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# The Swiss Observer

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FRIDAY, 9th MAY 1969

## A "BASLER DYBLI" FOR £2,100

Early in April, an envelope was auctioned at Harmer's, the well-known London stamp dealer. It dated back to 1845 and carried the rare Basle local postal stamp, a "Basler Dybli". In the Zumstein catalogue, the stamp's value is given as 6,500 francs, and a specially well-preserved specimen could possibly realise up to 8,000 francs. This particular stamp on an envelope sent

the auctioneers' catalogue at only £750, was finally sold at £2,100. One other interested party had bid valiantly up to £2,000, but gave in in the face of the determined bidding by young Paravicini. His father was well pleased that the beautiful stamp, a real heirloom, would now remain in the family's possession for yet another generation.

HRB.



*We are obliged to Messrs. H. R. Harmer Ltd., 41 New Bond Street, W.1, for the loan of this block.*

from Muehlhausen and addressed to "Herrn Bachofen-Merian, Basel" was finally auctioned in London for £2,100.

The envelope has an interesting history. The valuable piece was kept with private correspondence by the well-known Basle family Bachofen and found its way to London to none other than the late Monsieur Paravicini, Swiss Minister at the Court of St. James's for many years. His son Vincent is a dual national and served in the British Army as Colonel. One of his two sons had received the envelope with the coveted stamp from his grandparents, but he wanted to sell it to his brother. In order to prevent any dispute among the brothers about the high value of the stamp, Colonel Paravicini had it auctioned at Harmer's. The auction at which other rare European and overseas stamps were sold, created quite a stir, especially when the Swiss stamp which had been listed in

### COST OF A HEART TRANSPLANT

According to the Swiss "Medical Information" journal, the cost of a heart transplant operation is approximately 25,000 to 30,000 Swiss francs, provided there are no complications. Patient, insurance, hospital and State share in the cost, the latter by way of covering the hospitals' deficits out of tax money.

The Swiss heart transplant patient is doing extremely well, and his progress is as after any other major operation. In the meantime, questions have been asked in the Cantonal Parliament regarding the legal basis for the operation. Investigations into the fatal accident of the donor, private detective Gautschi, are going on. Foul play is suspected.

(A.T.S.)

### MORE VISITORS AND GOOD BUSINESS

#### 53rd Swiss Industries Fair

With 1,050,000 people passing through the turnstiles, the 53rd Swiss Industries Fair in Basle recorded the second highest number of visitors since the jubilee year 1966. There were 2,573 exhibitors whose displays were partly intended for trade visitors and partly for the wide range of visitors interested in the general run of consumer goods. The greatest all-round interest was aroused, but it did not fail to strike the attentive visitor that competition was extremely keen. Orders actually placed, and other sales negotiations which promise good follow-up business after the Fair are extremely satisfactory.

Those exhibitor groups that were mainly interested in export business, headed by the watchmaking and textile groups, enjoyed an extraordinarily large number of visitors from abroad who came from every part of the globe and from altogether 129 countries.

The exhibitor groups mainly devoted to the home market were able to record benefits from the fact that some changes had been made in the various stand locations and this brought a new layout of numerous special displays which attracted additional large numbers of visitors. Full use was made of all the advantages deriving from a comprehensive display of the size and importance of the Swiss Industries Fair where they did not fail to be fully appreciated by exhibitors and visitors alike.

The Fair, as tradition has it, affords opportunities for social events. On the Official Day, Federal Councillor von Moos and the Leaders of the two Federal Chambers, as well as many personalities from politics, Army, cultural and scientific circles, from trade and industry, took part in a number of social events. At the Municipal Theatre, Mozart's "Entführung aus dem Serail" was given in special performance to illustrious guests.

The 53rd Fair may be called an unqualified success, even though there had been doubts as to its role of importance.

The 54th Swiss Industries Fair will take place from 11th to 21st April 1970.