



## Did You Know?



### June 1972

- Some remarkable prices were realised for Swiss slogans (machine cancellations) at the auction hosted by the Swiss Machine Cancellation Society (VSM) in March 1972. Of all the lots sold, the auction's star item was the rare flag cancel (PTT No. 3.49) a pictorial flag issued in 1959 for the town of Wil (St. Gallen) in which there appears, after the name "WIL," the added identification of "ST. GALLEN." This flag was in use for a very short time, after which it was redesigned, with the "ST. GALLEN." identification removed. In its second form it is recorded as PTT No. 3.59 and is worthless.



3.49



3.59

- A further modern rarity has been made by the PTT in rather the same way as the item mentioned above. During the months of September (in Lugano) and November (in Chiasso) 1971, the slogan "**Sostenete l'aiuto sport svizzero** ...." (No. 2.1.74) was used.

It reappeared at Chiasso 2 in February 1972 as No. 2.1.76 with the text changed to "... **l'aiuto allo sport**". This is the third time recently that a 'cheap' slogan has become rare due to a minor change in the Italian text. Lucky VSM members got theirs through their New Issue service.

- That an adjustable wrench or spanner, as shown on the recent 10c. "TCS/ACS Road Relief" stamp (Z.505) is called an 'Engländer' in colloquial German. Perhaps because of an Englishman's flexible way of getting to grips with a tough nut of a problem!
- That the Swiss 'Luftpost-Katalog' is a must for all Swiss airmail collectors, with an incredible amount of detail on first flights etc. It is also of particular interest to postmark collectors, as every possible one is shown; including slogan cancels with an 'air' theme.
- That the "Fund for Furthering Philately" will again benefit from the sale of exhibition blocks. This time they will receive about 1½ million S.Fr. from the sale of 2,063,000 'NABA 1971' miniature sheets. This income is used to finance local and national exhibitions, as well as books, films, etc.
- That quite a number of old Swiss stamps remain valid to this day.  
Q. Which are the oldest? A. The 'Symbolic Designs' of 17 September 1938, that is: the definitive high values of Fr.3, 5 and 10.

Other issues still valid are:

Medium-value definitive series (from 15.1.1941)

Low-value definitive series (1.8.1949)

Mobile P.O (8.10.1953)

Europa from first issue (13.7.1957)

Commemoratives from (20.2.1961)

Miniature sheets (from 21.3.1963)

Pro Patria (from 1.6.1964)


Pro Juventute (from 1.12.1964)




## Did You Know?




### July 1972

 Only 150 copies of the German edition of the classic publication “*Die Schweizerischen Postmarken 1843-1862*” by Mirabaud-Reuterskiöld, were printed in 1899. Editor’s note: a copy of the 1975 English edition is held in The Society’s library.


 The PTT introduced coin machines for the standard SFr.5 stamp booklets (green). There is a double unit in Winterthur.

 These SFr.5 booklets received a new German title “**Postmarken**” (previously **Frankomarken**), when the change from ‘Postal Messengers’ to ‘Historical Buildings’ was made in June 1970. However, during the changeover period a small number of ‘wrong’ stamp sheets were used with both the old and new covers. As far as is known all the stamps of one booklet were of the same issue.

As each layout produces 20 booklets (80 stamps per tête-bêche sheet) there are 80 different booklet types in existence. By the way, ‘plating’ these sheets is not too difficult if you use the Zumstein advertisements on the rear cover.

 In June the Swiss Parliament debated new postal rates in great detail and passed the new law. In the main the 20c postcard rate and local letter rate within 10 km., will vanish, so that all local letters and postcards will cost 30c for 250g.

As all Swiss laws do not become effective for 6 months (to allow citizens – at least 50,000 – to call for a general referendum, as has happened quite often, including the rise in postal rates about 20 years ago, which the country as a whole rejected), these changes will not affect the 1972 stamp programme. Coin machines for 10c and 20c stamps; and 20c postcards will certainly be under review.

 The 40c and 80c portrait stamps of 1971 (Z.498 & 502) were not the first to show foreigners.



Alexandre Yersin  
1863-1943

Two other Swiss stamps show a man from the British Isles.



Frederick Grant Banting  
(1891-1941)


Q. What was his name and what was he doing in Switzerland? (answer in the next issue)





## Did You Know?




### August 1972


 In July 1972 the PTT installed a new stamp vending machine in the main (Schanzenpost) post office in Bern. This machine accepts any number of 10c, 20c, 50c and SFr.1.- coins up to a total of SFr.1.- and delivers combinations of 20c & 30c stamps accordingly. The 20c is the usual coil stamp (Z.484) and the 30c is the Gais Town Centre design (Z.416) from hand-made rolls from stamp sheets. If this prototype proves satisfactory others will follow.


 Collectors of Liechtenstein stamps, postmarks and postal stationery, are fortunate if they can get hold of one of the best produced handbooks ever seen. Produced in A5 sized loose-leaf booklets, 4 sections have appeared so far, covering postcards, Registration labels, postmarks, slogans, franks etc. Not cheap but indispensable. Obtainable from: The Liechtenstein Study Circle.

 When the Swiss Philatelic Societies held their Delegates' Annual Conference on Sunday, 5th May 1940, they issued a special postcard to commemorate the first century of the 'Penny Black'.

Mobile Post Office No. 3 used a three-line cachet in red: 'LUZERN / 100 Jahre Briefmarken / 6.V.1840 - 8.V.1940'. Listed as No. 293 in the PEN catalogue this is one of the rarest, and most expensive, of the MPO postmarks, due no doubt to the tense political situation at that time.

 Until 1969 all MPO cachets were supposed to be in two colours, either red for a text-only cachet, or black for those containing any form of illustration. Anything else is incorrect, and perhaps rare. Now they are all black.


 Since March of this year Bern 1 has been using another test town die (or crown as they are called here) with time and date reels. This one has a diameter of 25 mm. compared to the previous, and apparently unsuccessful, 22 mm. dies used experimentally in Bern and Zürich for a year or so.

 The answer to last month's Question is shown on the Pro Juventute (Z.26) and Pro Patria (Z.56) stamps. These show St. Fridolin, an Irish monk active at the end of the 5th



century in southern Germany and Switzerland, converting the heathens? Some encyclopaedias say he was Scottish, but this is probably because Ireland was called 'Scotia minor' in some circles at that time.














 This month's Question is also something 'foreign'. On the 1947 Air Mail issue (Z.42) is shown a famous non-Swiss figure in the background. Now which Swiss stamp shows as its main item a non-Swiss building?



## Did You Know?



### September 1972








-  The new extra-large 40c 'Anti-pollution' stamp comes in small sheets of only 16 stamps at a price of SFr.6.40 and has an extended period of sale till the end of 1973. I wouldn't advise speculation, but make sure you get a sheet early.
  
-  The last two extra-specials were sold out quicker than expected. The 'boy and girl' gymnasts of March 1971 were sold out during the 'NABA' in Basel in June 1971, and the Pro Aero of February 1972 was most embarrassingly sold out during the 'LUPO' at the end of April. The latter was also in a small sheet of only 20 stamps.
  
-  A few years ago, around 1960, large quantities of Swiss stamps remained unsold at the end of the period of sale.
  
-  There is rising interest - and prices - in used Swiss stamps having a 'full' cancellation, that is a clear indication of place and date of the postmark. Previously an arc in the lower left hand quarter was preferred, especially for newer issues.
  
-  Only in 1924 was the PTT rule withdrawn that all stamps on a cover had to have their own postmark strike.
  
-  At least one firm in Switzerland is still producing 'perfins', perhaps the last one. This is the very large transport firm of Danzas, for their freight office at Koblenz on the Rhine, for traffic across the river. I have two examples of the 30c. 'Radio' stamp of this year (Z.507), each with 2 'D's punched in it at a distance of 20.5 mm. which is the exact width of the small size of Swiss stamps.
  
-  In less than two years the number of private franking machines in Switzerland has increased by 20%, from 10,000 to 12,000.
  
-  In the last ten years the number of internal letters has increased by 18% and those to foreign countries by 31%. But if there are more franking machines there are fewer stamps for us!
  
-  Marc Moser, onetime PTT official, has just published his 7th book on medieval postal services. Four volumes on St. Gallen, one on Appenzell, and now two on Basel, all in German.
  
-  The answer to last month's question is Z.400, the 30c of 1963, which shows the 'Hotel des Postes' in Paris where the first International Postal Conference had been held 100 years before.
  
-  Question No. 4 is: Which Swiss stamps show a dog on them?  
Tip: there are four, and not to be found under Pro Juventute or Air Mail stamps!



## Did You Know?



### October 1972

-  Although Winterthur is the sixth largest town in Switzerland (having taken this position from St. Gallen about 10 years ago), it had its last stamp exhibition 28 years ago? However, this year on 25/26th November there will be a non-competitive exhibition organised by the two local clubs and the Winterthur branch of the Swiss Thematic Society. A Mobile P.O. will be there with a special cachet.
  
-  When a local publicity slogan is introduced (Group 3 in the PTT catalogue) the publicity pictorial handstamp (if any) is withdrawn. The only exception to this rule, that I know of, is Zürich 58 (the airport), slogan No.3.111 and K.255a. The reason is that the handstamp is used in the post office in the main terminal building and the slogan in the post office in the freight terminal. The latter is not 'public', i.e. only for firms.  
  
There is a third post office even less 'public' in the transit lounge! The first and the third sell singles and blocks of 4 of all available definitives and commemoratives, a 'mini' philatelic bureau, mint and CTO.  
  
The UN Swiss agencies stamps (used only) are also on sale, all in pre-packed sets. The sale of mint UN stamps was stopped when too many innocent (and not so innocent) travellers used them on their correspondence.
  
-  A very interesting booklet on the Swiss pictorial handstamps was published at the end of 1969 by the Swiss Thematic Society. This booklet, No. 3 of a series, consists of 101 pages, a very useful description in German of everything shown on the handstamp, together with an illustration of all versions of each canceller. But perhaps the most useful feature is that it is arranged alphabetically and not chronologically as the PTT catalogue. The author is Ernst Schlunegger, and the cost is low at SFr. 10.-
  
-  The 'Fund for Furthering Philately' will assist in the publication of a definitive work on the 'Strubel' stamps. This will be a collective project and the team leader is Max Hertsch. Publication will not be this year. This has probably prevented W. Winistorfer from publishing the reprint of his series of articles in the Swiss monthly 'Philatelica'.
  
-  The answer to Question No. 4 is – Z.356, 469 and Pro Patria 38, 39.
  
-  Question 5: Z.362 has one of the best-known Swiss errors? What is it?
  
-  Talking about errors, remind me to tell you to look at the buckle on Z.356 - its tongue is the wrong way round!



## Did You Know?



### November 1972

- ☞ With the start of the new Pro Juventute series showing roses, a nice mini-collection can be built up, but don't forget the forerunners. The most prominent is the PJ rose of 1964 and its first-day cancellation in Bern, also the special cds (MPO No. 3) of Geneva on 19-21.6.1972 "**Ronde de la Rose**", if possible on a Z.492.

The very first illustrated MPO cachet showed a rose in red, Bern 8-9.6.1937 (PEN No. 38).

- ☞ The two unexpected and unique TP0 special cds of 10.9.72 and 1.10.72, as part of the 125th Railway anniversary celebrations, caused a run on the last remaining 20c stamps issued in February for this event, as naturally everyone wanted a matching stamp for the postmark.

- ☞ Every year the PJ Secretariat issues a brochure with full details of that year's stamps. I have most of these going back to 1938. Available in French or German, illustrated.

- ☞ All recess printed Swiss stamps are produced in the PTT's own works, and that each pair of sheets is plate perforated with the multi-pin punch, which moves with the reeled sheet for a short distance. This is well shown in the award-winning PTT colour film "Perforated Prints", a must for all clubs, it runs for 50 minutes.

This film, and many others of philatelic interest, can be obtained from the Swiss National Tourist Office in London.

- ☞ A small publication is produced by Hans Grath, entitled "*Philatelica*". It has been in production for the last six years. In German.

- ☞ The answer to Question 5: is that seen from the portico side the towers in the background are transposed, just to get the '40' in. Shown is the Cathedral of St. Pierre, in which the Reformation was proclaimed in 1536, and in which Calvin then preached and organised for 30 years. The building incorporates more different architectural styles than any other in Switzerland.



Cathedral of St. Pierre,  
Geneva

A most useful little book entitled "*Schweizer Reiss mit Briefmarken*" combines the philatelic and historical side of all the 'Historical Buildings' stamps. Sold by the PTT at SFr.5.80.











- ☞ Question 6 is: What other stamp of the 'Historical Buildings' series shows a similar, but later corrected error?



## Did You Know?



### December 1972

-  When the new postal rates come into force on 1st January 1973, it will cost 60c to send a letter down the road if larger than B5 (175 x 250mm.) but only 40c to Finland (or any other CEPT country) if it is under 20 g. in weight.
  
-  Once again the post office in Chiasso and other frontier towns in Canton Ticino are overwhelmed by couriers bringing mail from Milan and other northern Italian cities to Switzerland during the strike of Italian postal workers. It helps to reduce the PTT deficit. A loss of SFr 75 million has been budgeted for 1973.
  
-  'NABA' (1971) CTO blocks are being sold for SFr 1.50 by some dealers at bourses, and not many takers!
  
-  At a recent auction in Basel a crateful of modern Liechtenstein mint sheets - SFr.30,000 face value - found no bidders at SFr.20,000. On the other hand a block of four Rayon III (Z.20), on cover fetched SFr, 20,000, plus 10% for the auctioneer.
  
-  The scarcity of classic stamps, in relation to the number of letters sent, is because a prepaid letter was considered by most recipients as a subtle insult. Did the sender consider the recipient too poor to pay the postman? Needless to say, this changed with the introduction of the double-rate fine.
  
-  All members of an affiliated Philatelic Club in Switzerland get a copy of the monthly SBZ free. So join a Swiss, club if you would like to receive the SBZ regularly. Using your philatelic knowledge as the 'bridge' you will be surprised how quickly you can improve your ability to read German and French.
  
-  Zumstein and the Swiss Entires Club are preparing a new edition of their popular 1965 "Ganzsachen" catalogue and appeal for information on corrections etc.
  
-  The PTT refused to send a Mobile Post Office to the recent Philatelic Exhibition in Winterthur? Not worth the high cost. So those expecting an interesting cachet, with the two Kyburg lions rampant will be disappointed.
  
-  Question No. 7 is: Which Swiss stamp shows these two lions and what is the significance of the two anchors shown?
  
-  The answer to Question 6 is: the 70c orange, Z.365. The tower shown is actually on-the left-hand side of the church. In the "corrected" version on the SFr. 2.80 stamp (Z.394), the tower has been removed altogether.