



Combinations of Federal Stamps

by Roberto Lopez

This article was published in *Rhône Philatélie*, December 2018, pages 6 and 7. It is reprinted here with the gracious permission of *Rhône Philatélie* and the author. The translation is by DeepL, found on the website www.deepl.com, monitored by your editor.

Before and after the exhibition "Extreme: 175 years of Swiss stamps" everyone talks about cantonal stamps, their rarity, price, use and display. However, there is too little mention of federal stamps, more specifically, the combinations among the first stamps from the Bernese Karl Durheim establishment, the Durheim issues.

On 5 April 1850 the Federal Council authorized the eleven Postal District Directorates to operate the local post office network. The 36 major localities are later followed by others. The new federal stamps produced by Karl Durheim, a stamp at 2½ Rappen, were now to be used. Their use extends from 16 July 1850 to 30 September 1854.

(Continued on page 4)

AHPS has some new officers. Profiles of Mike Peter and Steve Opheim, on pages 2 and 3, introduce them to you. Profiles of John Kofranek and Bob Zahm will be in the May *TELL*.



Letter from Zurich to Aarau to Councilor Wagner, Head of the Police Department in Aarau, franked with 7½ Rappen, corresponding to a second weight step (½-1 loth) for the first rayon (up to 48km). Both stamps are cancelled by a black Zurich rosette (cancellation group 1/n°1). The circular postmark in red is from group 112 n°2.

There are 87 examples known so far of the combination of a 17II Rayon (B2-LO stone, type 1) and a 14I Poste Locale (type 16).

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(Continued from page 1) We cannot speak of mixed postage, but rather of combined postage, as is the case for combinations of the number and cross type with standing Helvetias, because their period of use is identical.

In the "Schweizer Briefmarken Katalog" (SBK) you will find a list with the combinations of the first federal stamps. In this list there exist 1368 covers; and we would like to give you some examples.

Always have such items expertized to avoid unpleasant surprises when you want to resell your collection.



Letter from Neuchâtel to St-Imier, franked with 7½ Rappen. Both stamps are cancelled by a blue circled P.P. (group 12/B, n°61). The postmark in blue is from group 124 n°13. **The franking on this letter is a Rayon 15II (type 30) and a Poste Locale 14I (type 19)**



Letter from Zurich to Bärentschwil in the canton of Zurich, addressed to Mr. Reinhart Guyer in the Neuthal, franked with 7½ Rappen. Both stamps are cancelled by a black federal grid. The circular postmark in red is from group 112 n°2. To the right of the stamps is a mark "N: Abg." in red which is from group 24 n°1 (former AW Nr. 786).

Of this combination, rayon 17II (stone B1-LU, type 9) and Orts-Post 13Ia (type 22), only 27 pieces are known so far.



The last letter is sent from Bellinzona to Augio Valle Calanca to the attention of Signore Giovanni Ronco. Both stamps are cancelled by a black federal grid. Bellinzona's black postmark is from group 109. On the back is Grono's transit stamp, also from group 109.

These are a rayon 15II (type 20) and a Poste Locale 14I (type 4).

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