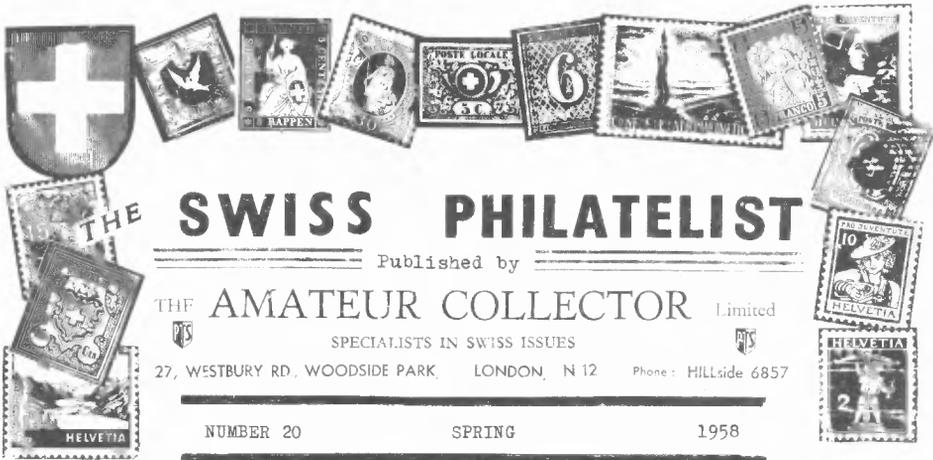


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# THE SWISS PHILATELIST

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## HERE IT IS -

# 1958

Our NEW

## CATALOGUE...

REVISED! ENLARGED!  
UP...  
NEW  
DOWN

The long awaited full edition of the AMATEUR COLLECTOR'S CATALOGUE was published on 22nd JAN. This year's edition is of infinitely superior quality to anything printed hitherto and the weight of the Catalogue has been increased by almost 50%. It's stiffer cover will ensure that it will last the TWO YEARS FOR WHICH IT HAS BEEN DESIGNED, (there will only be a Supplement in 1959). As regards value for money, it is surely one of the finest buys available on the market - truly a mine of information, which no Swiss Collector can afford to be without. At the time of writing this, nearly half the total printing has been sold and collector are advised to make sure of their copies as soon as possible, as sales at the forthcoming Stamp Exhibition will, undoubtedly, be high. Mr. L.W. Haydon, the Editor, is to be congratulated.

(turn to page 2)

1668 PRICE INCREASES

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OVERALL TOTAL OF CHANGES: 2110

# EXCITING NEWS

## Publicity 1958

- 5c. Nyon Castle. Olive, Brown & Chamois. Des. Paul Perret (Lausanne).
- 20c. Emblem of Swiss Manufacture Vermilion, Violet and Carmine. Des: R. Bircher.
- 10c. Woman's Head Ribbons in Nat. Colours. Green, Dk. Green & Red. Des: M. Allenbach
- 20c. Salvation Army Hat. Grey, Red, Light & Dk. Blue. Des: M. Allenbach

This year's publicity stamps will be on sale from March 5th for as long as stocks last, but not later than 31st Dec. 1958. The four events commemorated are the following: 5c. Nyon 2,000th Anniversary. 10c. 30 years of Saffa Exhibition, Zurich, to be held from July 17 to September 15th. 20c. Commemorative, 25 years since inception of the Emblem of Swiss Manufacture. 40c. 75 years of Salvation Army, which began its activities in Geneva. The stamps will be valid for postage during dates of sale only (see above). Printing particulars: All four values are printed in sheets of 25 on white, slightly coated paper with admixture of red and blue fibres. They are printed in Rotogravure by Imprimerie Courvoisier SA, La Chaux-de-Fonds. At the time of going to print only black and white illustrations of the stamps are available, which do not seem very attractive to us. Final judgement must, of course, be reserved until we are able to examine the issue in full colours.

**Editor's Note:**  
In our last issue we promised further details of the 1957 Juventute Set. We refrain from giving this now, as they have since then been fully published in the Amateur Collector's Cat.

STAMPEX

MARCH 15 - 22  
CENTRAL HALL - WESTMINSTER

SEE PAGE 4.



# IN — SEARCH — OF VARIETY

Illustrations are by  
courtesy of Zumstein  
& Co.

Final Instalment  
in a Series of Articles  
by Lt.Col.J.D. Blyth.

The rapid wear gave rise to the necessity for most of the retouches, many of which are particularly interesting to study in connection with the wear or faults which they were intended to correct. I have mentioned already the re-engraved double entry, which seems to be too rare to have found its way into the catalogues. Into the same category comes the famous "spear in flames", a major retouch in the oval of the 25 cts. The lines in the retouch are coarse and heavy to varying degrees in the different varieties, but the colourless area which it fills seems to be the same in every variety. It occurs in the issues of 1882 and 1899, and possibly in that of 1894, and so appears to be a retouch required by a fault existing before the production of the electro and not to wear of the electro.

In an earlier article I recommended the close study of normal specimens through a good lens until complete familiarity with their details has been acquired. As I am writing for the budding



Swiss philatelist and not the expert I will venture to repeat that advice, for some of the minor retouches are not easy to recognise. Such varieties as the outlined spear and the neat (or untidy) patches in the background of the oval present no difficulty, and much of the strong re-engraving is obvious even without a lens, but except by comparison with a normal specimen it is sometimes almost impossible to spot cases in which individual lines have been strengthened or replaced with skill and care. An example of this occurs in one of the retouches in Helvetia's draperies.

Starting from about the height of the hand and half way across the skirt is a fold which in a normal specimen, would blend with the lower curved border of the shield if it were continued downwards in a gentle curve. The clue to the retouch is that this fold, if prolonged, would miss the shield and pass between the two lower figures of value. Having discovered this a close scrutiny reveals a number of very small retouches in various parts of the stamp.

In another form of retouch an etching needle appears to have been used instead of a burin. I have a specimen of the 40 cts. of 1901 which has a considerable area between the head and the spear shaded with fine scratches instead of the usual engraved cross-hatching. A probable explanation is that local damage to the lead plate gave rise to an area without recessed lines on the electro, and that hasty repairs to the latter were carried out at the last minute - possibly with the plate in position in the printing press.

The 30 cts. and 3 franc values did not appear until 1891, some five years after the production and printing had been taken over by Max Girardet of Berne. Though the designs are basically the same as those of the other values the details are different, the backgrounds being composed of ruled parallel straight lines and the lettering neater and squarer, giving the im-

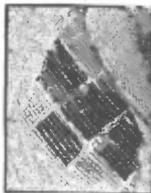


92A Ret. 4

pression that the master dies were reduced from a much larger drawing by means of a mechanical pantograph. As these values, like the others, were printed from electros many varieties of the four groups are to be found, but thanks to the rigidity of the drawing they are much less difficult to recognise.

In 1904 a new type of the 40 cts. appeared, followed in 1906 by the redrawn 25 cts. The design of these new stamps was almost identical with that of the 30 cts. and 3 francs, but the stamps were printed from etched steel plates. The varieties to be found call for no particular descriptions, but it may be remarked that in spite of the use of a more durable material and of the comparatively short life of the issues examples of worn plates are far from uncommon.

I have done no more than hint at a possible explanation of some of the varieties for two reasons: first, lack of space and, second, because different opinions are held by experts concerning the processes almost up to the moment of printing - and who am I to take sides? If, however, any reader is sufficiently interested to try to work out a reasonable theory he (or she) will find it a most fascinating occupation. The evidence - or much of it is printed on the faces of the stamps!



77C/RET. 3.

## 1958 CATALOGUE Review

Continued from P.1.

ulated on finding ways of incorporating so much new material into the available pages, without in any way impairing the quality of reproduction. The price alterations listed on P.1. underline the importance of this year's edition - there are more than in any previous year. In spite of the high number of changes, the conservative price policy of the Amateur Collector Ltd. can be readily be seen when comparing the number of changes with those in this year's Swiss publications. While some years ago the ratio between the Swiss franc & the £ sterling was 2/- (28¢) & upwards the Amateur Collector have succeeded in changing this to 2/- (28¢) & downwards (the few exceptions to this general trend are of small importance). Swiss stamps will further substantially increase during the next few months. **A SWISS COLLECTION WILL ALWAYS BEAT INFLATION!**

## Pro Juventute

RARITY  
DISCOVERED!

We have been very fortunate in discovering a hitherto unrecorded Variety of the 1912 German Juventute. It is a strip of five pairs, IMPERF. BETWEEN. As no record of this variety exists, it is safe to assume that the discovered five are all so far known. On the Italian stamp, a horizontal Imperf. (10 per sheet!) has long been known. The above are vertically imperf. and one pair is now in the Zumstein Reference Collection. We shall retain one and offer the remaining three for sale. First come, first served, at only £15 per pair.



THOUGHT FOR TODAY  
Half the questions a woman asks you are only to make you feel proud to be able to answer them.



79 B/Ret. 1

# THE 1941-1955

# AIR MAIL 50c

## "WHITE ROOF" VARIETIES *by L. N. and M. WILLIAMS*

The Swiss airmail series current between May 1st, 1941, and 1955 was designed and engraved by A.Yersin, and printed by the Mint on a rotary line-engraving machine.

The 50 c. stamp in olive on salmon paper (S.G.417) shows Lac Léman, the Lake of Geneva, with an aeroplane flying over some buildings. The building at the right of the stamp has a sloping roof, normally represented by fourteen unbroken horizontal lines of colour, more or less clearly printed.

A variety of this stamp, well known to specialist collectors of Swiss stamps, is termed the "White Roof". This variety is to be found in varying forms, all consisting of the absence of colour in the fourteen horizontal lines or some of them. In the most pronounced form of the variety which we have seen the colour is absent from nearly the whole of the roof; similarly, in the least pronounced form, the absence of colour is confined to a comparatively small area affecting parts of the upper five lines. Between these extremes, the absence of colour occurs in varying degrees.

In the specialised Swiss Catalogues, the variety has been listed as being caused by plate wear. [See, e.g. in Zumstein's Special-Katalog Schweiz-Liechtenstein, 14th ed., 1957, page 268, No. 29, where the variety is listed under the heading "Plattenabnutzung"]

This diagnosis has always seemed unsatisfactory to us. An examination of a number of individual copies of the stamp with the variety revealed that they could not be graded in any one way to show that the variation in the extent of the absence of colour was caused by progressive wear. It was, therefore, clear that the variety

occurred on more than one position on the sheet.

The sheets contained fifty stamps (5 across, 10 down), and the printing cylinder accommodated two such groups of fifty subjects. These subjects had been entered directly on to the cylinder from the transfer roll (roller die) in a special transfer press - see illustration, [which shows a Swiss printing cylinder 696 mm (about 27½ in.) in circumference, first brought into use in 1945; cylinders of this size are used for printing most of the current middle-sized rotary line-engraved Swiss stamps; four groups of fifty subjects are entered on such cylinders, with the longer dimension of the stamps at right angles to the axis of the cylinder and the longer dimension of the sheet parallel with this axis. The cylinders used for the 50 c. airmail stamp of 1941, and all other rotary line engraved Swiss stamps issued between 1936 and 1945, measured 576 mm. (about 22½ in.) in circumference; and, for middle-sized stamps such as the 1941 airmail issue, the subjects were entered in two groups of fifty, with the longer dimension of the stamps parallel to the axis of the cylinder & the longer dimension of the sheet at right angles to this axis; each group was separated from the following by a strip about 1 in. wide, and this was

cut away after printing. The small stamps such as the "Landscapes" series of 1936 (which were the first Swiss stamps printed by rotary line-engraving), were arranged in four groups of fifty, as in the illustration. The large stamps, such as the 3, 5 and 10 fr. stamps of September 1938, were arranged in four groups of twenty-five. The middle-sized stamps (beginning, so far as rotary line-engraving is concerned, with the "Historical" series issued in January 1941) necessitated an uneconomic arrangement of subjects on the printing cylinder, and this was followed in 1945 by the adoption of a new machine and a printing cylinder of about 5 in. greater in circumference.]

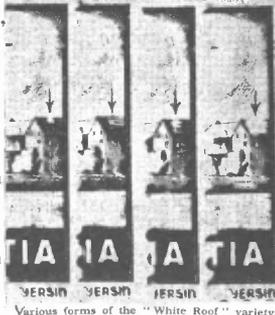
On such positional multiples as we have seen of the "white roofs", the varieties occurred only on stamps in the extreme right-hand vertical column of the sheet. We have been reliably informed that they are limited to that column, occurring on all then stamps.

Because the "white roofs" could not be graded to show progressive wear of the plate, a further fairly safe assumption was that they were not caused by a progressive roller flaw - that is, progressively greater damage to the relief lines on the roller die breaking down increasingly under the stress of repeatedly entering the subjects on to the printing cylinder. [Many instances of such roller flaws are known, perhaps the most popular being Great Britain 1840 1d. Plates 7, 8, 9 and 10, the so-called "0" and "ON" flaws, which are progressive stages of the same roller defect or weakness.]

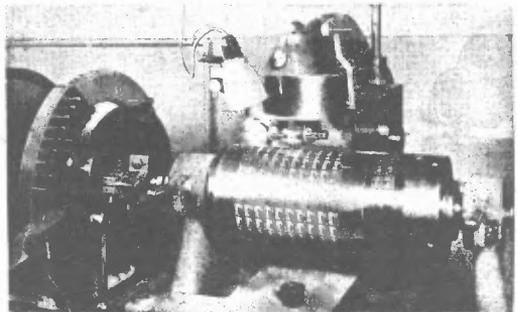
Further, close examination of a number of used and mint copies of the "white roof" varieties revealed that, in the uncoloured areas, although the colour was absent, the paper had been distorted by printing pressure, and the lines were present in albino.

These combinations of facts dispose of any possibility of the varieties being caused by the diminution or absence of recesses on the printing cylinder on account of wear, or a roller flaw, or any other cause.

The varieties were, therefore, caused during printing. (To be continued).



Various forms of the "White Roof" variety.



The Swiss Transfer Press. Showing an entry being made directly on to the Printing Cylinder.

**STAMPEX**

# National STAMP

VISIT



'58

**MARCH 15 - 22**

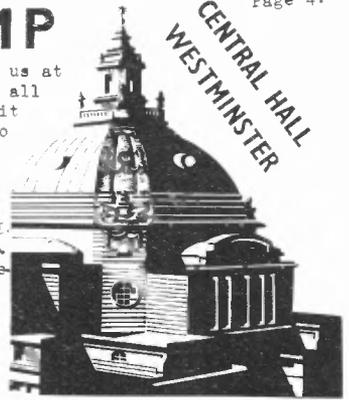
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We have pleasure in listing below, for the first time, prices for available **COMPLETE COLLECTIONS OF INTERNATIONAL OFFICES** (Stamps issued for the various International Bodies under the auspices of the UNITED NATIONS, operating from neutral Switzerland.) These stamps have progressively become so scarce that to supply complete issues is something of a feat today. The very small numbers printed ensure these stamps as gilt-edged investments of much promise. Price increases over the past three years speak for themselves. **BUY NOW !!**

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- as a)for SDN but 117 vals.COMPLETE USED£55:15:0(\$156.00)
- as b) " " " 100 " " USED £44:5:0(\$124.00)
- as c) " " " 54 " " MINT £11:7:6(\$ 31.85)

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Note: Of CIR only 24,000, of UNO 26,000 compl. sets were issued. About half these, commercially used, are lost forever!

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