

Swiss Fondue

Synopsis

Swiss Fondue is a non-traditional overview exhibit of Swiss philately for which none of the non-postal divisions specifically apply. In the absence of an “overview” division, I submit it in the postal division even though it contains elements suitable for each of the other divisions.

The purpose of the Swiss Fondue exhibit is to introduce the viewer to all of the varied aspects of Swiss philately and the role of Switzerland in the post with the hope that each viewer will find an aspect of interest, perhaps even to the extent of pursuing a Swiss collecting interest.

My custom is to exhibit Swiss Fondue annually in conjunction with the AHPS meeting to provide some leavening to the highly specialized exhibits offered by my fellow members and to ensure that at least passing reference is made to the widest variety of Swiss philatelic interests. I expect that each of the competing Swiss exhibits will present material in greater depth than Swiss Fondue. At the same time, I expect the contents of each exhibit to be somehow manifest in Swiss Fondue. Swiss Fondue will also present other areas which are either seldom exhibited in the United States or by happenstance are not exhibited at a particular year’s AHPS meeting.

Over the years, Swiss Fondue has progressed from a four-frame “advertising display” to include both a wider variety and more “serious” material. While I present some of the tougher material, I also recognize that some viewers are going to be interested to see the pretty stamps as well as novelty stamps that have been produced for the Swiss Post in recent years. They are included because I truly mean to have something for everyone in this exhibit.

The principal reference for Swiss collectors is the Zumstein specialized catalog of Switzerland published in two volumes in 2002. Zumstein also publishes a postal stationery, “Ganzsachen” catalog. Zumstein’s 1924 Handbook is useful for identifying proof and essays. The Schweizerische Luftpost Handbook is the most comprehensive airmail reference. Numerous additional more specialized studies have been published over the past 25 years. Of particular note is Herbert Brach’s posthumously published The Imperforate Sitting Helvetia – Strubel. While presenting some controversial conclusions, he has made this complex early issue accessible to an English speaking audience. I used it extensively in classifying the Strubels section of Swiss Fondue.

Exhibit highlights include:

- Cantonal period issues
 - Zurich 4 with pre-printing paper fold
 - Zurich 6 on cover
 - Geneva small eagle on cover
 - Transitional issue on cover
- Rayon issues
 - Dark blue Rayon I with frame lines around cross
 - Dark blue Rayon I on cover
 - Rayon I and Rayon II combined on cover
 - Rayon II pair on cover
- Strubel issues
 - Color trial proofs
 - 10 rappen first Munich printing, 40 rappen first printing on cover
 - St. Moriz straight line cancel
 - Double thread varieties
- Standing Helvetia issue - perf 9-1/2 including 1 Franc block of four
- UPU 1900 issue 25 cent blue re-engraved
- Pro Juventute 1912 forerunners including Italian language example
- 1913 promotional airmail flown card
- Inbound airmail crash cover
- 1870 Siege of Paris Ballon Monte folded letter routed to Switzerland and forwarded to Germany