEUR COLLECTOR LTD.  
27 Westbury Road, London, N.12

## Pro Juventute 1953



The winter charity set Pro Juventute will be issued as usually on December 1st, 1953 and remain valid until May 31st, 1954. The PTT decided this time to continue the series of insect designs only on three values, and the set is reminiscent of the 1941 and 42 P.J. issues, when two portraits were included.

The 5+5 C. stamp shows a painting of a Swiss girl, a counterpart to that of a boy on last year's lowest value, and it is again executed by Albert Anker, printed in brown-carmine, in rotary intaglio recess by the PTT-printing works. A portrait of the famous painter of Swiss historical subjects, Ferdinand Hodler, whose 100th birthday is being celebrated this year, adorns the top value of 40+10 C., printed in blue.

The three middle values are 10+10 C., green, brown and carmine, showing a Nun moth: 20+10 C. carmine, grey, ochre



and brown-violet, depicting a Camberwell Beauty butterfly: and 30+10 C., presenting the handsome Purple Buck beetle, in olive, grey and red.

The two portrait stamps were engraved by Karl Bickel, the insect designs are by Hans Fischer, printed in rotary photogravure by Courvoisier. All are in sheets of 50 stamps, the 5 C. printed from a four-sheet cylinder, and numbered 1 to 4, the other values from a two-form cylinder, with sheet identifications A and B.

The paper for the 5 C. value is white, that for the other four values white granite (lightly hatched and with admixture of red and blue fibres). Gum is smooth.

Special F.D. postmarks with the usual inscriptions of "Ausgabetag", "Jour d'emission" and "Giorno d'emissione" will be applied on December 1st by the Berne P.O. of the Philatelic Agency.

(See also announcement of New Issue Service delivery)

Quiz SOLUTIONS AND PRIZE WINNERS PAGE 3

# POSTAGE DUES

(Continued)

# ALPINE POSTAL COACHES



Of the "blue" postage due issues there were altogether nine editions, if we include the ultramarine issue of 1882, printed on granite paper (with blue and red fibres).

Although the issues were spread over only four years, there are hardly any other Swiss stamps, which were subject to so many printing hazards over such a short spell.

The printers, Stämpfli & Co., appear to have had every conceivable difficulty with matching the ink, with keeping the dies in good repair, and in centring the sheets.

The first "edition", to which we referred in No.8 of the "Swiss Philatelist", was that of the 1 C. with the star background. The official issue date was July 1st, 1878, but it may be of some importance to register the actual delivery dates. The 1 C. stamp was supplied by the printers on June 22nd. It was followed by the 5 C. on 22nd June, the 10 C. on the 23rd, and by the 50 C. on the 25th. In July of 1878, appeared the 100 C. (on the 13th), the 500 C. (on the 16th) and the 2 C. (on the 24th). Finally a 3 C. value was delivered by the printers on the 9th of September, but its issue was delayed until the end of January 1880.

Printing was "on instalments", hence the many shades of the blue colour. Indeed, specialists can distinguish between the following shades: clear blue, dull blue, ultramarine blue, dark ultramarine-blue, dark blue, dull ultramarine, dark ultramarine -- in this order of printers' delivery. Similarly the imprinted figures vary in colours from dark-blue to blue and light blue. Blue figures command double, and light blue figures four times the normal catalogue quotations.

All these stamps were printed from TYPE I plates, as contrasted with the 1879/82 issues, which were made from TYPE II plates. Altogether 11,179,625 stamps of the values of 2 C. to 500 C. were produced, in three main editions. The printings varied between 1 1/2 million to 1.9 million copies of the 2, 5, 10, 20, 50 and 100 C. values, while the 3 C. stamp was issued in 392,650, and the 500 C. in 576,225 copies.

The ratio of N to K frames was 48 1/2 to 51 1/2 per cent. The belief that inverted frames are rarer is, therefore, a fallacy. In fact, they are more common than the normal frames

A hundred and twenty years ago the Swiss stage-coaches first ventured to cross the Alps. Today there are more than 100 regular alpine routes, plied by the comfortable yellow postal coaches, familiar with every tourist. All of them carry mail and some are mounting heights of 8,000 feet and more. The famous Three Passes route over the Susten Road - one of the greatest roadbuilding feats in the world - has opened up to the tourist the marvels of Rhone Glacier, the Grimsel and the Furka, which he can now enjoy from a comfortable armchair.

The P.T.T. decided this year to issue two stamps to blow the trumpet - or shall we say the post-horn - of this unique postal transport organisation.

Replacing the 10 C. automobile post office stamp issued first in 1937 (and re-issued in a redrawn design in 1946), are two attractive values of 10 and 20 centimes.



Designed by H.Thöni and printed in rotogravure by Courvoisier, the 10c. value shows a postal coach passing a wintry village, while the 20 c. stamp reminds one of the picturesque scenery many of us have enjoyed during a summer holiday. The 10c. is in green, yellow and red, the 20c. in red, yellow and dark red; printed on white granite paper (with admixture of red and blue fibres) in four sheets per cylinder, each of 25 stamps, numbered A to D.

## VARIETIES

Collectors were quick to discover a number of interesting varieties on the 10c. value.

We were fortunate in securing through our Swiss contacts a few copies of the major flaws which will be listed in future catalogues.

All are major retouches of plate flaws and occur in Sheet A III on the 2nd, 13th, 16th and 21st stamp. Particularly, the 16th stamp shows a line through the posthorn in the left hand lower corner. In Sheet C III there is a large retouch in front of the coach engine on the 6th stamp, and another large one between the E and L in HELVETIA on the 15th stamp, while smaller retouches occur also on the 17th and 18th stamp.

We can offer these varieties at 1s.9d. each, except the one on the 15th stamp, Sheet C III, the price of which is 2s.6d.



DOUBLE STARS



SMEARED PRINT



SET-OFF (ABKLATSCH)



MISPLACED FIGURES

Some flaws and varieties.

The main recurrent variety is that of "double stars". Its origin was the repair to the plates, which was executed after the printing of the first two editions. A new negative steel matrix did not go down exactly upon the design and when it recut the lines, some of the old ones remained, producing thus a slightly shifted impression. This flaw occurs on every 126th stamp of the 2 C., 3 C., 20 C. 100 C. and 500 C. values, but only on the later deliveries of the 5 C. and 10 C. stamps it is, in fact, a re-entry.

Other varieties include badly smeared frames, defective stars and various stages of set-off or mirror printing (Abklatsch). Very often the figures are badly centred, but as they were inserted, it is impossible to consider poor centring as real varieties, though a specialist will, of course, include as many of such copies in his collection as he can possibly find.

(To be continued)



# OUR £ 25 QUIZ



Our CORONATION QUIZ under the motto "DO YOU KNOW YOUR SWISS STAMPS ?" published in the summer issue of "The Swiss Philatelist" proved a great success and also fully answered our question. Our readers do indeed know their Swiss stamps. There were many correct or near-correct entries, although questions Nos. 1 and 7 proved rather tricky, and many entrants slipped up here.

The independent Jury, under the chairmanship of Mr. Edward H. SPIRO, Chairman of the "Helvetia Philatelic Society of Great Britain and Editor of the Amateur Collector's Catalogue of Switzerland, had a difficult task in checking the many hundreds entries. The jurors decided to award points for precision, completeness and neatness after having selected the all-correct entries, and a final ballot determined the names of the winners of the top prizes.

The Editor and the Publishers of the "Swiss Philatelist" are greatly pleased to have provided some good fun for their readers and thank all who have taken such great interest in the Quiz for their friendly co-operation.

## ANSWERS AND PRIZEWINNERS

The correct answers were as follows:

- (1) Which was the last Swiss stamp printed on watermarked paper?

THE FRANK STAMPS OF 1943

Most entries named the 5 C. Pro Juventute of 1936. But the Frank stamps Nos. 14y to 16y, issued on smooth chalk paper in 1943 were in fact the last ones printed on WM Large Cross paper, even if the original design dated from 1925.



- (2) The picture shows part of a Swiss stamp, which stamp is it?

5+5 c. NATIONAL FÊTE 1950

Zum. No. 46. (Illustration top left)

- (3) On which stamp is the flower depicted, and what is its name?

On the 10+5 c. PRO JUVENTUTE value of 1944, Zum. No. 110. It is the EDELWEISS (Leontopodium alpinum C.)  
(see illustration top right)

- (4) On which issue the dates of validity are actually on the stamps (as opposed to the usual marginal inscriptions)?

PRO JUVENTUTE 1913, Zum. No. 1  
The dates: 1. XII. 13-28. II. 14.



- (5) Which are the two "Standing Helvetia" stamps which exchanged their colours?

The 25 c. and the 50 c.  
(from green to blue and vice versa)

- (6) How many values were in the Pro Juventute set of 1914 ?

NONE. There was no P.J. issue in 1914

- (7) One of the two (depicted) castles appears on Swiss stamps. Is it (A) or (B) and what is its name?

(A) It is the Castle of Chillon

### FIRST PRIZE (Value £ 10.10.0)

Selection of SdN and BIT stamps, Nos. SdN 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, BIT 22, 23, 76 to 82, and Sitting Helvetia No. 35, the 60c. bronze

Mr. A. J. POLLARD, Hove

### SECOND PRIZE (Value £ 5.5.0)

Selection of SdN (Nos. 22, 23 and 24) and B.I.T. (No. 23) stamps, fine used.

Mr. J. S. MORRIS, Dundee

### THIRD PRIZE (Value £ 3.3.0)

SdN Nos. 22, 26; B.I.T. Nos. 80 and 81, Standing Helvetia 30c. olive, f. used.

Mr. R. F. NEEDS, Walton on Thames

### FIVE PRIZES value 10/- each:

Messrs. L. E. STILES, E. 17; S. HOWLETT, Melton Mowbray; J. HARRISON, W. Launceston, Tasmania, Austr.; J. K. SYMONDS, Croyley Green, Herts; E. A. HAWKES, Southampton.

### FIVE PRIZES value 6/- each:

G. L. ATKINSON, Northd.; Dr. F. H. TAYLOR, OBE., S. W. 16; I. BUTTER, Leiston; R. MERRIOTT, Hove, E. B. GRIFFITHS, Mddx.

### 30 CONSOLATION PRIZES see Page 4

Quite a few competitors failed here, may be because the angle from which the Chillon photo was taken is rather unfamiliar. Picture (B) is of the Castle of Oberhofen on the Lake of Thun.



Left: CHILLON Above: OBERHOFEN

- (8) On which stamps can you find these two famous figures?

On the TELL and TELL BOY ISSUES, of course!

Nobody went wrong here, and some competitors ingeniously pointed out that the two famous figures can, indeed, be found even together, on tête-bêche and sé-tenant pairs!



# Newsreel



**THEMATIC COLLECTORS** are turning not only to Swiss stamps on which they can find every possible "subject" of interest - from heraldry, animals, flowers and costumes to rivers, lakes, mountains, railways etc. - but also to postmarks. Some of the recent special postmarks, such as the two which we depict today, are definitely "thematic" and are being eagerly sought after by the growing body of collectors of thematic stamps.

*Fêtes de Genève*  
14-17 AOÛT 1953

## ZUMSTEIN'S EUROPE CATALOGUE FOR 1954

has grown this year to a fat volume of 1,240 pages, with 22,500 excellent illustrations and 110,000 price quotations. It is today the most reliable catalogue of European countries because it reflects the market situation on the Continent. Switzerland is edited with particular care. It is a "MUST" for every collector.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> National Stamp Exhibition

will take place from JANUARY 6th to 14th, 1954, at the Central Hall, Westminster. The Amateur Collector Ltd. will be, of course, there once again, and we hope to occupy the same stand as last year and welcome once more all our clients and friends. For exact details of the Exhibition arrangements consult the philatelic journals after Christmas.

### AT THE NATIONAL HANDICRAFTS AND HOBBIES EXHIBITION

last September we were pleased to meet many of our friends. We have been fortunate in securing a good corner stand, which quickly became the rendez-vous place of all stamp collectors visiting the exhibition. Among our distinguished visitors was Madame Yvonne ARNAUD, the famous stage and radio star, who took with her from our stand a present for one of her philatelist-friends.

### RACING FANS will be attracted

by a special postmark which was in use by the Automobile P.O. No. 2 at the St. Gall Horse Sport Days on September 5th and 6th.



### IN OUR CATALOGUE SUPPLEMENT FOR 1954

due to appear in December, out of 886 price alterations 818 will be upwards. As soon as the new Catalogue is published, the higher prices will come into operation. **THE WISE COLLECTOR BUYS NOW !!**

### THE NEW PRO JUVENTUTE SET 1954

will be supplied to regular subscribers of our New Issue Service at 3/-s. mint or used, and at 3s.6d. on First Day Cover; postage extra.

### MÜLLER'S SPECIALISED CATALOGUE OF SWITZERLAND 1954

now in its 23rd year is a mine of valuable information, and it is astonishing how a volume of nearly 280 pages, with 850 excellent illustrations and more than 9,000 price quotations can be produced at the modest price of F 2.- This year the "Müller" has 36 more pages and contains 618 price alterations. It is a most useful little handbook, and although printed in German there will be no difficulty to understand the text for the English-speaking reader.

## SPECIAL OFFERS



A fortunate purchase of a small lot of the rare DIE I of the 1949 20c. Landscape issue enables us to offer - until the stock is exhausted:

Used on piece... 12/-

A fine used P A I R scarce thus... 30/-

**SUPERB MINT** single (Zumstein 300.-frs) only.... £ 22

### SITTING HELVETIA VARIETIES

#### 1881 WITH COLOURED SHIELD

No. 44 2 c. MINT... 2/6

No. 45 5 c. MINT... 1/9

No. 46 10 c. MINT... 1/9

No. 48 20 c. MINT... 2/6

all four mint... 7/6



PEACE 1919, 10c. No. 144

Major varieties

Pf. 3, Q instead of O in 10, mint... 2/6

Pf. 4, Broken arm, mint... 7/6

Pf. 4, Broken knee, m. or u... 7/6

All above prices include a normal copy supplied for comparison!

### SWISS PHILATELIC CONGRESS 1953

On the occasion of the Congress a special postmark was granted by the PTT and applied by the Wattwil P.O. We offer a COVER, franked with a 5c Pro Patria, and special Congress cachet at 1s.6d.

### THE AMATEUR COLLECTOR LTD.

27, Westbury Road, Woodside Park, LONDON, N.12

WE HOLD THE FINEST STOCKS OF SWISS ISSUES IN GREAT BRITAIN

## QUIZ PRIZEWINNERS OF CONSOLATION PRIZES

J. NIGHTINGALE, Welwyn G.C.; E.A. SCHOENBERGER, Hamilton, New Zealand; Lt. Col J. D. BLYTH, Cheltenham; J. MATTHEWS, Shoreham; A. YATES, Darwin, Lancs; H.L. GULMARAES, Brazil; F. G. LEVITT, Stroud, Glos; F. BAILEY, London, W.5; L. R. FOY, Queenstown, Australia; J. E. O. HOBBS, Whitton; G. KESSLER, Littlehampton; Miss E. M. WANRICK, Sevenoaks; A. H. DATER, New Jersey, U.S.A.; R. MERRETT, Wimbledon; Lt. Col. EVERETT, E.C. SLATE, London, N.14; D. KENYON, Harrow; Miss FRIEDNER Orange, N.S.W., Australia; L. McDONALD, Southsea, Hants; PHILAT. EXCHANGE CLUB, Beirut, Lebanon; M. D. TREVOR, Croydon; C. C. LEE, St. Helens, Lancs; H. WURZBURGER, New York, G.D. SMITH, Bognor Regis; F. E. STOTZER, New York; Capt. M. CARLTON, London, EC. 2; T. E. LIBURA, Ilford; J. H. McLeod, Edinburgh; H. Robinson, Durban, S.A.; B. Norton, Belfast.