











## Did You Know?



### January 1976


-  The new postal rates from 1<sup>st</sup> January make all postage at least 33% more expensive, but some items like minimum COD jump from SFr.1.50 to 3.50, an ordinary wall calendar to a foreign country from SFr.1.50 to SFr.3.20 etc. However, some things are better, printed matter can be sent if over 50 pieces, small packets (foreign) can be properly sealed or tied up, giro transfers to foreign countries are now free, COD payments can be made at the door with a giro check, all letters to the Mediterranean littoral now go by airmail at no extra cost, as in Europe.
  
-  The postage due rate is now the missing amount plus 50c. Under the old system - twice the missing amount - a letter posted with a 30c stamp instead of 40c would require 10c x 2 = 20c. To-day this is 10c + 50c = 60c. But I don't yet know what happens with a foreign letter with several francs of missing postage.
  
-  On the 5<sup>th</sup> January, new booklets in green covers appeared, but only at the philatelic counters at first and at the same price, SFr.5.-. The contents are: a pane with 2x10c Näfels dark blue, with two criss-crossed 'stamps' as in the 1970 issue, to make up the pane of four spaces; two panes each with 4x20c Samedan green and two panes each with 4x40c Geneva violet (these from a new tête-bêche sheet). There have been many adverse comments on the use of these old 'Buildings' stamps again.
  
-  The PTT announced that "as significant quantities of the old 30c postcard are still in stock they will be overprinted 40c" - again on sale at philatelic counters only until the old stocks held by post offices are used up (sold with a 10c stamp added).
  
-  With postal rates changing so often, people frequently get confused and use values above those actually needed. I have noticed this on Swiss and UK letters, both internal and foreign. An interesting variation for postmark and cover collectors, but difficult for those exhibition judges who insist on correctly franked mail.
  
-  The 'Marken Müller' catalogue shows the corresponding FDC, next to each issue, a useful feature.
  
-  The answer to Question No.43 is that on 1<sup>st</sup> June 1966 the Pro Patria set was issued with its FDC, and the 20c stamp of 'The Fifth Switzerland' (Swiss living abroad) Z.442 also with its own FDC. New stamps for the UN agencies have also been issued on the same day as Swiss stamps, as follows: 30.8.73 ITU/WMO and Com.II; 30.5.74 ILO & PP; 17.2.75 WHO & Com.I.
  
-  Question No.44 is: Switzerland is not one of the 90 or so countries that has issued triangular stamps, but has come pretty close to it, such as early air show stickers, soldier stamps and bisects. What is the nearest?




## Did You Know?





### February 1976

 A remarkable philatelic exhibition was on view for four weeks in the Zürich Town Hall. A well-known postmark collector, W. Sturzenegger, showed in 50 frames, all the Swiss special postmarks that mention or have a connection with the city of Zürich. But what made this show unique was that he, being a professional photographer, showed only photographic enlargements (5-7 times actual size), which made all the detail, in the MPO cachets for instance, really visible and full of life.

Zürich not only produced the first stamps on the Continent in 1843, but also the first Swiss special date stamp, for the first Swiss National Exhibition held there in 1883.


 The 1976 Supplement to the PEN Special Cancellations Catalogue is available for SFr.5 (or SFr.6 foreign) post paid, from Editions PEN.


 An excellent booklet has been written by Kasper Michel "*Schwyzter Motive auf Schweizer Briefmarken*" and shows in full colour all Swiss stamps (16 of them, or 19 if colour variations are taken into account) which have a connection with the Canton of Schwyz. Full philatelic details of each stamp are given, together with a full description of the scene or person on the stamp, making this a really worthwhile work, and well worth copying by other cantons. Price SFr.7.80.


 It has taken the PTT 109 years to accept further postal stationery essays submitted by Alexander Hutter in 1867! They are now used on the special postcard issued on 12.2.76 for the GABRA, to be held in Burgdorf from 21-23 May, see December 1975 issue of the Newsletter. The 40c is printed in black on the address side and the 10c in blue, but enlarged to about 70 mm. on the picture side.

Note in this older essay the decorative braiding, which in the used version was replaced by chains of stars, 22 all told, to represent the 22 cantons.



 Since postal rates went up early this year one sees dozens of different combinations of old and new stamps used to make up the 40c required for letters. Just with the present definitives there are 17 combinations from 8 x 5c to 1 x 40c.

 The answer to Question No.44 is the Swiss aerogramme issued in 1962 and 1964, having a triangular impressed 65c value stamp.


 Question No.45 is: How many single 40c stamps were still valid in January 1976, including Pro Patria and Pro Juventute?




## Did You Know?





### March 1976


 The UPU 80c. Blair of 1974 has the lowest sale figure of all recent special Swiss stamps.

 At the WERABA Space Philatelic Exhibition, to be held in Zürich-Altstetten from 1-4 April this year, Prof. J. Piccard will speak about his association with NASA, amongst other speakers on space subjects. A special cds will be used by the PTT.


There will also be special cancellations available at the official USA, UN Geneva, and uniquely, USSR post office stands. Some hearty fruit salad is guaranteed.


 There is a rumour that the African child shown on the latest 40c stamp is the youngest son of Idi Amin of Ugandan notoriety. This has prompted "Philateliac" to mention that in honour of this, Amin will autograph album pages bearing this stamp during a short stop he will make at Zürich airport at 5am on 1<sup>st</sup> April 1976. Any takers?

 The UNO Study Circle in Germany has just published a 100 page tome "*UIT-Studie*" covering every possible aspect of UIT stamps, postmarks etc., of the whole world, a really fantastic philatelic labour of love. Obtainable from UNO-Philatelie, Cologne.

 I have been shown a letter dated 1820 with an alleged postage stamp impressed in top right-hand corner. The owner thought he had made the discovery of the century, but a week later, quite by chance, I was shown a bundle of such "letters" from the first half of the 19th cent.

The albino impression of the Zürich coat-of-arms (28x32mm) carries a value tablet according to the size of the paper and represents a fiscal due for an official statement. The longer the statement the higher the price, i.e. a bigger piece of paper needed. In the lower left corner was always a circular rubber stamp showing the same amount as a receipt. Result: a pre-adhesive fiscal, not postal, stamp.

 The answer to Question No.45 is: the number of still valid 40c at the beginning of 1976 = 22: consisting of 3 definitives, 9 commemoratives, 4 Europa, 3 Pro Patria and 3 Pro Juventute.



 Question No.46 is: which British military victory, outside Europe, is commemorated in Switzerland and mentioned on at least one special cancellation?










## Did You Know?



### April 1976

-  The young Swiss designer of the new German definitives, Beat Knoblauch, died in a tragic accident in the mountains at the end of December 1975. In addition to these he designed six commemoratives for the German PTT and two for France, 'ARPHILA'.
  
-  The Swiss Federal Council is proposing that future alterations to the postal rates need not be approved by Parliament, i.e. will not be subject to the referendum system. If accepted (although itself subject to a possible referendum), this will allow the PTT to make smaller changes at more frequent intervals and without delay.





Confusion, as with the Pro Juventute rates for the 1975 issue, which meant that a 10c stamp had to be issued as well, will be avoided in future. The Federal Council (Cabinet) of seven members will alone approve PTT suggestions.
  
-  The hot-airship has actually made its trip, not from Luzern (Transport Museum) to Zug and back, but for a few hundred metres only near Sursee. Those who paid SFr.8 for the two official PTT covers, without a special cancel, will now be feeling happy, perhaps. See the May 1975 issue of the Newsletter.
  
-  An imperforate corner block of the UN Geneva SFr.10 (first-day 17.4.70) has been bought at a New York auction for \$400. Apparently two sheets were auctioned in New York in 1972. In the Zumstein BBZ of March 1976, the affair is called "*Eine kleine 'Lockheed' Affäre*".
  
-  The fourth part of the new "Stempelwerk" should finally appear this year and will consist of loose sheets only. The five volumes of text (brown) and three volumes of illustrations (green) need not be extended.
  
-  The articles by Rene Gees on the UPU 1900 issue have been reprinted and are available for SFr.15.
  
-  The PTT has brought out a new collection of 12 coloured postcards "*Switzerland and its Post Coaches*" at SFr.3. Descriptions in four languages (including English)
  
-  The answer to Question No.46 is: The Battle of Kandahar, Afghanistan (January 1879) was used by Sir Arnold Lunn when he started the Arlberg-Kandahar Ski Races, the first of which were held in 1928 in St. Anton and Mürren. The 20<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> were commemorated by a Swiss special cds in 1955, 1961 and 1966 respectively when the races were held in Mürren - amongst other years - and not in St. Anton or Garmisch.
  
-  Question No.47 concerns early difficulties with perforating machines. What is the range of perfs found with the 'Winterthur' stamp of 1850?








## Did You Know?



### May 1976

-  Although Switzerland has banned supersonic overflying, the Concorde was the subject of the postmark used for the 10th Meeting of Aerophilatelists held in Geneva on 24th April 1976.
  
-  A travelling exhibition "Transportation in Switzerland" has started a nearly two-year trip to various cities in USA. Included are three frames of Swiss stamps having a transport theme. A special slogan was used during the opening show in Washington.
  
-  A small catalogue of all Swiss, FL and UN stamps and postmarks with a 'space' theme was issued at the WERABA exhibition recently. In German at SFr.3.-
  
-  The Swiss Postmark Society (SVP), in conjunction with the PTT, will issue the new "Local Publicity Datestamp Catalogue" ('K' cancels) early in 1977. A year later the "Machine Cancellation Catalogue" will follow. Both loose-leaf A4 ring books, fully illustrated, with dates of use and a point system indicating rarity, and so the price. As these catalogues will be supported by "The Fund for Furthering Philately" direct prices are not allowed.



If any Helvetia Members have noticed any errors in the present PTT catalogue, or have any suggestions to make for the new issue, please write to me about it.
  
-  The recently issued pair of 'Europa' stamps is remarkable in at least two ways. Firstly, the 40c has old paper with violet fibres, but the 80c has new paper without fibres; secondly, they are marvels of only three-colour recess printing, particularly the 80c. The best effort of the PTT printing department yet.
  
-  The '*Neue Zürcher Zeitung*' (NZZ), which seldom has a good word for the PTT, has voiced its disapproval of the coming 1976 Pro Patria 'Castles'. Such a popular subject deserves a better stamp design. I'm afraid that I agree.
  
-  A high-quality catalogue on UN stamps, postmarks and coins has appeared in its 6<sup>th</sup> Edition "*United Nations Philatelic Numismatic Catalogue & Handbook*" by Wolff Hanke, published (in English) by Lindner. 632 pages and very detailed, a must for UN collectors.
  
-  The answer to Question No.47 is: that the so-called 'Winterthur' was issued imperforate, but the border design has led many to think that it had teeth! Perhaps the earliest metric measurement accepted in Anglo-Saxon countries was the number of teeth per two centimetres, adopted without discussion more than one hundred years ago.
  
-  Question No.48 is: Which Swiss stamp shows two dogs?











## Did You Know?



### June 1976

-  The PTT has shelved its plans for centralising all its Giro activities in one big computer in Fribourg. The present 25 regional offices will be concentrated into 6 or so centres only, as the danger of a single catastrophe, technical breakdown or sabotage, is too big a risk to take.
  
-  According to a very short note in a daily newspaper the PTT has the largest fully automatic network of pneumatic post tubes in the world. With a total length of 93 km., banks and other large customers (182) in 7 cities are served, i.e. interconnected and connected to the main post office. No stamps or postmarks are used.  

The system I saw in Zürich some years ago was delivered by Siemens.
  
-  A useful 60 page booklet in English by Herbert Conway "*25 Years of UN Philately*" has appeared at SFr.6.50 from UN Postal Administration, Geneva.
  
-  At the recent GABRA one had to queue up to say "Hello" to ubiquitous Felix Ganz. His, and the other US exhibits, were exceptionally interesting.
  
-  The new 30c definitive (Z.527) has now been joined by the 25c (Z.526) and 40c (Z.528) in coils of 2000 stamps, made up from sheets and as is usual for this style, without numbers on the back.
  
-  An up-dated numerical list of all PLZ numbers, (PTT 310.05), was issued in January this year. A new edition of the alphabetical list was issued last year (PTT 310.02). Both are available free from any Postal District H.Q. Postcode lists from all countries, except GB, also available.
  
-  A little booklet has appeared "*Die Geschichte des Postamtes Balzers*" by Alfons Kramer (in German). Obtainable from Zumstein, Bern.
  
-  The official FDC for the SFr.1.10 stamp issued in February of this year showed the original Basel Dove letter-box, twelve of which were erected in the town a few years before the stamp appeared, also designed by Melchior Berri. Three are still in use.
-  The answer to Question No.48 is the 80c, 'Europa' stamp issued in 1976. A dog is shown in each of the upper and lower panels.
  
-  Question No.49 concerns a European political party whose emblem is shown on three Swiss stamps (basic versions) one before their founding, and two after. Which party and which stamps?

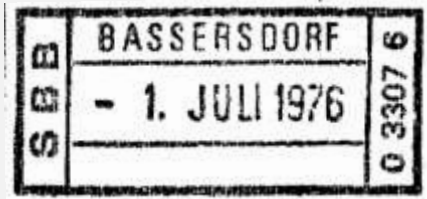


## Did You Know?



### July 1976

- ☞ The SBB has found it necessary, as a consequence of their new computerized book-keeping system, to add a prefix and a suffix digit to their existing four-figure station numbers. Several months ago the first amended station rubber stamps appeared, which of course are used to cancel out-of-hours (PTT office) mail as well as the various railway documents.



If all station rubber stamps are recalled, then a lot of old interesting cancellations will disappear, but I hope that these will be kept by station-masters for cancelling the 'unimportant' mail!

- ☞ The Philex-Verlag in Germany publishes one-country simple catalogues in full colour. Switzerland/Liechtenstein at SFr.4.50 and UN New York/ Geneva at SFr.3.50.~
- ☞ In the May/June issue of the PTT Revue, a two-page illustrated article gives more information on the pneumatic tube postal systems (See also the June 1976 issue of the Newsletter). The first were installed in 1912, but only in 1926 were non-PTT customers served, mainly for telegrams.

Geneva now has the most extensive network, 28 km for 25 stations, which include all UN Offices, and the airport as well as the main post offices. This is a 65 mm dia. System. However, following successful trials in Montreux with 100 mm diameter tubes, the 60 km. system in Basel (due to be in fully operational in 1980) will also use this larger size.

- ☞ According to a 'Consumer Report', the PTT is taking too long to collect and deliver mail, i.e. 20% takes more than 24 hours, and 16% of Express letters don't go faster, in fact some take longer than normal letters.
- ☞ No-one can understand why the PTT was not present at the recent 'INTERPHIL' (FL was) in Philadelphia, although they were represented at Paris, Madrid and Vienna last year, and will be at the 'ITALIA '76' in Milan in October.
- ☞ The answer to Question No.49 is: the Italian Fascist Party, founded in 1919, whose emblem was the 'Fasces' or bundle of rods carried by the Roman Lictors to symbolize their collective might. This emblem was used in the design of the SFr.3 stamp of 1914 (Z.129/142) as an Art Nouveau decoration only, but in 1925 and
- ☞ 1950 it represented the arms of the city and Canton of St. Gallen (PJ Z.33 & Z.344).
- ☞ Question No.50 is about the sheet of 25 stamps printed during the last war in three languages. How many different se-tenant blocks of four are there, and how many sheets would one need to buy?



## Did You Know?

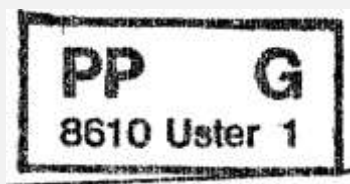


### August 1976

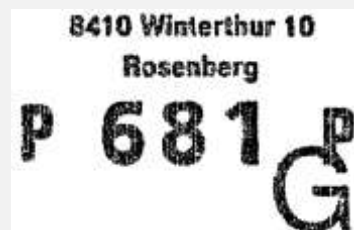
- ☞ A lot of nonsense has been written in the SBZ and other magazines about the dangers of using "plastics" in philately. There are far too many types of synthetic translucent material available which are used in a dozen different ways, for any sort of safety rules to be made.

Many more stamps are damaged by 'rust' as the result of humidity and lack of fresh air, than by the necessary softeners used in many plastics. The risk is low when compared to the convenience of modern methods of storing and displaying stamps, FDCs, etc.

- ☞ The usual PTT parcel 'PP' labels and privately printed-on 'PP' marks are now sometimes augmented by a large 'G' (see illustrations).



This means "Grossauftraggeber", i.e. major customer, who since 1.1.1976 can apply for special discount rates.



- ☞ The PTT seems to like a joke each year; last year it was the hot airship, that didn't fly on time, this year it's a four-horse eight-seat postal coach, which is making a tour through French-speaking Cantons for Radio Suisse Romande.

From 1.8.1976 to 11.9.1976 it will make 35 stop-overs, and at each one the normal town cds will be applied, together with a special cachet.

If the weak PTT cover is used this means an outlay of SFr.28, as only addressed letters at letter rates are accepted, and the postmark collector can order either the first stop only, or all 35 stops. Poor joke.

- ☞ In 1925, philatelic services contributed only 0.87% towards the finances of Liechtenstein. In 1975 this had risen to 3.1% with a total of Fr.7.2m.
- ☞ The postal museum in Vaduz, opened in 1930, has recently been renovated. Not only are all FL stamps shown in chronological order but also thematically grouped, together with essays and other items of historical interest. Located in the Engländer-haus", together with the Tourist Office, it is a worthwhile show for all FL collectors.
- ☞ A not-so-well-known charity, the Pestalozzi Foundation, uses philately to collect money to help the education of mainly under-privileged children, mainly by means of balloon flights. SFr.50,000 was collected by this method last year.
- ☞ Question No.51 concerns a stamp issued 125 years ago in Switzerland. What was the name given to it, inexplicably, as it could never have been used there or even sent there postally?



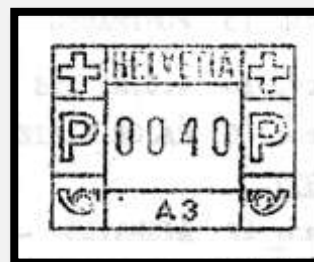
## Did You Know?



### September 1976

☞ On Monday 9<sup>th</sup> August 1976, the PTT installed four electronic “stamp” vending machines (see illustration) Each of the four places is identified as follows:

Zürich 23 Hauptbahnhof = A1  
Berne 1 Schanzenpost = A2  
Grindelwald = A3 (mountain climate)  
Geneva 1 Main PO = A4



Any Swiss coin, or combination, is accepted to produce gummed phosphorescent labels valued at 5c to Fr,99.95.

☞ In the village of Zillis, on the popular Alpine route from Chur to Bellinzona, there is now a small museum for the area. Of postal interest are two items; the last postal horse-drawn coach used on the Splügen Pass to Italy; and the last postal horse-drawn sleigh in the Avers Valley.

Also displayed are documents related to the famous ceiling paintings from St. Martin's church at Zillis. As a result of increased interest, due mainly to the Pro Patria stamps (Z.124-127, 129-132 and 134-137) the church has now been able to buy an organ.

☞ The PTT is again in trouble with its Italian grammar, following several changed slogans, in that the 40c 'leprosy' stamp of February 1976 commemorating the “Swiss Civil Servants' Fund to Help Lepers” reads in the Italian version "Swiss Civil Servants' Fund to help their lepers”!

☞ A point I missed when the new 1976 postal rates etc. were published last year, was that the Swiss official aerogrammes (withdrawn) could no longer be used at even the new rate of SFr.1 to all countries because they did not conform to the 1976 UPU decision that all sides must be sealed. However, they can still be used at the normal airmail rates. Five firms are allowed to print private aerogrammes to-day.

☞ The answer to Question No.51 is the 'so-called' Neuenburg, issued in August 1851 for use inside Geneva only. The reason behind this special issue and the complications of changing over from the French to the new Swiss Federal monetary system are dealt with in detail by M. Hertsch in an article in the BBZ (7/8) of 1976.


☞ Question No.52 concerns the still valid stamp showing the unlikely scene of a Swiss soldier casting his vote wearing his steel helmet. Which stamp is it?




## Did You Know?





### October 1976


 Zumstein has decided to give catalogue status to the new vending-machine labels (shown here last month) but under a separate section, by type only, not impressed value. Standing order customers have apparently received their mint or FDC items from Zumstein. Not all dealers agree with this major decision, neither does the PTT. I think it is correct as these labels fulfil the definition of a postage stamp: "A receipt for payment of a postal service".


 The three 'Rubens' stamps issued by Liechtenstein on 9<sup>th</sup> September 1976, have caused the biggest 'run' for decades. Sold out days before the 9th. How much was due to genuine interest from Holland, thematic collectors, etc., or due to market manipulation by speculators, is difficult to judge.


The new craze of collecting smaller complete sheets certainly pushed the price way up. Don't pay high prices. The result is that the FL Post has now decided to withdraw the advance sale of stamps ahead of the first-day, but FDCs will still be accepted two days after the first-day.

 Now the UN Philatelic Bureau has also had to announce that the two stamps for '25 Years of UN Stamps' (8.10.1976) also issued in small sheets of 20 each, were sold out before date of issue! As there is little interest from thematic collectors, I guess that the other reason is the right one.

 The new 1977 Zumstein catalogues for Switzerland has a useful addition: A chronological list of all their numbers with the equivalents from Michel, Gibbons, Scott and Yvert. Most useful.

 In addition to the German Borek catalogue of CH, FL & UN, in full colour at SFr.6, there has now appeared a new Swiss catalogue in full colour at SFr.9.80. Neither have much text.

 Question No.52 is answered by the 1938 Fr.10 (Z.218). Not only one steel-helmeted soldier is strange (one can understand the political symbolism of those times), but there are no women voting: or even taking part in any of the three pictures. An HPS member has drawn my attention to a little known fact that the 1955 issue loses its picture-side light-beige tone when washed. Checking through some unwashed stamps of pre-1955, it looks to me that these are the same. Has anyone else seen this effect?





 Question No.53 is: Which other Swiss stamps show a steel-helmeted Swiss soldier of this century?






## Did You Know?



### November 1976

-  In 1977 a new definitive series will begin using the subject of 'Folk Customs', which was the winning idea from the competition run by the PTT in 1970. This is only four years after the present series appeared, so I think the reason is that as Hugo Wetli died a year or so ago they cannot add the additional values needed to-day. This leaves no alternative to starting a new design, by a new artist. This also means none of these Wetli definitives will appear in booklets I guess.
  
-  A 'new' booklet has appeared in salmon instead of the green used so far this year, after the new 40c postal rate came into being. However, both are using up old stocks of covers, in that the old list of contents is overprinted as follows:  
2 x 10c. 8 x 20c. 8 x 40c.
  
-  For the 1<sup>st</sup> August National Fete special cancellation used in Zürich this year (the famous Ganymede boy on the lake front), a small error occurred in the Philatelic Bureau in Zürich where all posted-in items are cancelled (items handed in at the Mobile PO are cancelled immediately). Instead of using the 'Zürich' registered labels, which line up with the PO shown on the cds, MPO R-labels were used in error, thus breaking the rule introduced on 19.4.1967.
  
-  The PTT Rechenzentrum recently celebrated its 50th birthday. This computer centre, one of the first in Europe, was the first postal administration to use punched cards for giro transactions in 1952. At that time they were in Zürich, from 1947 to 1967, otherwise they have been in Bern.  

The various cancellations used by their machines have always been rare, and a favourite trick is not to pay one's telephone account. This causes the computer to send a special letter, plus a 1 Fr. fine, but a nicely cancelled cover is used. To-day they are more co-operative, and philatelic wishes are usually met, not least by the new machines.
  
-  Question No.50 was either too easy or too difficult. The correct answer is nine blocks from a minimum of three sheets. Usually these stamps are collected in strips of three, but occasionally a block of four is found and it is useful to know that some are more common than others.
  
-  The answer to Question No.53 is the 20c of 1964 (Z.408). The shape of the helmet has now been changed from one designed by an artist to a shape more suitable for to-day's military problems.
  
-  Question No.54 concerns the Zürich artist Max Hunziker, who died recently. His first four 'Signs of the Zodiac' have just appeared on the latest Liechtenstein stamps and one can assume that the complete set of twelve are ready for printing in 1977 and probably the last in 1978, Which Swiss stamp uses one of his works?



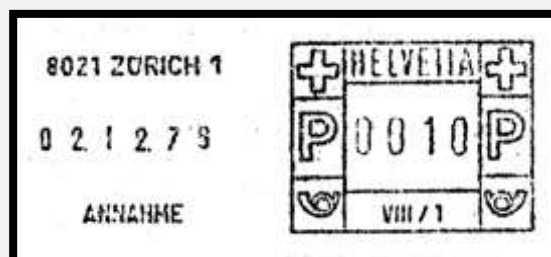
## Did You Know?



### December 1976

- Following the issue of the new 'automatic' labels on 9.8.1976, I contacted the makers, FRAMA AG of Lauperswil BE (one of the three largest franking machine firms in Switzerland) and learnt, among a host of things, that they have also supplied the PTT with two other experimental machines, for use by clerks at parcel counters at Zürich 1 Sihlpost and Fribourg 1, and issue a gummed label on white paper 72x32mm., having the same printing head as the public coin-operated machines and also for any amount up to SFr.99.95.

They have been in use continuously since January 1976 and although discovered by a few collectors there has been no mention anywhere in print, until now! The amount needed for a parcel is punched onto the keys of an adding machine-like keyboard, the customer pays in cash and the label is stuck onto the parcel. As the place and date are already printed on the label no cancellation is needed. The number at the bottom shows first the Postal District No. VIII for Zürich and II for Fribourg, the figure 1 after the stroke is used to identify each individual machine within that district.



I have asked Zumstein if they are going to list them as 'pre-cancels'.

- Two 'illegal' cancellations of Swiss stamps have come to light. They were in use during the two international exhibitions held recently, i.e. Hafnia, and in Milan. Neither were mentioned in the official PTA bulletin. PEN will not list them.
- The seven-member Federal Council can now change postal rates without the time-consuming parliamentary and initiative procedures.
- The PTT were forced to reveal their 1977 programme earlier than usual due to a broken promise whereby one newspaper got hold of the list too soon.
- The next Regiophil will be held in 1977 at Lugano and then in 1980 at the charming medieval town of Zofingen.
- The answer to Question No.54 is that Max Hunziker's picture was used for the Pro Patria 50c of 1970 (Z.149). His style is quite unmistakable.
- Question No.55 is: How many Swiss stamps show a sport?