

Part Twenty Nine

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Switzerland Its Essays and Proofs Addenda

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(Continued from JOURNAL No. 34, page 98.)

Sections D-L

These sections cover Postage Due, Postal Stationery, Free Franks, Telegraph Service, Railroad Service, Official Franks, Adhesive Revenue Stamps, Hotel Posts and Soldatenmarken. The author has no data on those subjects other than what was presented in the original text. Hence from the factual standpoint, this monograph may be considered completed. It is of interest, however, to note that a catalog of all essays and proofs seen by the Catalog Committee will be published in this JOURNAL.

Conclusion

It is customary in a research work, even in one as modest as this, to include a Preface setting forth apologies for shortcomings, and acknowledgement of assistance; also an Introduction stating the objectives and the proposed plan for their attainment. Such standard features were not practicable in this instance because of the installment method used in the preparation and publication of the text. Hence, they are embodied in this Conclusion.

In writing this monograph, the author was faced with the non-existence of a comprehensive text in English. Not even in a foreign language did such a work exist. The Zumstein Handbook — in German — to which we made frequent references in footnotes, is limited in scope; furthermore, it does not go beyond the issues of 1924; and in the essay-proof category, not beyond 1910.

The Mirabaud & de Teuterskiold [sic, Reuterskiold] Handbook, available in English, French and German, provides comprehensive treatment of the postage stamps thru the Strubeli issues, but does not discuss essays and proofs. The same is true of Allender, Girsewald and other early writers in English.

Notwithstanding this rather discouraging outlook, the project was launched in the belief that even of limited scope it would have some immediate value and possibly serve as a base for further research and eventual elaboration. Hence we discussed all issues and recorded data even in those instances where neither essays nor proofs were known by the author to be in philatelic ownership. Conjecture was used in some instances when the matter seemed to be of sufficient importance and the data available offered promise of a reasonable conclusion. Such conjecture was noted in order that its conclusion would not be accepted as factual.

In laying out the functional divisions of the text, we exceeded in number those usually seen in general stamp catalogs. For example, special issues were discussed separately from regular postal issues, and in the semi-postals the Pro Juventute and the Bundesfeier issues were treated as two units; some semi-postals were arbitrarily included among the commemoratives.

Such functional division was prompted in the belief that it would better serve the demands of modern philately with its ever-increasing trend toward specialty groupings.

In a few instances, chronological sequence was violated in favor of design treatment when such deviation would not result in undesirable confusion. Admittedly, design frequently is of major importance in essay-proof study. Certain other unorthodox features were followed, but in such cases reasons were clearly stated or were considered self-evident.

The installment plan used in writing and publishing this work — both having kept in step throughout the seven years of its regular appearance in the JOURNAL — accomplished several objectives. It kept the subject alive in the minds of interested readers and resulted in the submitting of essays and proofs for discussion that otherwise would have remained hidden in collections. The delay also provided an opportunity to include bits of factual data that became available to the author from time to time. Notwithstanding the success of the plan, the Addenda admittedly was quite lengthy. Much of this, however, was due to arbitrary deferment of certain groups, the reasons for which were explained at the time.

The advantages thus gained far outweighed the disadvantage of being prevented from conducting an extensive correspondence in an attempt to obtain important factual data particularly from Switzerland. With limited writing time, the author frequently was under pressure to meet editorial deadline.

Works involving research cannot be accomplished without the advice, the cooperation, the inspiration afforded by others. This monograph was no exception. The text however, and the responsibility for the factual statements are those of the author.

We particularly appreciate the privilege granted by Zumstein & Co., Bern, of lifting factual data and reproducing illustrations from their publications. Such have been fully documented throughout the text, as have other sources, both philatelic and collateral.

We thank John Britt of New York, Alexis Kellner of Detroit, Fred Lauper of Milwaukee, and others who loaned essays and proofs for inclusion in this work. Thanks also to Ernest A. Kehr of the *New York Herald Tribune* for the use of his text on the Scenic Views issue and for the interesting “inside” information developed in our conversations. Suggestions and constructive criticism offered by Dr. Stephen G. Rich are deeply appreciated.

Notwithstanding such cooperation, it is conceivable that this monograph would not have been as comprehensive nor as complete without the inspiration of a friend of many years, Dr. Clarence Wilson Brazer. During those years of association in professional and in philatelic activity, the author has observed characteristics of Dr. Brazer’s personality which have had a dominating influence in maintaining our JOURNAL on a level that has been applauded by journalists and others throughout the philatelic world. Insistence on accuracy and an almost unbending attitude when he believed he was right, and yet amenable to reason when clearly presented, are characteristic of the man as we know him. That he firmly adheres to the belief that philately should be lifted to a high cultural level is well known.

These and other ideals, together with Dr. Brazer’s intense desire to bring essays and proofs into their rightful place in philately, inspired the author to begin this monograph and to stay with it throughout a period of seven years.

We entertain no illusions regarding the limitations of this work. It is merely a beginning, a pioneer effort. Its ultimate importance lies in its possible usefulness as a base from which further exploration may be made into that hinterland of Swiss philately: essays and proofs. On this note we close the final installment.

FINIS.