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# SWISS RAILWAYS CENTENARY STAMPS

**Michael Farr**

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The Swiss Post Office marked the centenary of their country's railways in 1947 by issuing not one but two sets of stamps. The first series was used as a charity issue in support of Pro Patria, the lowest value (5c + 5c for charity) featuring track workers, while the other three stamps (10c + 10c, 20c + 10c and 30c + 10c) showed three stations, Rorschach on the Bodensee, Lüen-Castiel, on the RhB Arosa line and Flüelen on the Gotthard line. This is where passengers taking the Wilhelm Tell excursion from Lucerne to Lugano or Locarno now change from SGV ship to the train.

The second set, issued on 9th August 1947, sold at 5, 10, 20 and 30c, illustrated locomotives or trains. The lowest value showed the familiar Spanisch-Brötli-Bahn, the 10c a C 5/6 steam locomotive from the Gotthard line and the 20c the Landi locomotive. The highest value stamp, at 30c, showed two electrically-hauled trains crossing a bridge which the artist based on Bern's Lorraine viaduct. These were common value stamps at the time and millions were produced and many philatelists will have them in their collections.

*Editor's note: Michael prepared this item for us in 2007 (the 150th anniversary of Swiss railways) but pressure on space left it as an orphan in the magazine library. Sorry.*