




## Did You Know?



### January 1981

-  With 24 new stamps announced by the PTT for 1981, the upper limit for commemoratives is being reached, as the 'normal' is 18, but of course this is still ridiculous when compared to some countries.
  
-  The PTT has stated that at least ten years must elapse before a subject can be used again on a stamp, yet the Pro Juventute 'arms of Wolfenschiessen' would clash with the 70c definitive of 1967, and the coming 'Restoration of St. Pierre' in Geneva with the same subject on the 40c.
  
-  The number of special postmarks has risen again this year; Local publicity 'K', from 47 to 54; Specials including MPO's from 67 to 71, and machine slogans from 79 to 84. The trend is still upwards.
  
-  I found the article by Dr. Ganz on 'Parcel Labels' fascinating (published in the Newsletter, 1980), especially the old ones. For once I can answer one of his questions. The 'G' mentioned in the November part was mentioned in the DYK column of August 1976 when it was first introduced, to indicate a 'Gross' or 'Grand' customer to whom the PTT would give a rebate if the year's postage paid exceeded a certain large amount. Mainly for mail order firms.
  
-  The slogan illustrated has been used for the last few years during December, all over Switzerland, in the three separate languages. The Italian one, clearly impressed, is rather rare. All Italian language slogans are hard to come by, as there are only five or six machines in use in the Canton Ticino, compared with much higher numbers north of the Alps.
  
-  All Swiss letter boxes are now being modified to accept roll film, in that a special shaped widening of the slot is filed in on old boxes and provided in new ones from the factory. Pressure from Kodak, etc?
  
-  All letter boxes now show details of all collections, plus if appropriate, times of collection at the nearest railway station. This is usually about 7 pm, 7 days a week.
  
-  The answer to Question No.102 is: the 1980 postcard, printed for the first time by offset.
  
-  Question No.103 is a bit different. I have just received a letter from the UK, weight 67g, franked with 25p, with a circular 'To Pay' fraction, from Glasgow T 8/13½. How much should I have to pay here in Switzerland?



## Did You Know?



### February 1981

- ☞ Once upon a time the PTT used the colour of stamp booklet covers as a guide to the make-up and total value of the contents. Since the introduction of the cut panes and single value of SFr.5, they now use a different colour for each edition, roughly a year's supply.

This is the answer I have received from the PTT, because I had noticed that the original cut pane booklets had salmon pink covers, then a year ago dark blue appeared (as noted in this column) with new adverts, now I have just bought green-covered booklets, with the same adverts.

They swear that this is not a dodge to increase sales, which could be true as very few collect booklets here. There's more interest in the UK and Germany.

- ☞ A suggestion was made in the Swiss parliament last year that sports stamps with premium (as with Pro Juventute and Pro Patria) should be considered by the PTT. This idea has not been well received by philatelists. The German ones have not been popular.
- ☞ Last year, Groth AG (Philatelica Monthly) printed more than 5m FDC and max cards, for a large range of subjects in Switzerland, UN, FL., space projects etc.

- ☞ On the 9<sup>th</sup> March this year, by popular request, the PTT will use a three-language first-day cancel which remains neutral. Illustrated cancellations are only used for Pro Juventute and Pro Patria issues. See illustration:



- ☞ On the 12<sup>th</sup> November 1980, the Ticino PO of 6936 Cademario was broken into, and amongst other items their canceller was stolen. Until a replacement could be made an emergency rectangular canceller was used, unannounced as could be expected.

However, according to the BBZ, the new one will be made with a 'secret' variation from the original, so that incorrect usage, on giro forms, etc., can easily be detected by the PO.

- ☞ There will be an international Air and Space philatelic exhibition in the Transport Museum in Luzern, the 'LURABA 81', from 20-29 March.
- ☞ The 14th REGIOPHIL will be held in St. Gallen from 11-13 September.
- ☞ The answer to Question No.103 was: either SFr.1.05 or nothing.
- ☞ Question No.104 is: when was the first PTT folder for new issues put out?



## Did You Know?



### March 1981

☞ On 13 February, Karl Bickel celebrated his 95th birthday with TV interviews and newspaper articles. Philatelists tend to forget that the creation of dozens of wonderful line-engraved stamps is only a part of his artistic output.

☞ From 2-5 April 1981, a Class III exhibition in Winterthur, the 'WIBRA', will be held as part of the de-centralizing programme.



☞ Last summer (DYK, August 1980) I mentioned the postcards the PTT distributed, with the four-language slogan "Write cards - make friends". Now I find several versions have been issued with a snow-scene.

☞ The Rapp auction of last November had a turnover of SFr.33m. Lot 1796 made history at SFr.260000, a Type 34 Rayon II with frame, on cover, from the Grandson sheet, poorly cancelled on the second, 2.10.1850.

☞ Wengen, one of the last places that used to have a 'K' cancel and has had a machine for years, has now introduced a slogan, a most attractive picture. See illustration right.



☞ I have often thought that it would be useful if one could obtain a photocopy of a specific exhibit at an exhibition, for reference and study. A step in the right direction is when the information is published, as is the case with the prize-winning 'Geneva' study by AHPS member Lt. Col. Charles LaBlonde in Zumstein's BBZ.

☞ The answer to Question No.104 is: 1956, 25 years ago. Since then 180 numbered folders have been issued, with mint or cto stamps. At first the mint stamps were hinged, but for the last 10 years or so Hawid strips have been used.

☞ Question No.105 is: which Swiss stamp first carried publicity for a coming event, as opposed to a commemorative?



## Did You Know?

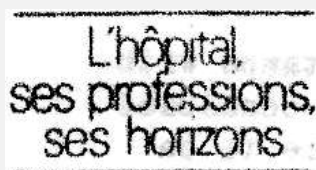


### April 1981

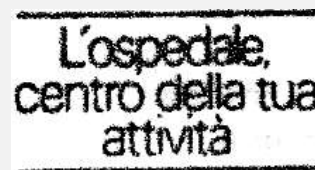
- ☞ Last year, the PTT got into trouble with late delivery of new issues, this year seems to be worse. Standing orders were delivered on time, but items which had to be ordered separately - the two cards and small sheet, have still not been delivered to all. In fact the 1000 letters of apology they rushed out were soon out of stock, I have received neither.
- ☞ There is apparently a mistake in the French text on the new 40c stamp, which reads “Année de l'handicap” (note Franglais); this should be “Année du handicap”.
- ☞ In 1970 the PTT issued three slogans “Work in a Hospital” in each of the three languages. Unfortunately the Italian was spelt “L’hospedale”. An SVP member ordered his usual five of each new slogan and got the error.



Das Spital,  
Dein  
Arbeitsplatz



L'hôpital,  
ses professions,  
ses horizons



L'ospedale,  
centro della tua  
attività

As the machine was then stopped and the slogan removed for rectification, this slogan, sold to his friends for 70c has become the greatest Swiss rarity. The first one auctioned sold for SFr.200 at the SVP club auction held in Thun on 21st March. This will increase interest in slogans.











- ☞ At the same auction the well-known 'Wil St.Gallen' local publicity cancel, plus two of the slogans, went for SFr.120 and 155 respectively, which is less than the SFr.320 paid at the recent Röllli auction, where there were far more non-SVP members.
- ☞ The Langenthal & District Philatelic Club celebrate their Golden Jubilee in April with a small exhibition and publication of an excellent booklet giving the Club history and Post Offices, and is well illustrated with old postcards etc. It shows all postmarks and cancellations used from the time of the Fischer Post to the new publicity slogan, which comes out on their anniversary. Included in the publication are all station cancels, MPO's, slogans, dater dies, etc., a wonderful example for all other clubs to follow.
- ☞ In the latest issue of “Postgeschichte” by Hans Schwarzenbach, Zürich, the story of the Rigi posts is concluded.
- ☞ The answer to Question No.105 is: that the first Swiss stamp to carry publicity for a coming event was in fact the nine stamps issued for the 1939 National Exposition, which contained the first Swiss combined line-engraved and photogravure stamps.
- ☞ Question No.106 is: which stamp shows a five-in-hand coach?



## Did You Know?



### May 1981

-  The 1981 edition of the PTT Postcodes (alphabetical) has just been released. As with last year it lists all the Jura PO's and other recent changes. Write direct to the GD 3030 Bern for a copy.
  
  -  The Fund for Furthering Philately has nearly SFr.8m capital, even after supporting a number of events in 1980. With interest rates below 3% it is not creating much income.
  
  -  The cancellation used for the 'Day of Aero-Philately' at Lodrino in Canton Ticino on 25.4.81 is certainly one of the poorest ever produced. The official cover, in the usual US size (smaller than C6) is very attractive, showing one of the three Swiss JU 52s dropping a stick of parachutists in the Alps. More reminiscent of Crete in 1941 than Switzerland in 1981. These 1937 planes, still in perfect condition, are about to be phased out from the Swiss Air Force.
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-  The 'Regiophil XIV' will be held in St. Gallen from 10-13 September. Prices in Switzerland are not rising very much, relative to the UK, so that such visits and holidays are becoming a good option.
  
  -  Another interesting exhibition, the JUPHILA, will be held in Biel from 2-4 October, for junior collectors from France and Switzerland.
  
  -  At the last Röllli auction at Villars, K.13 with cloud, on a very rare PTT folder, fetched SFr.3000. The highest price for any Swiss cancellation.
  
  -  This year will see the installation of the 20,000th business franking machine. This trend is shown in the dropping figures of stamps printed. In 1979, 390m definitives and 347m specials.
  
  -  On 29th March Erwin Bosshard died. As head of the PTT Stamp Department he had been a friend of philatelists for nearly two decades, being the son of a postman and himself a collector. One of his main works was the creation of the 'Fund', quite one of the most important events for our hobby.
  
  -  The answer to Question No.106 is: the 20c of 1949 (Z.No.292).
  
  -  Question No.107 is: which 'Day of the Stamp' postcard also shows a five in hand mail coach (this seems to be a typically Swiss arrangement)?



## Did You Know?



### June 1981

- ☞ Due to the postponement of the Pope's visit to Switzerland, the special cancellation had to be withdrawn. We will never know how many covers were sent in before the attack, but it seems certain that none had actually been cancelled (remember the Jura debacle).



As the cancellation shows the Einsiedeln Monastery as well, untold numbers of stamps of the old historical Monuments series SFr.1.70, 2.00 and 2.20 will have been stuck on covers ready for cancelling.

- ☞ In the April edition of the BBZ, Zumstein reports that, amongst collectors, there is a ratio of 4 to 1 against the PTT issuing an annual set of stamps with a surcharge for a Sports fund. We will see if a trial is made next year, it is beginning to look likely.
- ☞ The Swiss Ganzsachenverein (Postal History Club) intends to publish a handbook/catalogue on 'R' labels. The first part has appeared in their monthly bulletin.
- ☞ An interesting error occurred recently in the printing of a 'book' of 1000 'R' labels, in that the eighth label of each strip of ten was for an entirely different PO. The postmaster had used thirty such strips before a collector pointed out the error to him.

He always cancelled, quite unnecessarily, not only the stamps but every 'R' label as well. This provided proof that the wrong label had not been stuck on later, but also that he was not exactly looking at what he was cancelling!






- ☞ On the back of the recent Anker maximum card (a deserved success) is mentioned that the original hangs in the Lausanne Art Gallery. I have now read that there are three versions of this painting, one of which is in the Sheffield Art Gallery. I would be grateful if a member there in the UK could check what the differences are - if the picture is really there at all.
- ☞ The poor Lodrino cancellation (see DYK, May 1981) had to be remade due to a spelling error in the Italian text. The original cancel is shown on page 126 of the April SBZ, as part of a mock up, with AEROFILETALIA. This was corrected in time to AEROFILATELIA. So it appears that sometimes the PTT do notice their mistakes in Italian spelling and grammar.
- ☞ The answer to Question No.107 is: the card of 1943 showing the famous painting of a Gotthard post coach, by Rudolf Kohler, on display in the Zürich Art Gallery.
- ☞ Question No.108 is about stone heaving, shown on the latest 80c Europa stamp, and on which other two stamps?






## Did You Know?



### July 1981

-  Mr. Katcher will be surprised to learn that according to the 'WIPA' catalogue a 5c rayed-centre postage due stamp was on show at the exhibition in the green of the 1883 issue. Unfortunately, the text for that page of illustrations was not printed,
  
-  New foreign postal rates were introduced by the PTT on the 1<sup>st</sup> July. Main points of interest are that: Registration increases from 70c to SFr.1, but the compensation goes up to SFr.150; the airmail first step is raised from 5 to 10g and all letter mail goes by air now, in two categories, Europe (CEPT) and Mediterranean countries, and the rest. More or less a reduction to most people.
  
-  Collectors of International Reply Coupons may be interested to know that the German 'Congress' together with the Swiss Ganzsachenverein has issued a catalogue covering the world. Of the four basic types, all printed in Switzerland, no less than 47 varieties are known for Switzerland, since they first came out in 1907.
  
-  During a recent visit to the FRAMA Co. in Lauperswil, in Emmental, I learnt that the six machines in England will start their trials in September this year. The modifications made in response to PO requests will make operation less easy than the original Swiss label issuing machines.
  
-  In June, the Kirchenfeld suburb of Bern, where the Postal Museum and the majority of embassies are located, celebrated its 100 year Jubilee. The then still open fields were bought up by a London based Bern Land Co. Ltd., who developed it with the co-operation of the authorities. Still the most pleasant part of Bern.



-  At the recent Corinphila auction in Zürich, SFr.19,000 plus 10%, was paid for a 'Zürich 6' on cover, from Thalweil to Uster, in perfect condition. Cat. value was 5,000.
  
-  The answer to Question No.108 is: the 10c Pro Juventute of 1932 and the 10c Pro Patria of 1950.
  
-  Question No.109 is: from which Canton does the girl, on the current 'Europa' stamp, come from?



## Did You Know?



### August 1981

- ☞ No little consternation was caused amongst SVP members on receiving a letter from the Field Post Office Director stating "that the collection of any Field Post or other Military cancellations was expressly forbidden by law".

This letter resulted from a member's request to military barracks for cancellations, previously requested successfully at other places. This was taken up by the SVP and the FPO had to climb down a bit in that they said "requesting" from outside is not allowed.

The interest in such cancels is increasing. At the 'WIBRA' there was an important exhibit on the early FPO cancels by B. Stuts of Winterthur.

- ☞ All exhibitors at 'LEMANEX 1978' received an excellent present, an A4 sized well illustrated "*Les Postes du Valais*" by Louis Vuille. It could not be purchased they said. Now I find that it is on sale at the PTT Museum in Bern at SFr.12 in French only; well worth it for the specialist.
- ☞ The new large sized Express label No.236.34 of 1978 (which has to be stamped with the date) is also available as a self-adhesive, and more difficult to collect.
- ☞ A machine cancellation slogan is being used at Interlaken from 1<sup>st</sup> August until 6<sup>th</sup> September to publicise the Unspunnen 'Costume and Alp-herds Festival', of which the stone depicted on the 'Europa' stamp (and others) is shown.

The weight of this stone is 83.5 kg and it has been heaved to the record distance of 2.4 metres. It carries the date 1805, but might be even older.



- ☞ In reply to an SVP Member's question about the Geneva 'bulge' postmarks of c.1880, the two most informative answers were received from HPS members, E.J. Rawnsley and C.J. LaBlonde. The SVP Editor mentioned the high level of knowledge to be found in the UK. Monthly publications are exchanged by the way.
- ☞ A few months ago, Max Frei, the Technical Director of Helio Courvoisier, retired after 35 years' service, a period during which many tremendous changes have been made in stamp printing. When Max joined the company, they had a staff of six.
- ☞ The PTT Souvenir No.2, portraits of men who became Swiss, was reprinted, but in German only. This edition has '30 000 d' after the No. Whether this difference will boost the price or not is doubtful, as the prices being asked for all three souvenirs have come down recently.
- ☞ The answer to Question No.109 is: that the girl shown on the 40c 'Europa' stamp comes from Canton Vaud, judging by the little knob at the top of her straw hat.
- ☞ Question No.110 is: why on the recent Pro Patria stamp is the 'French word 'Bureau' used for a PO in German-speaking Graubünden, i.e. Splügen?



## Did You Know?



### September 1981

- ☞ No doubt you have all found the discrepancy between the two “Crossbow - Buy Swiss” stamps, the first issued in 1958 commemorating 25 years and the second, just issued for 50 years, 1931-1981.

However, back in 1957, a slogan was issued in three languages, also claiming 25 years - and they say time is the art of the Swiss!



- ☞ I recently purchased from Zumstein's a copy of the booklet issued in 1978 by the 'Studiegroep Zwitserland' of Holland, to celebrate their 10 years of activity. The text is in Dutch and German. The main article covers, in more detail than I have seen elsewhere, the TPO cancels used on Swiss Federal and private railways, giving the number of every train per cds. Postmarks of all lake steamers, too, by W.J. Pfeiffer.
- ☞ The present exhibition in the PTT Museum in Bern has 20 frames from the 'Electricity' thematic collection of Dr. R. Portman, a retired dentist of Bern. He is one of the leading instructors and supporters of junior philately.
- ☞ I have found some copies of the booklets published by the Rhätische Bahn in 1968, showing maps of all routes, with photos in colour, also some of locomotives. Text in German, French, Italian and English. 24pages, about 20x20 cm. Interesting background information for TPO collectors.
- ☞ For anyone keen on collecting famous Swiss on non-Swiss stamps, there has been a set of seven issued recently by Romania. The 55 Lei value shows a St. Bernard dog.
- ☞ It's not just the UK that has trouble in finding the perfect luminescence substance for their stamps. Germany also, but the Basel firm of Sandoz has produced a new substance 'Cartex DP', which, after three years of trials, is to be adopted.
- ☞ With more than 4,000 lots, the Röllli auction of 17-19 September seems to be putting an amazing variety of material in front of collectors. Only FL and CH material, but stamps, cards, letters etc., with special emphasis on cancellations, and good quality.
- ☞ The answer to Question No.110 is: that 'Bureau' is a typical French word used in German-speaking parts of Switzerland. Often spelt 'Buro' in German to-day. These French words sometimes make it difficult for Germans to understand Swiss who are doing their best to speak 'High-German'.
- ☞ Question No.111 is: which other Swiss stamps show a crossbow?



## Did You Know?



### October 1981

- ☞ Zumstein will catalogue three new variations of the Frama machine labels as a new fibreless white paper (Z4) and a less smeary ink, being more orange than carmine, (Z5 on fibre paper, Z6 on white are now being used).

Which combination, Z4 or Z5, will be the rarest one cannot tell yet, as ink and paper are being replaced haphazardly in hundreds of vending machine. Old paper and old ink is Z3.

- ☞ This new quick-drying ink was introduced because of trade union pressure (which is rarely necessary in Switzerland) as counter clerks could not clean their fingers after working with the pre-cancelled parcel labels, also Frama machines now in use in many PO's.
- ☞ In recent months, usage of the Furka-Oberalp Railway summer-only stretch from Oberwald to Realp has been hectic. Next year the new tunnel will be in use allowing all-year service from the Valais to Graubünden. As I experienced myself it was standing room only, and twice the number of trains. As no postal service is provided it was pointless attempting to get a Gletsch station cancel. PTT post is carried of course.
- ☞ Typical of the UN Geneva overload and general chaos, is the notification I received on 16th September of one of their ridiculous exhibition cachets for the 'Riccione 81', 29 August to 1st September.

- ☞ There is a new type of red franking machine dater die in use since about 10<sup>th</sup> September 1981, for the placeless cancellations of computerised mail from some of the big banks.




- ☞ W. Sturzenegger has just published an 80 page a5 booklet, in German "*Sehenswürdigkeiten der Schweiz*" or "Sights of Switzerland", illustrated with enlarged stamps, postmarks and PTT postcard pictures of 76 interesting places. A joy to look at, with a delightful text. A copy is available from the HPS Library.
- ☞ The answer to Question No.111 is: that a crossbow is shown on the many Tell and Tell Boy stamps, starting in 1907, also on the 60c of the 1941 Historical set (Z.244).
- ☞ Question No.112 is about the Diet of Stans. Which stamps show the saving adviser Niklaus van der Flue?




## Did You Know?





### November 1981


 On the 20th October the PTT Philatelic Sales Counter in Bern moved to new Offices in the Zeughausgasse 19 (Artillery Lane) almost opposite Zumstein's. The new location is most appropriate as it is in the renovated 'Rathaus des Aeusseren Standes', in which the founding conference of the UPU was held in 1874. Old canceller still in use I'm told.


The old offices in Parkterrasse 10, which were so difficult to find, will remain for mail orders etc.


 In addition to the nine main Philatelic Offices (Bern, Geneva, Lausanne, Basel, Zürich, Luzern, St. Gallen, Chur and Lugano) there are an increasing number of PO's with a Philatelic Counter at which a limited range of items can be bought. Airports, Shopping Centres, Zürich Main Station and resorts like St. Moritz, Gstaad, etc.


 The SFr.10 stamp, St. Mark (Z.382) can turn from blue to green if left in strong sunlight, so don't fall for colour varieties at a good price.


 The RSV (Rollenmarken-Sammlerverein = Coil-Stamp Society) has organised about fourteen talks in various parts of Switzerland so far this year. Membership has risen from the original 50 in 1974 to the present 450.


 The SVP (Postmark Society) has published a second Edition of their very successful "Local Publicity Datestamp Handbook" (K cancels) which includes all cds up to the end of 1979. Price is SFr.29, in German and French. Also includes the updated tables of the Supplement issued in 1980.

 A remarkable exhibition has been held in Oberaegeri, Canton Zug, on the creation and printing of postage stamps, based on the work of Heinrich Heusser, who died in 1979. He engraved a large number of Swiss and Liechtenstein stamps, for instance the four postal history stamps of 1960, high values of 1961 (the Evangelists) and present folklore definitives.

 At the end of November 1981, Zumstein will issue the 23rd edition of their specialised catalogue/handbook.

 The PTT Printing Works in Bern has received the order to print a six value set on old writing for the Faroe Islands.

 The answer to Question No.112 is: Niklaus van der Flue is shown on the 30c Pro Juventute of 1929 (Z.52), and the 10c Pro Juventute of 1937 (Z.82), and the SFr.5 definitive of 1938 (Z.217). He died in 1487.








 Question No.113 is: which Swiss stamps show the UPU building in Bern?






## Did You Know?



### December 1981

-  The PTT have just announced they are planning to increase the internal postal rates in 1984, i.e. the present 40c (for letters up to 250g) will become 50c. This is because the Federal Government expects them to hand over at least SFr.150m every year.
  
-  Work has started on a new building for the PTT Postal Museum in Bern, situated behind the Historical Museum at Helvetia Platz, where the present Postal Museum shares a building with the Alpine Museum.
  
-  For the first time, this year's set of four Pro Juventute stamps will all have an LP cancel, three having their first-day with the relevant stamp. Only the 40c Benken has had a pictorial cancellation for years.
  
-  At the opening of the new Bureau in Bern on 20.10.81, Guido Nobel, PTT chief, gave some interesting information, that they have 70 staff for philatelic offices, which handle 185,000 regular customers, 80,000 outside Switzerland.
  
-  It is now possible to place a standing order for PTT maximum cards, souvenirs and booklets, only PK so far.
  
-  In 1982 there will be a small sheet of 10 x 40c stamps for the Gotthard Railway Centenary, and that the middle value definitive will start to have a new series of 'Signs of the Zodiac'. Not very original, and limited to twelve values, or pictures at least.
  
-  A good example of useful co-operation between a Museum and a local Philatelic Society is given by the preparation and presentation of ten frames to the Swiss Air Force Museum in Dübendorf by the Glatt Valley Philatelic Society.  

In October seven frames were put on display showing all the soldier stamps, mint and on cover, of all squadrons and the attached services. Three frames are to follow with cancellations of the balloon and anti-aircraft units, etc.
  
-  The Swiss Transport Museum in Luzern, one of the most-visited Museums in Europe, also has some extensive thematic collections of the highest standard on all types of transport.
  
-  The answer to Question No.113 is: that the UPU building in Bern is shown on the two stamps of 1924, for the 50th anniversary, Z.167-168. Also in 1978 on the 80c Europa (Z.608).
  
-  Question No.114 goes back to Question No.108 - which other Swiss stamps show a girl in a hat similar to that on the 40c Europa of 1981?