



## Did You Know?



### January 1989

- ☞ The Purchase Tax situation is still not clear. I have had an answer from the Philatelic Bureau in Bern to my questions, in which they say the matter is not yet decided, and it starts in 2 weeks. My guess is that all concerned are trying to find a face-saving way out, as not even the Finance Dept. think it worth the trouble.

Twenty per cent of the members of the Swiss Dealers Association have said they will stop trading.

Auctions are apparently not affected as they are only middlemen, the sellers and buyers must deal with the 'Wust' authorities direct.

Twice the Swiss voters have rejected a simpler, and conforming to that in the EEC, VAT system.

- ☞ The Swiss Locomotive Works (SLM) in Winterthur, part of the Sulzer Group, intends to build 12 narrow gauge, oil-burning steam locomotives for the Brienzer Rothorn Bahn and others in Austria and Germany. Hope it all works out.
- ☞ The Italian PTT is issuing a stamp for the 450th anniversary of the birth of Carlo Borromeo, Archbishop of Milan, who in 1560 became known as the Protector of Helvetiae. He is the patron saint of the Diocese of Lugano.
- ☞ It has been noticed that Liechtenstein is the only country in the world which has issued Airmail stamps without having an airport. The nearest they got was on the 10th June 1931 when, near Schaan, a Zeppelin let down a rope on to which the post bag was attached and hauled aboard.
- ☞ The youngest postmaster was only 11 when his father died in 1819 and left him in charge in Ballwil LU. This is taken from the recently published 'Luzerner Postgeschichte', 136 pages with many illustrations in colour; assisted by the Fund for Furthering Philately. A copy is being obtained for the Society's Library.

- ☞ In the recent Schwarzenbach Auction in Zürich a fine used example of the rare card 83z went for SFr.550. In 1924 the existing stocks of the 25c rate to foreign countries (No. 70 of 1921) were overprinted with 20c, the new rate introduced on 1st May 1924. There

must be more around in the UK. The 'z' means horizontally perforated.




The cards could be bought in strips and fed into a typewriter instead of singly. This is what makes them so rare today.





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
### February 1989


 The PTT has crept neatly out of the purchase tax affair. They will pay it all themselves, but the price of all covers and collector's sheets increases by 10c above the 1974 prices. Not a bad solution.


 Joint stamp designs are not easy to arrange. An interesting article on a proposed joint Swiss UK skiing stamp is in the May 1988 issue of Gibbon's monthly. The Swiss PTT was agreeable, but...


 The present exhibition in the PTT Museum, Bern, is on the first Russian stamps, by Hr Z S Mikulsky of St Gallen. Thousands of Swiss accompanied (unwillingly) Napoleon on his trip to Moscow. Did they ever write home?


Does anyone have a cover written by Lenin during his years in Zürich? That would be interesting.

 This year there will be no end of Jubilees. Three special ones have been mentioned; 50 years of publicity stamps, i.e., stamps bringing advance publicity for an exhibition or similar, in this case the 1939 Landi in Zurich; 75 years of the Tell Head, three values came out in July 1914, perhaps as part of the realisation that Switzerland must take a stand for itself in European politics; then 125 years since the Hotel Rigi Kaltbad introduced the first hotel stamps.

 In 1928 the 'Union Philatélique de Genève' published a book of the forgeries of Fournier, in 480 copies, real collector's items today. One came up in the recent Kronenberg auction in Basel at a starting price of SFr.2400.

 A new 75c definitive has suddenly been added to the 1989 new issues as the inland rate for parcels is going up by 25c per step in May. This makes a 75c stamp necessary, they say.

 In the December 1988 SBZ there is an article giving more information on the escorted trains of 1919 to the Balkans. These trains carried goods for sale mostly, not free items of assistance.

 Max Guggenheim of Basel has discovered a missing cancellation that now completes the set of eight, Philatelic Bureau, Bern, cancellations used from 1943 to 1964, shown in the K Handbook of the SVP. There are four main types, with dot, ring, star or nothing on each side of 'Bern', but with and without background to the Swiss Cross. (See illustration.)





## Did You Know?



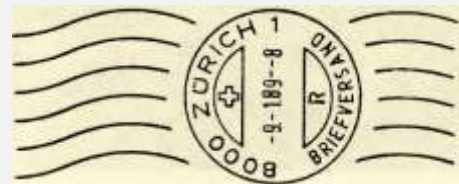
### March 1989

Not only the 50c steps of the parcel post jump to 75c, but Registration goes to 150c and the Express fee rises to SFr.5. Foreign rates are not affected. Starts on 1st May 1989.

Eight countries (CH, B, GB, L, MC, NZ, N, and S) are the first to take part in a new international Business Reply Service. A special layout has to be followed, complete with Par Avion imprint and a prominent Réponse Payée Suisse in the middle.

Cost to be paid in Switzerland on the letter's return is air rate to the sender's country, plus 5c.

Starting on 9th January this year all new or replacement hand-roller cancellers have the date die rotated by 90°. See the illustration. This goes back to the pre-PLZ layout used up to about 1965.



A new pack of four postcards has appeared, with a yellow cover, dated 1988/89. As the previous issue with bright green cover (and all the changes from phosphor to fluorescent etc.) was dated 1986/87, it seems that an issue for 1987/88 was not made.



The Free Postage stamps of 1911 to 1921 (Z.2A onward) with a 'P' on either side of the value are worth studying. The 'PP' means, according to an article in the Postgeschichte of December 1988 by R Helbling, "Pour Philantropie" not "Port Payé", and there is much more of interest in the article.

By coincidence a brochure has just appeared, in German, by R Schaal on these stamps used in connection with the Neumunster Hospital, Zurich, run by nuns since the Middle Ages. These numbered stamps must always be collected on cover, to link the name of the charitable institute with the number on the stamp. (Price SFr.15.)


J Gartmann has produced another book on Graubünden, this time on its stamps, covering all Swiss and many (if not all) foreign stamps connected with the subject. Practically all in colour, German, 147 pages SFr.38. Most useful and interesting.




## Did You Know?




### April 1989

 To the average collector the FIP (Federation Internationale de Philatelie) rates about the level of the KGB as far as publicity is concerned. This has now changed as there is a permanent secretary in Zürich who issues their bulletin 'Flash' to those interested, four times a year.


Printed in French, German, English and Spanish it details all competition rules and other decisions affecting collectors, and international exhibitors in particular.

 Another publication has been face-lifted, and renamed 'Zack'. This is distributed every two months, free, to all young collectors belonging to the Youth Section of a recognised Philatelic Society.


It was very good before, and now under a new editorial committee promises to be even better. Editor is Christina Röllli of Luzern.


 The Philatelic counter in Chur has again shown its initiative by issuing a set of four FDCs for the 80c Rhätische Bahn (RhB) stamp. Using the Bern first-day covers the cancellations are Bahnpost, then 'K' cancels for Brusio, Filisur and Langwies, which all show an RhB viaduct, for 7.3.89.

This will be followed by machine slogans in a number of languages and sizes for eleven towns on RhB routes.

 The machine slogan now in Lugano will give great pleasure to all chess players and others, with its "come play with us" slogan and lively figures, especially combined with the 30c stamp of 1968 (Z.464)



 In 1990 a new design of FRAMA ATM labels will appear, with full philatelic acceptance (after 14 years), that means FDCs and inclusion in their Sales List.

 I'm sure that Charlie Chaplin is the only Englishman to be honoured with a special cancellation, to be used in the village where he lived after being refused re-entry into the USA, on 16th April to celebrate the centenary of his birth in London. Illustrated is the monument erected in this village.





## Did You Know?



### May 1989

- ☞ The Zürich Sechseläute Festival has taken place on the third Monday of April since 1953 because of the better weather to be expected later in April, rather than the original date of the Monday following the spring equinox, which often collided with Easter.

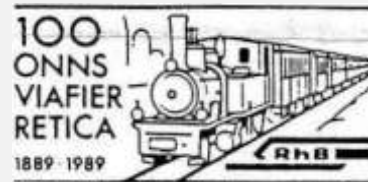
The 'Ring of the Bell at Six' was introduced in the 14th C. to tell the town workers that the so-called 'Light Day' (when one worked only when there was enough light in the winter) was annulled, and that all had to work until six during the summer. At the autumn equinox the 'Light Day' became valid again (but is no longer celebrated). But it rained all day this year, again.

- ☞ The Pro Juventute Secretariat in Zürich sells 'old' stamps of theirs until exhausted, long after the published withdrawal dates.
- ☞ The PTT have given some interesting figures for philatelists. The number of business meter franking machines has risen during 1988 from 26 000 to nearly 28 000, and the Frama ATMs from 740 to 850 (1000 are planned).

This is part of the reason for the drop in the number of stamps printed from 802 to 788 million.

The drop in PTT standing order customers has been halted, with a slight rise in 1988 to 192 000 at the end of the year. Of these 120 000 are inland and 72 000 foreign.

- ☞ The machine cancellation slogan for the Centennial of the Rhätische Bahn was delayed due to a spelling error, discovered at the last minute, in the new Romansch Grischun language (the common written language for the five dialects).



- ☞ An important date should be noted. The next big National Exhibition will be held in Geneva from the 5th to the 16th of September 1990, and the publicity has started already.




Shown here is the machine slogan to be used.




## Did You Know?





### June 1989

 The PTT has just started a massive publicity campaign for their Philatelic Bureaux. At all POs a free poster calendar can be obtained, A2 size, with 12 full-colour stamp reproductions for the months May 1989 to April 1990, in German and probably French. Very nice, try to order from UK by writing to: GD PTT, Philatelic Bureau, CH-3030 Bern, Switzerland.


 It took 25 years to discover that the date die of a franking meter used by a sausage factory in Klus had not been modified to include the postcode. Naturally it was found by an SVP member and not by a PTT inspector or meter reader.


Swiss meters are paid for monthly, after use, i.e. no pre-payment is needed. This has helped their use.


 In the April BBZ is an interesting article on Express labels. One of the references mentioned by the author Max Schio is a 1973 article by the HPS member Ivan Tillen who has done such a lot for label collecting, including pushing me into it. Thanks Ivan.

 A new Fragile label has appeared, in a combined form, red with black fingers, peelable, PTT No. 236.27-1, 100 x 71(76).



 -that one important item of foreign mail also went up with the inland rates on 1st May, namely the Express fee, from SFr.4 to SFr.5. Otherwise the foreign letter rates have remained unchanged.

 For the Centenary of the Swiss Field PO, Arthur Wyss (ex Postal Museum) has written a 32-page brochure, in German. This can be obtained from: Feldpostdirektion, CH-3030 Bern, for SFr.2 plus postage.

 At the end of May the first stage of the new extensive Zürich S-Bahn network comes into service (Express trains with double-decker coaches), whereby the station at Letten in Zürich closes. Does anyone have a cancellation of this station?

Does anyone want a map of the new system, which opens in May next year? The area covered is Brugg, Winterthur, Rapperswil, and Zug.





## Did You Know?



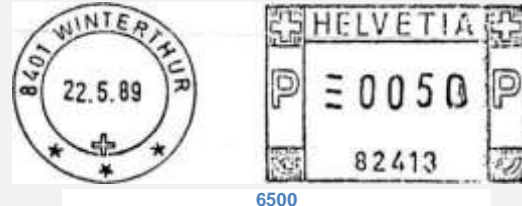
### July 1989

- Without any visible announcement or marketing effort the Pro Patria Committee in Zürich put on sale a well-designed stamp booklet, but only available mail order, five at a time, or from Zürich Philatelic Counter but not from Bern. The cover is black, with a stapled-in strip of ten 50+20c PP stamps, neatly folded, for SFr.7.50 including 50c for making up. All in a clear plastic wallet like the Pro Juventute ones, from which it is obviously copied. Because of the lack of notice first day cancels will be rare.



The new Pro Patria booklet (see opposite) was issued as a pilot run in only 20 places in Switzerland, but including both Zurich and Winterthur. The actual selling being done by school children, together with the stamps. Only 10 000 were printed. If successful all the country will be covered in years to come.

- At long last the Frama label machine has been adapted to take the 'Taxcard', as Phonecards are known here. With the same card, bought for SFr.20 or 10 at any PO, you can phone or make Frama labels.
- Pitney Bowes have put out two new franking meter value frames. The type 6900 appears with two extra '0' signs; the company have not yet been able to explain their purpose to me. A new type 6500 machine on sale here has four digits and is suitable for high-speed electronic control.




- The Durst Handbook on meters has been reprinted to include type 6900, with coloured publicity slogans (mentioned here before), given catalogue No. 4L.
- Boston (USA) member Charles LaBlonde won a Gold at the recent Boston National Stamp Show with his collection of 160 sheets of Old Geneva, and was also successful with it at Stampex and NABA. His modern collection of Swiss machine cancellations has won several Silvers in the USA.
- A wonderful book has been published on 75 Years of the Lötschbergbahn. In German, with 480 pages & 1600 illustrations for SFr.118.
- For SFr.5 the cancellation specialist Karl Gebert of Ebnat-Kappel has published a regional booklet, this time on the various cancels of Alltogggenburg.




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



### August 1989


 Just on his retirement from the Chicago School of Music, and as he was settling down to the mammoth task of bringing order to the Swiss ordinary cancellations of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Felix Ganz experienced an unexpected heart attack. We wish him a speedy recovery.


 The Pro Patria booklet is still rocking the boat (see last month's DYK); official or not? Catalogue or not? Anyway it seems that the original printing was for 20 000 and an additional run of about 10 000 was then made. The latter are paler, and the last line of the inside front cover is all bold, not only the price, as in the first printing.

The booklet was on sale in the cantons of Bern, Fribourg and Geneva, but only at a limited number of places each.

 The Geneva 2 MLO started trials with its new OCR coding machine about 1<sup>st</sup> June, in addition to the 14 video coding desks there already. The greatest part of the foreign airmail coming to Switzerland is coded and sorted there.

 The PTT Museum exhibition from 27th June to 1st October is by Rudolf Rehm of Stein am Rhein on the "Postal History of the Canton Schaffhausen". Being on the northern border of Switzerland ensured that the area had a colourful and interesting development of its postal service.

 The rates for foreign registration did not go up on 1st May from SFr.2, so the compensation paid remains SFr.300, inland and foreign.

 Two foreign cancels have appeared lately which deserve mention. The first from a Swiss Day in San Marino is as simple as possible. The second from Japan shows not only a DC 10 and the Matterhorn, but also the date, 1st June in the first year of the new





## Did You Know?



### September 1989

PTT staffing in the city of Zürich is 700 persons short, so 10% of the POs have been closed during the holiday period and nearly all others have somewhat reduced hours. Nobody is pleased.

In the BBZ for August a call is made for the Swiss stamp (normal issue) which occurs least often on cover, not necessarily alone, and the proposal made is for the Fr.1 gold (Z.51) on a COD cover for Fr.1.10. Has any member a suggestion to make?

Although the French revolution had a profound effect on Swiss life, there is very little philatelic evidence. As far as I can think only one event is commemorated on a stamp, the 30c Pro Juventute of 1926, plus the LUNABA special cancel for 1987, and three machine cancels.



On 10th August 1792 the Swiss Guards were holding back the mob successfully when Louis XVI ordered them to stop firing. In the retreat 550 were killed and



only a few got back to Switzerland. In 1821, the monument by Thorwaldsen, 30 feet long cut in the rock, was unveiled in Luzern; A tourist attraction ever since.

SWISSPHILA '93 is a proposed international exhibition in either Geneva or, more likely, Zürich, to commemorate 150 years of Swiss stamps, and 50 years since the Swiss rescued the FIP from the hands of the Nazis who wanted to control the worldwide organisation for their own purposes. See BBZ for August.

In 1949 one of the proposed, but not used, stamps for the 'Technology and Landscapes' definitives showed the rack railway on Pilatus, which now celebrates its centenary; pity it was missed out. However, such a series would not be possible today.



PSI does not always mean "pounds per square inch". The cds shown is for a PO opened on 1st March within the "Paul Scherer Institute", part of a Federal Atomic Research Establishment, but open to the public.





## Did You Know?



### October 1989

- ☞ The Pro Patria booklet is still in the news. Hardly had type 2 been found when types 3 & 4 turned up, i.e. with blank inside covers, and with imprint of a smaller Zürich bank for publicity purposes (I have seen none of these, but 2 & 3 can be bought).

Now a forged issue has been found, privately printed cover with genuine first-day cancelled stamps inside the stapled cover. The Pro Patria Fund is taking this dealer to court. How will all this affect their decision on a 1990 booklet?

- ☞ The Sport stamps, 50+20c, have also come out in booklet form, but are considered less collectable than Pro Patria. Time will tell.

- ☞ During the 'NABA Züri' some will recall, there was an exciting find publicised by the Luzern dealer Kurt Trüssel on the possibility that the first four booklets (1904) were made up from special sheets with a gutter for row 4 (see my article in the July 1984 issue of the Newsletter). Now Röllli of Luzern has found an incorrectly made up booklet, in that one of the four pages of six 10c red 'Figure' stamps was inserted turned around by 180°.

Therefore a full 'stamp', unprinted, but with a control mark was found in each line. If this was not enough, Hr J Knägi of the PTT Stamp Dept. has now found the original pasted-up half sheets used to illustrate to the printers how these special sheets were to be made up. All nicely illustrated in the August edition of BBZ and the September SBZ, in colour. Has any member anything to add?

- ☞ The WIPA in Vienna has declared the Swiss 30c of the Posts and Transport series to be the best stamp of 1988. One cannot expect the rate for a letter to drop from 50 to 30c thereby.

- ☞ At the PhilexFrance '89 show, 12 members of the Swiss Thematic Society (SMV) exhibited and all got a prize: 5 gold, 4 large vermeil and 3 vermeil; can anyone beat that?

In Sofia the judges gave a gold medal at the Bulgaria 89 to the Liechtenstein poster which shows all their stamps in full colour and size issued in 75 years. Well over 10 000 copies were sold.



## Did You Know?



### November 1989

- ☞ The PTT have announced in the press that they intend to introduce a two-tier delivery system for letters, with printed matter in sealed covers. How they will sort 1st from 2nd was not mentioned. We are in for some fun!
- ☞ The SBB has designated a further group of stations to be automated, i.e. run from a nearby central control room and, therefore, unmanned. The public are not happy to have these 250 stations on self-service as well. This means that weekend letters will not be cancelled by the SBB stationmaster, but left for the PTT to collect on Monday.

- ☞ The National Sports committee which issued the second Sport stamp, 50+20c, on 25.8.89, also issued an attractive green booklet containing 10 stamps for SFR.7. German version illustrated, with French and Italian available.



- ☞ The Pro Juventute stamps to be issued on 24.11.89 are much better than the designs of the previous two years; maxicards are available at SFr.8 the set of four.
- ☞ During the sale of Pro Juventute stamps by schoolchildren from 11th Nov to 9 December, Sports stamps cannot be sold the same way.

This applies to Pro Patria stamps as well during their sales period of 10th May to 14th June 1990.

- ☞ The world-wide thematic club "The Philatelic Music Circle" has chosen the Swiss Pro Patria stamps of 1989 as best music stamps of the year.
- ☞ The PTT Museum will be showing a major thematic collection on Wine from 3rd October to 17th December loaned to them by the company Provins from Sion in the Valais.
- ☞ VHS videos are now available for sale of the Gotthard Railway (60min), and the Jura Railways (14min) in German or French. More are certain to follow.
- ☞ A book in French has appeared on the Aigle-Le Sepey-Diablerets railway 1914-1989, 159 pages, SFr 49.

- ☞ Yet another red meter mark has appeared with two additional '0' which were quickly removed when I asked the PTT "What are they for?"



