

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. Remainders 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

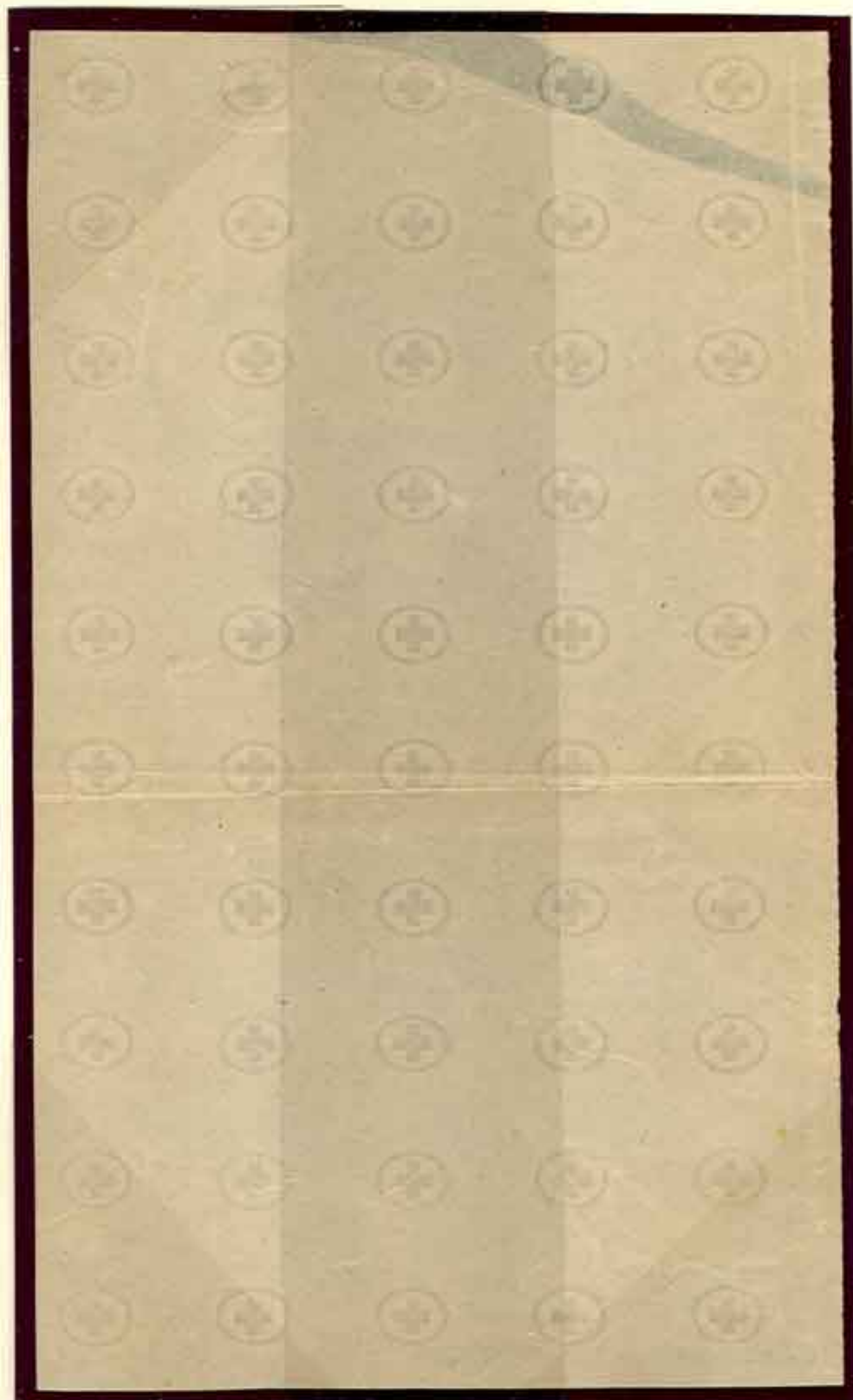
Goldbeater Paper. No Control Mark.

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. Ct.
 Werth (in Worten): *den 11. August 1878*
 Aufgeber: *H. Temp. Gerschlechter*
 Adresse: *H. Fr. Burri Seeburg Neuchâtel*

Stempel der Aufgabepoststelle.

25 VII 79

Unterschrift des Postbeamten oder Angestellten:
F. W. Heber
Nr. 519.

S. S. H. 79. — 100.

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.



Second Group: 2C

Single Franking

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

Hrn. Gattlinger, Schwyz 1 M.



Die Zeitschrift erscheint eine Nummer oder jeden Monat ein Heft. Preis halbjährig für beide Ausgaben mit Einschluß 1 Mark 20 Pf. = 60 fr. Sterk. In der Schweiz 1 M. 20 Pf. In Partien — über 20 — direct bezogen 85 Pf. 9. M. = 50 fr. Sterk. 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, Unkeuschheit, 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 Diche. 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 stärkender und geistig erhebender Spaziergang in Gottes freier Natur mit darauffolgender Stärkung am häuslichen Herd ist zur Seltenheit geworden. Dem Wirthshausleben muß also von obrigkeitsebene 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 second 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.

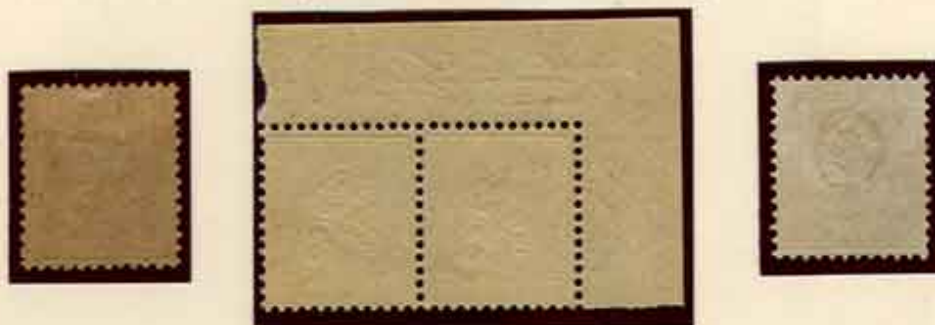


Production Varieties

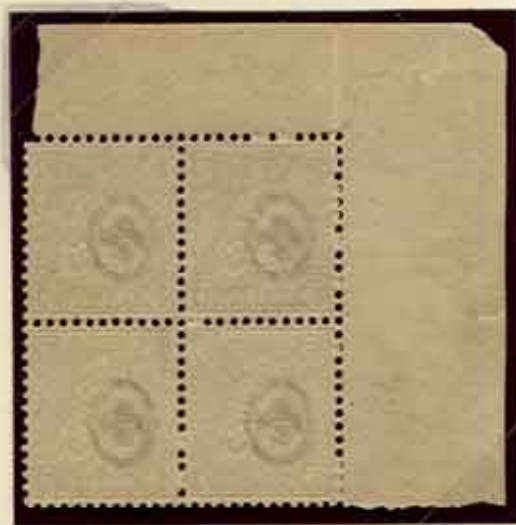
Preprint Paper Creases



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.



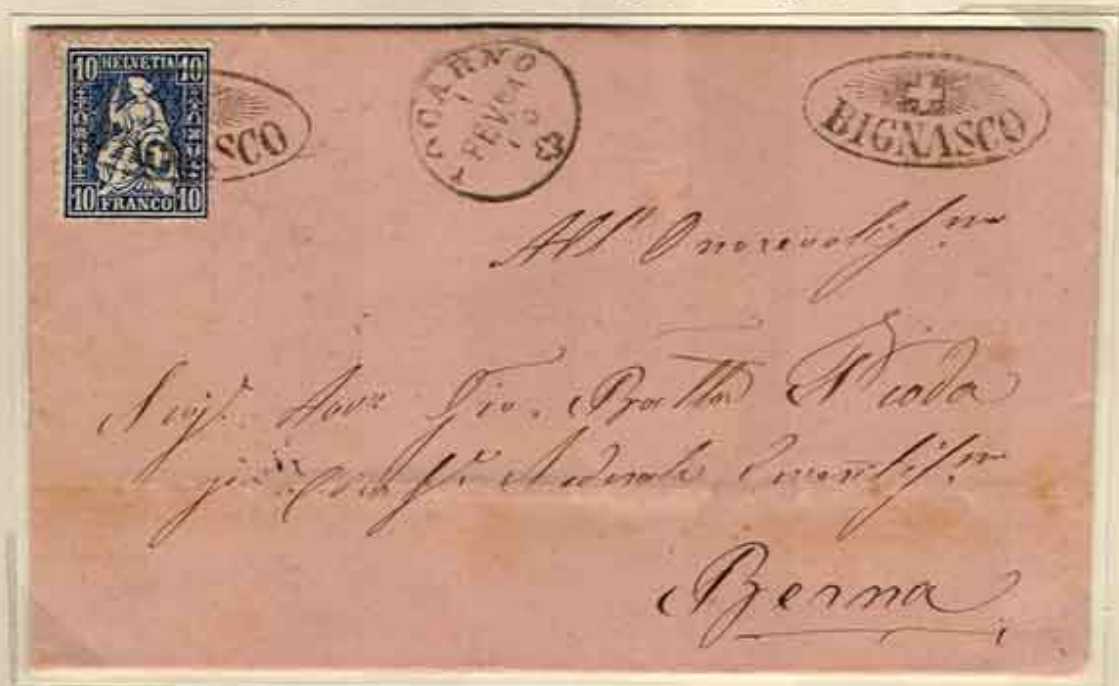
Cancellations

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 post-age 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.



Gebruder 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 Lyonnaise 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.

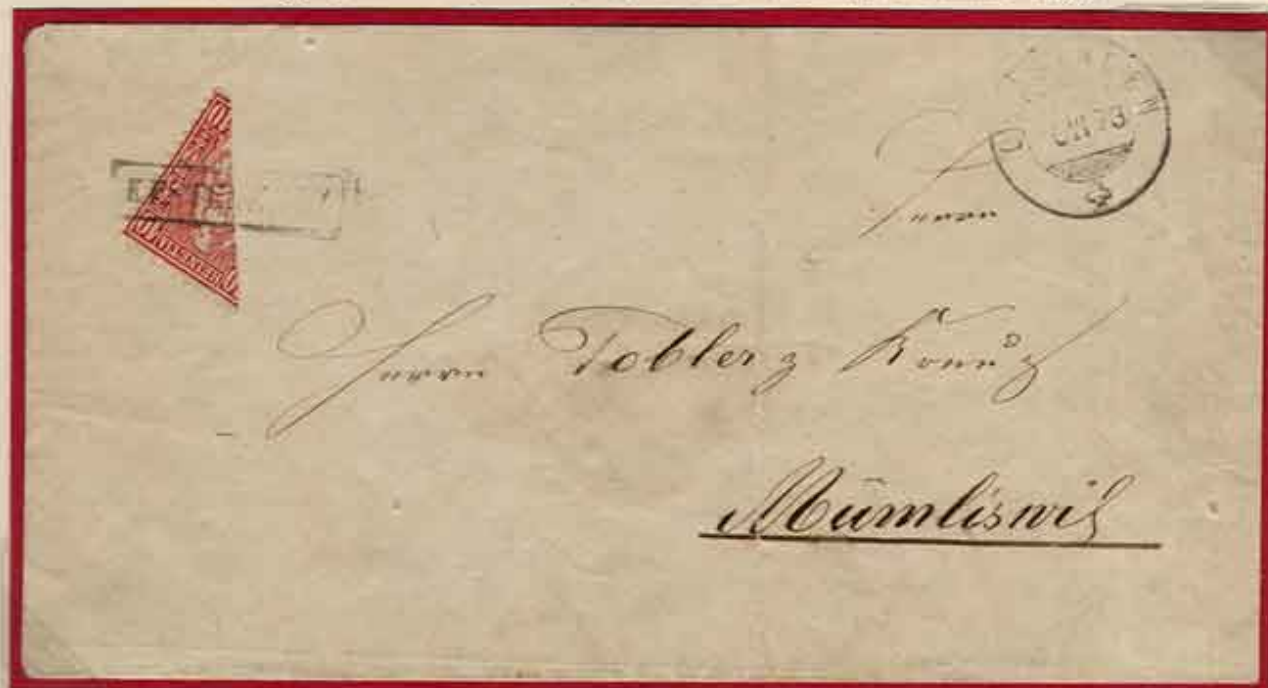


Bisects

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.

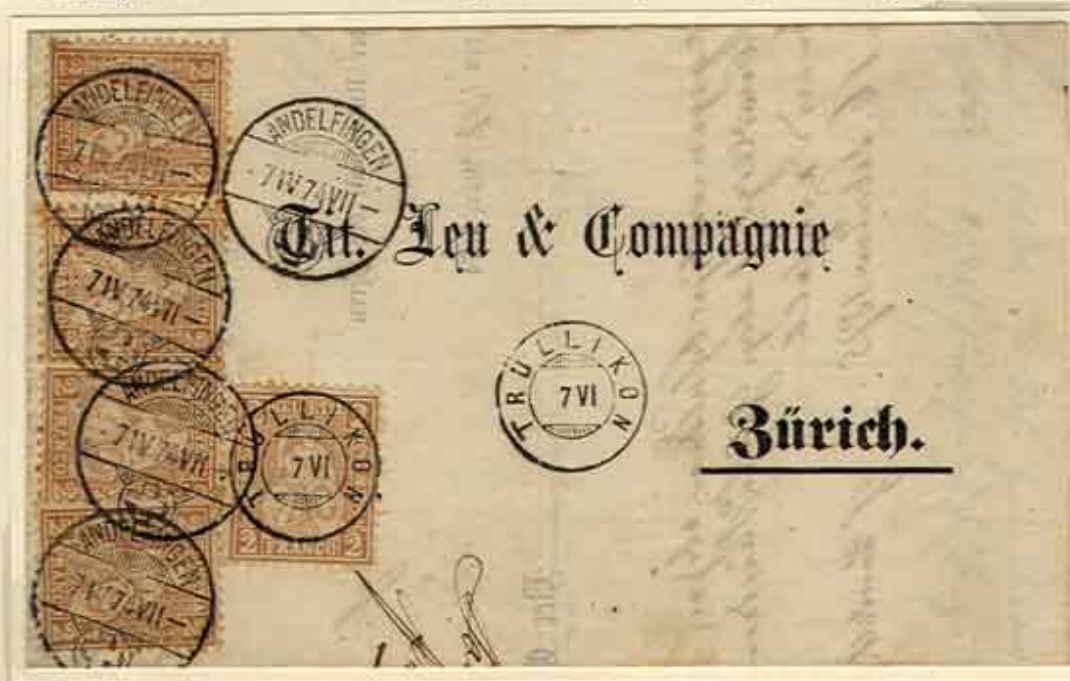


Three singles on 90c/7½gr x 2 letter to border of the Philippines via France, rate July 1,1862-Sept.30,1865. Internal postage 2 reales due at destination. Recorded Sitting Helvetia covers to the Philippines before UPU are no more than 10.



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.

26-26-92
Coupon.
26.25

Aufgabe Poststelle.

22.22
franco.

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

58.55

27.23

Begleit-Adresse

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

Inhalt *Liefer. Kup. u. Glob.*

Nachnahme Fr. *58* „ *55*

An *Dr. Josef von A. Frick,*
Haus

Gewicht } A. Ko *15,700* in
B. „
C. „

Aufgabe-Register No. *Wetly* *Kopf Kordeln*
Liechtenstein

Eschen

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.



Mixed Frankings 1862-63

Validity of imperforate rappen and perforated centime issues overlapped during 10-month period of Oct. 1, 1862-July 31, 1863. All denominations of both issues in reported mixed frankings are present here. (Imperf 15rp withdrawn Aug. 31, 1862.)

Best condition among five recorded examples of 2c/10rp. Contrary to common 2rp/10c mixed franking, this pairing was rare since 2rp was plentiful (recently issued July 1, 1862) and 10rp in short supply (in use since June 1859). 2c/15gr domestic printed matter, 10c fee to collect 4fr.



2c lowest denomination of both issues (above and below). 5c/10gr local letter.



Mixed Frankings 1862-63

A Unique Mixture

Doubly unique: only recorded 2c/20rp or 2rp/20c mixed franking and only reported 42c franking from 1862-1867 period of first Sitting Helvetia stamp group. 2c used in less than 1% of all perf/imperf mixed frankings. 2c/15gr domestic printed matter and 40c fee to collect 39fr40c.



Mixed Frankings 1862-63

Both 5s used alone together: 19 such pairings recorded,
Possible only eight months because earliest recorded use
of 5c is Dec.1,1862. 10c/10gr non-local letter. 5c repaired.



Both 10s used alone together; only nine examples recorded. 20c/10-250gr non-local letter.



Mixed Frankings 1862-63

A Unique Mixture

Unique example of 20c and 10rp used alone together. Possible less than five months because earliest recorded use of 20c is Mar. 5, 1863, and 10rp became invalid after July 31, 1863. Postage for 30c/10gr letter to Italy. Rate during July 1, 1862-June 30, 1875.



Mixed Frankings 1862-63

Only 15 recorded examples of 20c and 40rp used alone together. 60c/-
7½gr letter via France to Great Britain. Rate of Aug.15,1859-Sept.30,1865.



Only 10 reported examples of 30c and 20rp used together
alone. 10c/15gr x 5 zones (2 Swiss, 3 German-Austrian Postal
Union) to German States. Rate Oct.15,1852-Aug.31,1868.



Mixed Frankings 1862-63

Only 10 recorded uses of single 10c and 100rp (1fr) alone together. 110c/7½gr letter to destination in United States via France and any ship (here British packet). Rate of July 1, 1862-Dec. 31, 1875. U.S. credit of 3 cents under Apr. 1, 1857, French-U.S. convention.



Only reported Sitting Helvetia use with 100rp (1fr) stamp on thin paper, the rarest from the entire 1854-1862 imperforate issue. 1fr use with 20c possible less than five months because earliest recorded use of 20c is Mar. 5, 1863. 60c/7½gr x 2 letter to Great Britain via France. Rate of Aug. 15, 1859-Sept. 30, 1865.



Mixed Frankings 1862-63

60c/7½gr x 2 letter to **Great Britain** via
France, rate of Aug.15,1859-Sept.30,1865.



90c/7½gr x 3 letter to **Asiatic Turkey** via French
post offices in Marseille, Constantinople and Trebi-
zonde (backstamps), rate July 1,1862-Sept.30,1865.



Mixed Frankings 1882-83

The Sitting Helvetia issue remained in use for 18 months after release of the low-denomination Cross & Numeral and high-denomination Standing Helvetia issue, from Apr.1,1882, to Sept.30, 1883. Only about 40 mixed frankings with the Standing Helvetia are recorded, making them about 10 times more difficult to find than mixed frankings with the Cross & Numeral. Present here are all Sitting Helvetia denominations recorded in mixed frankings with this later issue.

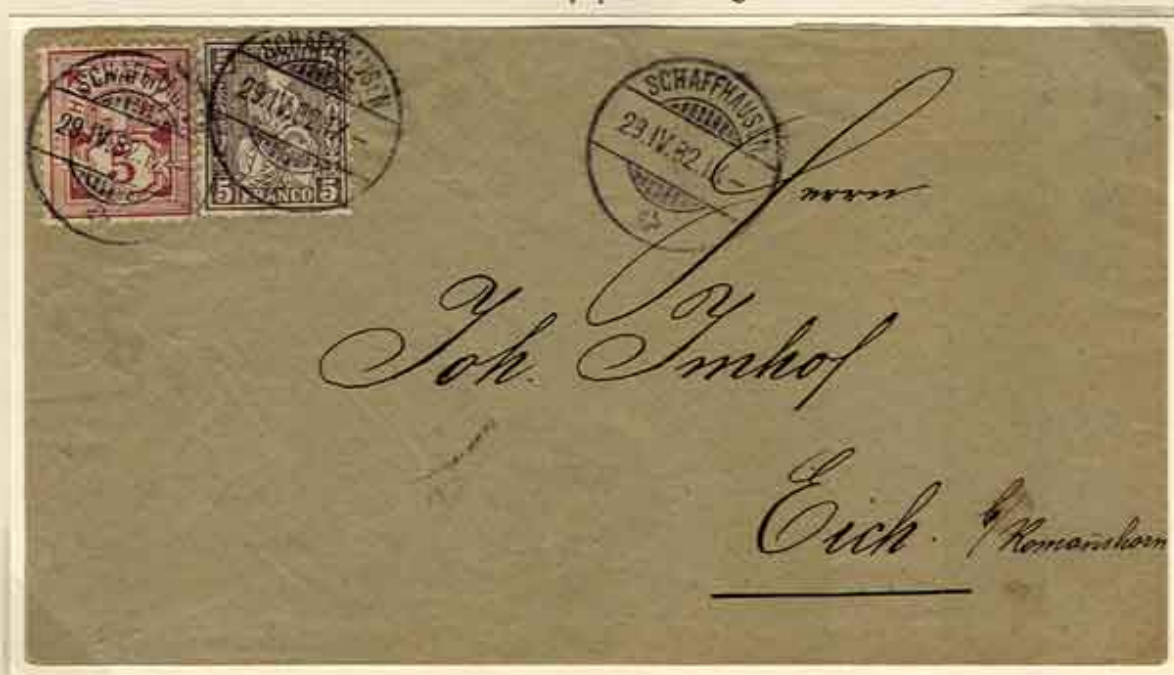
2c on granite paper. Cross & Numeral on granite paper.
Two lowest values of the two issues on this page. 5c/15gr local letter.



Much scarcer 3c/2c mixture.
Late use of 3c of 1862 on white paper (not reissued on granite). 2c on granite paper. 5c/50-250gr for domestic printed matter in homemade wrapper.

Mixed Frankings 1882-83

Both 5cs used together. Sitting Helvetia on granite paper.
Cross & Numeral on white paper. 10c/15gr non-local letter.



Both 10cs used together. Sitting Helvetia on white paper and
Cross & Numeral on granite paper. 20c/15-250gr non-local letter.



Mixed Frankings 1882-83

15c on granite paper. 5c singles on white paper. 5c/-
15gr postage for local letter and 20c fee for registration.



20c on granite paper. 40c postage on address tag for parcel up
to 5kg going more than 25km. 30c minimum fee to collect 5fr
by parcel (carriage) post. Both rates of Sept.1,1876-Oct.31,1884.



Mixed Frankings 1882-83

Scarce three-color mixed franking. Late use of 3c of 1862. 10c/15gr non-local letter.



25c on granite paper. Value-declared letter delivered by parcel (carriage) post. 20c parcel postage for up to 5kg going up to 25km. 10c insurance fee for value of 101-300fr.



Mixed Frankings 1882-83

40c on white paper. 5c/15gr local letter with 40c fee to collect 35fr25c.



Reverse of above mixed franking. 5c on granite paper. 5c/15gr local letter with 40c fee to collect 40fr. Letter not accepted nor debt paid by addressee.



Mixed Frankings 1882-83

50c on granite paper. 40c postage on address tag for parcel up to 5kg going more than 25km. 30c minimum fee to collect 8fr60c by parcel (carriage) post.



Only nine recorded mixed frankings with all three stamp designs. 1fr on white paper. Three local court summons mailed together under special 45c rate for judicial documents during Sept. 1, 1876-Oct. 31, 1884, each costing 5c local postage, 20c registration fee, and 20c return receipt fee.



Mixed Frankings

With Hotel Post Stamps

Hotel Stoos's 2nd postage stamp (1874 issue) used to pay 5c fee for eight-mile delivery to nearest post office at Brunnen (and later Morschach) from 1871 to 1911. The only one of five reported covers with 1874 issue tied to cover. Overpaid 25c/15gr letter from Brunnen on July 12, 1875, to Great Britain under new UPU rate of July 1, 1875. Sitting Helvetias on white paper.



Maderanerthal Hotel's 2nd postage stamp (1871 issue) used to pay charge of 5c for 10-mile delivery to nearest post office via bridge path to Amsteg from 1870 to 1889. 30c/15gr letter from Amsteg on Sept. 3, 1872, via direct exchange to Great Britain. Rate period Jan. 1, 1869-June 30, 1875. Sitting Helvetia on white paper.



Mixed Frankings

With Hotel Post Stamps

Rigi-Kaltbad Hotel's 2nd postage stamp (1868 imperforate issue) used to pay 15c fee to nearest post office from 1864 to 1871 via three-mile footpath down mountain to Weggis on Lake of Luzern. 10c/10gr non-local letter from Weggis postmarked Aug. 19, 1868. Hotel's blue telegraph date stamp mistakenly dated one day later. 10c Sitting Helvetia stamp on white paper.



One of **Hotel Rigi-Scheideck's** postage stamps from its 1868 series used to pay 5c delivery charge to nearest post office three miles below it at Gersau on Lake of Luzern from 1868 to 1874. 30c/15gr letter from Gersau on Aug. 1, 1872, to Great Britain via direct exchange. Rate of Jan. 1, 1869-June 30, 1875. 30c Sitting Helvetia on white paper.



Mixed Frankings

With Postage Due Stamps

Only reported Sitting Helvetia, Cross & Numeral and "postage due" mixed franking to expedite prepayment of international parcels. Postal clerks authorized to affix 500c due stamps instead of five 1fr stamps during Dec.16,1878-July 15,1893. Address card for 17kg 150gr parcel with 2,200fr declared value to German Empire. 260c Swiss + 875c German weight/distance charge; 50c Swiss + 50c German insurance fee. Total of 1,235c based on both Swiss Sept.1,1876, internal tariffs and Swiss-German/Austrian Apr.1,1879, international tariffs for parcels over 5kg. Three Sitting Helvetia stamps on granite paper.

COUPON.

Angabe Poststelle. Office de consignation

en conc.

Wert 2200 Nachnahme 300
Valeur 2200 Remboursement 300

An Schenck-Schlagensky
à Expéditeur
Gewicht 17 kg 150 gr
Aufgabe-Register
Registre de consignation 2764
BRENETS

Verwahrer, Consignataire
Perret & Co
Membre Suisse
Suisse No 1843

R. & S. - IV. 84. - 200

Similar use of due stamp to help prepay 1fr for each of eight "ordinary" parcels up to 5kg, and 160c insurance fee related to unclear declared values, based on 1876 and 1879 tariffs. White paper stamps.

COUPON.

WINTER 1911/12

Wert 1000 Nachnahme 100
Valeur 1000 Remboursement 100

An Hubert & Co
Gewicht 10 kg 100 gr
Aus Romanshorn

Verwahrer, Consignataire
Hubert & Co
Aus Romanshorn

602 603 604 605 621 632 633 634

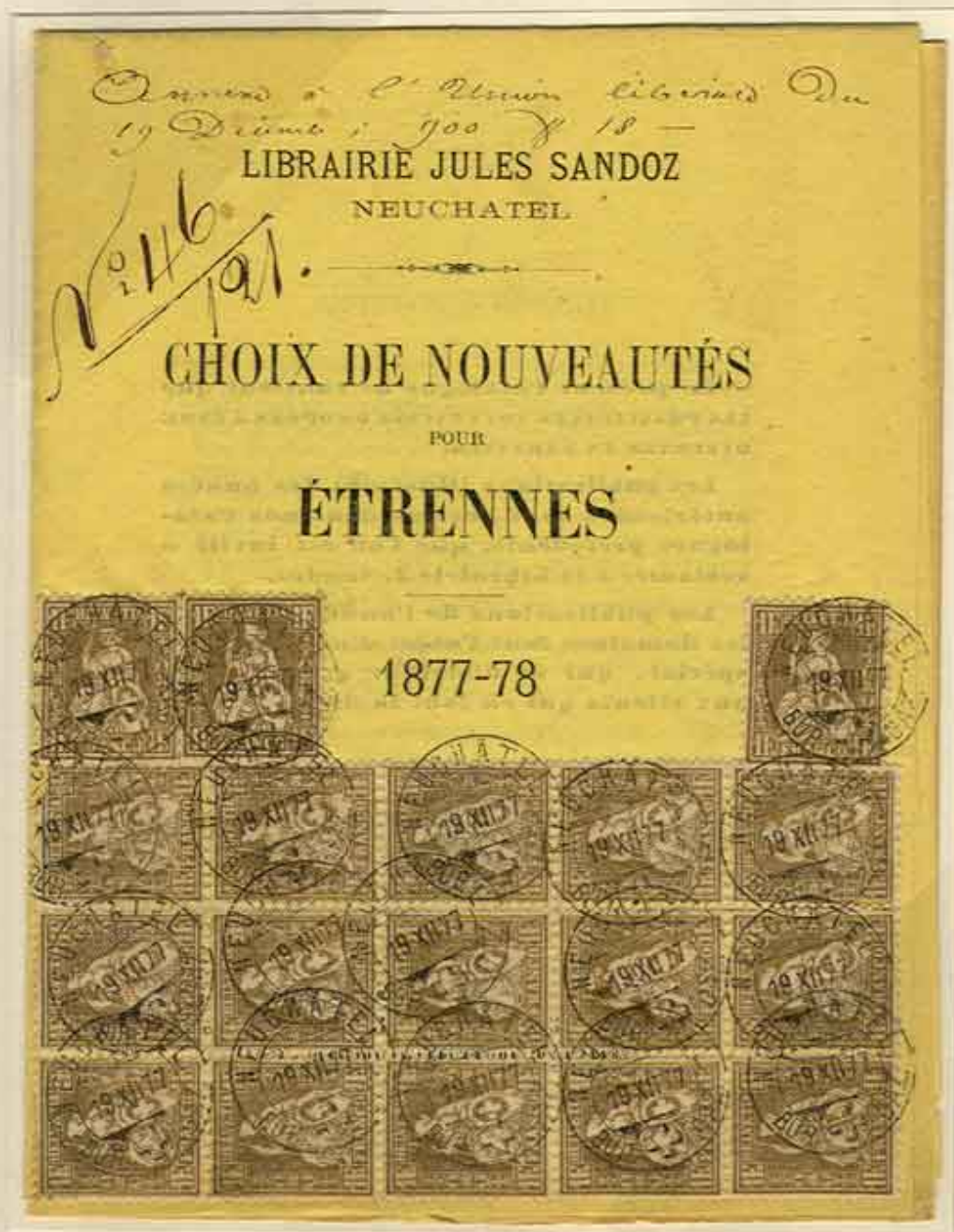
No No No No No No No No

Aus Romanshorn

Domestic Rates

Printed Matter

Sample copy of mass mailing with total postage of 18fr
for 900 copies at 2c each for up to 50gr of printed matter,
a rate that lasted from Oct.1,1872, to Jan.31,1915.
Block of 15 and three singles of yellow ink 1fr stamp.



Domestic Rates

Printed Matter



Unique example of special 3c reduced postage rate paid by recipient instead of sender for return of printed matter originally mailed at normal rate of 5c/50-250gr. All other recorded examples of unrequested, examined and refused printed matter that were returned within 10 days during reduced rate period of Jan.1,1874-Oct.31,1884, show 3c paid by original sender as postage due. Small post office at Mannenbach used this bisect on Oct.1,1881, in absence of 3c stamp. It is matching half of bisect also used on printed matter at Mannenbach on Sept._6.1881 (above).



Domestic Rates

Judicial Documents

When Post Office Dept. took over delivery of judicial documents on Nov. 1, 1875, it provided special low rates for often heavy documents. It also required two copies, one to be returned to sender proving receipt. This return copy of a court summons bears 40c for non-local delivery, including 10c postage, 10c registration fee and 20c return receipt fee. **This initial rate lasted only 10 months**, until Sept. 1, 1876, when registration fee increased to 20c. Ms "a.j." (lower left) refers to "acte judiciaire" governing special rates.



Judicial Documents

J. H. Voppel 1012, 13, 14, 15.

CHARGE
G N
Vortagung



Aläger: *Naples Bürger, Ritter v. Hölleiswil.*

Beflagtelt: Ritter Carl von Kottow, v. d. Armee Genl. Major,
Luzern, d. Leutnant Major, Major u. Hauptmann.

Zengen: _____

Streitgegenstand: — Sonstiges Aufrecht zu haben der
d. v. Mispewitz der Klage im vorf. Kaffline wie
betreffend.

Verhandlungen vor dem Friedensrichter des Kreises *Willingen in G. H. nan*

Samstag den 12 April 1879 Nachmittags 9. Uhr.

Die Parteien haben bei Vermeidung der gesetzlichen Folgen und einer Strafe von Irth. — auf die festgesetzte Zeit und Stunde zur Verhandlung zu erscheinen.

Leipzig den 9 April 1879



Der Friedensrichter

Ein gleichlautendes Doppel zugesetzt erhalten.

Leppikivi den 10. April 1879

* Augustin Mabius.
 * Ruffus von Mubius.
 * ...



Domestic Rates

Registration Fees

Registration fee equal to postage during July 1, 1862-Aug. 31, 1871.
Postal card with equal 5c fee possible only 11 months, from issue of first card on Oct. 1, 1870. No more than five examples recorded.



Unique example of 5c registration fee payment on official card with free postage.
 Special regulation of Feb. 1, 1871, required this fee (otherwise "0"), an amount that lasted only seven more months until Sept. 1, 1871 when fee increased to 10c for all mail.



Domestic Rates

Declared Values Via Parcel Post

All mail with valuable content delivered via parcel (carriage) post instead of letter (foot) post. Letter with declared value of only 20c. 20c parcel postage for up to 5 kg going up to 25km, but no insurance fee for up to 100fr value. Rates during Sept.1,1876-Oct.31,1884. One wax seal on back.



Letter with declared value of 300fr. 40c parcel postage for up to 5kg going more than 25km, and 10c insurance fee (3c per 100fr x 3 rounded up to 10c). Rates of Sept.1,1876-Oct.31,1884. Five wax seals on back. Unusual single stamp franking.



Domestic Rates

Cash Collection Fees

The post office fee for bill collections was 1% rounded up to the next 10c from July 1, 1862, to Oct. 31, 1884. Debtors paid the postage and fee as well as the bill. **One of three recorded examples of 5c instead of minimum 10c fee**, all for collections of no more than 1fr. Swiss postal researchers still search for the regulation that set and explained this special rate. Here 12c total for 2c printed matter postage and 10c collection fee has been corrected to 7c. (e)



Normal 10c minimum cash collection fee, here to collect only 80c. User of official card requiring no postage still had to pay for other postal services. Letter (foot) post collected amounts up to 50fr.



Cash Collection Fees

Nachnahme
 Porto & Provision
 Frs. 139.00
 „ 1.60
 Frs. 141.10

THUN
 17 VII 78
 1878

141.10
 in Besche
 li Baltigon.

KANTON BASEL
 FILIALE

17 VII 78
 1878

1814 Remboursement: fr. 157. 65.
Post. " 2 08

BERN 8161
BERN 8162

Empfangen
der Bankassier
H. Klein

Monsieur
A. Mayor-Vautier,
à
Clarens.

BERN
1819

Postage Due

Prepaid 2c printed matter contained too many hand-written words on printed form, requiring 5c for local letter. Postage due = double prepaid rate (10c) minus prepayment (2c) = 8c.



Prepaid 5c local letter forwarded beyond 10km local letter distance, requiring 10c for non-local letter. Postage due = only missing amount for forwarded mail. Uncollected, annulled (*ungültig*), returned and paid by sender.



Postage Due

Prepaid 10c non-local letter mailed on railway line at Zurich. Underpaid 10c for **heavy letter** requiring 20c for 16-250gr. Postage due = double prepaid rate (40c) minus prepayment (10c) = 30c.



Underpaid 10c non-local letter. Postage due = double prepaid rate (20c) minus prepayment (5c) = 15c. Addressee unknown, due stamps annulled (*ungültig*), letter returned, and postage due collected from sender.



Postage Due

Swiss stamps used in German Empire with "0" validity.

Prepaid rate 20 pfennig/15gr. Deficiency 20pf = 25c gold

= 25c Swiss. Postage due = double missing amount = 50c.



Prepaid 2c printed matter. Written message required 5c for postcard. **Over-sized card**, 150 x 95mm vs 140 x 90mm, charged 10c for non-local letter.

Postage due = double prepaid rate (20c) minus prepayment (2c) = 18c.



Postage Due

Forwarded 20c/10-250gr non-local letter **charged amount equal to original pre-paid rate** because it was deposited in a mailbox (*boîte*). Up to Sept. 1, 1876, read-dressed letters were assessed postage due if they were mailed the second time at a post office counter or in a mailbox, but not if they were handed back to a postman.



Rare example of special 3c instead of 5c rate for returned 50-250gr printed matter, collected from original sender as postage due. Unrequested printed matters for sale or subscription, which publishers mailed to potential customers for inspection, qualified for lower rates if recipients returned them within a specified number of days. These special rates were in effect during Jan. 1, 1874-Oct. 31, 1884.



Redirected Letters

Third Country Destination

From France to Switzerland, then **redirected to Alsace-Lorraine**, postally part of German Empire from Oct.20,1870. Reduced Swiss-German border zone (*Rayon Limitrophe*) rate of 10c/15gr instead of 25c for towns not over 52½km apart, Sept.1,1868-June 30,1875.



From England to Switzerland, then **redirected to Hamburg** as 25c/15gr letter to German States, rate of Sept.1,1868-June 30,1875.



Redirected Letters

From Switzerland to German States as 10c/15gr letter x 3 zones (1 Swiss, 2 German-Austrian Postal Union), rate of Oct. 15, 1852-Aug. 31, 1868. Redirected within German States with Wurttemberg stamp.



From German States to Switzerland as 3kr letter x 3 zones (2 German-Austrian Postal Union, 1 Swiss) with 3kr (10c) due Switzerland. Redirected within Switzerland as 10c/10gr non-local letter.



Redirected Postal Cards

Third-Country Destination

From Belgium to Switzerland, then **redirected from Switzerland to German Empire** as 10c international postal card.



From Hungary to Switzerland, then **redirected from Switzerland to German Empire** as 10c international postal card.



Redirected / Forwarded Letters

From Switzerland to the United States as 80c/15gr letter by direct exchange via France during **temporary Aug.1-18,1870 rate increase** from 50c via Belgium, due to German invasion of Alsace, which blocked usual route via Belgium during Franco-German War. **Redirected within United States.**



From Switzerland to border of Egypt (Alexandria) as 50c/15gr letter via Austrian-Hungarian Empire, rate of Sept. 1, 1868-June 30, 1875. **Forwarded with Egyptian postage** from border to Cairo. **Only four such mixed frankings are recorded** with Sitting Helvetia stamps.



Foreign Destinations

Europe

10c/15gr letter to **Austrian Empire** x 5 zones (2 Swiss, 3 German-Austrian Postal Union) = 50c postage plus 20c registration fee. Rates of Nov.1,1852-Aug.31,1868. **Rare destination:** Brood, Croatian-Slavonian Military Frontier (in present-day Croatia).



10c/15gr letter to **German Empire** border zone. Reduced postage instead of 25c for letter going between towns within 30km of each other, rate of July 1,1875-Sept.30,1907; plus full registration fee of 25c, rate of Apr.1,1879-Dec.31,1920.



Foreign Destinations

Europe

50c/15gr letter to **Great Britain** by direct exchange via France during temporary Aug.1-18,1870, rate increase from 30c via Belgium, due to German invasion of Alsace-Lorraine, which blocked usual route via Belgium during Franco-German War.



40c/7½gr x 6 letter to **France**, rate of Aug.15,1859-Sept.30,1865.



Foreign Destinations

Europe

Only recorded Sitting Helvetia franking on official telegram form. 30c/10gr letter to Italy with 30c registration fee, rates of July 1, 1862-June 30, 1875. Telegram wired from Basel Aug. 13, 1863, to Magadino at end of Swiss line, then forwarded in writing Aug. 14 to destination, arriving same day (backstamp).



35c/10gr x 3 letter to border of Papal States via direct exchange, 20 centesimi x 3 due at destination, rate of July 1, 1862-Dec. 31, 1870. Initially franked for only 30c x 3 rate to Italy. Returned to sender for "another 15" the next day.



Foreign Destinations

Europe

Overpaid 8c/40gr **printed matter** (in homemade wrapper) to **The Netherlands** via direct exchange. Rate of Sept.1,1868-June 30,1875.



40c/15gr letter to **Denmark** via North German Postal Union. Rate during Sept.1,1868-June 30,1875. German share 28c.



Foreign Destinations

Europe: Scandinavia

45c/15gr letter to **Sweden** via German Empire, rate during Apr.1,1871-June 30,1875. German share 35c. Dwarf postmark without year (1872).



50c/15gr letter to **Norway** via German Empire, rate of July 15,1869-Jan.15,1873. 10c added day later for postage shortage. German share 40c. No more than 10 Sitting Helvetia covers recorded to Norway before UPU.



Foreign Destinations

Europe: Scandinavia

Unique 30c imprinted stamp inside out due to envelope paper folding error. Only other recorded folding error on 10c domestic envelope. 50c/15gr letter to **Finland** (part of Russia) via German Postal Union over Austria, rate of July 26, 1872-Mar. 24, 1874. Russian share 25c or 1½sgr. No more than 10 Sitting Helvetia covers recorded to Finland before UPU.



Foreign Destinations

Europe: Russia

65c/15gr letter to **Poland** from 1st Swiss zone via German Postal Union, rate during Jan.10,1867-Aug.31,1868. Postage shares: Swiss 10c, German 9kr (30c) and Russian 7 kr (25c). No more than 10 Sitting Helvetia covers recorded to Poland before UPU.



75c/15gr letter to **Russia** from 2nd Swiss zone via German Postal Union, rate during Jan.10,1867-Aug.31,1868. Postage shares: Swiss 20c, German 9kr (30c), Russian 7kr (25c).



Foreign Destinations

Europe: Iberia

80c/7½gr x 2 letter to **Spain** via direct exchange, rate Sept.1,1864-Jan.31,1866



70c/7½gr letter to **Portugal** via France, rate of Nov.1,1866-Aug.11,1872. Two color varieties of 10c used together. No more than five Sitting Helvetia covers recorded to Portugal before UPU.



Foreign Destinations

Europe

65c/15gr letter to **Greece** via Austria. Rate of Sept.1,1868-June 30,1875. Austria's share 53c. Pair of vertical disinfection slits.



40c/15gr letter to **Moldavia**, Danubian Principalities, via Austria, with 25c registration fee. Rates during Sept.1,1868-Mar.31,1871. Austrian share 4kr (orange crayon ms).



Foreign Destinations

Europe: Mediterranean

60c/7½gr letter to **Rhodes** via France, with Smyrna backstamp. Rate Oct.1.1865-Dec.31,1875. **Only cover documented to Rhodes before 1882** (Schäfer: none recorded).



55c/15gr letter to **Malta** via Italy. Rate during Aug.1,1871-June 30,1875. Italy's share 40c. No more than five covers recorded to Malta before UPU.



Foreign Destinations

Middle East

Overpaid 50c/15gr x 2 letter to **Asiatic Turkey** via Austria (Triest backstamp), rate of Sept. 1, 1868-June 30, 1875. Austria's share 40c x 2. Pre-paid at 75c/15gr x 2 rate via Italy in effect July 1, 1871-June 30, 1875.



50c/15gr letter to **Asiatic Turkey** via Austrian post offices in Vienna, Constantinople and Smyrna (backstamps), rate of Sept. 1, 1868-June 30, 1875. Austria's share 40c.



Foreign Destinations

Middle East

85c/15gr letter to **Arabia** via Italy, rate during Feb.28,1871-June 30,1875.
Italy's share 70c. No more than five covers recorded to Arabia before UPU.



Overpaid 65c/15gr letter to **Lower Egypt** (beyond Alexandria) via Italy (Italian railway backstamp), rate of Jan.16,1873-June 30,1875. Italy's share 50c.
Prepaid at 75c/15gr rate via Austria in effect during Oct.19,1868-June 30,1875.



Foreign Destinations

Africa

90c/7½gr letter to **Senegal** via France, rate of July 1, 1862-Sept. 30, 1865. Mistakenly overpaid 5c for previous 95c/7½gr rate of July 1, 1859-June 30, 1862. No more than five Sitting Helvetia covers recorded to Senegal before UPU.



40c/15gr letter to **Liberia**, rate of Apr. 1, 1879-May 31, 1883, to UPU overseas members. No more than 10 Sitting Helvetia covers recorded to Liberia after UPU and none before.



Foreign Destinations

Africa

150c/15gr letter to ship at Cape of Good Hope via Great Britain,
rate of Jan.1,1869-June 30,1875. Local delivery charge of 1 penny.
No more than five covers recorded to Cape Colony before UPU.



135c/15gr letter to Zanzibar via France, rate from Jan.1,1876, when France joined
UPU, to June 30,1876, after which French post office in Zanzibar became part of
UPU. French share 110c. No more than 10 covers recorded to Zanzibar before UPU.



Foreign Destinations

Overseas: Asia

85c/15gr letter to **British India** via Italy, Feb.28,1871-June 30,1875. Italy's share 70c.



Underpaid 100c/7½gr x 2 letter to **Singapore** via France, rate of Oct.1,1865-Dec.31,1875. Treated as unpaid at Marseille, which selected more expensive French instead of British boat, then applied scarce 3fr42c accountancy mark (six recorded). Postage due 100c/7½gr = 200c = 1sh8d = 40 cents Straits Settlements coinage.



Foreign Destinations

Overseas: Asia

15c/40gr printed matter to Singapore via France. Rate of Jan.1,1876-Mar.31,1877, after which Singapore joined UPU. France's share 10c.



100c/7½gr x 3 letter to Philippines border via France. Rate of Oct.1,1865-Dec.31,1875. Postage due 4 reales. No more than 10 Sitting Helvetia covers recorded to Philippines pre-UPU.



Foreign Destinations

Overseas: Asia

Only cover recorded to Cochin China before 1882. 5c/50gr x 3 printed matter to French Cochin China via France. Rate from July 1, 1876 (when Cochin China joined UPU) to Jan. 31, 1921. Reduced large homemade wrapper.



Foreign Destinations

Overseas: Asia

90c/7½gr letter to **British Hong Kong** (China) via France, rate during July 1, 1862-Sept.30,1865. No more than 10 covers recorded to Hong Kong before UPU.



115c/15gr letter to **Japan's** port of entry via Austria, rate of Sept.1,1868-March.31,1871. Burglen thimble postmark.



Foreign Destinations

Overseas: Australasia

115c/15gr letter to **Victoria entry port** (Australia) via Austria, rate of Sept.1,1868-Feb.9,1875. Austria's share 103c. Probable internal delivery charge 25d. Destination: Ballarat was gold-mining town settled in 1850s. No more than 10 Sitting Helvetia covers recorded to Australia before UPU.



75c/15gr letter to **New Zealand** via Italy (Brindisi transit mark on back). Italy's share 50c. Rate of July 1,1875-Sept.30,1891, after which New Zealand joined UPU. No more than five covers recorded to New Zealand after start of UPU, two before.



Foreign Destinations

Overseas: North America

Overpaid 100c/7½gr x 2 letter to **British North America** (Canada) via France, rate of Oct.1,1865-Dec.31,1875. Prepaid at 110c x 2 rate to United States port of entry during same period. No more than 10 Sitting Helvetia covers recorded to Canada before UPU.



170c/15gr x 2 letter from 1st Swiss zone to **United States** via Prussian closed mail (rare), and 20c registration fee, rates during Nov.26,1859-July 16,1868. Because letter was underpaid for closed mail via Cologne and Ostende (see upper left notation), the bottom right-hand 50c stamp was apparently added.



Foreign Destinations

Overseas: Caribbean

Only cover recorded to Jamaica before 1882. 40c/15gr letter.
Rate of Apr.1,1879-May 31,1883, to UPU overseas members.



Foreign Destinations

Overseas: Caribbean

50c/15gr letter to **Haiti** via Hamburg, German Empire. Rate of Feb.10,1875-June 30,1881, after which Haiti joined UPU.



150c/15gr letter to **New Granada (Colombia)** border via Great Britain. Rate of Jan.1,1869-June 30,1875. No more than five covers recorded to Colombia before UPU.



Foreign Destinations

Overseas: South America

110c/7½gr x 2 letter to **Brazil** via France. Rate during Oct.1,1865-Dec.31,1875. Four-color combination franking.



100c/7½gr x 2 to **Argentina** border via France. Rate of Oct.1,1865-Dec.31,1875. Pair of red-brown ink lfes.



Foreign Destinations

Overseas: South America

130c/7½gr x 2 letter to **Chile** port of entry via France and Panama.
Rate during July 1, 1862-Dec. 31, 1875. Internal postage due 25 centavos.
No more than five Sitting Helvetia covers recorded to Chile before UPU.



100c/15gr letter to **Uruguay** via France. Rate during July 1, 1876-July 31, 1881. (Uruguay joined UPU July 1, 1880.) Internal postage due of 10 centesimos. Uncommon use of 1fr on postal stationery.

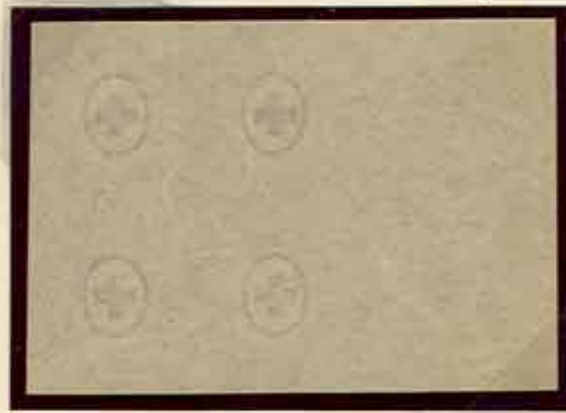


Third Group: 2C

Granite Paper

1881 group of nine denominations, issued on "**granite**" paper (blue and red silk security fibers) intended for delayed Cross & Numeral and Standing Helvetia stamps (Apr. 1, 1882), printed in quantities ranging from 60 million (10c) down to 1.3 million (1fr), and distributed mid-June to mid-October based on earliest documented uses. Short period of validity until Sept. 30, 1883, led to many fewer genuinely used examples; and never-repeated public sale of remainders at reduced prices led to back-dated and fake postmarks.

Control Mark Proof on Granite Paper



Color Varieties / Single Franking

EDU July 3, 1881

From left: pale yellow-olive, light olive-brown, dull olive.



Pale yellow-olive on 2c/50gr domestic printed matter. Rate of Oct. 1, 1872-Jan. 31, 1915.



Third Group: 5C

Color Varieties / Single Franking

EDU July 23, 1881.

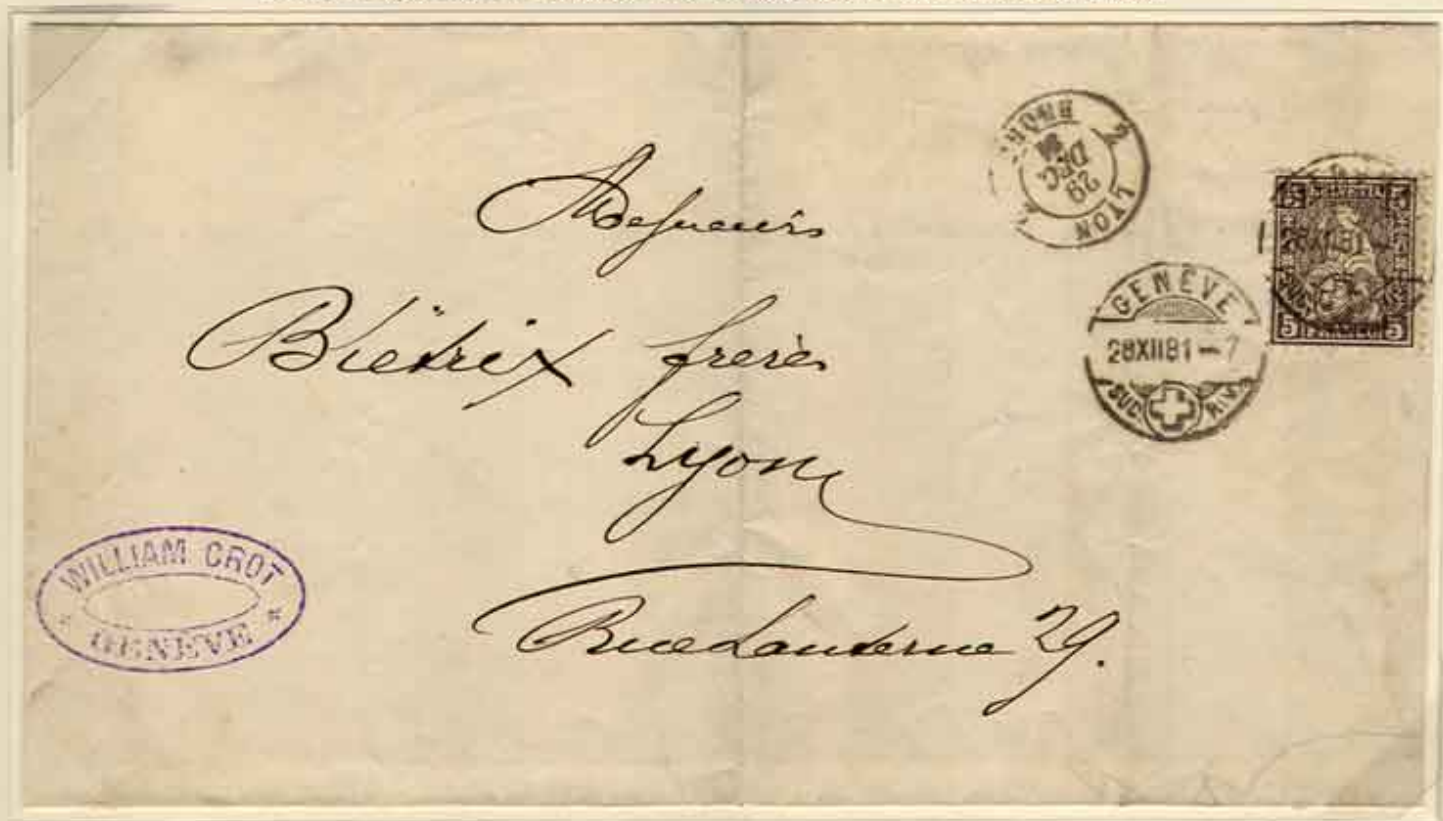
From left: gray-brown, lilac-brown, light brown, dark brown, black-brown.



From left: gray-brown, lilac-brown, light brown, dark brown, black-brown.



Dark brown on 5c/50gr **printed matter to France**. Rate of July 1, 1875-
Dec. 31, 1920, to UPU European members; effective for France Jan. 1, 1876.



Third Group: 10C

Color Varieties / Single Franking

EDU June 22, 1881

Aniline rose and aniline red.



From left: aniline rose, aniline red, deep aniline red.



Two single frankings with different papers on 10c/15gr non-local letter mailed twice in Langnau to Flühli (Flühli), first as bill Nov. 5, 1881, with **granite paper** stamp (right, aniline red), second as payment receipt Dec. 10 with earlier **white paper** stamp (left, dark aniline red).



Third Group: 15C

Color Varieties / Single Franking

EDU Sept.1,1881.

Deep yellow and pale yellow.



Deep yellow and pale yellow.



Deep yellow on 5c domestic postcard, with 10c fee to collect
1fr40c for 1881 contribution to local vineyard association.



Third Group: 20C

Color Varieties / Single Franking

EDU Oct.11,1881.

Orange and deep orange.



Orange and deep orange.



Orange on 10c/15gr non-local letter, with 10c fee to collect 63c.



Third Group: 25C

Color Varieties / Single Franking

EDU Oct.18,1881.

From left: green, dark green, yellowish-green.



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



Yellow-green on 5c domestic postcard, with 20c fee to collect 15fr20c.



Third Group: 40C

Color Varieties / Single Franking

EDU Sept. 12, 1881.

From left: dark gray, gray, pale gray.



Dark gray (large ink spot and "GB" perfins) and gray.



Dark gray on 10c/15gr non-local letter with 30c fee
to collect 22fr80c. Scarcest Sitting Helvetia on cover.



Third Group: 50C

Color Varieties / Single Franking

EDU Oct.1,1881.

Dark lilac and reddish lilac.



Lilac and reddish lilac.



Lilac on 25c/15gr letter to German Empire, rate of July 1,1875-Sept.30,1907,
to UPU European members; 25c registration fee, rate of Apr.1,1879-Dec.31,1920.



Third Group: 1FR

Color Varieties / Single Franking

EDU Sept.20,1881.

Gold only color produced.



1fr for ordinary (not bulky or irregular) parcel up to 5kg to German or Austrian-Hungarian Empire, on address card for 2kg parcel from Geneva to Biebrich near Wiesbaden, Hesse. Rate of Apr.1,1879-Sept.30,1887.

165 aus Basel

Genève, Postoffice. Office de distribution

Genève, A

Begleit

BULLETIN D'EXPEDITION

zu
cont.

Werth
Valeur

Nachnahme
Remboursement

An

Verwender. Expéditeur.

Genève

4474

GENÈVE, A

N° 1845.

Handwritten text: *Melle Fanny Poul fiancée M. Dr. Baron de Balthus Piffallu Villa Maria H. H. Mosbach Biebrich near Wiesbaden Allemagne*

Third Group

Used Blocks

Block of 12, Geneva, Dec.26,1881.



Four blocks of four on back of partial address card
for parcel from Chiasso to Liège, Belgium, Dec.29,1881.



Third Group

Production Varieties

Misplaced perforations on half pane caused by folded selvage. **Official envelope** for delivery of 40c stamps (10 half panes of 50) to post offices. Blue postmark of Postal Department's Stamp Control Office on back.



Third Group

Production Varieties

Halved control mark on 20c.



Left: pre-print paper crease. Right: double perforations between stamps.



Left: preprint paper creases. Center: large granite thread. Right: double perforations on left side and along bottom.



Paper patched before printing.



Third Group

Production Varieties

Cliché Reentries

All over on left stamp with second entry inverted.



Left: only lower left "5" and "Franco" with second entry inverted. Right: all over with second entry inverted.



Reentry on only lower left "5" and "Franco" with second inverted.
Local letter with 5c/15gr postage, rate of Sept. 1, 1871-Nov. 30, 1891.



Third Group

Cancellations

Straight-line postmarks with sans-serif lettering.



Dwarfs (19-20mm size) without year dates, still used at this time by only about 30 small postal depots not yet having received normal postmarks.



Dwarf postmark used as cancellation in 1882 on 10c/15gr non-local letter, with 20c registration fee.



Third Group

Multiple use: 10c/15gr non-local letter postage and 20c registration fee.



Multiple use: block of six for 20c/15-250gr non-local letter postage and 10c fee to collect 6fr70c.



Third Group

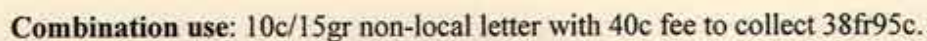
Multiple use: single and pair on 20c/15-250gr non-local letter; 40c fee to collect 30fr55c.



Combination use: 25c/15gr letter to United States. Rare use of sheet margin stamps.



Combination use: 20c/15-250gr non-local letter with 20c registration fee. Business firm's private blue "Chargée" registration mark.



Third Group

Combination use: 40c/15gr letter to UPU overseas member. Rate of Apr.1,1879-May 31,1883. Backstamps: Naples Mar.5,1882, and Yokohama Apr.1-,1882.



Combination use: 15c/501-1,000gr printed matter postage, rate of Sept.1,1876-Oct.31,1884; and 30c fee to collect 30fr.



Third Group

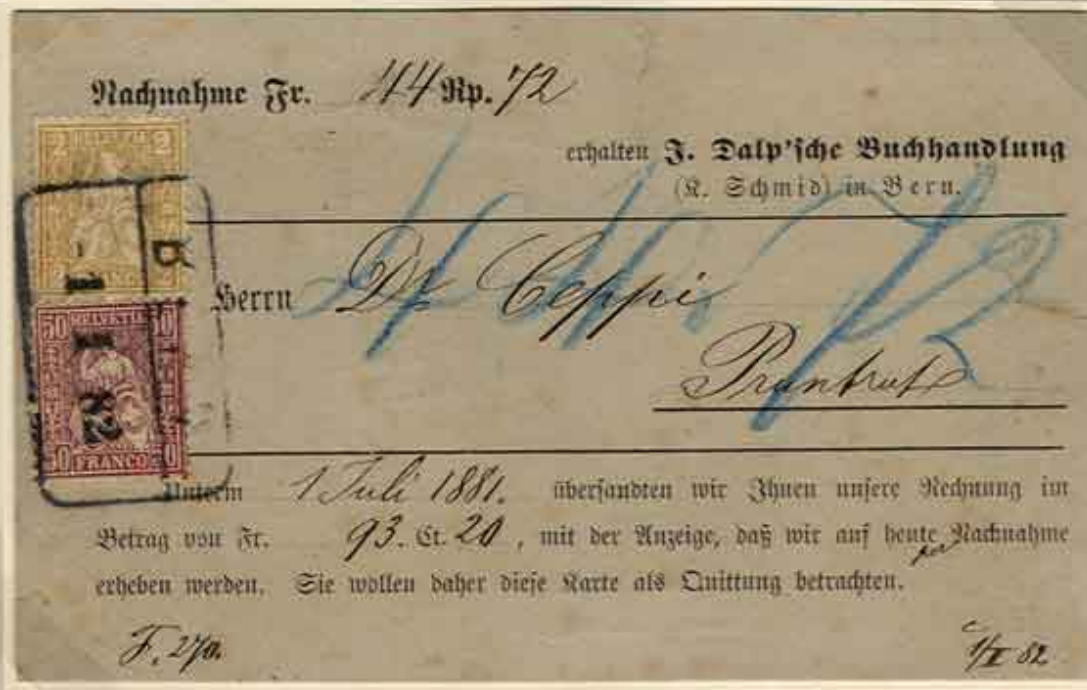
Combination use: 1fr postage for ordinary parcel to German Empire and 30c minimum fee to collect 3fr90c. No German fee to collect up to 100fr. Printed matter in wrapper handled as parcel because it was combined with cash collection service. 25c on white paper.

Combination use: 45c local judicial summons, including 5c/15gr local postage, 20c registration fee and 20c return receipt fee.



Third Group

Combination use: 2c/50gr printed matter postage, 50c fee to collect 44fr72c. Large parcel postmark of Bern, though notice for collection up to 50fr was delivered by letter (foot) post.



Combination use: 40c/up to 5kg/more than 25km for parcel postage and 75c insurance fee for 5,500fr declared value. Rates of Sept.1,1876-Oct.31,1884.



Third Group

Combination use: 130c/5-10kg/200-250km Swiss parcel postage and 10c minimum fee to collect 5fr. **Austria** added 100c postage, recipient there refused to pay, combination parcel address card/collection notice returned. Pinholes show how card was attached to parcel.



Combination use: 20c/up to 25km for parcel postage and 70c fee to collect 61fr25c, in this case even for local delivery (*hier*) within Brigue. 40c is scarcest Sitting Helvetia on cover.



Ausser Kurs

The Post Office Department used typographed "Ausser Kurs" (Out of Currency) overprints to demonetize Sitting Helvetia stamps that the public exchanged for the new Cross & Numeral/ Standing Helvetia issue from Oct. 1, 1883, to June 30, 1887. After this period, the department sold Sitting Helvetia remainders without overprints for less than face values to collectors.

White Paper

Type I black overprint. Only these three values recorded.



Type II black overprint. Only these six values recorded.



Double Overprint



Inverted Overprint



Ausser Kurs

Granite Paper

Type I black overprint. Only these seven values recorded.



Type II black overprint. All nine recorded values.



Ausser Kurs

Invalid Uses

Obsolete stamp marked annulled (*ungültig*) in ink. Rejected on 5c/15gr local letter. Postage due formula: double prepaid rate.

Invalid stamp with "0" value. Rejected on 20c/250gr non-local domestic letter to Liechtenstein, which became part of Swiss postal administration on Feb. 1, 1921. Because of stamp shortages in Liechtenstein, Swiss postage due stamps were used there during Feb. 1, 1921-Apr. 11, 1928. Postage due formula: double prepaid rate.

