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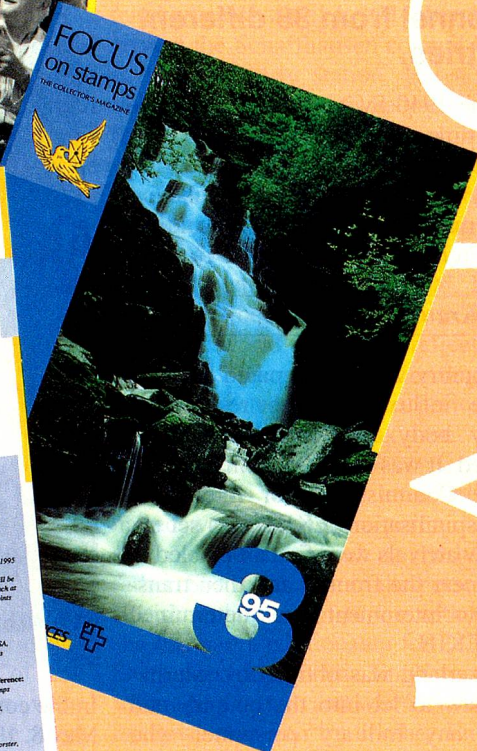
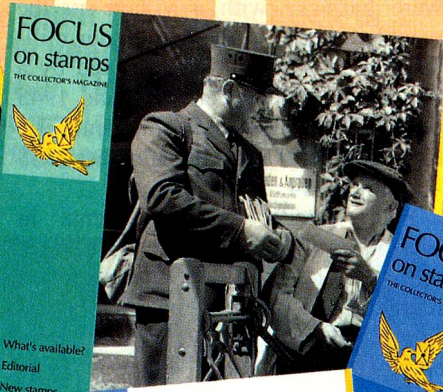
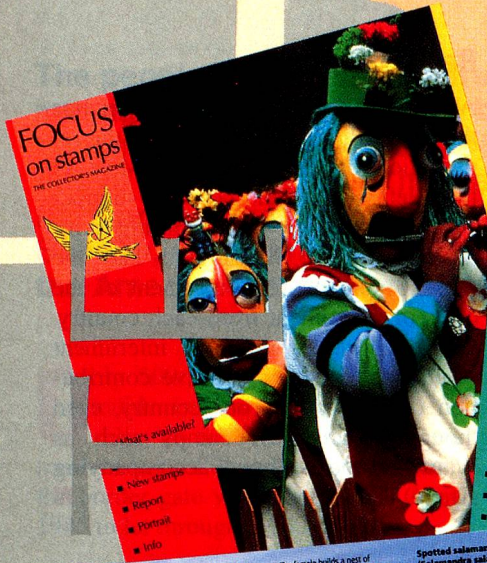
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FOCUS ON STAMPS

THE COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE



NEW 1995 PRO JUVENUTE STAMPS

(Salmo trutta trutta)
Since the last century, several out of fifty fish species have become extinct in Switzerland, including the sea trout, the "parent" of our river trout. It was not just the man-made changes, such as the damming of rivers, but also the pollution of the water that led to the disappearance of this fish with a...

The female builds a nest of moss and grass, just above ground level, and preferably by streams with gravel banks; especially suitable sites are often "baked up" for years. From April to June, she usually lays five finely speckled cream-colored eggs providing daytime temperatures are higher than 10°C. The eggs hatch after 14 days, and the chicks are mainly fed by the female. After another 12 days, they leave the nest and build parents' territory.

Spotted salamander (Salamandra atra)

The spotted salamander was first described in 1758 as the lacerta salamandrina, or salamandrina lizard. However, salamanders are amphibians. They have a round tail and a moist, shiny skin with yellow spots on a black ground. They grow to a length of 50 centimeters, weigh up to 50 grams and live to the amazing age of 50! The spotted salamander is still found fairly frequently in mixed deciduous woodlands in Ticino and the...

During the April mating season, the female takes in a sperm case from the male, and the 50 larvae get into her body for one year before being released the following spring in streams as water-dwellers equipped with gills. Depending on the water temperature, the spotted salamanders develop lungs and transfer to land after two to ten months. They usually spend the winter in the same safe place year after year, in deep, moist holes in the ground and in caves.

Christmas issue

For the Christmas stamp, the artist chose an angel motif inspired by the picture "The Annunciation" by the Spanish Baroque painter Bartolomé...

1880.
The river trout's characteristic features are the red spots in lighter edges on its body and its maximum length of 60 centimetres. It needs clean, oxygen-rich mountain streams and lakes up to an altitude of 2500 metres survive. Shaded by the forest, this fish with a...

The grey wagtail, with its strong, long legs, often retreats to the same territory year after year – provided its habitat has not been destroyed.

Throughout the day, it hides under cool stones or drinking troughs, becoming active at night, especially during warm, "bandy" showers, when it eats its fill of worms and snails. The salamander protects itself against enemies with its poisonous skin secretion.



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Design: Chantal André Forster, Scherzikon

...contains news, details of new issues, feature articles, portraits and background stories covering the fascinating world of Swiss stamps. The main theme in each issue – such as «Centenary of the Cinema», «On the Basle Fasnacht», «Life in and around Water» – is linked to a stamp subject, thus providing topical information about Switzerland. «FOCUS ON STAMPS» is published four to five times a year.

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