





## Did You Know?




### January 1985


 The SVP will issue a second supplement to their Local Publicity Handbook (K cancels) in March 1985, covering the years 1980 to 1984. This has been delayed by the 'M' Handbook. Price and ordering details will be given in the next 'News Letter'. There are still some copies of the original Handbook and Supplement 1 available, and their prices will also be given then.


 Quite recently an SVP member discovered a new version of the Sierre cancel (K34:3) the most noticeable difference, is that all items in the upper segment touch the line above the date in the new version only (K34z:3).


Only one other has been found, dated 1964, but there must be hundreds in the UK. We would like to estimate last-day of K34 and first-day of K34z, so please let me know what you have as soon as possible, and anything else too, of course.





 A remarkable error has been discovered by Claude Mistely. The No. 157 shown on the plane of the 20c air stamp of 1944 (Z.38) belongs to a Fokker single-engine plane and not to the three-engine one shown. Swissair have confirmed this to me, but have not said what it should have been. I think 190 from my records.

 The fourth "Spezi" booklet has appeared, continuing the study of printing errors of photogravure stamps. Very good indeed, but in German. Copy will be in the Library.

 The NABA ZÜRICH exhibit on Karl Bickel Sr. is now on show at the Postal Museum in Bern until 3 March 1985.

 For those with change left in their pockets can subscribe to a "wonderful" offer of 25 replicas in gold-plated silver of famous "Soldier Stamps", in a leather case, with a leather-bound volume "History of the Swiss Army". Only 5000 sets will be made, and I hope our readers are not on the list.

 The answer to Question No.150 is: to me, the 1974 UPU set in which two of the three were foreigners.

 Question No.151 is taken from an article in the Rapp auction firm's quarterly magazine on collecting: which Swiss stamps show a post-horn as part of the design, i.e. not a small detail?



## Did You Know?



### February 1985

- ☞ The vast number of railway enthusiasts amongst philatelists will be glad to hear that the PTT has just bought its first four locomotives: They will be used for shunting at their parcels sorting centres of Däniken and (to be opened) Zürich-Müllingen. By buying their own electric shunters (Type Ee 3/3) they are independent of the SBB.
- ☞ The SVP Supplement No. 2 to their K-Handbook is making progress, but all prices are not yet fixed for publication. Next month for sure.
- ☞ Zumstein has taken over the PEN catalogue, since the owner's death a few years ago, and has now published the Special & MPO cancellations for 1982-1984 for SFr.20.
- ☞ In their January issue of the BBZ, Zumstein announced that there are two versions of the 10c overprint on the old 40c postcards. The single cards (returned from PO's) were overprinted in letterpress, somewhat thicker, while the cards still in large uncut sheets were overprinted in offset, somewhat thinner, and made into booklets of four cards each. These are the rare ones. See illustrations below.



- ☞ A well-known couple from (or possibly 'of') Wales spent some days in Malbun recently. This upper valley of Liechtenstein was uninhabited in winter only 50 years ago, as shown on two stamps, the 50 Rp of 1930 (Z.92) and the 1Fr. Zeppelin of 1931 (Z.7). What a change!
- ☞ The answer to Question No.151 is: that the following stamps show a post-horn: the Transitionals, i.e. the so-called 'Vaud' 4c & 5c, and the 'Winterthur'; the Rayons; 10c MPO of 1937 & 1946; the 1943 Centenary of Swiss stamps issue; all three values for the Federal Post Centenary; 5c Pro Patria in 1950 for Federal Posts centenary; the pair in 1953 for the MPO's; 5c in 1955 for the Lausanne Philatelic Exhibition; 5c in 1956 for the 50 years of Postal Coaches; 10c for the St.Gallen exhibition in 1959; 20c postal messenger stamp of 1960; the 'Europa' issue of 1967 and 1973 perhaps; The 30c for the 1971 NABA in Basel; 30c in 1974 for 125 years of PTT.

A post-horn is also shown in the old emblem for the 1978 LEMANEX; the 40c PTT of 1980, and finally, three of the four Pro Patria stamps in 1981.

- ☞ Question No.152 is: that now the first stamp has just appeared with a text in Romansch, which Swiss stamps carry a text in English?



## Did You Know?

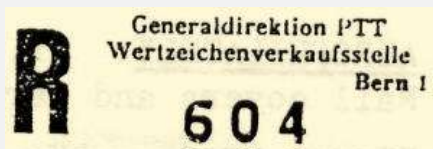


### March 1985

- ☞ For more than a year now I have seen badly registered labels, in that the red 'R' is twice the thickness of the normal letter. There must have been a colossal piece of bad printing somewhere.



- ☞ The PTT opened their first Philatelic Office in Bern on 15.8.43, but I find it remarkable that they are still using the same R-label, without the PLZ, after 42 years!



- ☞ The February 1985 edition of the BBZ pictures a double-impresion to be found on the new 45c definitives, affecting a number of stamps in the two lower sheet rows, mainly in the middle. This defect has not been caused by paper movement during printing, but by inaccurate placing of the transfer roller during repressing the worn cylinder. Therefore, it has most likely been corrected already.

The 25c of the same issue date shows such small defects that it will not be catalogued. Nothing has been found on the 60c so far.

- ☞ Many HPS members have no doubt noticed that Cuba is printing its stamps, and for others as well, on larger and larger pieces of paper. The reason is to be found in the above mentioned BBZ. It seems that the Denner supermarket chain in Switzerland, as one of the last, has now entered the philatelic sphere, but instead of selling highly priced FDCs etc. it is offering 8 of the above stamps for every 10-roll multi-pack of toilet paper!

- ☞ Everyone knows the two famous stamp printers in Switzerland, the PTT and Courvoisier, but few know of the third, Impressor SA, in Prilly near Lausanne. The customers are some former French colonial states in Africa, such as Chad.

- ☞ The new Supplement 2 of the K-Handbook will contain details of 285 new 'K' cancels, and a few others, on about 20 double-sided pages. The price is not yet quite fixed, but is expected to be £4 to £5.

- ☞ The answer to Question No.152 is: that all Swiss stamps with an English text have something to do with air travel, the opening of airports of Zürich and Basel in 1953 and 1979, and the three Swissair anniversaries in 1956, 1960 and 1981.

- ☞ Question No.153 is: that the new 80c stamp shows a "high dam". Which other Swiss stamps show such a type of dam?



## Did You Know?



### April 1985

- ☞ The first Swiss Sport stamp, 50c + 20c surcharge will appear in February 1986. One stamp every three to four years has been agreed to by the PTT. However, the Sport organisations are planning a major campaign to sell 15m stamps via special covers, booklets (as Pro Juventute from sheets) etc. etc. That is the catch - beware.
- ☞ A video of the NABA procession through the streets of Zürich is planned, as recorded by Swiss TV, if enough orders are received; in German only.

A record can also be obtained of the special march written for the NABA opening ceremony.

- ☞ The exhibition now on at the Swiss Postal Museum until 9th June 1985 covers the Tax stamps, by Mr. F. Buchmaller of Basel and Mr. W. Eigenmann of Kilchberg.

Much material from the PTT Archives and storerooms is on show for the first time, such as the original blocks and galvanos. The solution to Mr. Katcher's rayed 5c has so far not been found.

- ☞ In 1963 a German specialist discovered that the red cancellation used during the first, and only, International Gliding Camp on the Jungfrauoch, from 4th to 18th September 1935, came in two versions, as shown.



This fact has come to light via an American collector, who has strikes of type 'b', the rarer one? Note the relationship of certain letters to the 'corners' of the segments.








- ☞ The answer to Question No.153 is: that a high dam is also shown on the famous 20c stamp of 1949 (Z.301). A dam situated at such height provides high pressure water for electricity during the shorter peak periods, while a low dam as on the 30c from the same set (Z.303), that of Verbois on the Rhone below Geneva, provides low pressure water for the continuous generation of base-load electricity.
- ☞ Question No.154 is: in which year did the CEPT quadruple post-horn first appear, and for which subsequent years?



## Did You Know?




### May 1985




-  The 1984 Conference in Hamburg decided to increase the monies to be paid for international postal services. This means that the Swiss PTT will have to pass these costs onto their faithful customers, you and me. Therefore, the postal rates will increase early in 1986. The previous rise was in January 1976, not bad.
-  On the 27/28 April 1985 in Interlaken, the SVPPhV held a symposium on general philatelic organisations, attended by over 100 delegates from 50 of the 141 affiliated clubs. Amongst the 23 speakers were PTT and SBZ officials, with interesting facts.
-  The Fund for Furthering Philately has spent, since it was founded in 1965, the sum of SFr.11.25m on exhibitions, new frames, literature, youth groups etc., and still has SFr.6m capital in hand.
-  Sri Lanka has just issued a stamp printed in Hungary, but on paper made in Switzerland.
-  On 11th May there will be a general festival from Zürich-Oerlikon to Bülach for the opening of the double train line all the way to Bülach. There will be attractions at all stations on this line, with cheap tickets between them. The MPO cachet illustrated shows one of the new SBB/PTT TPOs.

Above the letter-box on the left there is a new style of identification No., a yellow block with the new PTT logo on the left then a three-figure No. in black, 900 and so on, very prominent.



-  The next illustration shows the private cachet used by the company that runs the ships on the Lake of Zürich, to celebrate the 150 years since the first ship, the 'Minerva' sailed. More information later about this event.



-  The old Paddle-wheel steamer "Unterwald" has now finished its refitting (saved from the scrap yard following public outcry and subscription) and will be re-launched on 16th May, but no postal cancel that I can find.
-  The answer to Question No.154 is: that in 1964 the 'Europa' stamps first showed the four post-horn signet, or logo, and this was used again in 1967, 1974-1976, 1979 and then from 1981 onwards.
-  Question No.155 is about music, as this is the subject of the 'Europa' stamps this year: which Swiss stamps show musical instruments?



## Did You Know?



### June 1985

☞ Your correspondent was not invited by the PTT to the opening ceremony, on 3rd June, of the largest multi-million SFr Parcel Sorting Office, 8010 Zürich-Mülligen. The office will employ 1000 staff and use 14 km. of conveyor belts to handle all parcels for eastern Switzerland, using lots of the latest electronic memories. Guided tours are booked for more than a year in advance.

☞ Sales of the 'NABA-ZÜRI' block reached about 2½ m, adding nearly 1m to the Fund for Furthering Philately, making its capital now SFr.8,332,791.97.

☞ The Bern Philatelic Society celebrates its Centenary this year, with a Bourse and exhibition on 14-16 June, and a book for all members. Dr. Ganz is showing his collection of cancels and covers on 'Bern' towns in the USA, the result of an incredible amount of research, as many of these "Bern villes" no longer exist.

☞ I was pleased to have seen the 'Regiophil' in Solothurn during the weekend of 18th May, and to see the 'Silver' exhibit of HPS Member R. Wightman, who is also the Treasurer of the Winterthur Philatelic Society. His subject "Italian Occupation of the Dodecanese" is a bit exotic by Swiss standards. Useful catalogue - copy in the Library.

☞ The Fund for Furthering Philately has just paid SFr.240, 000 for Hr Liniger's postmark collection, which is of infinite value, especially for the 19th century marks. A substantial part of this extensive collection was bought by him, in the 1940s, from a scrap-paper merchant who had been given the job of clearing out a lot of old PTT junk, including the old PO postmark impression books of all the old Post Offices.

☞ The machine cancellation in Ladin which was made for the PO's of Samedan, Scuol and Pontresina only, has been lost in the post, so a new one has been made, in Romansch Grischun this time, making it the sixth language used for this slogan, "Write Cards and Make Friends".

☞ For the first time there was no MPO with a special cancellation at this year's MUBA in Basel; it seems that the organisers wanted a lot more from the PTT as parking fee than they were prepared to pay. There was a machine slogan, as before.



☞ The answer to Question No.155 is: that there are, excluding post-horns, only three Swiss stamps showing musical instruments, the 20c of 1955 plus the 40c Pro Patria of 1951, both showing an alphorn and a guitar on the 1975 'Europa' 30c.

☞ Question No.156 is: which philatelic item has carried the greatest surcharge? Note that this year's Pro Patria has a face value of SFr.2.60 and a surcharge of SFr.1.15.



## Did You Know?



### July 1985

The PTT are proposing, for the 1986 foreign postal rate increases: a letter rate change from 80 to 90c for CEPT countries and 90 to 100c for the rest, with the airmails increasing the same. Parcels by even more.

The illustration right shows the first-day cancel used for the gift packs at the opening ceremony of the new parcel distribution centre at Zürich-Mülligen on 29th May.

The actual PO opened on 3rd June and, we have discovered, it has an unannounced cancelling machine for PP only.



The illustration below shows a curiosity that might become the leader of a pack.



For the first time, since being allowed to do this in 1981, the PTT has a Swiss and a French stamp and cancellation together on the same envelope, which is normally forbidden, but is possible for philatelic shows etc., where both administrations have a stand.

This year marks 75 years of the Military Airfield of Dübendorf-Wangen. Combined with various military exhibitions there is a special show in the aviation museum and a special philatelic exhibition in the village of Wangen on the northern side of the field.

The special cancel below shows the Swissair use of the field for their services pre-war by the DC-3. Then a Farman as one of the first planes to use the field in 1911, then a US-made Tiger fighter of the present Swiss Air Force, then a Klemm private plane for the AeCs interest. The slogan cancel used in both Zürich and Dübendorf is shown right.



The Swiss Bank Corporation has a large window display in its main Bern building, showing all the Swiss stamps connected with the Canton of Bern, a very successful piece of advertising.

The answer to Question No.156 is: the special block of 1945 in aid of War victims, which sold at SFr.10, of which only SFr.3 was for possible postage. In the 1950s the FIP made a rule that the surcharge must not exceed 50% of the postage part. This has been strictly adhered to by Switzerland ever since.







Question No.157 is: how many stamps did the Bank put on show in Bern?



## Did You Know?






### August 1985

-  Following my note in last month's DYK on the FIP rule about surcharges, I came across a correction made in 1948, in that the 50% limit was removed for philatelic exhibitions.
  
-  The 1st August cancellation used in Fribourg, shown in last month's Newsletter, has caused some raised eyebrows here. Jean Tinguely makes moving statues, fountains etc, using scrap metal wheels, levers, rods, belts etc., which whirr and bang away, "much ado about nothing", reflecting our over-technical society which produces only useless movement. He is not popular in all circles.
  
-  The PTT have announced that a new booklet will go on sale on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1985, priced at SFr.10, containing the same stamps as the SFr.5 booklet, but with ten more of the 50c value. This means that the pane with the two hatched spaces will not appear. These will be counter sold only, as the present vending machines are only for a single SFr.5 coin.
  
-  The PTT provide cancelled booklets, on the first day of issue (no pre-release sales) in that each pane is cancelled with 'BERN Annahme', without pulling the booklet to pieces. This can be requested at any time at any post office, but will probably not be done so carefully.
  
-  The SVP Supplement 2 to their Handbook of Local Publicity Cancellations will be ready early in September. Price will be SFr.14.
  
-  The illustration below is from a new book that has appeared for the celebrations for 150 Years of Steam Ships on the Lake of Zürich.

It is a collection of articles by 12 or more authors on various aspects, a lot of old authentic information, plans, etc. are included. Put together by Josua Dürst.  
150 pages in German, many illustrations, it costs SFr.25.




-  The owners of the old sailing ships were not pleased at all at this new development. Today all fleets are thriving, with commuters and holidaymakers.
  
-  The answer to Question No.157 is: 31 stamps were put on show in Bern. But I have noticed in a leaflet they sent me that one has been forgotten, the 35c of 1960, as they show only the SFr.1.30 of 1963, of the same guild house in Biel. Otherwise no paper varieties are shown or similar non-specialist items.
  
-  Question No.158 is: which Swiss stamp shows a shell or scallop, and why?



## Did You Know?




### September 1985


 All those members who order a 'K' Cancel Handbook Supplement No. 2 from the HPS will get an introduction in English, which will help them with the main Handbook too.


 The first-day cancel shown was applied to a new Italian stamp of 350 Lire issued on 1.6.85 in a tourism series, but it shows a town that belonged to Switzerland from 1510-1797, together with quite an area of land. After being taken by Napoleon it was not handed back at the Congress of Vienna in 1815. Still regretted in Switzerland.





 At the large air-show held at Dübendorf on the 31.8.85 (see July DYK) there were two MPOs, Nos. 5 & 6, a rare concession, for the 100,000 spectators.


The door of the B17 Flying Fortress could not be opened in flight, so the covers on board could not be dropped in their containers over Bex as planned.

 The new "small" Zumstein catalogue for 1986 has again tables to give the equivalent Michel and Yvert Nos., which had been dropped for two years, but I see that the SG & Scott Nos. have not been re-introduced.


 Next time you see a Schweppes advert, or drink some, remember that it was invented, i.e. carbonated water in commercial quantities, by a Swiss, Jacob S. of Geneva in 1883. This remarkable piece of news I gleaned from the blurb on the latest 22p Jersey stamp of the Huguenot issue.

 From 29 August until 1 December, the exhibition in the PTT Museum will be on the 19th century cancellations of Canton Glarus, from the collection of Paul Feser of Solothurn. This will be popular amongst the specialists.

 There are big auctions in September: 5-7th Marken Müller in Basel; 12-14th Rölli in Luzern; 23-28th Corinphila in Zürich. This will set the trend for 1986; will let you know later if anything can be learnt.

 The first-day cancel of 2nd September in Liechtenstein shows an old picture of a diamond resisting a blow with a hammer. A diamond used to be called a "luminous stone" in German and became "Liechtenstein" but why is not explained.

 The answer to Question No.158 is: the 20c Pro Juventute of 1981 with two shells.

 Question No.159 is: why was the SFr.3 stamp redrawn in 1931 when the high values were re-issued in new colours?



## Did You Know?



### October 1985

- ☞ Together with the new SFr.10 booklet on 2.9.85, the PTT issued a new version of the SFr.5 booklet, this time with an orange cover, and for the first time in 20 odd years, without an advert for Zumstein.

This booklet will not be supplied by the PTT under standing orders, as they do not consider it as a new type.

- ☞ The 1985 Pro Juventute booklet will contain only three panes of 4 x 50c stamps, with no 'Christmas Card' 35c stamps. I wonder if this is a good idea, as sales are dropping.
- ☞ The GABRA II in Burgdorf was most interesting and the organisers' invitations to foreign collectors provided a wide coverage of good, not-to-otherwise seen exhibits, as it was all non-competitive. A copy of the catalogue is in the HPS Library.

Two interesting articles to be recommended: one by Max Schio (organiser) on the Express labels (with a reference to Ivan Tillen's article in 'Postal History International' of 1973), and the other by Jann Etter on the newly discovered postcard (Z.151a) with official 10c addition.

- ☞ The recent 'K' cancel No.991 of Wermatswil commemorates the farmer Jakob Gujer, who changed the whole system of farming in Switzerland and surrounding countries. He was visited by many European notables, including Goethe, and introduced the potato to Switzerland, and winter feeding of cattle, natural fertilisation of fields, composting, etc.









- ☞ Two interesting booklets have been published here recently of interest to philatelists: "*Schiffe aus Alter Zeit*" on the ships of Lake Luzern, SFr.12. 61 pages with 11 ships shown in black & white, 1984, and "*Glattfeldens Postverbindungen zur Zeit Gottfried Keller*", published by the Social Democratic Party of Glattfelden, no less, with many pictures of postal historical interest, SFr.13.
- ☞ A booklet is being prepared for issue in 1987 to commemorate 50 years of Swiss MPO's. The assistance of philatelists is being sought to compile a listing of all the different 'R' labels.
- ☞ The answer to Question No.159 is: that at the time in 1931, Switzerland was most worried about the political interference of Italian Fascists, mainly in Canton Ticino, so the decision was taken to remove the Fascist bundles with axe from at least that stamp, but could not be taken from the arms of St.Gallen.
- ☞ Question No.160 is: that the Bakers Centenary has been shown on the current 50c stamp. Which other stamps show bread?




## Did You Know?




### November 1985

-  13 years after their draft listing of Swiss Perfins, R. Hürlimann & F. Ganz have now published their definitive list in a neat little book covering this fascinating subject in great detail, in German, French and English, 138 A5 sized pages for SFr.18.50.
  
-  Very few collectors in Switzerland know, or want to know, that the first (1967) coding and sorting plant is going to be dismantled and replaced by a more modern Telefunken installation in 1986, which will include an optical character recognition (OCR) part. This means that the present set of 8 yellow coding bars will be replaced by a line of 16 orange-red bars along the bottom edge of the covers, as at present in Basel and Geneva.
  
-  100,000 visitors to the Zurich Airport Open Weekend (26/27 October) for the baptism of the new Terminal A Finger-dock, could see two items of philatelic interest. An excellent display by the PTT of early, and present, airmail photos, documents etc, and the large baggage handling plant with electronic control but using Flight Nos. instead of post-codes. At 9000 bags per hour its capacity is more in-line with the new PTT sorting plant for parcels at Mülligen.
  
-  The 'LUPO 85' held in the Transport Museum in Luzern attracted over 7000 spectators to an excellent varied show, Paris balloons in space, with all exhibitors getting the same medallion.
  
-  The Pro Juventute stamps will have 80 & 90c to replace the old 70 & 80c, in accordance with the new 1986 foreign letter rate. Up to now the 70c has always been the most difficult to find; now it will be the 80c for foreign postcards, and not only for Pro Juventute sets.
  
-  The slogan illustrated here is to be used in Bellinzona in November as publicity for a Day of the Stamp in Acquarossa, and is remarkable, not for its reference to the new Pro Juventute 'Hansel & Gretl' stamp, but that it shows a postmark on a postmark, a rare item.



-  The answer to Question No.160 is: that bread as such is not shown on any stamp, only a croissant on the 80c Pro Patria of 1980.

-  Question No.161 is: wheat is shown on a number of stamps, but which?



## Did You Know?



### December 1985

- The Swiss foreign postal rates go up on 1st January 1986 from their old January 1965 level, as follows:

Letters:	20g	CEPT	80c/90c (old/new)	
Letters:	20g	Mediterranean	90/110	Rest 120/140
Postcards:		Europe + Mediterranean	70/80	Rest 100/110
Printed Matter:*	"	"	50/60	Rest 60/70
Printed Matter:	"	"	65/80	Rest 70/90

Note that all by air except \*, and that five words of conventional greetings on a postcard still rate as printed matter. Registration 150/200.

- The new printing machine in the PTT's works, the SSR IV (Stahl-Stich Rotation) has already printed the 1986 'Europa' stamps in a combined engraved and offset process. It can print up to seven colours in the same run, and the PTT have high hopes of even more beautiful definitives etc., although they will still be using Courvoisier as before.

"Specimen" trial prints can be obtained from the Philatelic service in Bern. See illustration.

The PTT prints about 650m stamps per year.

On the 9th September 1986, only 6 of the 12 new definitives will appear, i.e. 5, 10, 25, 35, 80 and 90c, according to the latest information.



- The Swiss monthly "Philatelica", which was always first with the news, will cease publication as from January 1986. Also the quarterly "Rapport" (on collecting in general) by the Rapp auction house has gone too. Pity.

The German monthly "Briefmarkenspiegel" has taken over "Philatelica" and some sort of combined publication will be made.

- The PTT Museum has acquired two extensive collections, part of which will be on show until 2nd February 1986, covering Telegraph stamps & cancels, and Customs cancels. Both subjects have been winning medals etc. and specialists can see them now on display, and later for study when the new Museum opens.
- Last year the Philatelic Office in Luzern moved to the Buobenmatt shopping centre, just west of the end of the covered bridge. An attractive brochure is available with illustrations of 55 stamps from Central Switzerland in colour (Tell & Tell Boy are missing). A list is given of no less than 40 PO's that have philatelic counters in the area, a record for Switzerland I think.
- The answer to Question No.161 is: that wheat is shown on the following stamps: 30c Pax of 1945 (Z.263); 10c 1954 (Z.316); 30c 1963 (Z.308) and the 20c Pro Juventute of 1921 (Z.19).
- Question No.162 is: which Swiss stamp shows a plant specially associated with Christmas?