

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK
Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom
Band: - (1984)
Heft: 1814

Artikel: Spotlight on stamps
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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-688655>

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Spotlight on stamps

Philatelic first

SWITZERLAND is to stage a national stamp exhibition from June 22 to July 1 – the first here for six years. The exhibition, NABA ZURI 84, is to be held at the Züsba Halls in Zurich-Oerlikon.

A colourful highlight of the event will be a postal parade through Zurich on June 24 tracing the history of Switzerland's postal services from the 13th century to the present day.

Some 2,000 people will be participating in the 2km parade, including members of Switzerland's 141 philatelic societies and representatives of the Swiss PTT and foreign postal administrations.

To commemorate NABA ZURI 84, the Swiss PTT has issued a special miniature sheet of stamps. The sheet – the first of its kind to be issued in this country – depicts a panoramic view of Zurich, spread over four 50-cent stamps.

The stamps can be detached and used separately, but are not purchasable individually.



NABA ZURI '84 – showing a panoramic view of Zurich

The Swiss Post Office in May issued 10 new postage stamps – the annual Pro Patria and Europa series, and a philatelic first to mark this month's Swiss National Stamp Exhibition in Zurich. **Colin Farmer**, collector and **Swiss Observer** contributor, has the stories behind the stamps.

For the homeland



THE four 'Pro Patria' stamps just issued are the latest in the popular annual series of special stamps introduced by the Swiss PTT in 1938.

Pro Patria means 'For the homeland' and the stamps always carry a small surcharge in aid of Swiss charities.

Some of the earliest Pro Patria stamps are now very exclusive items, much sought-after by stamp dealers and collectors.

This year's Pro Patria stamps carry a small surcharge in support of Swiss cultural and social activities, and Swiss citizens living abroad.

The four stamps feature 16th to 18th century household exhibits from Swiss museums in Zurich, Näfels, Bulle and Geneva.

Bridge of solidarity



TWENTY five years ago this summer representatives of European countries met at the Swiss lakeside resort of Montreux to work out a plan for increased cooperation in postal and telecommunications matters.

The result of that meeting was the setting up of CEPT – the European Conference of Postal Administrations. The Swiss PTT, along with other postal authorities in Europe, has just issued a two-value set of stamps to commemorate the silver jubilee of CEPT.

Member-countries have chosen a common subject for the stamps – a bridge symbolising solidarity.

The founding of CEPT was linked originally to a plan drawn up by the postal administrations of the European Common Market countries.

But this brought protests from other European nations, who insisted that any move towards increased cooperation in the postal and telecommunications should also include non-member nations.

These include all the Common Market countries; also mini states like the Vatican, Monaco, Liechtenstein and San Marino; Mediterranean countries like Cyprus, Turkey and Malta; and even Yugoslavia, the only East European member.

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