

Synopsis of The Usage of Switzerland's Imperforate *Sitting Helvetia* Issue of 1854 – 1863

by Steve P. Turchik

This traditional postal exhibit is the **Number 1 World-Class** Swiss Imperforate Sitting Helvetia exhibit, a 45-year effort. The issue is one of the Swiss Classics, commonly called the *Strubels*, which celebrated its 150th birthday in 2004. This exhibitor is the contributing author for the chapter on the *Strubel* issue in a forthcoming book on Swiss philately to be published by the American Helvetia Philatelic Society.

What is Shown

There are world-class destinations; bisected stamps on cover; lake ship mail; mixed franking covers; production, printing, and color varieties; a privately-perforated stamp; cancellations; postal markings; multiple and individual items on and off cover; registered mail; postage due; and much more.

This exhibit is important for the following reasons:

- This exhibit contains the finest copy of the **second rarest Swiss stamp** with another error of color stamp that is almost equal to it in rarity.
- The exhibit shows all 32 recognized items on cover, and it is the only *Strubel* exhibit with a **single use cover of all values known on cover**.
- This exhibit has **more unique and unusual *Strubel* items than have been shown anywhere at one time**.
- The exhibit is built around many items from past multiple grand-award winning exhibits, and contains **destination covers and bisected items not readily known or available** at the time of those exhibits.

Using the Zumstein Specialized Catalog designations of each issue, i.e., Aa, A, B, C, etc., the seven different issues are divided into three parts. For this issue only, because of its vast variety, experts recommend the use of these numbers and they have been used in all *Strubel* past grand-award winners' exhibits. These numbers are used as headers for each of the 32 different stamps issued.

1st Period: 1854-1855 Munich printing (Aa, A, B) with green threads

2nd Period: 12855-1857 Bern printing (C, D, E) with different colored threads

3rd Period: 1857-1863 Bern printing (F, G) with green threads

Quality and Challenge Factor

Examples are of the highest quality available. In fact, it is the finest exhibit of this issue assembled to date, containing both unrivaled rarity and quality. Many items are known only in quantities of 20 or less. Most thin paper items have certificates or are signed.

References

- Hermann, Urs, *Das Grosse Handbuch der Eidgenössischen Ausgabe Sitzende Helvetia Ungezähnt 1854-1863*. Interessengemeinschaft Strubel-Literatur, Wettingen, 2006.
- Hertsch, Max, *Zumstein Spezialekatalog Schweiz 2000*, Band 1. Zumstein & Cie, Bern, pages 47-64.
- Brach, Herbert, *Switzerland 1854-1863 – The Imperforate Sitting Helvetia – Strubel*. Elizabeth K. Brach, San Antonio, 2000.

Synopsis (continued) of
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Outstanding Items

Frame	Page	
1	7	Postally used First Munich Printing error, 5 Rp. cliché in place of 10 Rp. The second rarest <i>Strubel</i> .
2	12	Mixed franking of Rayon and <i>Strubel</i> stamps on a letter used during the 15-day validity overlap period.
3	11	Postally used First Bern Printing <i>Error of Color</i> . The rarest <i>Strubel</i> stamp and the second rarest Swiss stamp.
4	9	Overfranked letter to Calcutta, India. An example of a sender intending that the receiver not have to pay any postage due.
5	16	Double rate letter to Melbourne, Victoria (Australia), a remote destination.
6	1	Mixed franking letter to New York with a double embossed stamp, one inverted.
7	9	Thin (emergency) Second Bern Printing stamp on an internationally-used letter to New York.
8	14	Authorized "Italian" provisional bisect used on letter mail. There are eight reported items used on cover.
9	6	Rare, domestically-used bisected 1½ 10 Rp. stamps with a <i>cut angle</i> reported to be used only on two other items.
10	12	Letter to the Princely State of Gwalior, located about 650 miles inland from Bombay, India.