

CROYDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY

MINUTES OF THE MEETING 11.02.2014



President Brian Asquith opened the meeting attended by 21 members at 19.45 hours and invited **FRED HOADLEY** to present his display on **SWITZERLAND: STAMPS AND POSTAL HISTORY.**

Switzerland before 1848 was made up of 22 separate cantons but in that year became a federation. In 1849 it had a unified postal system and in 1850 a single currency.

The first half of the presentation was the definitive stamps of the 20th century – Fred's favourite stamps! At the beginning of the 20th century artists were invited to submit designs for new definitive stamps. Three distinctive designs were used over the next few years. In 1907 the Tell Boy design was printed and lasted until 1942. Charity cards also appeared at the time with Tell Boy stamps pre-printed. The second design was the Helvetia Portrait Issue. The name is believed to originate from a Celtic tribe Helvetii who occupied North East Switzerland in the second century BC. The final design was the Tell stamps which replaced the mid and high value Helvetica stamps. As well as the stamps themselves there were many examples of them on cover. Fred also showed booklets that were produced as winter sports developed.

The second part of the presentation was of the Pro Juventute Foundation, a charity set up for young people. From 1915 stamps and cards were released, the cost of which included a surcharge which went to the Foundation. The money raised contributed to the drive to combat tuberculosis. There were a variety of stamps showing costumes, coats of arms of the cantons, prominent Swiss people, alpine plants, butterflies/moths and roses. The final part of the display was of postcards produced from 1912. Swiss artists were invited to submit paintings and 5 or 8 cards of the painting were issued in an envelope for sale, A total of 299 cards were produced, the cards often being used to send New Year greetings.

Following inspection of the interesting material the meeting closed at 21.45 hours.

Graham Harker, Honorary Assistant Secretary