

HELVETIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

Founded 1946 President: Claude Mistely

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TWO INTERESTING COVERS ISSUED FOR THE "BIG 4" CONFERENCE IN MAY 1959

DAVID COLMAN



On 10th November 1958 Nikita Khrushchev, general secretary of the CPSU, delivered a very provocative speech in the Moscow sports palace. He once again threatened Berlin, the city should be unified, demilitarised and declared to be a free city. According to Khrushchev this must occur within six months, otherwise Russia would declare the GDR to be a sovereign state. The powers which had been victorious agreed to convene a "Big 4" conference prior to the expiry of the ultimatum to try and clarify the "German question". Moscow made a concession in that Germans from east and west were assigned the role of observers. On 11th May the foreign ministers Andrei

Gromyko, Selwyn Lloyd, Maurice Couve de Murville and Christian Herter entered the Geneva Palace of Nations. The first cover (above) was issued on that day to commemorate the event. The 1959 conference was the tenth so-called "Big 4" conferences held since 1946 to try and resolve "the German question" as well as other areas of conflict between the Western allies and the Soviet Union.

On the 20th June the conference resolved to adjourn for three weeks so that both sides could consult and find ways of reaching a compromise. The fact that there was not much willingness to compromise was demonstrated by Khrushchev three days later. He told the western emissary Averell Harriman in Moscow: "Be in no doubt that I will not consent to the reunification of Germany if a socialist system is not envisaged for Germany."

The Ministers were unable to reach a compromise at the conference and the western powers broke off negotiations without having reached any conclusions. The Soviet Union had indeed allowed the November ultimatum to elapse but Moscow had not given in by any means, as became clear just three years later. The failed foreign ministers' conference of 11th May 1959 was the last attempt of the former allied victorious powers to end the Cold War in this manner.

The second cover (right) was issued on the 21st May 1959, the day after the meeting was adjourned.

Only 30 years later upon the collapse of the Warsaw pact and the fall of the Berlin Wall did the United States, Great Britain, France and Russia once again negotiate Germany's future. And the division of Germany was revoked during these so-called "4+2" talks, i.e. with representatives of the Federal Republic of Germany and the GDR, and the post war period was brought to a conclusive end.



TESTS AND TRIALS OF STANDING HELVETIAS**ROBERTO LOPEZ**

This article was first published in the philatelic magazine RHÔNE PHILATELIE of September 2015, pages 32 - 36. We thank both the author and the editor-in-chief of RHÔNE PHILATELIE for giving us the copyright to publish this article in our Newsletter and their considerable help with translation.

A whole series of steps are required between the decision to issue a new stamp and its arrival for sale at post office counters. So it was for "Standing Helvetias".

We do not want to reinvent the wheel with this article. The goal is to bring this topic to the public. This topic is often avoided by collectors because it is not always easy to distinguish between an original and a fake. Not everyone has Pierre Guinand's book, "Standing Helvetia 1882-1907" published by Zumstein & Cie in Bern in 1982, but this book is a must if you want to enter this area. We will use the terminology thus established in this book.

The definition of the terms "test" and "trial" is essential so that everyone uses the same language.

The test (PD) refers to prints that are directly related to the stamps issued. So they test the colour, the printing technique, the paper used, the general appearance of the pattern and quality of design. You can imagine that the sketches, usually large, will not have the same effect when the size is reduced. For the same reasons, it is necessary to test the colour and paper to be used before final printing.

The trial (ES) is for non-approved projects.

We do not pretend to present the full testing and trials with this article, but to show you the main outline.

Let's start with the tests. At the beginning, we find projects and sketches. These are the first projects and drawings produced by the artist, including handcrafted tests.



PD 66.1.01



PD 67.1.02



These pieces (above left) date from 1880 and 1881, and are pencil sketches enhanced by red ink, sketches engraved on copper and on buff paper, or single pieces with a handwritten indication.

The tests (above right) were carried out with a mother die (a kind of letterpress printing) to print the image. You can see that the image is mirrored and the upper and lower sections are not coloured.

Among the isolated tests, we find pieces printed in intaglio on heavy paper or cardboard. They were produced until 1881 by Müllhaupt and Son, and from 1891 by Max Girardet. The engraving is similar or comparable to the final format.

The first tests were printed in 1881 intaglio on white cardboard, but without the upper cartridges (first two images below left). In the same year, the design was modified, the cartridges were now in the upper corners. These tests come in different colours (other images below right).



Grey, unlisted



Grey, unlisted



PD 67.2.02a



PD 67.2.02d



PD 67.2.02f

The next isolated tests were prints of the original engraving on cardboard (see below).



PD 76.2.04c



PD 76.2.04g



PD 93.2.04b

The test print enables the printing plate to be tested in intaglio (complete or partial). The two above-mentioned printers delivered proof printings. They come in all values from 20 cents to 3 francs. All these tests were in black (see below).



PD 69.3.01a



PD 72.3.01a



PD 76.3.01a

The two printing tests come from an unaccepted printing plate (see below).



PD 93.3.01a



PD 93.3.02a

In order to test and compare the colour to be finally adopted for the stamp on sale at the counters, colour tests were performed (see below).



PD 66.4.01a



and reverse



PD 71.4.02a



and reverse

Below is a block of ten of a colour proof of a non-accepted sheet (positions 81-95 of a plate of 100 stamps).



Illustrated below is a set of five vertical strips of three copies of 20, 25, 40, 50 cents and 1 franc, non-perforated in the colours finally adopted. These strips are bonded to a sheet of paper. Of the five bands, the 20, 25 and 40 cents bear a wide, oval watermark. The 50 cents and 1 franc have no watermark. This piece came from a Director General of the PTT who had “made order” in the PTT archives.



PD 66.4.01a

PD 67.4.01a

PD 69.4.01a

PD 70.4.03a

PD 71.4.03a

In order to see which paper was suitable for printing, different prints were made on paper of various kinds. These are the paper tests. There exist therefore pieces on paper laid horizontally with portions of large letters as a watermark (the brand of the factory). These tests in intaglio were conducted by Müllhaupt and Sons.

The laid paper (or “papier vergé”) is a high quality paper with a watermark of fine, horizontal parallel lines. These impressions are due to the paper being made on a wooden mould or frame with a cover of closely-spaced parallel laid wires fastened to wider-spaced, stronger chain wires running at right angles. This forms a sieve through which the water drains during the paper making process, producing a paper with a slightly ribbed surface on one side. You can see these white horizontal lines in the image on the right.



PD 70.5.01a

The purpose of the perforation tests was to control and adjust the harrows. The illustrations below show five perforation and colour tests that are not listed in the aforementioned book from 1882.



There were also cancellation tests. These cancellations were made on the tests on original paper or not, in order to test the appearance and safety of the ink.

A test cancelled on a fragment is shown (right). This is a colour proof (PD 68.4.03b) cancelled with the stamp of Berne 28.1.92 (Güller No. 9271). This test is mentioned in the catalogue Zumstein 1924 under No. 240, it is not however in the 1982 book.

Let's discuss trials. The house Müllhaupt & Fils in Berne printed the 20 and 25 cents “Libertas” type trials at the request of the PTT on 20th November 1880. Only isolated prints of these two values are official trials. The 50 cent and 1 franc values appearing later were made with plates made up by private electroplating sources. You will find all imaginable colours, all types of paper available to printers, perforated or not perforated.



PD 68.4.03b

All these products have no philatelic value. We differentiate between individual trials and trial prints. Shown below are some individual trials - Left: three examples of Type trial "Libertas" centre and framing in type I. Centre: three examples of Type trial "Libertas" centre and framing in type II. Right - Type trial "Libertas" in type III.



The type trial "Serment du Rütli" shown below was a design inspired by Ernst Stückelberg that you can find in the Tell Chapel on the banks of Lake Lucerne.



The trial type "Rütli" shown below was designed by A. Zschiesche, engraved by Keller-Kehr and printed by Müllhaupt et Fils in Bern.



The three pieces illustrated below, are examples of printing trials.



The three items below are "Libertas" types from private provenance so without any philatelic value. You can find them, en masse, perforated, not perforated, of all colours and on all kinds of paper imaginable. The origin of the Paris Reprints is similar to the origin of the "Libertas" of 50 cents and 1 franc. Müllhaupt et Fils, or his successor, crafted plates in order to produce private printings. Max Girardet unfortunately also contributed to the flooding of the market with this commodity. These private reprints are made (probably still today) with two plates whose production was interrupted after a measurement error was noticed. These items are wrongly called "Girardet trials". Like the "Libertas", these pieces are also from private sources without any philatelic value.



The item shown below left measures 27x17cm. It is on a thick paper and represents the unfinished plates of Max Girardet. The preparation was not completed because the intervals in the framework would not allow complete punching of the stamp perforations. The question we must ask is this: Why would Girardet have made on a single sheet, imprints of two unfinished plates which he did not complete? Remember that no stamp was produced from either of these two plates.



The plates of the Paris reprints can be identified with the help of the piece in blue (above, right). This facilitates the identification of those pieces that are, let us remember it again, without philatelic value.

We urge you to submit the pieces to experts, in order not to be made a "fool" of by malicious merchants.

The following table will allow you to classify the tests and trials. For more information, we advise you to consult the work of Pierre Guinand 1982 where you will find more details.

Tests

Projects and sketches
Isolated tests
Print test
Colour tests
Paper tests
Perforation tests
Cancellation tests

Trials

Isolated trials
Print trials

"Libertas" from private sources

Reprints of Paris ("Girardet Trials")

Literature and References:

"Standing Helvetia 1882-1907", P. Guinand, G. Valko, J. Doorenbos, Mr. Hertsch, Zumstein and Publishing Co., Bern, 1982.

"Zürich 4 + 6 tests, Probedrucke und Fälschungen" Ch. Hertsch, Philatelic Journal of Bern, pp.1-2, 2015.

"Die Briefmarken der Schweiz-Spezial-Katalog" Zumstein et Cie Editions, Bern, 1924.

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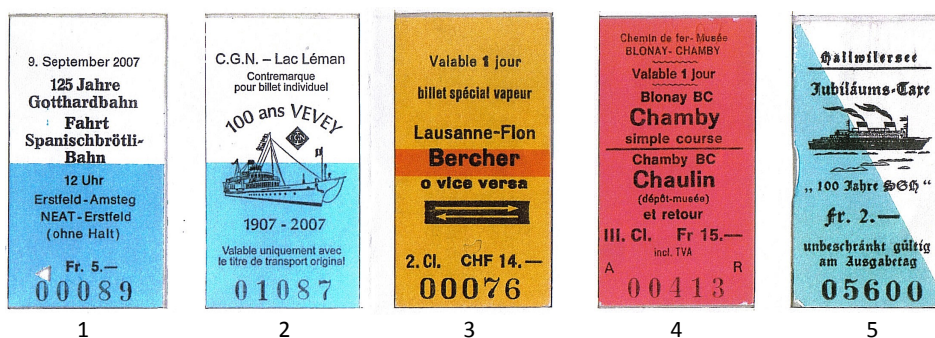
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- Free Standard Price List 1850 – 2012 with both Zumstein/SBK and Stanley Gibbons numbers.
- "Werner's Treasure Trove" sent most months to my customers, full of offers of stamps, covers, cards, blocks, collections & lots, literature, etc.
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EDMONDSON TICKETS

EDITOR/MICHAEL FARR



First Row - Tickets for: Fig. 1 - the special steam train run on the 125th Anniversary of the Gotthardbahn ; Fig. 2 – the special trip on Lac Léman by the paddle steamer 'Vevey' to celebrate its Centenary (Printed by Nicola Regency – Blonay-Chamby Railway) ; Fig. 3 Steam train trip on the Lausanne – Bercher Railway ; Fig. 4 Blonay-Chamby Museum Railway ; Fig. 5 SGH Centenary trip on the Hallwilersee.



Second Row - Fig. 6 Stanserhornbahn control ticket for individual members of group travel (on Michael's last visit this railway was still using Edmondsons as part of its "Old Tyme" theme) ; Fig. 7 Helmwehfluh Funicular Railway (the owners kept some tickets for enthusiasts after computerisation) ; Fig. 8 Large Edmondson used for special tickets and season tickets – this one for the celebratory trip for the Bodelibahn's 125th Anniversary (n.b. BR used this size of card for season tickets issued through a German machine, the 'Flexiprinter') ; Tickets issued by travel agents and hotels which continued using Edmondsons long after the stations had computerised: - Fig. 9 Round-trip bus to Beatenberg then funicular to Beatenbuch and boat back to Interlaken or vice versa; Fig. 10 Round trip, including bus travel, issued by LSMS cable car from Lauterbrunnen.

Reference the short article on these attractive items of transportation memorabilia in the September 2015 edition of the Newsletter, Michael Farr has written in to set the record straight. His main point is that the gentleman spelt his name: "Thomas Edmondson" and not "Edmundson" as I wrote. My apologies.

Michael is an avid collector of transport tickets and the proud possessor of over 30 albums of Swiss material, including two albums of postbus tickets. Over the years, his techniques for collecting included visiting many post offices by bus or writing to the offices with a CHF10 note and a stamped addressed envelope. Some of his collection were pictured in black and white in an article in the Newsletter in June 2010. I have taken advantage of our relatively recently introduced colour-printing techniques to publish some more of Michael's illustrations of colourful Swiss Edmondson card-tickets – see above. Full descriptions of each of them is provided below the illustrations.

A few years ago, concerned about writers and researchers on Mainland Europe continuously spelling Thomas's name "Edmonson" Michael wrote an article for the British Transport Ticket Society's journal entitled 'The Disappeared "D"'. It explained the help he had from an Austrian collector of tickets in finding out how the misspelling came about. It is a perfect example of a collector's enthusiasm for his subject and, in Michael's case, his commitment to ensuring that the record of one of his hero's contribution to improving the efficiency of transport services in Britain, Switzerland and beyond is as factually correct as possible.

His article began – "On my 1990 visit to the ticket printing office of the Swiss National Railways in Bern, one word brought an immediate rapport with the staff who spoke little English (and I for, my sins, speak little German). When I mentioned the magic "Edmondson", one of the compositors rushed away and brought me back type set as "Edmonson". This was my first encounter with the continental spelling of the name of my hero." Michael gave the staff of the ticket printing office some copies of his booklet: 'Thomas Edmondson and his Tickets' and likes to think that this helped to spread the word in Switzerland to add the extra "d"!

Another specialist in the subject, Klaus Matzka of Vienna, had also been aware that Edmondson's name was often spelt in Germany without a "d". He initially blamed the mis-spelling "Edmonson" on an entry in the von Röll Enzyklopädie, published in Berlin (in German, of course) around the turn of the C20th.

Since then, Klaus has discovered a very early German railway journal 'Eisenbahn-Beitung' published in Stuttgart. The lead story in edition number 10, issued on 8th March 1846 was headed 'Ueber englische Einrichtungen für den Eisenbahndienst' and goes on to mention "Hrn Thomas Edmonson" – so, it appears that his name was mis-spelt even in his lifetime!"

This article reminds me that Frau Christina Bamford-Rölli is giving a presentation on 'The Diversity of Philatelic Material in a Thematic Collection' at our 70th Anniversary Event in Lucerne in June. As a part-time thematic collector I am aware of some of the potential candidates to include in such collections – particularly if you are not bound by competition rules. Even for those who seek medals there are now 'Social Philately' and 'Postcard' competition categories which may enable you to display all sorts of cherished items – such as relevant photographs, greetings cards, tickets, transport timetables, postal labels and 'cinderellas' such as poster stamps, fiscals and hotel stamps - in a competitive entry.

SOME SIGNIFICANT PHILATELIC EVENTS TAKING PLACE IN SWITZERLAND IN 2016

4th/5th June - Gottardo 2016 Opening Ceremony in Rynächt and Pollegio (Special post office)
 7th - 9th and 14th - 16th October - Celebrations of Aerophilatelic Days in Lucerne (Special post office)
 12th/13th November - Basel Collectors Fair (Swiss Post sales stand)
 2nd - 4th December - Celebrations of Stamp Day in Aarwangen, Oberrhein (Special post office)

Further details of many more philatelic events in Switzerland can be found in these journals: 'Berner Briefmarken Zeitung' (BBZ) produced by Zumstein+cie and the 'Schweizer Briefmarken Zeitung' (SBZ) published by the Association of Swiss Philatelic Societies (the VSPH) and on the VSPH's website - <http://www.vspvh.ch/fr/accueil/>

SWITZERLAND IN GIBBONS – AN UPDATE

ADRIAN KEPPEL

Ref. April 2016 edition of the Newsletter p.36. Members who didn't see the copies of the Gibbons Stamp Monthly containing my 2-part article on Karl Bickel might be pleased to know that the whole article has been placed on my website, in fortnightly instalments from 9th April rerrick@btopenworld.com. I'm hoping to be able to go to Walenstadt this June to visit the Karl Bickel Museum which is featuring a father and son exposition this summer.

AN AUCTION OF SWISS MATERIAL

Sheffield Auction Gallery are holding a two-day special sale for the "Gordon Bromberger Collection" on Thursday 28th April (incl. Zeppelin Mail) and Friday 3rd June (Switzerland Postal History and Stamps). The latter includes a large selection of postcards (e.g. Suchard) and a significant number of Air Mail covers from the early 1913 Pioneer Flights Issues and Postal History to 1950s. Further details are available from sheffieldauctiongallery.com or Tel. 01142 816161. Preview catalogues for the auction on 3rd June will be available at the Society's Annual National Meeting in Harrogate.

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Contact Anders Thorell today for any question you may have
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ADVICE ON MAXIMUM CARDS COLLECTING

Further to the article in the Newsletter on Swiss Maximum Cards (February 2016 P. 17). The Swiss Maximum Card Collectors Association of Geneva (Association Maximiphile Suisse Genève) is a leading player in this branch of our hobby. It regularly produces news articles in the French-language journal 'Rhône Philatelie'. If you are interested in maximum cards you may like to contact the Genève Association – they do not have a website but you can contact their President, Willy Monnet, at his email address: w.monnet@bluewin.ch

NEWS FROM SWISS POST

- The next edition of Swiss Post's 'Focus on stamps' will be the last to be published in hard-copy format in English. You will still be able to find an English version on their Website – postshop.ch/lupe.
- 14 new stamps will be issued on the 4th May: 11 printed by Cartor Security Printing France, 1 by Joh. Enschede, Netherlands ('Swiss Wrestling') and 2 by Giesecke & Devrient, Germany ('Europa').
- Two vignettes are offered - one in the "gutter" between the two 'Gottardo 2016' stamps and the other in a sheet of 'Swiss Wrestling' stamps.
- There appear to be, at least, three new se-tenant pairs available to collectors in May.
- The annual issues of both the Pro Patria and Pro Juventute charities are to be restricted to two stamps (85 + 40 and 1.00 + 50) each this year.
- On 8th September a maximum card celebrating Aerophilately Day will be available.
- And finally - remember those evocative Courvoisier Pro Patria 1947 illustrations of Rorschach, Lünen-Castel and Flüelen stations? The first four of the promised new 'Swiss Railway Stations' definitive series, featuring Brig, Lucerne, Bellinzona and Geneva stations, will appear in September, followed by a "high value" 6Fr. (Basel SBB) in November for your Christmas stockings!

NEWS FROM THE AMERICAN H.P.S. – ref. 'Tell' March 2016

I thought some members might be interested in the way our cousins across the water operate their society – differently of course, but perhaps not so very different. After all we all have similar aims.

In 2015 the Society's total expenditure was \$11,000 against a total income of \$16,000 including \$6,000 in membership subscriptions. Over the last eighteen months they have attracted twenty-two new members, including three from outside the United States. The Society's total net assets currently stand at approx. \$45,700.

With this in mind the Board emphasises that it will support any of its members wishing to publish material on Swiss Philately. They have done this in the past and encourage those who wish to publish to contact any Board member and present their proposal for review by their Board. The AHPS is also committed to budgeting \$1,000 per year for the purchase of philatelic publications to donate to the American Philatelic Research Library for placement in the stacks of the Swiss Collection. The funding will be revisited each year.

During the World Stampshow - New York 2016 the AHPS will hold a members' meeting at the Javits Center on Monday, 30th May at 4:00 pm, followed by a Dutch treat dinner at a local German restaurant. (I believe that at least one of our members will be at the Show! - Ed.) The Society will have a Society booth at StampShow 2016 in Portland, Oregon, on 4th - 7th August with banners and handouts to raise the profile of Swiss Philately. Their two-hour Society meeting at the Show will include a video slide presentation by one of their members on the subject of 'Registered Mail of Switzerland' followed by one of their customary 'Show and Tell' sessions.

Finally some sad news - Steve Turchik, a long-time member and former officer of the AHPS and one of their most accomplished exhibitors, passed away in 2015. He was 88 and began collecting Swiss over 50 years ago. About 25 years ago he began to exhibit Strubels. A great deal of interest and research in Strubels developed during this period, with (among others) Herbert Brach in America and Urs Hermann in Switzerland carrying out ground-breaking research. Steve Turchik acquired most of the great rarities of the Strubel issue, including both types of the ultra-rare blue 5-centime value, mixed frankings with both the Durheim issues and the Seated Helvetia perforated issues. His research and write-ups were excellent. His display became the best exhibit of Strubels in the United States and compared favourably with others in the world.

FORTHCOMING SOCIETY EVENTS

Just a reminder that the [Annual National Meeting and the Annual General Meeting](#) are taking place in Harrogate on the weekend of 30th April/1st May. Last minute information available from Norton Wragg – Tel. 01625 613654, email norton.wragg@sky.com And, if you want some fun in the summer – '[Lucerne 2016](#)' – the celebration of the Society's 70th Anniversary is happening on 8th to the 10th June in Switzerland. Further information is available from Neville Nelder - email nevillenelder@gmail.com Tel. 01453 766751.

NORTHERN GROUP REPORT

The Northern Group completed its season with the AGM in April. Norton Wragg was elected chairman for 2016 – 2017. After the AGM the following displays were given:

David Colman showed Franco covers, postage due and items from Campione d'Italia. David Whitworth showed Sitting Helvetia on cover with a variety of frankings including to USA, India, Chile, Brazil, Japan and Great Britain. Norton Wragg showed Lake Lucerne ship mail plus postcards showing some of the ships, TPO Engelberg-Luzern and a small study of Swiss Post International in Italy and Spain. John Turner presented his study of the 5c. green landscape issue of 1936 showing the 'chip' and 'no chip' varieties in the mountainside. Finally David Hope showed some recently obtained military items and modern postal stationery postcards from 2007 onwards.

FORTHCOMING REGIONAL MEETINGS

Northern Group - The Group intend to have three meetings again next season (commencing in Autumn 2016) – details from David Hope (Tel. 0161 3030091) will follow, in due course.

Southern Group - The next all-day Saturday meetings will be on 25th June (participating 'Members' Displays') and 15th October (Eric Lienhard's 'Philatelic World of Chocolate' a.m. and members' displays p.m.). Venue: "The Three Crowns" at Whaddon, just off the A36 (about 3 - 4 miles south of Salisbury - postcode SP5 3HB). Arrive 10am for coffee; talks and displays 10.30a.m. to 12.30p.m. and 2.00p.m. to 4.00p.m; lunch 1.00p.m. Further information is available on the Society's Website or from Werner Gattiker - werner@swisstamps.co.uk, Tel. 01273 845501.

YOUR NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL – If anyone who receives the Newsletter by post would like to have a sample electronic copy sent to them, please send your email adress to the Editor.

SWISS STAMPS BY THEME: CLOCKS, WATCHES AND SUNDIALSEDITOR/DAVID HOPE

In answer to a query I raised in the article in the April edition of the Newsletter (pp 34/35), David Hope writes; "Regarding your Clock query about the Technorama stamp, the design shows a voltage regulator from 1920 which was in use at the Jungfrau Railway's power station at Lauterbrunnen." Those looking for the schedule of 'Art, Crafts and Design as Themes on Swiss Stamps' mentioned in the article will have to wait until the Autumn before it appears on our Website. My apologies – no fault of our Webmaster, Fred. In the interim, if anyone wants a copy please contact me by post or at katedonithorn@hotmail.com



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