# A Swiss Sampler



An album showcasing the variety and beauty of Swiss stamps

Created by the American Helvetia Philatelic Society for the enjoyment of stamp collectors



U.S. – Swiss Connections

Swiss and U.S. Capitols (1991)

Joint Swiss-U.S. issue commemorating the 700th anniversary of the Swiss Confederation. The design shows the Bundeshaus in Bern and the Capitol Dome in Washington, D.C.

Albert Einstein (2005)

Albert Einstein developed the theory of relativity while working as a patent clerk in Bern. The stamp commemorates the centennial of the theory. He died in Princeton, N.J., in 1955.

Douglas DC-4 (1947)

This stamp was valid only on the first flight between Switzerland and the United States. It shows the airplane, a Douglas DC-4 which was built in California, with the Statue of Liberty on one side and Geneva's Cathedral of St. Pierre on the other. Unfortunately because of bad weather, the flight was diverted from New York to Washington, D.C.

Lockheed Orion (1944)

The 1932 Lockheed Orion, built in California, saw service on the Swissair express line between Zurich, Munich, and Vienna. It carried four passengers in addition to the pilot.

Albert Einstein (1972)

Although Albert Einstein was born in Germany, he was educated in Switzerland and wrote many of his significant papers while living there. He later emigrated to the United States where he held a position at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton.

Douglas DC-4 (1997)

On May 2, 1947, Swissair initiated trans-Atlantic passenger flights between Geneva, Switzerland, and New York City. The stamp commemorates the 50th anniversary of the flight.

O.H. Amman (1979)

Othmar H. Ammann emigrated to the United States in 1904. In his work with the Port of New York Authority, he participated in the design of many bridges in New York including the George Washington Bridge and the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge, which is shown on the stamp. Montgomery Blair (1974)

As U.S. Postmaster General in the Lincoln administration, Montgomery Blair called for an international postal congress that was held in 1863 and resulted in the formation of the Universal Postal Union in Bern in 1874. This issue commemorates the centennial of the founding of the UPU.

Swissair Boeing 747 (1972)

The workhorse jet airplane for long-distance international travel, the Boeing 747, built in Washington, even today remains the standard against which newer airplanes are judged. The stamp shows a 747 in Swissair livery.

Douglas DC-3 (1944)

The Douglas DC-3 was the workhorse propeller plane before, during, and after World War II. Built in California, it was used by Swissair on its European flights. This stamp was valid on a special flight between Zurich, Bern, Lausanne, and Geneva on September 20, 1944.

U.S. – Swiss Connections



Swiss and U.S. Capitols 1991



Albert Einstein 2005



Albert Einstein 1972



Montgomery Blair 1974



Douglas DC-4 1947



Douglas DC-4 1997



Swissair Boeing 747 1972



Lockheed Orion 1944



O.H. Amman 1979



Douglas DC-3 1944



#### Trains

#### Mountain Railway (1949)

The cog railway shown on the stamp ascends to an altitude of 6,473 feet at Rochers-de-Naye above Montreux. A series of galleries protecting sections of the railway vulnerable to snow can also be seen on the stamp.

#### Steam Locomotive (1947)

The "Limmat" was the first steam locomotive in Switzerland. Built in 1847, it operated between Zurich and Baden in Canton Aargau. This line was called the "Spanish Rolls Line" for the pastries it carried to Zurich every morning.

#### Intercity Express (2002)

The RABDe 500 Intercity train features tilting railcars that lean into curves, thus allowing faster travel without passengers feeling the centrifugal force of rounding a curve. It was put into service in June 2001.

#### Cog Railway (1983)

Europe's first cog railway opened on May 20, 1871, travelling from Vitznau in Canton Luzern to the summit of the Rigi (3,456 feet) with grades as steep as 25%. The locomotive shown on the stamp is the original steam model used on the line.

#### 1930s Train (1997)

In 1935 the Swiss ralways introduced light railcars to supplement their regular rolling stock. The railcar shown on the stamp was called "The Red Arrow". Unfortunately, it was limited by the fact it had to be used alone. It operated again during the Swiss EXPO 1964 for local train service.

#### Electric Locomotive (1982)

The Class Re 6/6 mixed-traffic electric locomotive shown on the stamp is used on the Gotthard line between central and Italian Switzerland. With a rating of 10,600hp, it is capable of speeds up to 87 mph.

#### Railway Viaduct (1963)

The Luogelkin Viaduct is on the Bern-Lötschberg-Simplon (BLS) Railway line near Hohtenn in Canton Valais. The viaduct is 380 feet long and 164 feet high. Both ends of the viaduct enter tunnels into the mountain.

#### Trans-Europe Express (1962)

The Trans-Europe Express service was extended into Swtizerland in 1962 when the original diesel-powered locomotives were replaced by electric versions, enabling them to use Switzerland's alpine tunnels. The first trip left Zurich for Milan, Italy, and Paris, France, on July 1, 1962.

#### Train and Tunnel (2006)

At 12.3 miles, the Simplon Tunnel between Switzerland and Italy was the longest mountain tunnel in the world for many years. It was completed in 1905 and put into service in 1906. Its height was increased in 2004 to allow heavy-goods vehicle transports such as the train shown on the stamp.

#### Streetcar (1982)

Streetcar service began in Zurich in 1882 with horse-drawn cars. Today Zurich has the largest local public transport system in Switzerland. One of its new articulated streetcars is shown on the stamp.

#### Toy Locomotive (1983)

Toy trains have long been a prominent item in a child's toy chest. The toy locomotive shown on the stamp was made around 1900 and is cast iron and painted sheet iron.



Trains



Mountain Railway 1949



Cog Railway 1983



Railway Viaduct 1963



Steam Locomotive 1947



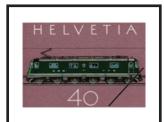
1930s Train 1997



Trans-Europe Express 1962



Intercity Express 2002



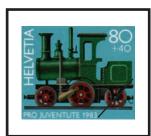
Electric Locomotive 1982



Train and Tunnel 2006



Streetcar 1982



Toy Locomotive 1983



Birds

Common Chaffinch (2007)

Fringilla coelebs

The common chaffinch, or *Buchfink* or *Pinson des arbres* as it is called in Switzerland, is found wherever there are at least a few trees.

Wallcreeper (2007)

Tichodroma muraria

The wallcreeper, or *Mauerläfer* or *Tichodrome échelettes* as it is called in Switzerland, is found on rock faces in the Alps. It feeds on spiders and insects it finds in rocky crevices.

Grey-headed Woodpecker (2008)

Picus canus

The grey-headed woodpecker, or *Grauspecht* or *Pic cendré* as it is called in Switzerland, is found in deciduous forest, orchards, and parks. It feeds primarily on ants and their larvae.

Turkey (1992)

Meleagris gallopavo

The turkey, known as *Truthahn* or *Dindon* in Switzerland, was imported to Europe from the Americas in the 17th century.

Kingfisher (1996) Alcedo atthis

The European kingfisher, *Eisvogel* or *Martin-pêcheur* in Switzerland, is about seven inches in size and, as its name indicates, feeds on small fish.

Barn Owls (1991)

Tyto alba guttata

Barn owls are well loved by farmers since they will eat one or more mice a day. They hunt at night, gliding silently over open fields.

Bullfinch (1968)

Pyrrhula pyrrhula The bullfinch. Gimpel or

The bullfinch, *Gimpel* or *Bouvreuil pivione* in Switzerland, is about seven inches in size and lives in coniferous forests.

Rooster (1975)

This rooster weathervane tops the spire of the Cathedral of St. Ursus in Solothurn. It is fashioned out of iron and is about 50 inches in height.

Bluethroat (1971)

Luscinia svecia

The bluethroat, *Blaukehlchen* or *Gorge-bleue* in Switzerland, is about seven inches in size and lives in moist areas near water.

Golden Oriole (1969)

Oriolus oriolus

The golden oriole, *Pirol* or *Loriot d'Europe* in Switzerland, is about ten inches in size. It is very shy but very noisy.

Grey Wagtail (1995)

Motacilla cinerea

The grey wagtail, *Gebirgsstelze* in German, lives along fast-moving mountain streams where it feeds on flying insects such as dragonflies.

Mallards (1971)

Anas platythynchos

Mallards or *Stockente* or *Canard sauvage* as they are known in Swizerland, are found all around the world.

Birds



Common Chaffinch 2007



Wallcreeper 2007



Grey-headed Woodpecker 2008



Turkey 1992



Kingfisher 1966



Barn Owls 1991



Bullfinch 1968



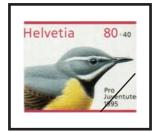
Rooster 1975



Bluethroat 1971



Golden Oriole 1969



Grey Wagtail 1995



Mallards 1971



#### Mountains

Eiger, Mönch, and Jungfrau (2006)

The three peaks, the Eiger (13,025 feet), the Mönch (13,474 feet), and the Jungfrau (11,332 feet), tower above Interlaken in Canton Bern. Their names come from a legend of a monk (Mönch) protecting a virgin (Jungfrau) from an ogre (Eiger). The train trip up the Jungfrau is a popular tourist attraction.

### Matterhorn (1965)

Perhaps the most famous and most easily recognized peak in Switzerland is the Matterhorn located in Canton Valais in southern Switzerland. Its height (14,688 feet) and relative separation from other peaks give it a solitary majesty.

#### Finsteraarhorn (1966)

On the border between Cantons Bern and Valais, the Finsteraarhorn at 14,022 feet is the highest peak in the Bernese Alps.

#### Piz Palü (1970)

Piz Palü is located in Canton Graubünden on the Italian border and forms part of the Bernina Massif. The three peaks shown on the stamp are from 12,543 to 12,812 feet in height.

### Kreuzberge (1969)

Located in Canton St. Gallen in northeastern Switzerland, the Kreuzberge is a rock ridge on the eastern face of the Alpstein. The peaks shown on the stamp range from 6,204 to 6,788 feet.

#### Les Diablerets (1971)

On the border between Cantons Vaud and Valais, Les Diablerets at 10,246 feet can be seen from Lake Geneva some 20 miles to the west. The name comes from a legend that the mountain was the playground of evil spirits.

### Spannörter (1972)

The Spannörter are a group of peaks in Canton Uri in central Switzerland whose heights range from 10,302 to 10,492 feet.

#### Mönch (1975)

The design of the stamp is taken from a 1911 painting by the Swiss artist Ferdinand Hodler. The Mönch is in Canton Bern above Interlaken.

#### Gotthard Massif (1976)

The Gotthard Massif covers an area of 170 square miles in the southern Alps. The highest peak of the group is Piz Rotondo at 10,472 feet. These mountains are the source of many of Europe's rivers, including the Rhine and Rhone.



Mountains



Eiger, Mönch, and Jungfrau 2006



Matterhorn 1965



Finsteraarhorn 1966



Piz Palü 1970



Kreuzberge 1969



Les Diablerets 1971



Spannörter 1972



Mönch 1975



Gotthard Massif 1976



Switzerland - What Comes to Mind: Chocolate, Cheese, and Swiss Army Knives

Chocolate (2001)

Issued to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Chocosuisse, the trade association of the Swiss chocolate industry, the stamp looks like a candy bar and smells like chocolate if scratched with your fingernail.

Chocolate (2008)

Designed by the Italian artist Laura Mangiavacchi, this stamp represents one of the things Italians think of when they hear "Switzerland".

Cheese Making (1987)

The stamp shows a step in the process of making cheese – the breaking up of the curdled milk with a "harp" prior to separating the curds from the whey.

Cheese (1946)

The stamp shows the initial step in the process of making cheese – pouring the milk into the curdling vat.

Cheeses (2004)

A selection of traditional Swiss cheeses is displayed on the stamp, including Emmentaler (the holey cheese we call "Swiss").

First Swiss Army Knife (2006)

The Victorinox company in Canton Schwyz patented its design for a pocket knife in 1897. The stamp shows its first model which was called an "Officer's Knife".

Modern Swiss Army Knife (2006)

The Victorinox factory manufactures some 25,000 "Swiss Army Knives" per day in 100 different models. The model shown on the stamp is its latest design.

Knife Blades (2008)

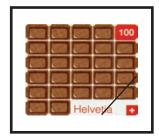
Also designed by the Italian artist Laura Mangiavacchi, this stamp also represents one of the things Italians think of when they hear "Switzerland".



Switzerland – What Comes to Mind: Chocolate, Cheese, and Swiss Army Knives



Chocolate 2001



Chocolate 2008



Cheese Making 1987



Cheese Making 1946



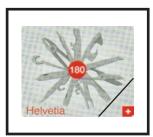
Cheeses 2004



First Swiss Army Knife 2006



Modern Swiss Army Knife 2006



Knife Blades 2008



**Flowers** 

Gentian (2001)

Gentiana clusii

The gentian grows in rocky and chalky soil at sub-alpine altitudes to a height of two to four inches.

Edelweiss (2001)

Leontopodium alpinum

The edelweiss is the flower associated with the Alps. It grows in stony meadows to a height of eight inches.

Rose (2002)

Belle Vaudoise

This rose was developed by Dorieux in 1993 and has dense foliage with a silky luster. The stamp is perfumed with the scent of roses.

Germanium (1991)

Geranium sylvaticum

The forest geranium is a wildflower found in wooded areas. Its domestic cousins with their scented foliage are popular ground covers.

St. John's Wort (2003)

Hypericum perforatum

The medicinal plant St. John's wort comes into full bloom on John the Baptist's Day (June 24). The plant has a mild anti-depressant effect.

Sunflower (1961)

Helianthus annuus
The huge sunflower is the state flower of Kansas but grows around the world in temperate climates.

Dandelion (1960)

Taraxacum officinale
The dandelion is perhaps
the one flower the gardener
does not want to see in
his garden.

Poppy (1959)

Papaver rhoeas
Iceland poppies are popular garden flowers loving full sun. Their brilliant colored blossoms standing on long, thin stalks are an especially welcome sight in spring.

Pansy (1958)

Viola wittrockiana

The pansy is a perennial favorite in spring and late fall gardens. Breeders have developed a wide spectrum of colors for this flower.

Rose (1972)

Madame Dimitriu

This rose was developed by the French rose grower Delbard in 1968. It is a fragrant floribunda.

Hepatica (1975)

Anemone hepatica

Found in deciduous forests and on stony outcrops, the hepatica blooms in March. It has medicinal properties useful in treating bronchitis. Rose (1982)

La belle Portugaise

This rose was developed around the turn of the 20th century by Henry Cayeux, the rose expert at the Lisbon, Portugal, Botanical Gardens.



Flowers



Gentian 2001



Edelweiss 2001



Rose 2002



Geranium 1991



St. John's Wort 2003



Sunflower 1961



Dandelion 1960



Poppy 1959



Pansy 1958



Rose 1972



Hepataica 1975



Rose 1982



#### Animals

Beaver (1995)
Castor fiber

The European beaver is Europe's largest rodent. Hunted almost to extinction for its fur, it is slowly making a comeback in Switzerland.

Ibex
(2006)
Capra ibex

The alpine ibex, called a *Steinbock* or *Bouquetin* in Switzerland, was reintroduced to the Swiss Alps in 1906.

Frog (1995) Hyla arborea

The green tree frog, *Laubfrosch* or *Rainette* in Switzerland, is about two inches long and lives in trees near water.

Hedgehog (2004)

Erinaceus europaeus

The European hedgehog is a nocturnal insectivore, eating creatures such as snails and beetles. It is particularly sensitive to environmental poisons which have led to its decline.

Polar Bear (2008)

Ursus maritimus

Lars, the Little Polar Bear shown on the stamp, is a popular character in children's picture books and is known in Switzerland as *Der Kleine Eisbär*. The character was created by Hans de Beer. Cat (2004) Felis catus

Cats have lived with humans for more than 9,500 years. Worshiped in ancient Egypt, it is now a common household pet.

Rabbit (1991)

Lepus europaeus

The European hare is the largest member of the rabbit family, weighing up to ten pounds. Popular as a pet, it is also a food and fur source. Sheep (1995)

Ovis aries aries

Sheep were one of the earliest animals to be domesticated. They are an important source of meat, milk, and fleece. Their wool can be found in clothing around the world.

Cow (1992)

Bos primigenius taurus

The brown cow grazing in an alpine field with a cowbell tied around its neck is a popular feature of the Swiss countryside. Its milk is the source of many famous Swiss cheeses.

Horse (1941)

Equus ferus caballus

One of the most familiar of large animals, horses have been used by humans for millenia in tasks ranging from agriculture to racing. The plow horse shown on the stamp filled an important place prior to the introduction of mechanical tractors. Fish (1983)

Perca fluviatilis

The perch is found in Swiss rivers and lakes in abundance. It grows to around 12 inches in length and is an important and tasty food fish.

Dogs (1983)

Canis lupus

The two dogs shown on the stamps are typical Swiss breeds. The larger dog on the left is the *Berner Sennenhund* (Bernese herdsman's dog) and the smaller dog on the right is the *Schwyzer Laufhund* (Swiss hunting dog).



Animals



Beaver 1995



Ibex 2006



Frog 1995



Hedgehog 2004



Polar Bear 2008



Cat 2004



Rabbit 1991



Sheep 1995



Cow 1992



Horse 1941



Fish 1983



Dogs 1983



Castles

Jörgenberg Ruins (1987)

Built in the 8th century, Jörgenberg was once the largest castle in the Oberland. It is located near the village of Waltensburg/Vuorz in Canton Graubünden.

Château de Chillon (1998)

The Château de Chillon, located on Lake Geneva near Montreux in Canton Vaud, is probably the best known castle in Switzerland. It was built in the 12th century and belonged to the Duke of Savoy.

Château de La Sarraz (1999)

The Château de La Sarraz, in the village of the same name in Canton Vaud, was built in 1049 by the Lord of Grandson.

Château de Neuchâtel (1948)

Neuchâtel in the canton of the same name was the residence of the King of Bugundy. In 1033 it passed to the Lord of Fenis and in 1147 to the Count of Neuchâtel.

Schloss Lenzburg (1968)

Schloss Lenzburg in the city of the same name in Canton Aargau is the largest castle in Switzerland. Begun in the 11th century, it was the seat of the Lenzburg line, then the Kyburg line, and finally the Hapsburg dynasty.

Château de Nyon (1958)

The city of Nyon in CantonVaud was the first town to be founded by the Romans in western Switzerland. The château was rebuilt by Ludwig I of Savoy in the 13th century.

Castello di Montebello (1958)

The Castello di Montebello is located in Bellinzona in Canton Ticino. Its location controlled several mountain pass roads as early as Roman times. The castle was built in the 13th century. Stockalperpalast (1978)

Kaspar Jodok Stockalper built this palace between 1658 and 1678 in Brig in Canton Valais. Stockalper was a merchant who profited from the French-Italian trade over the Simplon Pass.

Schloss Hagenwil (1978)

Schloss Hagenwil is one of the finest and best-preserved moated castles in Switzerland. Built around 1200 by Rudolf von Hagenwil, it is located near Amriswil in Canton Thurgau.

Schloss Kyburg (1976)

Schloss Kyburg dates to the 10th century and was later the property of the Hapsburg dynasty. It is located in the town of the same name in Canton Zurich.

Schloss Tarasp (1978)

Schloss Tarasp, located in the village of the same name in Canton Graubünden, was built in the 11th century by the Lord of Tarasp.

Schloss Sargans (1977)

Schloss Sargans was the seat of the Count of Werdenberg-Sargans. The castle was built in the 13th century and is located in the town of the same name in Canton St. Gallen.



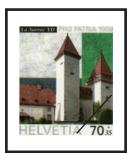
Castles



Castle Ruins 1987



Castle 1998



Castle 1999



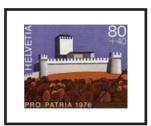
Castle 1948



Castle 1968



Castle 1958



Castle 1976



Castle 1978



Castle 1978



Castle 1976



Castle 1978



Castle 1977



Insects

Ladybug (1952)

Coccinella septempunctata
The seven-spot ladybug, Marienkäfer
or Coccinelle à sept points in
Switzerland, is probably the bestknown beetle.

Butterfly (2002)

Araschnia levana
The map butterfly, Landkärtchen or Carte géographique in Switzerland, is a seasonal dimorph. In spring its upper wing surfaces are yellow-brown, in summer black.

Butterfly (1951)

Iphiclides podalirius
The scarce swallowtail, Segelfalter or Flambé in Switzerland, is a common European butterfly.

Bumblebee (1954)

Bombus terrestris

The buff-tailed bumble bee, *Erdhummel* or *Bourdon terrestre* in Switzerland, nests in the ground, hence its German or French name.

Beetle (1956)

Carabus intricatus

The blue ground beetle, *Blauer Laufkäer* or *Carabe embrouillé* in Switzerland, lives in forests up to an altitude of 4,500 feet. It is about an inch long.

Butterfly (1951)

Anthocharis cardamines

The orange tip, *Aurorafalter* or *Aurore* in Switzerland, is medium-sized, with a wing span of two inches. It lives at altitudes below 6,000 feet.

Beetle (1953)

Purpuricenus kaehleri

The purple longhorn beetle, *Purpur-Bockkäfer* or *Longicorne pourpre* in Switzerland, is a member of a family of beetles with more than 20,000 species around the world.

Honey Bee (1950)

Apis mellifera

The honey bee, *Honigbiene* or *Abeille européenne* in Switzerland, plays an important role in pollenization of plants.

Butterfly (1957)

Abraxas grossulariata

The clouded yellow, *Stachelbeerspanner* or *Zérène du groseillier* in Switzerland, feeds on the leaves of the goosberry and hazelnut.

Dragonfly (2002)

Anax imperator

The emperor dragonfly, *Blaue Königslibelle* or *Anax empereur* in Switzerland, lives at lower altitudes around stagnant waters. It feeds on flying insects.

Butterfly (2002)

Mesoacidalia aglaja

The dark green fritillary, *Grosser Perlmutterfalter* or *Grand nacré* in Switzerland, lives in forest meadows or pastures. Yellow and blue flowers are its source of food.

Beetle (2002)

Rosalia alpina

The Rosalia longhorn beetle, Alpenbockkäfer or Rosalie des Alpes in Switzerland, lives in beech woods on chalk-rich soil. It is extremely rare and facing extinction because of poor forestry management.

Insects



Ladybug 1952



Butterfly 1995



Butterfly 1951



Bumblebee 1954



Beetle 1956



Butterfly 1951



Beetle 1953



Honey Bee 1950



Butterfly 1957



Dragonfly 2002



Butterfly 2002



Beetle 2002





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