

Switzerland 1862-1883

The Perforated Sitting Helvetia

Introduction to Traditional Exhibit

To help implement new postal rates effective July 1, 1862, Switzerland introduced its Sitting Helvetia issue three months later. Over the next two decades it produced three groups totaling 25 stamps with color changes for some values and numerous printings. This innovative issue included two important Swiss firsts: perforations and true safety paper. The paper has an impressed control mark and, from 1881, red and blue silk fibers (called granite paper) as well. *The third group of stamps (on granite paper), in circulation only two years, are scarce used, especially the high denominations.*

In preparation for this issue, the postal authorities accepted a design by J. P. Riess, a coinage engraver at the Bavarian Mint in Munich, and experimented with all elements of the production process. In the final sequence, the sheets of stamp paper were first impressed with the control mark, then gummed, simultaneously relief-printed and design-embossed, and finally perforated.

During the Sitting Helvetia's 21-year life, **mixed frankings** were possible for short periods with the preceding imperforate and succeeding perforated issues, and with local stamps issued by isolated hotels. For much of this time complex pre-Universal Postal Union rates still prevailed for foreign-bound mail.

All these factors enriched the Sitting Helvetia period, adding greatly to production varieties, cancels, postal markings and usages until this issue's validity expired on September 30, 1883. Reminders collected from the public were then overprinted "Ausser Kurs" (Out of Currency).

Organization

1:2-1:14	Proofs	5:11-5:16	Combination frankings
1:15-1:16	Specimens	6:1-6:16	Mixed frankings
2:1-3:2	1st and 2nd group colors	7:1-7:8	Domestic rates
3:3-3:7	Blocks	7:9-7:12	Postage due
3:8-3:10	Production varieties	7:13-7:16	Redirected mail
3:11-4:15	Cancellations	8:1-9:8	Foreign destinations
4:16-5:2	Private security marks	9:9-10:14	3rd group
5:3-5:4	Bisects	10:15-10:16	<i>Ausser Kurs</i>
5:5-5:10	Multiple frankings		

References

Zumstein, *Specialized Catalog for the Stamps of Switzerland*, 2000
Richard Schäfer, *1459-1907 Swiss Letter Mail to Foreign Countries*, 1995

Highlights mounted on red.

Proofs

Essay

1861 essay on card stock printed on hand-press, with four denominations and lettering without serifs. **Only two reported copies.**



Die Proofs

1861 hand-printed die proofs on card stock for all values in first (1862-63) group of stamps except 60c. **Current existence of 60c is questionable** because it has not been seen since listing in "catalog" in December 1971 issue of Zumstein's *Berner Briefmarken Zeitung (BBZ)*.



Paper Proofs

Precise dates of proofs during extended tests with many combinations of papers, colors and perforations are not known.

Metallic coatings. No control marks.



Colored papers. No control marks



Printed on both sides with reverse (photocopy) upside down.



Bluish tinted paper with control mark.



Paper Proofs

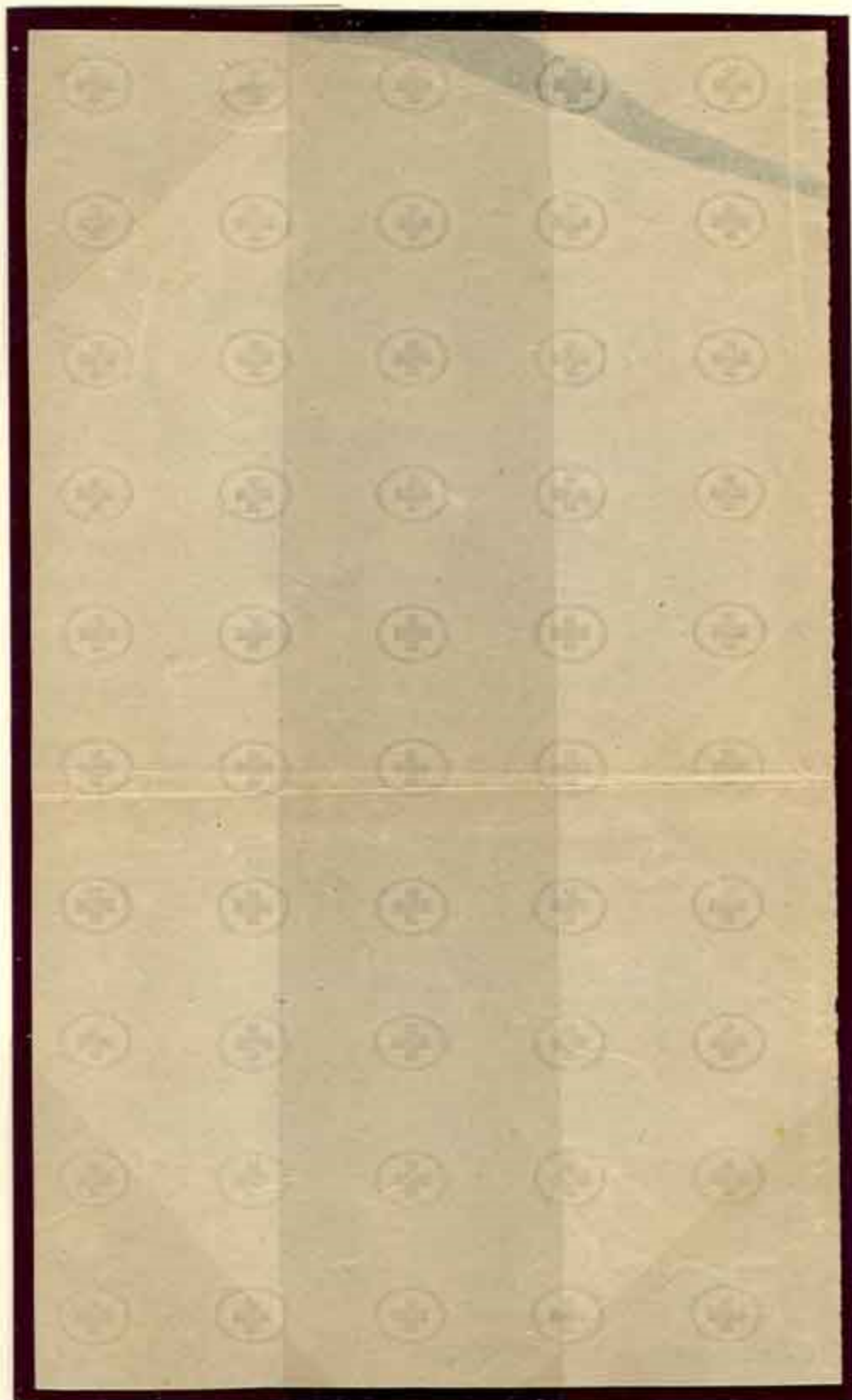
Goldbeater Paper. No Control Mark.

Numerals on 25c backs, similar to those printed separately on 1878 postage due stamps, suggests some paper was previously used for numeral essays.



Control Mark Proof

On White Paper



Block of 50,
trimmed top or
bottom half of
100-subject pane.
A 400-subject
plate of steel
impressed this
"safety" mark
simultaneously
on entire blank
sheet of stamp
paper to guard
against coun-
terfeiting of
subsequently
printed stamps.

This "wide" type
of the encircled
cross was the
only type used
on perforated
Sitting Helvetias.
Because it did
not conform to
the heraldic
specifications
for the Swiss
federal cross, a
correct "narrow"
version was
created for
simultaneous
use on the
1882 Cross &
Numeral and
Standing
Helvetia issues.

Trial Color Proofs

With control mark.



Brown unlisted in catalog.

Without control mark.



Trial Color Proof



Full pane of 100 without control mark.
Plate fault: nick in top frame line
 above E in HELVETIA on brown 5c
 1862 issue first occurred in position 84.

Final Color Proofs

3c black is not recorded.



Control mark



Bottom frame
split

Final Color Proofs



40c green recorded only with overprint "*1 Fr.-100 Stück à 1 Cent*" (price of remainders) on full panes.



60c recorded only in yellow, which was **listed as final color** in Aug. 7, 1862, announcement of first nine Sitting Helvetia stamps; but 60c stamp (left), issued in 1863, was bronze without explanation. Bronze trial color tested earlier on only 5c (right) and 30c (bottom).



Trial Perforations

All trial perforations are $11\frac{3}{4}$, the same as those on the issued stamps



Control Mark



True red-brown of 2c stamp of 1874 is not recorded on proof.



Trial Perforations

Without control marks.

Line perforations on 1, 2 or 3 sides.



Horizontally laid paper.



With control marks.



Bluish paper

Trial Perforations

Granite Paper
Not listed in BBZ catalog



Trial Cancellations

Postal authorities used proofs during extensive lab tests to develop printing and canceling inks that would prevent cleaning and reuse of stamps.

“Posthorn” roller cancellations on 10c and 30c.
“Eidgenössische Münzstätte” (Federal Mint) on 5cs.



Trial Cancellation Removals

Use of turpentine or acid to test permanence of cancel inks.
Left: discolored blue 5c with “Bern-Romanshorn 3.III.70.15”
railroad cancellation. Right: “Eidgenössische Münzstätte.”



“Bern 16 Juni 18 / 64 8¼ Vorm” cancel
partly removed from three bottom stamps.



Used Proofs

Some proofs, in public hands, actually paid for postage.

5c proof with Rances 1878 cancel.



3c proof and 2c issue with Winterthur 1882 cancel.



Proofs used to pay 5c postage for 1882 local letter delivered within Basel. 2c canceled 2nd time with arrival postmark. (e)



Specimens

Large Blue Overprint
White Paper

Very few multiples are believed to exist from estimated two to four panes of specimen overprints for each value. Specimens were prepared to fulfill UPU's needs, which increased from 70 to 100 copies during 1878-1882. UPU distributed specimens as official stamp samples to member countries.



Inverted large blue overprint, including uncataloged 2c.



Specimens

Large Black Overprint
White Paper



Small Violet-Black Overprint
Granite Paper

With period after SPECIMEN.



Without period after SPECIMEN.



First Group: 2C

Color Varieties / Single Franking

Issued Oct. 1, 1862.

About 45 million printed.

Primary use: domestic printed matter, initially up to 15gr.

From left: light gray (1862), yellow-gray (1863), gray (1865).



Light gray on scarce printed matter not only to a foreign country but also to its **reduced-postage border zone** (*Rayon Limitrophe*). 2c instead of 5c/40gr to a German town within 52½km of a Swiss town. Rate of Sept. 1, 1868-June 30, 1875.



First Group: 3C

Color Varieties / Single Franking

Issue Oct. 1, 1862.

About 6 million printed.

Primary use: printed matter to Italy.

Left: gray black (1862). Right: black (1866).



Black on 3c/40gr printed matter, **special rate to Italy** during July 1, 1862-June 30, 1875. This rate led to introduction of first Swiss 3c denomination.



First Group: 5C

Color Varieties

2nd largest Sitting Helvetia issue, greatest number of printings, and most color varieties.

EDU Dec.1,1862.

About 210 million printed.

Primary use: local letter (initially up to 9.6km).

From left: brown (1862-), dark brown, yellow brown (1867-), olive brown (1867-).



From left: pale brown (1871-), gray brown (1873), lilac brown (1877-), dark lilac brown, **black-brown** (1881).



From left: light brown, brown, dark brown, mat brown, yellow-brown.



From left: light yellow-brown, olive-brown, gray-brown, lilac brown, **black-brown**.



First Group: 5C

Single Frankings

Brown on 5c/50gr printed matter to **Romania**, UPU rate to members
July 1, 1875-Jan. 31, 1921. Bucharest arrival mark Mar. 16, 1878, on back.



Dark brown used to pay **mandatory 5c fee for receipt** for domestic registered letter.
Town court clerk improperly converted mandatory but free receipt for international letter. **Only reported such alteration** of "foreign" receipt for use with domestic letter.

Schweizerische Postverwaltung.

~~Obligatorischer und anentgeltlicher~~
Empfangschein
für rekommandirte Briefpostsendungen, für Werthbriefe und für Geldanweisungen
~~nach dem Auslande.~~

~~(Entgeltig)~~ für Sendungen aller Art im Innern der Schweiz und für Fahrpost-
[und Nachnahme-] Sendungen nach dem Auslande.

Gegenstand: *Chargenbrief* Werth (in Zahlen) Fr. *14.24* Ct. *24*
Werth (in Worten): *vierzehn Franken und vierzig Centimes*
Aufgeber: *H. Kemp, Gerichtsschreiber*
Adresse: *26 Frz. Burri, Seeburg, Neuchâtel*

Unterschrift des Postbeamten
oder Angestellten:
F. H. Leber
Nr. 519.

Stempel der Auf-
gabepoststelle.
25 VIII 79

S. S. H. 79. - 400.

First Group: 10C

Color Varieties / Single Franking

Issued Oct. 1, 1862

About 55 million printed.

Primary use: non-local letter postage or minimum cash collection fee.

From left: **greenish blue** (1862), **dark blue** (1862), **bright blue** (1863), **pale blue** (1865).



From left: **greenish blue**, **dark blue**, **blue** (1862), **light blue** (1865), **pale blue**.



Blue on 5c/10gr local letter with equal amount for registration. Two types of straight-line postmarks (serif letters and gothic script) and two types of registration marks (old-style crayon lines and new handstamp).



First Group: 20C

Color Varieties / Single Franking

EDU Mar.5,1863.

About 50 million printed.

Primary use: postage and fee for non-local registered or cash collection letter.

From left: **yellow-orange** (1863), **brownish-orange** (1871), **orange** (1876), **red-orange** (later).



From left: yellow-orange, brownish-orange, orange, red-orange.



Yellow-orange on **border zone letter to France** with reduced postage of 20c/7½gr instead of 40c to a French town no more than 30km from a Swiss town. Aug.15,1859-Sept.30,1865, rate.



First Group: 30C

Color Varieties / Single Franking

Issued Oct. 1, 1862.

About 5 million printed.

Initial primary use: letter to Italy.

Light vermilion (1862)



Light vermilion (left) and vermilion (1862)



Light vermilion on 30c/10gr letter to Italy. Rate of July 1, 1862-June 30, 1875. **Straight-line postmark** of Affoltern in the Emmenthal (valley).



First Group: 40C

Color Varieties / Single Franking

EDU June 30.1863.

About 5 million printed.

Initial primary use: letter to France.

Green (1863) and yellow-green (1863).



Green and yellow-green.



Green on 20c/10-250gr non-local letter with amount equal to postage charge for registration fee. Both rates of July 1, 1862-Aug.31, 1871. **Uncommon use of 40c alone on domestic mail.**



First Group: 60C

Color Varieties / Single Franking

EDU May 18, 1863.

About 1 million printed.

Initial primary use: letter to Great Britain.

Experimental metallic printing; bronze powder sprinkled on still-wet red (later yellow) ink to make copper-bronze color.

Red ink (1863) and yellow ink (1864).



Red ink and yellow ink.



Red ink on invoice dated Mar. 11, 1871, privately carried from German-occupied Alsace during Franco-German War to Basel. Mailed Mar. 21 as 30c/10gr x 2 letter to unoccupied Southern France. Arrival backstamp Mar. 24. **Scarce single usage.**



First Group: 1FR

Color Varieties / Single Franking

EDU May 18, 1863. About 5 million printed. Primary use; overseas letters.

Experimental metallic printing; gold powder sprinkled on still-wet ink (red-brown in 1863, yellow-orange in 1864-65, yellow in 1864-1870s) to make gold-bronze color.

Mint from left: **red-brown**, **yellow-orange**, yellow.

Used from left: red-brown, yellow-orange, yellow.



Yellow ink on 30c/10gr x 2 mourning letter to France, with 40c registration fee. Rates of Oct. 1, 1865-Dec. 31, 1875. **Scarce single franking.**



Second Group: 2C

Color Varieties

Change in color to replace unclear 2c denomination on gray issue.

EDU Feb.1,1874.

About 80 million printed.

Primary use: domestic printed matter.

From left: yellow-brown-olive (1874), light yellow-olive (1876), light brown-olive (1880).



From left: **light red-brown** (1874), **pale brown** (1874), **light yellow-brown** (1874), **deep bister-brown**, **olive-brown** (1881).



From left: pale olive (1880), yellow-brown-olive, light yellow-olive, light brown-olive.



From left: light red-brown, pale brown, light yellow-brown, deep bister-brown, olive brown.



Light yellow-olive on 2c/50gr domestic printed matter. Publication mailed to subscriber in Schwyz.

Hrn. Hettlinger, Schwyz 1 M.



Die Zeitschrift erscheint eine Nummer oder jeden Monat ein Heft. Preis halbjährig für beide Ausgaben mit „Euchengel“ 1 Mark 10 Pf. = 60 fr. österr. In der Schweiz 1 Fr. 50 Rp. In Partien — über 20 — direct bezogen 85 Pf. 10. = 50 fr. österr. Es werden durch jede Post und Buchhandlung.

Schädlichkeit des Wirthshausbesuches.

Es besteht auch ein Paragraph des Polizeistrafgesetzbuches, daß schulpflichtige Kinder nicht ohne die Aufsicht ihrer Eltern oder Vormünder das Wirthshaus besuchen dürfen. Diese Verordnung geht von der unzweifelhaft vollkommen richtigen Anschauung aus, daß das Wirthshaus für die Jugend eine Gefahr ist. Schon die Erwachsenen werden durch das Wirthshaus zu vielen Dingen verführt, welche Gott und die Menschen verboten haben. Trunksucht, Liederlichkeit, blauer Montag, Untreue, Verschwendung, Streitereien, Schlägereien, Religionspöttelei haben ihre Wurzeln im Wirthshaus. Auch für die Erwachsenen thut daher die Oberaufsicht der christlichen Obrigkeit über die Wirthshäuser noth. Es ist ein oft beklagtes Uebel, daß die Gesetzgebung unter dem Einfluß des Liberalismus die Beschränkungen für die Errichtung von Wirthshäusern größtentheils beseitigt

hat. Wo früher in Stadt und Land 2 oder 3 Wirthshäuser und Schenken reichten, ist jetzt die doppelte und dreifache Zahl. Die Gelegenheit aber macht Diebe. Mit der vermehrten Gelegenheit zum Wirthshausleben sind auch die Uebel, welche im Wirthshaus erwachsen, gestiegen. Das Familienleben, die Grundlage des sittlichen, häuslichen und sparsamen Sinnes, hat dem Wirthshausleben Platz gemacht. Am Sonntag zieht die Familie mit Kind und Kegel, wie man sagt, in's Wirthshaus. Ein starker und geistig erhebender Spaziergang in Gottes freier Natur mit darauffolgender Stärkung am häuslichen Herd ist zur Seltenheit geworden. Dem Wirthshausleben muß also von obrigkeitlicher Seite eine Schranke gezogen werden. Besonders verderblich aber wirkt dies Wirthshausleben für die unreife Jugend. Zwei Punkte sollen da herausgehoben sein. Erstens machen wir die Polizeibehörden auf den Umstand aufmerksam, daß sehr viele

Second Group: 10C

Color Varieties / Single Franking

Change of color from blue to red to conform to 10c red stamp-imprinted envelope also issued in 1867. Aniline red colors appear orange, not dark, under ultraviolet light.

EDU Mar.4,1867.

About 240 million printed.

Primary use: non-local domestic letter postage or minimum cash collection fee.

From left: light carmine (1867), carmine (1867), aniline rose (1877), aniline red (1881).



From left: lilac rose (1867), rose carmine (1867), dark carmine (1867), aniline rose, aniline red, dark aniline red (1881)



Carmine on 10c/40gr printed matter to United States by direct exchange via Bremen, in homemade wrapper. Rate during July 1,1872-June 30,1875.



Second Group: 15C

Color Varieties / Single Franking

Issued Jan. 1, 1875.

About 7 million printed.

Primary use: combined local letter postage and minimum cash collection fee.

Deep yellow (1875) and pale yellow (1875).



From left: deep yellow, deep greenish-yellow, pale yellow, pale greenish-yellow.



Pale yellow used on 5c/15gr local letter with 10c minimum fee to collect 2fr5c. Mailed at Donzhausen postal depot without stamps. Rating and stamp added at nearby Sulgen. Internal date 4 I 77. **Postmark error:** date wheels slipped to 4 II 88. (Stamp invalid in 1883.)



Second Group: 25C

Color Varieties / Single Franking

Issued Sept. 1, 1868.

About 50 million printed.

Initial primary use: letter to German States or Austrian Empire.

From left: yellowish green, bluish green, dark green, deep green.



From left: yellow-green (1868), yellowish green, bluish green, green, dark green.



Yellowish green on address label for 15c/500-1,000gr domestic printed matter (rate of Sept. 1, 1876-Oct. 31, 1884) and 10c fee to collect 2fr80c.



Second Group: 30C

Color Varieties / Single Franking

Change in color from vermilion to avoid confusion with new red 10c.

EDU Mar.17,1867.

About 18 million printed.

Primary use: letter to France or Italy.

From left: **blue** (1867), dark ultramarine, ultramarine, light ultramarine, mat ultramarine.



From left: **blue**, dark ultramarine, ultramarine, light ultramarine, mat ultramarine, pale ultramarine.



Ultramarine on 30c/10gr letter to Algeria, part of France.



Second Group: 40C

Color Varieties / Single Franking

Change of color from green to avoid confusion with new green 25c.

EDU Mar.20,1878

About 5 million printed.

Initial primary use: postage for non-local parcel or UPU overseas letter.

From left: light gray, gray, yellowish gray.



Gray on 20c/15-250gr non-local letter with 20c fee to collect 10fr50c. Postage rate of Sept.1,1876-Oct.31,1884. Uncommon use of 40c alone on domestic mail.



Second Group: 50C

Color Varieties / Single Franking

EDU Mar.8,1867.

About 8 million printed.

Initial primary use: letter to Great Britain or Spain.

From left: purple (1867), reddish lilac, lilac, bluish lilac (1876).



From left: purple, reddish lilac, lilac, bluish lilac.



Purple on 50c/15gr letter to **British India**, UPU rate to overseas members July 1,1877-Mar.31,1879. Canceled with ms "*affranchée*" (paid). Written to Sir Neville Chamberlain, lieutenant general, Madras Command, Bengal Army. Future British field marshal.



Mint Blocks

Among the most elusive mint blocks.



Mint Blocks

Among the most elusive mint blocks.



Red-brown



Used Blocks

Among the most elusive used blocks, including the 3c that is more valuable than its mint counterpart.

Reddish bronze



Largest recorded 60c used block.



Used Block

Half pane of 50 (plus one 2c in lower left corner) from sheet of 400, **largest multiple available from post office clerks.**

Stamps paid postage for mailing of 1,251 pieces of domestic printed matter at 2c each for up to 50gr.

Under Dec. 16, 1876, decree, total postage was attached to sample of full mailing distributed as newspaper stuffer without individual addresses or frankings to newspaper's subscribers. Dispatching office kept this payment record and sent samples to 11 Postal Dept. district offices so they could identify pre-paid copies at receiving post offices.



Used Block

Another half pane of 50 (yellow-bronze color) used to pay for 2,500 copies of domestic printed matter, a price list from a German sheet music publisher.



Production Varieties

Imperforate Errors

Although surviving examples indicate that at least 300 imperf stamps were distributed to post offices, **only 18 used copies from five places** have been recorded. Examples here include **the only one from Lausanne**, one of two from Basel and one of six from La Chaux de Fonds.



Double printing impression, one shifted (embossed and inked twice).



Double (kiss) print without impression, one shifted (embossed once and inked twice).



All-over cliché reentries with first entries inverted.



Production Varieties

Cliché Reentries

All over, 2nd entry inverted.



3c: upper right value tablet, inside right border.

10c: lower 10s and Franco (all four stamps).

5c: lower left 5 and Franco, 2nd entry inverted.



Reentry on only lower left 5 and Franco with 2nd inverted.

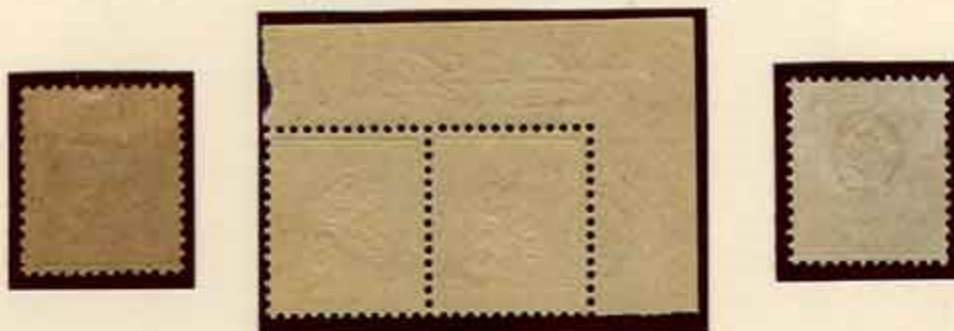


Production Varieties

Preprint Paper Creases



Left: no control mark on 50c.; center: halved marks on 1fr.; right: double mark on 50c.



Double control marks on 5c.



Paper patched before stamp printing: left: after printing; right: after patch fell off.



Cancellations

Sitting Helvetias are noted for the enormous variety of postal markings used as cancellations, including virtually every type except the famous rosettes from the era of the cantonal stamps.

Single straight-lines with serif lettering.



5c/10gr local letter, rate of July 1, 1862-Aug. 31, 1871.



Cancellations

Single straight-lines with sans serif lettering.



10c/15gr non-local letter, rate of Sept.1,1871-Nov.30,1891.



Cancellations

One- and two-lined cursive letters with and without box.



5c/15gr postage for local letter, rate of Sept. 1,
1871-Nov. 30, 1891; and 10c fee to collect 50c.



Cancellations

Ticino Ovals

Used for various periods during 1852-1893 in small postal collection depots to show points of origin, 74 in Canton Ticino and five in neighboring Canton Graubunden.

30c/10gr letter to France, rate of Oct.1,1865-Dec.31,1875.



2c/15gr domestic printed matter, rate of July 1,1862-Aug.31,1871.



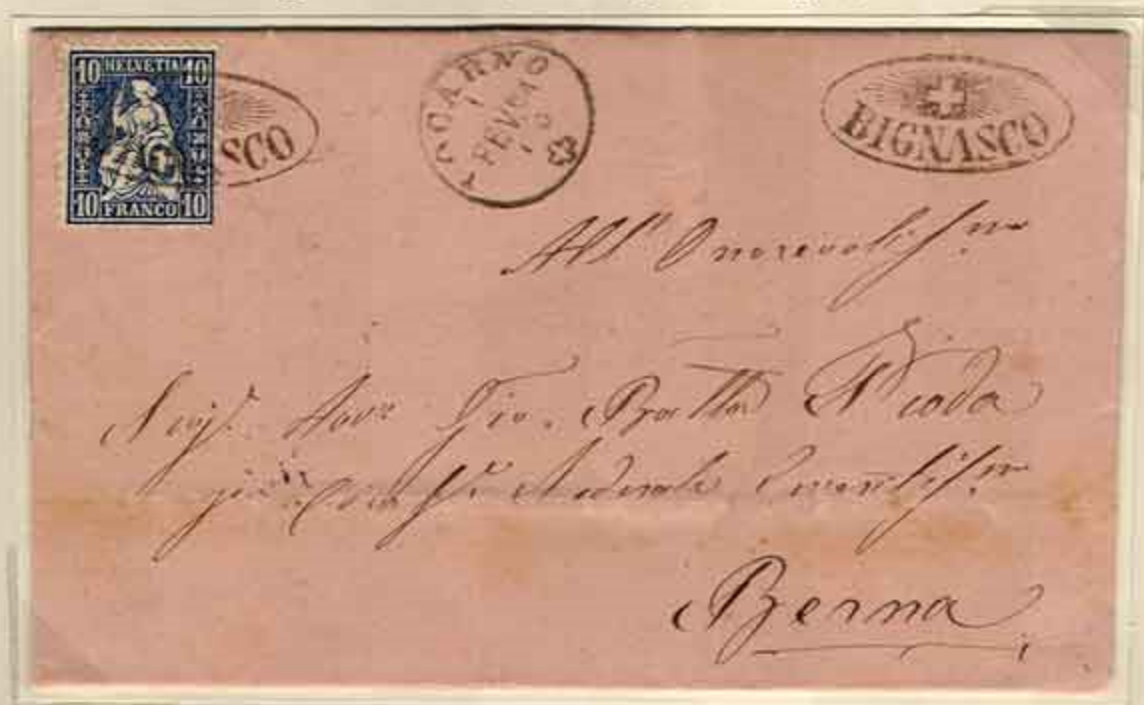
Cancellations

Ticino Ovals

40c/7½gr letter to France, rate of Aug.15,1859-Sept.30,1865.



10c/10gr non-local letter, rate of July 1,1862-Aug.31,1871.



Cancellations

Railway Postmarks

International letter posted on Zurich-Romanshorn railway line at Winterthur. 10c/15gr x 4 zones to Austrian Empire via German-Austrian Postal Union (1 Swiss zone, 3 union), rate of Nov.1,1852-Aug.31,1868.



International letter posted on Bern-Pontarlier (France) railway line. 50c/7½gr x 2 to Great Britain via France, rate of Oct.1,1865-Dec.31,1875.



Cancellations

Lake Steamers

Boat serving Lake Zurich's right shore on July 10, 1869. Cash collection notice with 10c fee to collect 2fr75c and 2c postage for printed matter. Unknown if boats accepted and recorded such notices. This card was perhaps handled by shore post office that forgot to cancel stamps.



Boat serving Lake Zurich on Sept. 12, 1881, with rare use of five 2c stamps instead of usual 10c stamp for non-local letter. The most stamps recorded on a Swiss lake steamer letter.



Cancellations

Small "thimble" circular date stamps usually only 20mm across.



110c/7½gr letter to United States via France and any ship to destination, rate of July 1, 1862-Dec. 31, 1875.



Cancellations

"Dwarfs"

Non-accountable postal depots that handled cash in certain cantons received small circular date stamps without year dates instead of straight-line postmarks.

Different "dwarfs" were in use for different periods from 1869 to 1894.

19-20mm size with date bridge, employed at 252 depots.



Collection of more than 50fr incorrectly handled by letter (foot) post instead of parcel (carriage) post. Correct charges should have been 20c/5kg/25km postage for "parcel" and 90c fee to collect 89fr26c. Unusual combination franking.



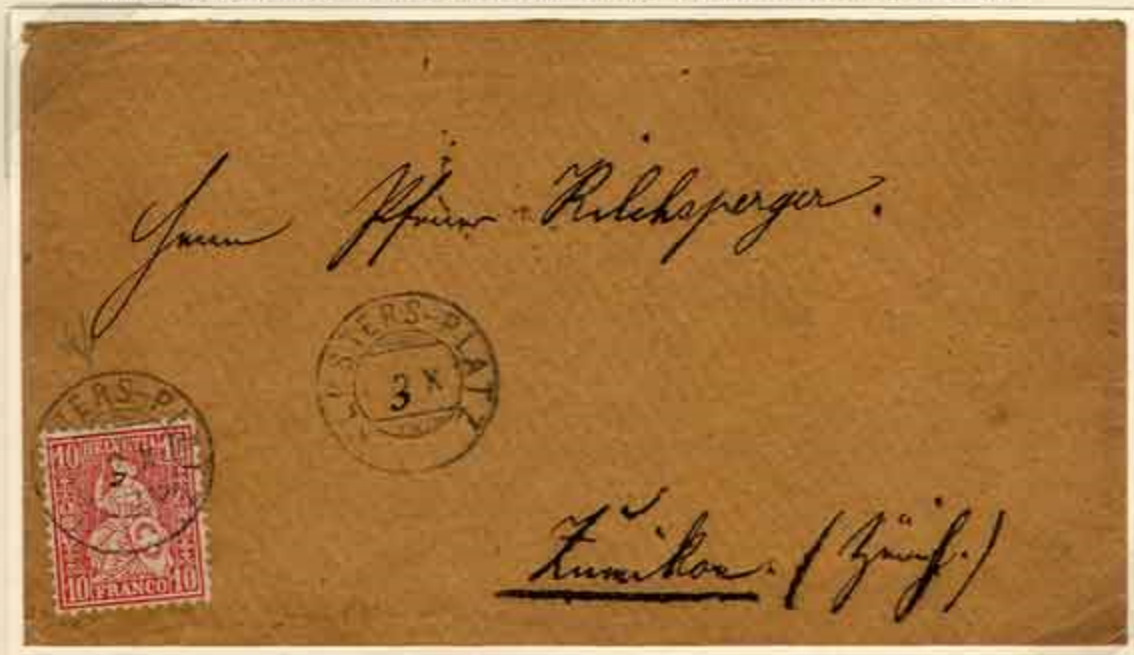
Cancellations

Small dwarfs (19-20mm) with four-sided date box, used at 11 depots in Canton Bern.
Large dwarfs (23mm) with date bridge, used at 12 depots in Canton Graubunden.

Four-sided date box. 5c domestic postal card with 10c fee to collect 9fr20c.



Manuscript change of date from Oct.2 to 3 (1876) on small dwarf postmark.



Cancellations

Schaffhausen Postal Depots

Distinctive postmark type used by only six rural mail collection depots in Canton Schaffhausen. 5c/15gr local letter with 10c fee to collect 1fr.



Solothurn Postal Agencies

Distinctive postmark type used by only eight postal agencies that operated under large post offices in Canton Solothurn. 10c/10gr non-local letter.



Cancellations

Blue Color

Blue was prohibited as official cancellation color as early as 1853, but postmasters used up their original blue ink supplies over decades.



2c/50gr domestic printed matter with light red-brown stamp. Rate of Oct. 1, 1872-Jan. 31, 1915.



Cancellations

Blue Color



10c/10gr non-local letter.



Blue Aadorf thimbles on 100c/15gr x 2 letter to Japan via France, rate of Oct.1,1865-Dec.31,1875.



Cancellations

Blue Color

5c/15gr local letter with 20c registration fee.



Post office circular date stamp and **railway station date stamp** (early example of postal use) on 5c/50gr printed matter to Belgium. UPU international rate of July 1, 1875, to European members. Partial payment of 2c (domestic rate) replaced by full payment two days later.



Cancellations

Red Color

Holderbank was only postal facility to use straight-line postmark with red ink during Sitting Helvetia period. Few examples on covers and **only three reported alone on stamps on full covers**. Obligatory black ink postmarks date from regulation of Dec.7,1854. 10c/10gr postage for non-local letter.



Traces of partially removed black circular date stamp on adhesive, fraudulently used second time to deceive post office. 10c/10-250gr postage for local letter.



Cancellations

Registration Marks

Joint use of old and new forms of registration marks: manuscript in red ink (old) and black boxed handstamp (new) for entering the letter's weight and number. 10c/10gr non-local letter with registration fee equal to postage during Oct. 1, 1849-Aug. 31, 1871. Aadorf thimble postmark.



Similar handstamped registration mark used as cancellation on non-local letter with 20c postage for 10-250gr and equal amount for registration fee.



Cancellations

Postal District Numbers

Numbers were normally handstamped on money orders, but in exceptional cases on the adhesive stamps affixed to the forms to help pay the fees for money orders.



A normal placement of "V" for the Basel Postal District. 60c fee for 301-400fr, Rate of Sept. 1, 1876-May 31, 1883. Form issued in 1876.



Auxiliary Marks

From left: postage paid (two), registered, Rayon Limitrophe (border zone mail) at reduced rate, 12c cash collection fee.



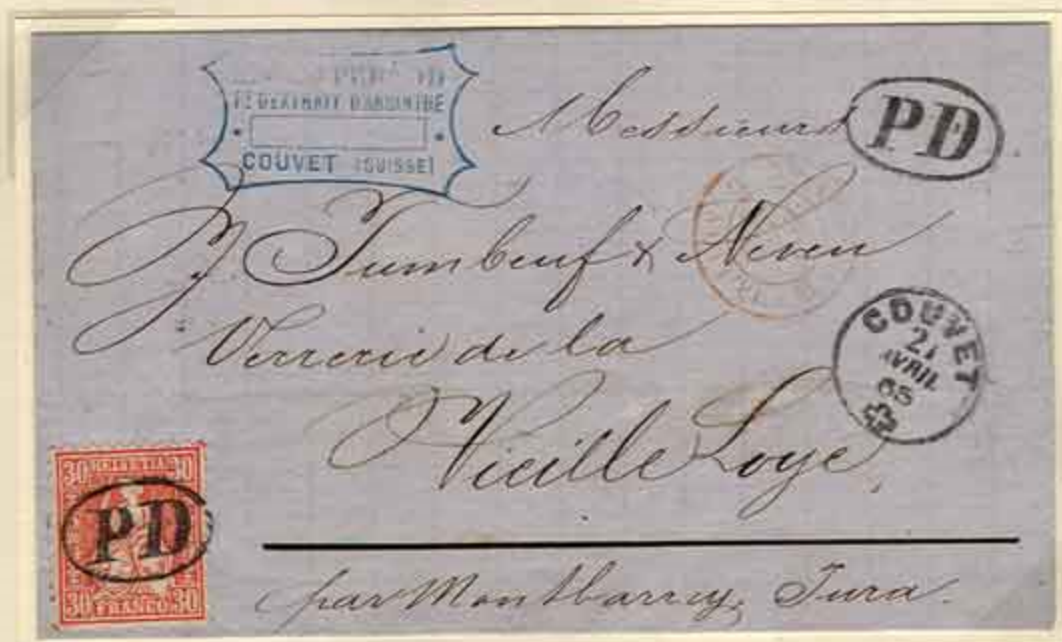
Cancellations

Postage Paid / Paid to Destination

Auxiliary marks that were never authorized for use as cancels.



Underpaid 40c/7½gr letter to France. Rate of Aug.15,1859-Sept.30, 1865. Nevertheless marked paid to destination with Couvet's "PD."



Cancellations

Postage Paid

Adhesive added unnecessarily to 5c domestic postal card.
Canceled on arrival in Nyon same day (backstamp) to prevent further use. Nyon location of this "PP" uncataloged.



10c/10gr non-local letter written in Zurich and mailed on railway line
from Romanshorn to Bern. Stamp canceled on arrival in Burgdorf.



Cancellations

Pen and Ink

Manuscript postmarks and cancels, used by receiving postal depots without "paid" handstamps (*PP*, *PD* or *Franco*), are often found on earlier issues, but they are most unusual on Sitting Helvetias, except the special dispatch form at Seeberg (below).

Pen cancel always used by Seeberg postmaster to avoid defacing figure of Helvetia. He combined straight-line postmark and manuscript date since Seeberg postal depot had no circular date stamp. Adhesive further canceled later at nearby Herzogenbuchsee. 10c/10gr non-local letter.



Uncanceled stamp annulled by pen strokes on arrival at Niederuzwyl. 10c/10gr non-local letter postmarked on Zurich-St. Gallen railway train at Winterthur.



Cancellations

Federal Grills

Because the Post Office Department officially ended the use of federal grills on May 23, 1857, these mute cancellations are very uncommon on Sitting Helvetias.

6-, 7-, 13- and 15-line grills



13-line grill on overpaid 5c/15gr local letter from
Sutz to Biel, arriving June 19, 1876 (backstamp).



Private Security Marks

Eight firms, the first in 1870, are recorded users of rubber handstamped company initials or names on their supplies of postage stamps as a business security measure.

Eberle, Kälin & Cie. of Einsiedeln (E.K.&C.)



Gebrüder Volkart AG of Winterthur (G.V.)



Geilinger & Blum of Winterthur (G&B)



Violet "G&B" in oval. 30c/15gr letter via direct exchange to The Netherlands. Rate of Sept. 1, 1868-June 30, 1875.



Private Security Marks

Perforated Initials

Post Office Department announced on April 22, 1876, that it had no objection to privately perforated initials on postage stamps for business security purposes. This official acceptance followed the use of handstamped initials, the first ones in 1870, and perfins, the earliest postmarked on Dec.28,1874.

Thomann & Leicht of Zurich (T)



"T" upside down. 10c/15gr non-local letter.



Gebrüder Volkart AG of Winterthur (G.V)



Private Security Marks

Perforated Initials

Gebrüder Benziger of Einsiedeln (GB)



Left: Geilinger & Blum of Winterthur (G&B); center: Crédit Lyonnais of Geneva (CL); right: Philippe Suchard of Neuchâtel (PS)



Société Crédit Suisse of Zurich (SCS)



"SCS" perfins of Société Crédit Suisse, French version of German name added to envelope as private supplemental printing. 25c/15gr x 2 postage for 16-30gr to German Empire, UPU rate of July 1, 1875-Sept. 30, 1907. 10c registration fee, short-lived UPU rate to Aug. 31, 1876, same as domestic rate per UPU regulation.

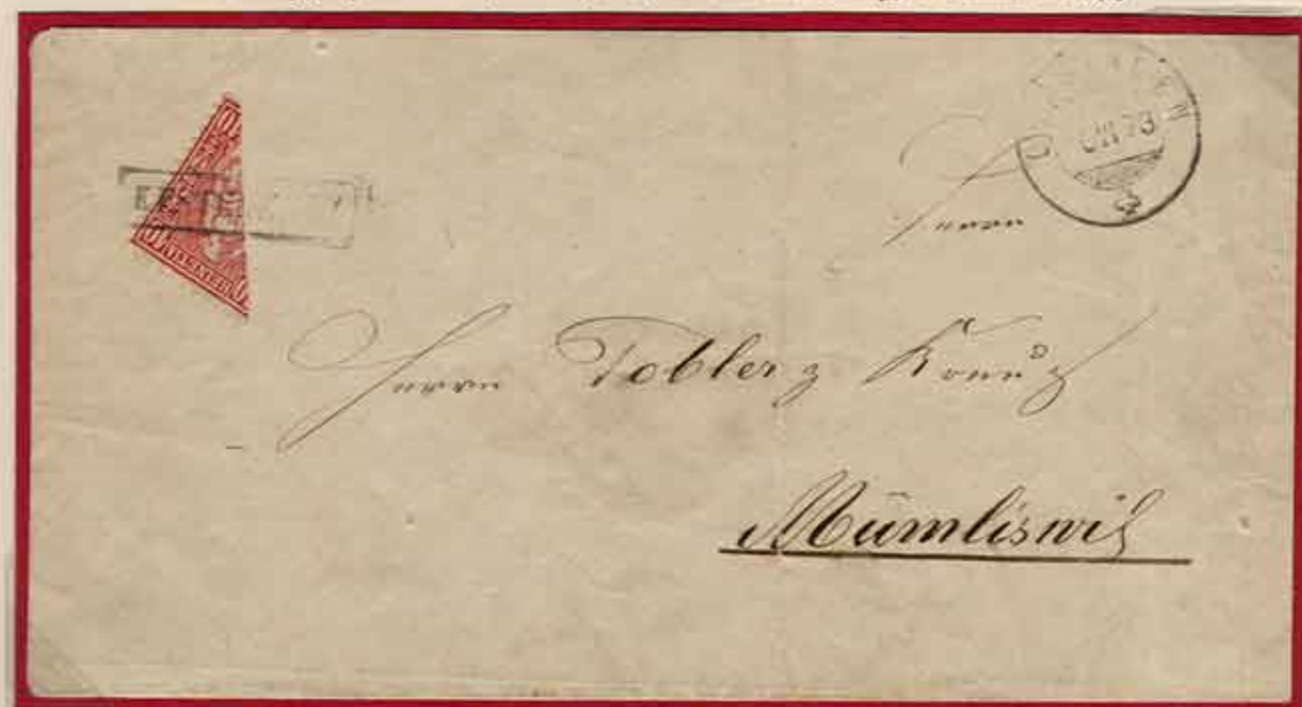


Bisects

Bisect accepted despite Aug.7,1862, official announcement disallowing use of cut stamps from Oct.1,1862. Used for 5c/10gr local letter on Aug.23,1864, with Bauma thimble postmark. (e)



Red 10c bisect much less common than blue 10c bisect because of later issue date. 5c/15gr local letter from Kestenholz postal depot (straight-line cancellation) via Oensingen post office (June 6,1873, circular date stamp) to Mumliswil. (e)



Bisects

Bisect accepted on temporary basis to pay for printed death announcement from Grenchen to Solothurn on Feb.26,1865. 2c/15gr rate of July 1,1862, for domestic printed matter. (e)



Bisect tolerated to pay for 10c/10gr non-local letter from Altburon postal depot (straight-line cancel) to Zell post office (July 19,1868, circular date stamp). Such postage payment should have been treated as unpaid. (e)



Multiple Frankings

Block of five on 10c/15gr non-local letter.



Block of 10 used to pay for 30c/15gr letter to England via direct exchange since Swiss postal cards not accepted in Great Britain before UPU. "PD" emphasizes sufficient payment for letter during rate of Jan. 1, 1869-June 30, 1875. No credit taken for imprinted 5c.



Multiple Frankings

Four pairs and two singles on 50c/15gr letter to United States via direct exchange over Ostende, Belgium. Rate of Sept.1,1869-June 30,1875.



Three singles in different colors. 1862 blue (top), 1862 dark blue and 1862 greenish blue (right) on 10c/10gr non-local letter, with equal amount for registration fee and 10c for minimum fee to collect only 20c.



Multiple Frankings

Strip of three on 90c/15gr letter from 2nd Swiss zone to 2nd Russian zone via Prussia in German-Austrian Postal Union, rate of Jan.14,1853-Jan.9, 1867. Swiss share 20c, German 30c (9kr) and Russian 40c (11kr or 3sgr).



Three singles on 60c/7½gr x 2 letter to Spain via direct exchange, rate of Feb.1,1866-Oct.31,1867.



Multiple Frankings

Pair and single (all red-bronze) on 60c/7½gr x 5 letter to Great Britain via France, rate of Aug.15,1859-Sept.30,1865.

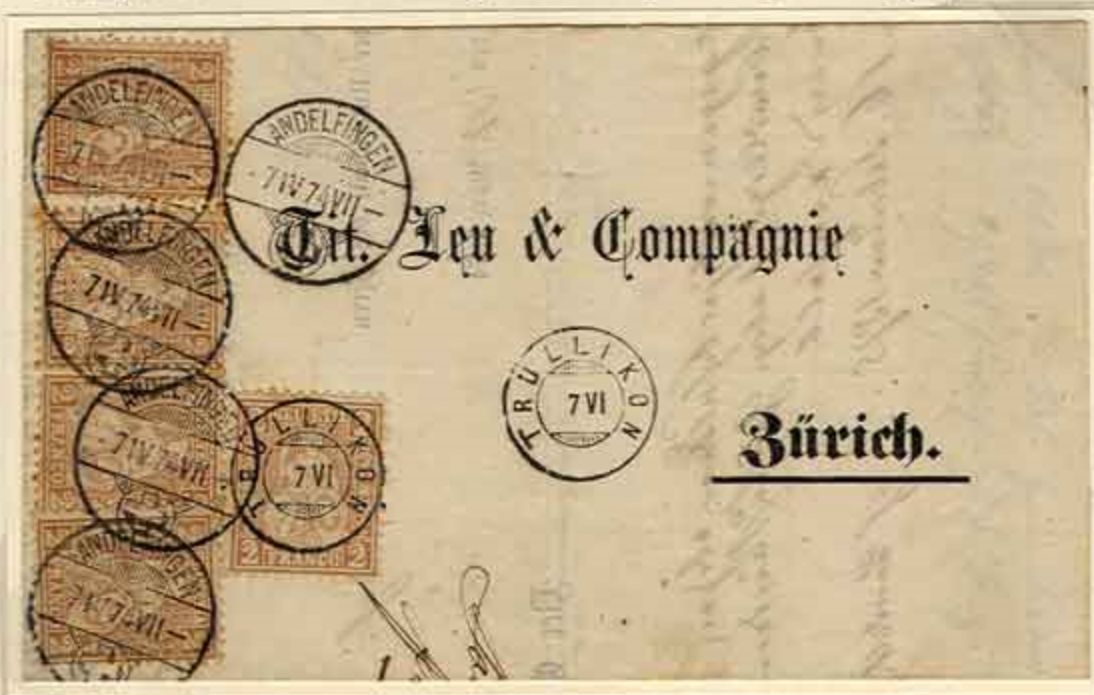


Three singles on 90c/7½gr x 2 letter to border of the Philippines via France, rate July 1,1862-Sept.30,1865. Internal postage 2 reales due at destination. Recorded Sitting Helvetia covers to the Philippines before UPU are no more than 10.



Multiple Frankings

Five singles (red-brown) on 10c/15gr non-local letter. Mailed as 2c/50gr printed matter on Apr. 7 (1874) at Trüllikon postal depot (wrong date on its dwarf postmark). Missing 8c added for written message on same day at nearby Andelfingen post office.



Three pairs on 30c/10gr x 3 letter to France, rate of Oct. 1, 1865-Dec. 31, 1875. Rate for **insufficient postage** 50c/10gr x 3. Prepaid 60c; postage due 90c (9d).



Multiple Frankings

Two pairs on 30c/10gr x 2 letter to France, rate of Oct.1,1865-Dec.31,1875.



Five singles on 25c/15gr x 7 letter to France, UPU European member rate from Jan.1,1876 (when France joined), to Sept.30,1907; 25c registration fee, Apr.1,1879-Dec.31,1920, rate.



Combination Frankings

Same Denominations

Blue 10c and red 10c from 1st and 2nd stamp groups. **Considered prettiest of 15 reported examples** (Rellstab certificate). Border zone letter to France with reduced postage of 20c/10gr instead of 30c for towns no more than 30km apart. Rate of Oct.1,1865-Dec.31,1875.



Only recorded combination of gray 2c and olive 2c from 1st and 2nd groups used together alone on a full cover. Overpaid 5c/15gr local letter.



Combination Frankings

Different Denominations

Only one of four reported blue 10c/30c combinations from 1st and 2nd stamp groups but **unique** 50c franking. 10c/15gr x 5 zones (2 Swiss, 3 German) for letter to German States via German-Austrian Postal Union. Union's share 30c (9kr). Rate during Oct.15,1852-Aug.31,1868.



One of six reported red 30c/10c combinations from 1st and 2nd groups. 100c/7½gr letter to Japan (only Yokohama) via France. Oct.1,1865-Dec.31,1875, rate.



Combination Franking

Five Colors

Spectacular five-color combination created by Zurich Post Office's Newspaper Section. Used to record 9fr50c payment for 475 copies of domestic printed matter at 2c/50gr rate of Oct.1,1872-Jan.31,1915. This postage was attached to sample (partial piece) of large mailing before its dispatch as newspaper stuffer without individual addresses or frankings.



Combination Franking

Five Colors

One of five recorded five-color combination frankings to foreign destinations. Address card for box to Liechtenstein. 160c postage for 15-20kgr going 50-100km, 60c fee to collect 58fr55c, and 100c fee to insure value of 7,500-8,000 francs. "GB" perfins of Gebruder Benziger of Einsiedeln.

26.97
26.25
Coupon.

Aufgabe Poststelle.

22.22
franco.

Begleit-Adresse

zu *1* Kistchen Packet No *7133* mit Adresse.

Inhalt *Liefer Post u. Glob*

Nachnahme Fr. *58* „ *55*

27/12/23

An *Dr. Josef von H. Frick*

Yverdon

Gewicht { A. Ko *15,700* in *Eschen*
B. „
C. „

Aufgabe-Register No *Wetley* *Post Kündeln*
Liechtenstein

Versender:
Gebr. C. & N. Benziger
in
Einsiedeln,
Schweiz.

Combination Franking

Five and Six Colors

Four-color supplemental franking on 25c/15gr letter to Nova Scotia, Canada, via Great Britain. Rate of Apr.1,1879-Sept.30 1907, to UPU members including British North American colonies.



One of three recorded six-color combination frankings to foreign destinations. 40c/15gr x 2 letter to Brazil, rate of Apr.1,1879-May 31,1883, to UPU overseas members. 25c registration fee, UPU rate of Apr.1,1879-Dec.31,1920.



Combination Franking

Seven Colors

Largest recorded combination franking, one of two reported with seven colors, both to foreign destinations. 100c/7½gr x 3 letter to Haiti via France (and Great Britain). Rate of Oct.1,1865-Dec.31,1875. No more than 5 recorded covers to Haiti before UPU.

