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PADDLE STAMPS PARADE '78

Michael Farr



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Thirty years ago the Association of Swiss Philatelic Societies organised a national stamp exhibition, *Lemanex '78*, held at Lausanne over a ten day period.

To mark the occasion PTT issued a most attractive miniature sheet illustrating eight Swiss lake ships. Services operated by SGV on Lake Lucerne were marked with an illustration of *MS Gotthard*, built in the company's workshops and launched in 1970.

With the exhibition held in Lausanne, the significance of services on Lac Léman, where navigation had begun in 1823, was commemorated with stamps illustrating two much older paddle steamers, *La Suisse*, built by Sulzer of Winterthur in 1910 and *Winkelried* built by Escher Wyss of Zürich in 1871, which had been the first Swiss saloon paddle steamer, instantly recognisable due to her twin funnels.

The remaining five stamps show *DS Il Verbano* (*Lago Maggiore*, 1826) whose captain and engine were English, *DS Loetschberg* (*Brienzersee*, 1914), *MS Ville de Neuchâtel* (*Jurasee*, 1972), *MS Romanshorn* (*Bodensee*, 1958) and *DS Waedenswil* (*Zürichsee*, 1895).

Although long withdrawn from post offices, the miniature sheets should still be available from dealers, though sadly at rather more than the Fr. 5 originally charged. Once again I am grateful to SRS member Tony Hoyle for providing the illustration and the descriptive leaflet issued at the time.