

6040

CHE

SWITZERLAND

1

Local governments issued postage stamps, starting with the Canton Of Zurich in 1843 (the world's second governmental postage stamp), and followed by Geneva (1843) and Basel (1845).

In 1848, Switzerland adopted a new constitution as a Federal state, and authority for mail delivery transferred from the Cantons to the Federal Government. The federal postal service was founded in 1849. The first federal stamps were released in 1850, and were denominated as Local Mail (2 1/2 rappen), and Rayon (zones) I, II, III at 5, 10, 15 Rappen respectively, based on distance traveled. Cantonal stamps remained equally valid for local delivery until 1854, when the national Sitting Helvetia series of stamps were released.



Switzerland

Switzerland Independent
1850 – Present
#8, First issues

6040

CHE-C

SWITZERLAND, EARLY LOCAL POSTS

6

On March 1, 1843, the city of Zurich became the second government in the world to issue pre-paid postage stamps, following on the success in Great Britain of the Penny Black. The 4 Rappen stamp was inscribed Local-Taxe for delivery within the city and the 6 Rappen inscribed Cantonal-Taxe for delivery outside the city. In September 1843, Geneva followed suit with two stamps for local and cantonal delivery. The Basel Dove issue of 1845 is one of the rarest local stamps in classic philately.

Following the creation of the Federal postal system, some cantonal administrations continued to print their own stamps for local delivery, until the practice was suppressed in 1854. Zumstein treats each of these as separate local post authorities, but Scott lumps them in with Geneva and Zurich somewhat inexplicably. They are the "Geneva" stamps intended for use in the city of Neuchâtel and the canton of Vaud and the final "Zürich" stamp that was used locally in Winterthur. I am slowly working at acquiring originals.



Basel

Switzerland Local
1845 –
reprint



Geneva

Switzerland Local
1843 – 1848
reprint



Neuchâtel

Switzerland Local
1851 –
reprint



Vaud

Switzerland Local
1849 – 1850
2L6, genuine



Winterthur

Switzerland Local
1850 –
reprint



Zurich

Switzerland Local
1843 – 1846
1L4, genuine

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CHE-F

SWITZERLAND, OFFICIALS

War Board of Trade = Industrielle Kriegswirtschaft



Switz: Industrielle
Kriegswirtschaft

Switzerland Official
1918 –



Switzerland, Official

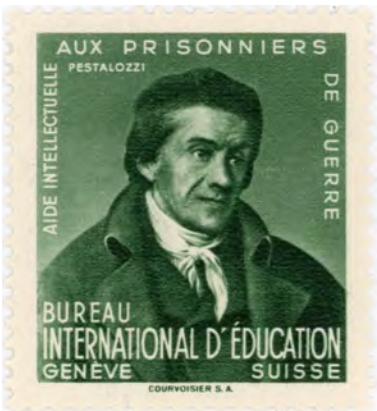
Switzerland Official
1938 – 1942

6040

CHE-G

SWITZERLAND, OFFICIALS - INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES

9



Switz: Intl Bureau of Education

Intl Agency
1944 – 1960



Switz: Intl Bureau of the U.P.
U.

Intl Agency
1957 – Present



Switz: Intl Labor Bureau

Intl Agency
1923 – Present



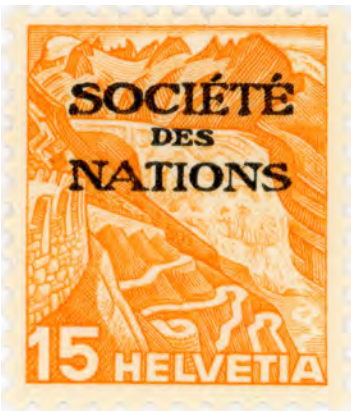
Switz: Intl Organization for
Refugees

Intl Agency
1950 – 1950



Switz: Intl Telecommunication
Union

Intl Agency
1958 – Present



Switz: League of Nations

Intl Agency
1922 – 1941



Switz: World Health
Organization

Intl Agency
1948 – Present



Switz: World Intellectual
Property Org.

Intl Agency
1982 – 1985



Switz: World Meteorological
Org.

Intl Agency
1956 – 1973

The Swiss hotel posts harken back to the golden age of Alpine travel, when Swiss mountain hotels catered to tourists newly arriving from Britain and Continental Europe. Stamps were produced by certain tourist hotels for the payment of mail to be carried to and from the hotel to the nearest post office. Mail would require the application of both the hotel post and Swiss stamps for carriage.

The first hotel to print stamps was the Hotel Rigi Kaltbad, on the Rigi mountain outside of Luzern, in 1864. The system was then copied by the nearby Rigi Scheideck, Rigi Kulm, and Rigi-Staffel hotels, as well as hotels at Belalp (Valais), Kurort Stoos (Schwyz), and Maderanerthal (Uri).

The system of hotel posts for tourists gradually became obsolete as rail and postal connections were made directly to the hotels. A new federal regulation in 1883, prohibited hotels from competing with postal authorities where mail service could be provided directly, and prohibited the denomination of hotel stamps with currency, or with other wording suggesting that they were postage stamps. Hotel stamps printed after this time are better defined as promotional labels, as they did not confer postal authority and their use in lieu of stamps was regulated.



Belalp

Switzerland Hotel Post
1873 – 1880
#1



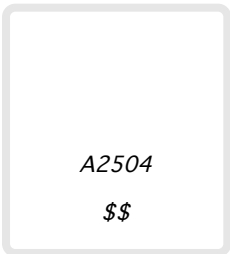
Kurort Stoos

Switzerland Hotel Post
1871 – 1888



Maderanerthal

Switzerland Hotel Post
1870 – 1886



Piora-Tal

Switzerland Hotel Post
1882 – 1887



Rigi-Kaltbad

Switzerland Hotel Post
1864 –



Rigi-Kulm

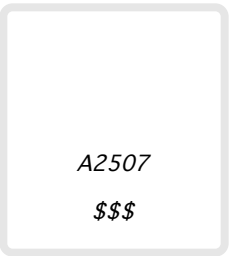
Switzerland Hotel Post
1870 – 1885



Rigi-Scheideck

Switzerland Hotel Post
1868 – 1870

Following the regulations (1883) regulating the use of hotel posts in competition with established postal services, stamps were prohibited from bearing denominations. Some hotels continued to issue "stamps", more properly termed promotional labels to their guests for conveyance of mail to the post office. This was particularly true of hotels in the growing resort of St Moritz, as the train connection was still under construction and not completed until 1909. These hotel labels are covered in the Zumstein Specialized Catalog, but I have yet to find any for sale for less than \$1k.



St. Moritz-Bad, Engadinerhof

Switzerland Hotel Post
1897 – 1899

6040 CHE-N SWITZERLAND, SOLDIER STAMPS WWII

Cataloged by Sulser - looking for a complete list of units and divisions. Will add description later.



ARB: Arbeitsdienst - Work Service

Switzerland Military

-



ARM: 6th Army Championships

Switzerland Military

-



ART: Artillery

Switzerland Military

-



ARTBEO: Artillery Observers

Switzerland Military

-



BAC: Backer - Bakers Unit

Switzerland Military

-



BRI: Brieffaubenzug - Carrier Pigeons

Switzerland Military

-



FEL: Feldpost - Field Post

Switzerland Military

-



FLAB: Flieger - Air Defense

Switzerland Military

-



FLBEO: Flieger - Air Observers

Switzerland Military

-



FLI: Flieger - Aviators

Switzerland Military

-



FREIW: Border Volunteers

Switzerland Military

-



GRE: Grenz - Border Patrol

Switzerland Military

-



INF: Infantry

Switzerland Military

-



KAV: Kavallerie - Cavalry Brigade

Switzerland Military

-



KOM: Kommando - Army Command

Switzerland Military

-



Landst.Inf.Komp - Assault Troops

Switzerland Military

-



LEI: Leichte Trup - Light Brigade

Switzerland Military

-



MIN: Mineur - Mining Battalion

Switzerland Military

-



MOT: Motorized Troops

Switzerland Military

-



PFE: Pferde - Horse Farms

Switzerland Military

-



PON: Pontonier - Bridge Battalion

Switzerland Military

-



RAD: Radfahrer - Cyclists

Switzerland Military

-



SAN: Sanitaet - Medical Units

Switzerland Military

-



SAP: Sappeur

Switzerland Military

-



TEL: Telegraph/Telephone

Switzerland Military

-



TER: Territorial Troops

Switzerland Military



TRA: Transportdienst / Motor Transport

Switzerland Military



UDM: Union des Mobilises

Switzerland Military



VER: Verpflegung - Food

Switzerland Military



VERS: Festung Sargans

Switzerland Military



WW2: Wittwer Nicht Wallenstadt

Switzerland Military

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CHE-R

SWITZERLAND, RAILWAY PARCEL STAMPS



Schweiz Bundesbahnen

Switzerland Railway
1874 - 1957

6040

CHE-T

SWITZERLAND, TELEGRAPHS



Switzerland, Telegraphs

Switzerland Telegraph
1868 - 1881

6040 CHE-X SWITZERLAND MODERN LOCAL POSTS

2

Swiss parliament eased the monopoly on letters in 2009. The first private company to issue postage stamps in response was Quickmail Planzer AG in Sankt Gallen, from May 2011, which is still operating in 2025.

AWZ was a direct mail service that produced a sheet of 2 stamps depicting the Bern bears. It was purchased by Swiss Post in 2012.



AWZ, Bern

Quickmail, St. Gallen

Local, misc.
2011 – 2012

Local, misc.
2011 – Present

6050 LIE LIECHTENSTEIN

3

Liechtenstein formerly operated within the Austrian postal system. The first stamps specifically for Liechtenstein were issued and printed in Vienna in 1912. The inscription read Österr. Post im Fürstentum Liechtenstein (Austrian Post for Liechtenstein Principality). Liechtenstein remained allied with Austria through the end of WWI, but with the fall of the Habsburg Empire, they sought to establish their own postal authority.

In 1918, with the collapse of Austria, a local courier stamp was provisionally issued to carry mail from Vaduz across the river to Sevelen, Switzerland for use in the Swiss postal system. Stamps with the proper inscription of Schweizer Post Vaduz are rare (pictured), although the blanks that were used for the postal service are sometimes available.

The first regular issue of stamps for Liechtenstein after the war were printed in 1920 in Austrian currency, but later in that same year Liechtenstein entered into a monetary and postal union with Switzerland and permanently switched to Swiss currency. Liechtenstein's postal service was run by Swiss Post for most of the 20th century. In 2000, the Liechtensteinische Post AG was established, with Swiss Post as a minority owner. Since 2021 the national postal system operates fully independently. The modern stamps generally include the inscriptions of either Liechtenstein Post, or Fürstentum Liechtenstein. Somewhat inexplicably however, there have been stamp sets inscribed "Liechtensteinische Post AG" which is specifically the company and not the principality. I included this name variant as a reference.



1. Liechtenstein, Austrian Post

Liechtenstein Independent
1912 – 1920



2. Liechtenstein

Liechtenstein Independent
1920 – Present



3. Liechtensteinische Post AG

Liechtenstein Independent
2023 –



Liechtenstein, Official

Liechtenstein Official
–



Vaduz-Sevelen Post

Liechtenstein Local
1918 –
genuine