

Part Eighteen

The Essay Proof Journal, Whole No. 24, Vol. 6 No. 4, October 1949, pp. 229-230

Switzerland Its Essays and Proofs

By George W. Caldwell, E. P. S. 318

(Continued from Journal No. 23, Page 156)

Addenda

Subsequent to the appearance of the various installments of this monograph over a period of four years, additional essays and proofs as well as further factual data have become available to the author. The additional knowledge thus acquired permits further deductions in our conjecture and in some instances clears up previously clouded conclusions.

The purpose of these addenda, therefore, is to add the additional knowledge to this monograph, and to discuss those items which were deferred purposely in the original text in order that items about which information of peculiar interest to essay-proof students could more quickly be made available to our readers.

The sequence and arrangement follow the same plan that was used in the original text. Frequent references facilitate associating the original text and the addenda.

Due to limited available data in some instances, the author resorts to cryptic statements, as any elaboration would serve no useful purpose. However, every effort has been put forth to make this monograph as complete as possible from the viewpoint of the essay proof student.

The Cantonal Period

In the original text it was stated that the Esslinger essays (Fig. 3, JOURNAL No. 7, Page 141) are "practically the same as the issued stamps." The inference was that these essays served as models in the preparation of the original lithograph matrices from which the 100-subject stones were processed. This evidently is the case, as the design of the definitive Zurich stamp is attributed to Esslinger and Co., of Zurich.

For many years certain spurious items, bearing some resemblance to the Zurich stamps, have been considered as counterfeits of the *stamps*. In view of their resemblance to known essays, and differing from the definitive stamps in one important design feature, these should be classified as counterfeits of *essays*, notwithstanding the probable intent of the counterfeiter. Reference is made to those counterfeits which have numerals in the corner squares. Any essays that differ from those illustrated in this monograph (JOURNAL No. 7, Page 141) should be looked upon with suspicion.

At a meeting of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, held on November 6, 1947, Fred. Aitchison, speaker of the evening, exhibited a copy of the 5 Centimes Geneva Large Eagle printed in black on white paper. Unless this is the copy formerly held in the Schroeder collection, we now can record two known copies of this great rarity.

Mr. Aitchison also exhibited a copy of the Neuchatel essay. Certain characteristics of this copy point to the possibility that it was cut from the 100-subject sheet recorded by Zumstein, (4) and mentioned in this monograph (JOURNAL No. 7, Page 145).

4 Zumstein, E. — Handbuch über die Briefmarken der Schweizerischen Eidgenossenschaft — Bern, 1924.

Federal Post

For the information of readers who have occasion to refer to the Zumstein Handbook, (4) be it noted that Figure 10 on page 285 of that work is in error and Zumstein advises that it should be deleted. This design based on the Rayon composition is one of a number of stamp imitations that were used to embellish the front page of a piece of sheet music entitled *The Stamp Galop*. This sheet of music is illustrated in the Fourteenth American Philatelic Congress Book. (59)

Strubeli 1854-62

p. 230 What may be a new discovery among the Strubeli proofs is a 10 Rappen yellow trial color with red thread placed vertically, such as is found in the early Bavarian stamps. As the normal lay of the thread in the Strubeli is horizontal, it is reasonable to believe this new discovery is not the one listed by Zumstein, (4) as such deviation from the normal undoubtedly would have been noted by the compiler of the Zumstein Handbook.

Lack of sharpness in the printing is due mainly to the thick paper; the lay of the thread poses a problem. Perhaps this proof was pulled in the shop of the University Press where the printers were accustomed to printing Bavarian stamps on vertical thread paper. On the other hand it may be a product of the Bern Mint and simply an oversight in placing the paper in the printing press. Further research will be required to find the true facts.

Perforated Helvetia 1862-82

The Perforated Helvetia design provides the greatest variety of proofs of any Swiss issue. As mentioned in the original text, this resulted from extensive laboratory tests made in an effort to discover a canceling ink and stamp printing inks that would resist cleaning the stamps and prevent their reuse for postage.

The author has been privileged to examine a large collection of these, not only in singles but also in multiples, including the very rare fifty-subject block of the 5 Centimes gold.

Items in this collection permit a greater color division in the basic color groups than would have been possible otherwise. The catalog, to appear later in this JOURNAL, thus will be greatly enriched.

(To be continued.)