

Pestalozzi in Swiss Philately – One Frame

Synopsis of the Exhibit

George Struble, May 2008

Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi was born in 1746 in Zürich, and died in 1827 in Brugg, Switzerland. As an educator, he had a profound influence throughout Europe. Switzerland has been proud of him, and has honored him in many ways. This exhibit shows philatelic tributes.

Some of the tributes center on the dates of his birth and death: there were a special airmail flight and a set of Pro Juventute stamps in 1927, and a special stamp in 1946 that was also printed with a red B I E imprint for use by the International Bureau of Education.

It was natural for the International Bureau of Education to use Pestalozzi as a theme of its stamps; the first fore-runners in 1940 featured Pestalozzi, as did the first regular stamp issue – in 1958 – that was not just overprinting of regular Swiss stamps.

The earliest philatelic items were five Bundesfeier cards issued in 1914.

Other items in the exhibit include a presentation booklet, Pestalozzi cancellations on covers, and a first day cover of an Austrian-German-Swiss joint stamp issue on a ship named the Pestalozzi.

Highlights of the exhibit include

- a 1927 flight cover that carries a strip of three of a triangular vignette which had a printing of only 500 copies
- an essay of the 20-rappen 1927 Pro Juventute stamp
- a unique proof of the 1946 Pestalozzi stamp, from Karl Bickel's archive*
- a unique proof of the 20-rappen B I E stamp of 1958, also from Bickel's archive*

* (certificates by J.P. Bach and M. Eichele testify to their uniqueness)