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# THE SWISS PHILATELIST

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## PRO PATRIA

1956



The Pro Patria stamps, issued on 1st June, 1956, and reviewed here rather belatedly will bring to an end the series of Swiss lakes and rivers, begun in 1952. This series of stamps was perhaps the most unfortunate of modern Swiss production. The fine landscapes could not possibly be produced to full advantage in the small size chosen, and if the Swiss Post Office should decide to continue the present format, let us hope that their new choice of subject will be more in keeping with the space available.

The first value of the 1956 set was devoted to the Swiss housewife, with a symbolic design which was intended to suggest domesticity. The remaining four values show the Rhone at St. Maurice (10c., green, yellow-green); the Katzen lake, (20c. brownish carmine, reddish brown); the Rhine at Trin (30c. brown, yellow brown); The Walen Lake (40c., blue, light blue). These four stamps were designed by Ponziano Togri, Mesocco, and were printed by the rotogravure process by Courvoisier, on white slightly coated paper with blue and red fibres.

The 5c. value was designed by E. & M. Lenz and engraved by Albert Yersin. This stamp was printed on white paper (rotogravure by P.T.T. printing works). Sale: 1/6/56-31/8/56 (15/9/56 at PTT agency). Valid: 31/12/56.



## PRO JUVENTUTE

1956



Burnet Moth. Green, red & dark green.



Large White Butterfly. Blue, brown, and yellow.



light and dark blue.



Purple Emperor. Red, brown, violet, yellow.

This year's Juventute stamps, issued on 1st December, continue the butterfly and insect designs. There may be room to criticise this year's effort as not coming up to the very high standard attained in the 1955 set. One can, of course, argue that with the exception of the 20 c. value, the subjects are not as colourful.

The 5c. value depicts Carlo Madaerno, the famous Ticino architect (1556-1629) who lived in Capolago on the lake of Lugano. One of his works was the church of Sant'Andrea della Valle in Rome, which forms the background of the 5c. stamp which is in brownish carmine. In addition to this year's set, a stamp booklet (fr 5.-) was again issued, containing 12x 10c., and 4 x 20c. stamps. Face value of this is fr4.80, the balance of 20c. being the



charge for the booklet. The first day cancellation is depicted below.

Details of Stamps:  
The four insect values were all designed by Niklaus Stoecklin, and the 5c. value was engraved by Karl Bickel, after a painting in the civic museum in Lugano.

The size of the stamps is 24x29 mm. (design 21 x 26 mm.). Paper: 5c. white. All other values white, slightly coated with red and blue fibres. The first value was printed in the rotoline engraving process by the PTT printing works, Bernes; The four insect values in rotogravure by Courvoisier.

Sale: 1/12/56 to 31/1/57, (15/2/57 at PTT Agency). Valid: 30/6/57. Special cover issued by Juv. Org. (portrait of C. Madaerno)



# Semi Specialising IN Swiss STAMPS

By PATRICK HAMILTON

Second Instalment of

A most interesting Article reprinted by courtesy of the Publishers of "STAMP COLLECTORS ANNUAL 1954".



**WILLIAM TELL DESIGN.** This shows a bust of the legendary Swiss hero, and first appeared in July, 1914, when a 10 c. value, printed in red, was issued. A 12 c. in brown, and a 15 c. in violet followed soon afterwards. These, and all other stamps issued in this design, were printed on buff paper. A 14c. olive came along in 1915, and after this the master die was re-engraved. This differs from the original in a number of points: Die I (original die) cross bars of H and E in HELVETIA centrally placed. Bust 16½ mm. high. V-shaped line over initials of engraver "JS" (J. Sprenger) at right. Lower line of collar broken above L in HELVETIA. Die II (re-engraved die), cross bars of H and E nearer top than base of letters. Bust 15 mm. high. Single line over initials at right. Collar unbroken. There are also other minor differences between the two dies.

In 1921 the colour of the 10 c. was changed to green, and two new values, a 20 c. in violet and a 25 c. in vermilion appeared, the colour of the last being changed to carmine in the following year. A 30 c. in blue was put on sale in 1924 and at the same time the 20 c. was reissued in vermilion. More colour changes took place in 1925, the 20 c. being altered to carmine and the 25 c. to brown. The 15 c. appeared in lake in 1927 and in the same year the shade of the 10c. became blue-green. The colour of the 10 c. was again changed in 1930, when it appeared in its fourth hue, violet. All of the stamps in the William Tell design from 1921 on were in Die II except the 15 c. lake of 1927, which was in Die I. The 10 c. red is the only stamp to be found from both Die I and Die II.

The following "booklet" varieties exist: TETE-BECHE.-10 c., red; Die II, green, blue-green and violet; 15 c., violet, and 20 c., vermilion and carmine. SPACED, PUNCTURE 11 mm.- 10 c. red Die II, and green; 15 c., violet, and 20 c., violet. SPACED, PUNCTURE 9 mm.- 10 c., green and 20 c., violet, vermilion and carmine. SPACED, ADDITIONAL PERFORATION.- 10 c., green, blue-green and violet, and 20 c., carmine. SE-TENANT and SE-TENANT SPACED, PUNCTURE 11 mm.- 10 c. red, Die II, plus 15 c., violet.

There are various se-tenant varieties, comprising combinations of the Cross-Bow and William Tell designs. These are all 5 c. Cross-Bow in conjunction with 10 c. William Tell. SE-TENANT.- 5 c., orange; 5 c., lilac; and 5 c., marone, all with 10 c., green. 5 c., deep-green, with 10 c. violet. These may be had both horizontal and vertical as the odd stamp occupies the lower right corner of the pane. SE-TENANT, TETE-BECHE (horizontal pairs only).- 5 c., orange; 5 c., lilac and 5 c., marone, all with 10 c., green; 5 c.,

marone, with 10 c. blue green, and 5 c. marone all with 10 c. green; 5c. marone, with 10c. blue-green, and 5c. deep-green with 10c. violet. SE-TENANT SPACED, PUNCTURE 11 mm.- 5c. orange; 5c. lilac and 5c. marone all with 10c., green. SE-TENANT SPACED, ADDITIONAL PERFORATION.- 5c. marone with 10c. green; 5c. marone with 10c. blue-green, and 5c. deep green with 10 c. violet.

As in the case of the Cross-Bow design, all of the William Tell stamps were printed on smooth, granite paper. In addition, the following exist on gridded paper with gridded gum: 10c. violet; 15c. lake; 20c. carmine; 25c. brown, and 30 c. blue. The 10c. violet and 20c. carmine, tete-beche and spaced with additional perforation and the various combinations of the 5c. Cross-Bow, deep-green with 10c. violet may also be seen on the gridded paper.

There are minor variations of shade to be found in most values of the Cross-Bow and William Tell designs. The only one of importance is found in the first 15c. which exists in four distinct shades, violet, red-violet, dull violet and deep blackish-violet.

**HELVETIA WITH ALPS DESIGN.** Only three values were issued in this type-10, 12 and 15c. denominations which appeared in 1909. The 10c. exists tete-beche, and spaced with 11mm. puncture.

**HELVETIA WITH SWORD DESIGN.** This design made its first appearance in 1908 and was used for values from 20c. to 3 francs. The two dies of the 40c. are illustrated in the catalogue and are too well-known to require description. The original issue consisted of the following values: 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 50 and 70c., 1 and 3 francs, an 80c. being added in 1916 and a 60c. in 1918. In 1921 the colour of the 40c. was changed from orange-yellow and purple to greenish-blue, in 1922 to ultramarine, and in 1929 that of the 70c. was amended from orange-yellow and chocolate to buff and violet. The shade of the 40c. was again altered in 1925 to yellow-green and magenta.

All are found on smooth granite paper, but in addition, the following may be seen: GRILLED, CHALKY PAPER.- 35c, 40c, yellow-green and magenta; 50c., 60c, 70c. buff and violet; 80c. and fr. 1. SMOOTH, CHALKY PAPER.- 50, 60 and 80c. The 25c. is found tete-beche, and also spaced with 11 mm. puncture.

**ARMS DESIGN.** In 1924 a new type showing the Geneva Cross on a shield above an alpine scene was introduced for four values, 90c., 1.20, 1.50 and 2fr. All of these appeared on smooth granite paper and also on gridded, chalky paper. A good, catalogued variety on the 1.20fr has the inscription spelled HELVETIA.

**PROVISIONALS.** A number of provisional issues were made between 1915 and 1930, but we are only directly concerned here with four stamps which appeared in 1921 - 2½ on 3 c. orange-brown, and 5 on 7c., grey, both Cross-Bow type; 20 on 15c., violet, William Tell, and 20 on 25 c. blue and light-blue, Helvetia with sword, continued on Page 4.



DIE I



DIE II





## OLD SWISS CURRENCIES



Reprinted from "Stamp Collecting" of 2/6/55.

In the days before the inauguration of the Federal Constitution, each Canton had its own currency system. The postal system was also extremely complicated; the larger Cantons operated their own, while the smaller Cantons either leased their rights to the larger, or to the House of Thurn and Taxis, all of which makes for some confusion in endeavouring to understand the early rates.

Geneva was the only Canton using the French monetary system; the first stamps of this district, the "Double Geneva" consisted of 2x5c. stamps. A single stamp was intended to pay the local rate, while a double stamp paid the postage anywhere within the cantonal boundary.

Weights, too, were somewhat complicated. The "livre française" was equivalent to approx.  $\frac{1}{2}$  kilo. The "livre" was subdivided into  $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\frac{1}{8}$ ,  $\frac{1}{16}$ , and  $\frac{1}{32}$ . The last two were the ounce (once) and the "Loth". The "livre" equalled 16 "onces" or 32 Loths.

Zurich reckoned in Rappen, Schillinge and Florins. A Florin equalled 40 Schillinge (2.29 f. of Geneva); 1 Schilling = 4 Rappen (or 5 $\frac{1}{2}$  centimes) and 6 Rappen = 8 $\frac{1}{2}$  centimes. The postal rate of 4 R. per  $\frac{1}{2}$  Loth (approx. 15.5g.) covered the local rate while 6 R. was the fee for letters from one post office to another.

Basle issued only one stamp, the "Basle Dove" at 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  R. equivalent to 3 $\frac{1}{2}$  c. (1f.=1.43f. of Geneva). The stamps were printed in sheets of 20 and sold for 5 Batzen (50 R.) per sheet, and 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  R. covered the cost of a letter to anywhere within the city limits.

When the Federal Postal Administration came into being in 1849, a uniform postal rate was instituted and Article I of the Federal Law pertaining to postal rates set up 4 postal zones (Rayons) for letters:-  
1st zone..Up to 10 hours dist. Per  $\frac{1}{2}$  Loth 5 Rp.  
2nd zone..10-25 hours ..... " 10 Rp.  
3rd zone..25-40 hours ..... " 15 Rp.  
4th zone..Over 40 hours ..... " 20 Rp.  
A Swiss "road hour" was reckoned at 4.8km. Provision was also made in the larger towns for a "Poste Locale" or "Orts-Post" (local postage rate) for franked letters up to 2Loths for 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  Rp.

The new Federal currency was reckoned in Rappen and the monetary rates of the whole country were gradually changed over, starting with Geneva and Vaud (District I) on 1st Oct., 1851, and so on in rotation according to the numbered postal districts, concluding with Graubunden and Ticino on 1st Aug., 1852. This was the time known as the "Transitional period."

The first Federal stamps, the "Poste Locale" and "Orts-Poste" were issued in April, 1850, and were used generally in all areas, irrespective of language. The Rayon I and II followed in October of the same year. The Rayon III (15 Rp. and 15c.) came into use in 1852. In 1851 the number of Rayons was reduced from 4 to 3, and, therefore, no stamps for Rayon IV were ever issued.

# NEW for DESIGNS

## O.M.M. & B.I.T.



The Swiss Postal Administration "thrilled" us with two issues on 22nd October, 1956, one of which brought into the limelight a new international organisation, the World Meteorological Office. Before condemning the PTT for these issues it should be stated that the Swiss Postal Authorities simply act as "hosts" to the United Nations Administration in Switzerland and that it is this Administration which asked for postal facilities.

The criticism levied here is whether a comparatively small office like the World Meteorological Office should have been granted Swiss postal facilities. On the other hand, we really must be grateful that the long Labour Bureau set has now been replaced with only six values, gradually the other offices will follow suit.

In spite of the adverse criticism levied against these issues, it cannot be denied that all have enjoyed tremendous popularity, and more collectors than ever before have in the past twelve months, tried to complete this and the obsolete sets. In fact, one can only suggest that international goodwill on an unprecedented scale has entered this field of Swiss collecting. Do we see here the birth of a tendency for internationalism among collectors?

The OMM set was engraved by Alvert Yersin, and the BIT by Karl Albrecht Bickel, Jun. Both sets were printed in sheets of 50, line engraving process, PTF printing works. White line engraving paper was used for both issues.

There are six values in each set, denominations 5 c., grey; 10c., green; 20c., red; 40c., blue; 60 c., brown, and fa 2, purple. Each set has three stamps of two different designs, the 5c., 10c. and 40c. being of one design and the 20c., 60c. and fa 2 of the other.

The old overprinted BIT set will become obsolete on 30th April, 1957, but will be on sale only as long as stocks last prior to this date.

Now is the time to complete this set, before the inevitable price rises take place.

## Standing Helvetia Forgeries

The rare 72F, 99B & 100A have been discovered with forged perfs! Cheap varieties have been used, perfs clipped off and the rare type skillfully added, making detection extremely difficult. Clients are warned not to purchase copies without certificate.



### OBITUARY

It is with great regret that we have to announce the death of Mr. M. Ephraïmson, whose retirement we announced last year.

Mr. Ephraïmson had great experience in the stamp trade and his wise counsel was of great value to our firm from the time he joined us in 1946. Even during his retirement we were able to call on his advice in many important matters, and his passing has left an irreplaceable gap in our ranks.

We extend our deepest sympathy to his widow, who so lovingly nursed him during his long illness, and also to his family.

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## ERRORS & VARIETIES

1937 MOBILE P.O. (No. 210) a superbly cancelled DOUBLE PRINT. 50/-

1936 LANDSCAPE 5c (202y) mint Block of six. one Double Prt. Ditto (202y) only 13/6 single stamp w. Double Perfs. at bottom. 25/-

1947 LEVSIEN AIR LABEL on Cover, with DOUBLE PERFS. right and bottom. Very Rare! only 50/-

1945 PAX 1/6a mint, large round printing Flaw. Unusual! 35/-

1939 Exhibition (Crossbow type) six different Flaws and major Retouches. Nice Lot. all mint and fine. 45/-

1947 RAILWAY 10c BLUE-GREY ENGINE: Superb Used 25/-

Ditto, Compl. Sheet Mint, very rare outstanding item! £11

1941 HISTORICALS on Vergé Paper; One compl. set mint 75/-

Ditto one mint 80c 25/-

Ditto one mint 90c 30/-

1924 BIT for 1.20 HELVETIA ERROR (211) used, from sheet margin. Only 1000 issued of which many lost! RRR. £36

1944 SDN Set compl. Used on six PTT Folders. Nice! £5

## SOLDIER STAMPS 1939/45

Miniature Sheets: Six Differ't (Usually 2/6 to 3/6ea) 12/6



A VERY LUCK FIND enables us to offer a newly discovered Variety of the 20c Mobile P.O. (No. 315)! The red print is shifted, making snow-covered Mountain Slopes and other abnormalities. Six Singles @ 8/6 & Two @ 34/- available.



1852 NEUCHATEL on COVER: More than full Margins, all round. Minute marginal nick left lower corner. Cat. fr 1000. -- Real Bargain at only £ 45



1859 BIASECTED STRUBEL (10c) on COVER with whole 5c. Uncatalogued combination of great rarity! Dr. Fulpius Cert. # 55

1862 Strubel 2Rp STRIP OF 5 on COVER. Fine & lightly Pmkd with Thimble Pmk on each st'p A very unusual item. £38

SPRUBEL PROOFS & COLOUR TRIALS: Rare first thin paper prints: 5Rp. green. minute thin £12 5Rp. blue. small thin £12 Thick Paper Prints: 20Rp grey £9 20Rp mauve £4; 10Rp yellow £3 10Rp orange 70/-. The above six stamps all have full margins!

1862/78 Sitting HELVETIA, 30Rp 41b. the REAL BLUE. Superb mint copy, full gum and centering. £25

Ditto, 1Fr. Goldbronze, 36b £19

1878/82 POSTAGE DUES TYPE II, the finest used complete set only £4

1871 FRANK STAMPS No. 1 purple-lilac very fine mint 42/6 No. 1c brown-rose very fine mint 62/6

Militaires français internés en Suisse. Gratis.

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## QUANTITIES OF STAMPS ISSUED

Publicity 1955:

5c. 6,986,411;	10c. 18,336,411;
20c. 12,053,751;	40c. 4,082,941.

Pro Patria 1955: 5c. 1,964,644; 10c. 3,622,474; 20c. 2,974,100; 30c. 1,047,503; 40c. 1,216,002.

Juventute 1955: 5c. 9,681,213; 10c. 7,527,162; 20c. 5,414,138; 30c. 1,494,186; 40c. 1,817,263.

It is interesting to note that the Juventute quantities are steadily increasing and that the 5 c. stamp is now printed in larger quantities than the Publicity of the same denomination!

1955 UNO: 40c. 221,250

Lausanne Miniature Sheet: 224,150.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY

When you see what some girls marry, you realise how they must hate to work for a living.

## SEMI SPECIALISING IN SWISS STAMPS.

(Continued from Page 2.) All of these may be found tete-beche, and also in spaced pairs with 11 mm. punctures.

The 2c on 3 c. exists with inverted surcharge, and the 5 on 7c normally on stamps from Type I, is also known on Type II. The 20 on 15 c. was normally applied to the stamp in red-violet, the surcharge being either blue or black. Additionally, the blue surcharge is known on stamps in deep blackish-violet.

**SURFACE PRINTED PICTORIALS.** A series of seven postage stamps depicting Swiss scenery were issued in 1954. These ranged in value from 3 to 30 c., and, without exception, were printed on chalk-surfaced, grided, granite paper. The only varieties with which we are concerned are in the 5, 10, 15 and 20c. values, all of which are found tete-beche and also in spaced pairs with additional perforation. Se-tenants of these four denominations exist but are not from the regular issues being found in specially printed miniature sheets issued to mark a stamp exhibition in Zurich.

(To be continued.)

## Roundabout We Hear That . . .

...That proposals for a 65c. Landscape stamp have been carefully investigated by the Swiss Post Office. The creation of such a value has been requested by certain circles but the Swiss Post Office declined to oblige. Research has shown that insufficient quantities would be used to cover design, printing and distribution costs.

...A road tunnel is to be built through the great St. Bernard. It will be four miles long and connected with the Aosta Valley in Italy.

...Basle is 2,000 years old this year. Preparations are already taking place to celebrate this important anniversary, and there will be many interesting activities, starting mid August, 1957.

...A Hotel Post label (on cover with dated Postmark Grindelwald 30 Aug 69 and arrival Postmarked Bern 30 VIII 69 11) from the Hotel du Grand Eiger Grindelwald has been discovered. Present opinion is that this item is of a private nature and we understand from the BEZ that it will not be catalogued under Hotel Post stamps.