

SWISS 'T' PERFIN

By Brian Birch

In the May/June 1973 Bulletin (No. 145), there was a request for information about a Swiss perfin which had been noticed in a list of Swiss stamps for sale:

1882 10c, Zumstein 61AF with private but officially sanctioned "T" perforation - £6,50.

Only one reply was received, from Ronald D. Lowden of Norberth, Pennsylvania as follows:

- "1. See 1931, F.X. Andres Hans Emmenegger, Grosses Handbuch der Abstemplungen auf Schweizer Marken, 1843-1882, in the Separat-Nachtrag book, 1954, Group 160/161 - Hotelpost - und Privatstempel Lfd. Nr..10326 (Lochungsstempel der Fa. Thoma & Leicht Zurich) or, the whole, republished in 1971, in 3 looseleaf binders. (Both easily available and a common reference among all U.S. and G.B. collectors of Switzerland.
2. See 'Perfins of Switzerland', Album-Catalogue, by Felix Ganz, Robert Hurlimann, and E.J. Enschede, 1972, published by the U.S. Perfins Club, 170 Steeplechase Road, Devon, PA., 19333, U.S.A. (T1, page 25).
3. The perfin itself occurs on perhaps two dozen different issues - most commonly on Swiss Telegraph Stamps - on Zumstein 61Af it is relatively scarce. T1 Ganz is the only one of perhaps better than 600 Swiss perfins so officially sanctioned by the Swiss Government - hence its presence but no others in the Andres Emmenegger reference. In mint condition, a regular 51A ('f' is just the colour variety) lists for 30 Swiss francs in 1972 Zumstein Catalogue. The perfin version may occur on 1 in 10,000 copies."

I wrote to the Librarian of the Helvetia Philatelic Society, Mrs E.J. Rawnsley, in order to borrow the handbooks referred to by Lowden. Her reply was as follows:-

"With regard to your query, there is no point in wasting postage money to send the Emmenger Addendum since the reference you enquire about occupies one line only. It is given under Groups 160/161 - Hotel post and Private Cancels. This gives half a dozen Hotel post references and then refers to three marks of privatefirms, and then:

10 326 T Lochungsstempel der Firma / Perforated cancellation  
Thamaun & Leicht, Zurich / of Thamaun & Leicht, Zurich  
Size = 10 x 14 mm  
Date of example seen: 1879  
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and that's all.

Exactly the same details are given in Dr. Ganz's Perfin Catalogue, except size 10x12 mm."