

Classic Switzerland

1843-1854

Purpose of the exhibit

This exhibit is a study of all the stamps issued in Switzerland between 1843 and 1854. It shows many multiples and plate flaws, sometimes with margin and detail analysis of printing plates. Varieties of cancellations and postal rates are also contained in this collection with an analysis of repeated tariff changes and currency reform.

Plan and Remarkable Items

Cantonal Stamps are exhibited in the first three frames and the upper half of the 4th frame, and federal stamps follow.

ZÜRICH [P.2-24] starting with Essays, issued **ZÜRICH NUMERAL** follow. Early usages of both denomination stamps comes at first as topics, and both usages in Zürich and the local area are shown. 4 Rp. starts from the second row and almost all the types of both vertical and horizontal background lines are exhibited in unused condition. Uncommon mixed franking with 6 Rp. called "Greifensee cover" and a horizontal pair franking are also exhibited. Single frankings are shown in the third row, and unusual local city-drop letters or cantonal letters with 4 Rp. rate applied are tried to be shown. The third edition of Zürich numeral stamps, one of the recently researched topics, are tried to be shown in p.13 & 14. 6 Rp. starts from P.15, and unused multiples of 5 or 10 and early usages or local usages are shown. The exhibitor's 11-year challenge is forming a reconstruction of Zürich 6 Rp. which is now 97% completed. A transitional issue follows.

GENEVE [P.25-48] starting with early used stamps of **DOUBLE GENEVE** on-piece, se-tenant frankings, marginal unused se-tenant, **INTERVERTI**, and vertical **INTERVERTI** stamps are shown to illustrate its production. From a postal historical view, all the basic postal rates are tried to be shown, and some of such covers are early usages or very late usages. The following three **EAGLE STAMPS** have multiples or multiples on cover, and some plate flaws are also shown. Early usages or late usages are also tried to be shown, sometimes with uncommon cancellation or uncommon color of ink. Due to its currency difference, Geneve faced many tariff changes, and it caused uncommon usages with prepaid handstamps or intentional overpaying, which are shown in this exhibit. P.38 shows a letter to the other canton, the only one known for this stamp. **TRANSITIONAL ISSUE** follows, and as those stamps were used during the repeated tariff changed period in Geneve, almost all the postal rates are shown.

BASEL [P.49-56] Essays in greenish shade come at first with one uncommon trial used one. As it's the world's first tri-color printing stamp, the printing procedure of the first printing and the second printing are illustrated with typical plate flaws. A horizontal pair is also shown in the first row. A bulk mail from Liverpool and irregular postage due usages are also shown to show the postal history aspects.

DURHEIM ISSUE Federal stamps consist of 5 main stamp groups. The first one is **ORTS POST** and **POSTE LOCALE [P.57-72]** which were issued for the local letters. As a very small number of usages has been found before October, 1850, the exhibitor tries to show the earliest on-piece and the earliest cover. As sheets of 40 stamps were cut to two panes of 20 stamps when they are delivered to post offices normally, pair or strip over the center are uncommon, which are shown at P.58. Multiples, multiples on cover, mixed franking with other denomination values are shown. **RAYON I [P.73-80]**, printed in three stones, shows varieties of stone, shade, plate flaw, etc. Multiple such as a block of four and bisect usages are also included. **RAYON II [P.81-96]**, printed in seven stones, starts with reconstruction, and shade varieties. Then two pages per one stone show unused stamps, multiple stamps, plate flaws with uncommon usages such as bisect usages, mixed franking with other denomination stamps, multiple franking, or unusual cancellations. **RAYON I LIGHT BLUE [P.97-116]**, printed in nine stones, also starts with unfinished reconstruction by unused stamps. Two pages per one stone also follow, and unused stamps of all the stones are included. Multiple stamps or multiple frankings are also tried to be shown, sometimes with uncommon cancellations. **RAYON III [P.117-128]** starts with the earliest usage, only two known. All the three main numbers of RAYON III were produced with the second DIE of 10, it shows this type variety, with the largest multiple, or 5 horizontal strips with different types. Multiple frankings or mixed franking with other denomination stamps are also highlighted.

Literatures

- (1) Swiss Cantonal Stamps 1843 - 1854, Frankings - Rarities (Schäfer, 2015)
- (2) Handbuch und Spezialkatalog Schweizer Kantonalmarken 1843-1854 (Corinphila, 2011)

On Aug. 13th, 1842, The Postal Department of Zürich laid before the Council of State a report showing how the postal organization could be simplified by the system of prepayment recently introduced into England. This proposal was approved on Jan. 21st, 1843, and the first stamps were manufactured at Orell, Fussli, and Co. in Zürich.

Esslinger Essay with Year Digit

Characters "18" and "43" were placed at both lower corners.
Red horizontal background lines were printed vertically.

Unused



ex- Helveticus

Trial Usage with Balack Rosette



The essays were also used to check if the obliteration works well by Zürich Post. It was one of the most critical issues at the time to avoid the reuse of used stamps.

Esslinger Essay without Year Digit

No Characters were placed at both lower corners, unlike the above essays.
Red horizontal background lines were printed horizontally instead of vertically.

Unused



Trial Usage with Crossed Pen Stroke



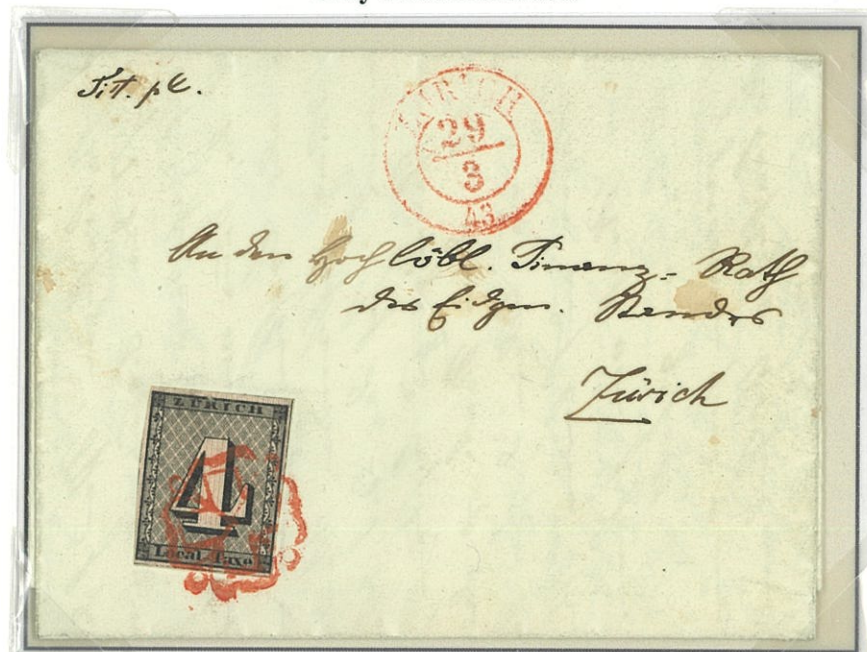
ex- Helveticus

These two kinds of essays were thought to be produced at the same time before the first issue.

Two stamps were issued on March 1st, 1843. Only four frankings of Zürich 4 were recorded in the first month of March.

Letter rate within Zürich city or a community in Zürich canton was established as 4 Rappen under 1 Loth=15.62 g.

The First Month Usage Only Four Recorded



ZÜRICH 4 type IV, tied by red Zürich rosette with a double ring cds in red beside
ZÜRICH to Zürich, 29/3 43

ex- Helveticus

The Earliest Known Usage at a Rural Post Office



ZÜRICH 4 type III, tied by black Zürich rosette with a double ring cds in black beside
WINTERTHUR to Töss, 25/4 43

- Four first month usages were recorded, however, all of them were used in the city of Zürich and its surrounding areas, because there was weak demand on city-drop mails at narrow rural areas

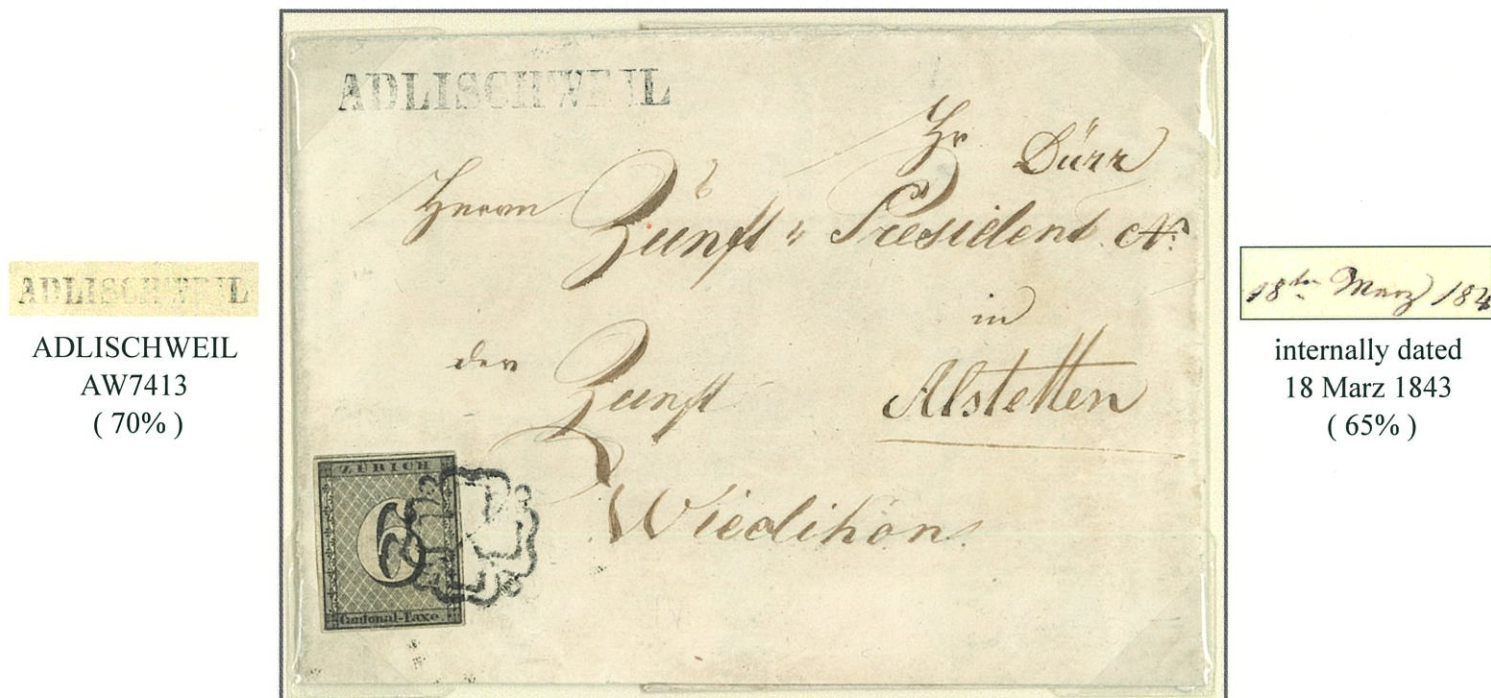
This letter is **the earliest** known usage at any rural post offices.

Only several frankings of Zürich 6 were recorded in the first month of March.

The letter rate within Zürich canton was established as 6 Rappen under 1 Loth, which is equal to 15.62 g.

The First Month Usage

Also The Only Recorded Usage of A Single Line Cancellation of ADLISCHWEIL on Cover



ZÜRICH 6 pos.23, tied by black Zürich rosette, with a single line obliteration beside ADLISCHWEIL to Wiedikon in Altstetten, internally dated "18 MAR. 1843".

It was sent to Mr. Dürr in Altstetten, the president of the guild of Wiedikon. There were no post offices in Altstetten until Jan. 1st, 1844, and in Wiedikon until 1857.

The second earliest letter between two rural areas and it is also recorded as the fifth earliest usage of a ZÜRICH 6.

The First Month Usage



ZÜRICH 6 pos.57 with a PF SBK 2S.2.02b, tied by red Zürich rosette, with a double ring cds beside ZÜRICH to Uetikon, 25 MAR (18)43

Intermediate die containing five types were transferred 20 times into printing plate.

Type I



Type II



Type IV



Unused with gum

ex- Ferrari, Burrus

Type IV



Type V



The shades of the above two type IV stamps are different. One is with gume, and the other without. Gum was often removed in the history of Swiss Philately to prevent influencing the surface looking badly. Only several unused Zürich 4 have a full original gum.

Only two mixed franking of 4 Rp. and 6 Rp. known, and a pair of 6 Rp. on cover is unique.

16 Rp. Rate, Only One Known Registered Letter Usage



4 Rp. type IV, franked with a horizontal pair of 6 Rp. type I + II, all the stamps with vertical background lines cancelled by Zürich rosette in black with a line handstamp GREIFENSEE and a framed RECOMMANDIRT in red beside.

A notary's office in GREIFENSEE to the municipao office in Schalchen near Wildberg, 26 November, 1844

16 Rp. correctly paid for a registered letter, 6 for cantonal letter, and 10 for registration fee.

ex- Paul Mirabaud, Iwan Bally, Maurice Burrus, Erivan Haub

Only two mixed franking of 4 Rp. and 6 Rp. known, and a pair of 6 Rp. on cover is unique.

A Horizontal Pair of 4 Rp. on Cover



A horizontal pair of 4 Rp. with horizontal background lines, type IV+V tied by double Zürich rosette in red with a double ring CDS in red beside

ZÜRICH to Erlenbach, 8 AVRIL 1847 NACHMITTAG

8 Rp. franked for 6 Rp. cantonal letter rate, and thus, 2 Rp. was overpaid

ex- Erivan Haub

Red background lines became printed horizontally instead of vertically after 1846.

Type I



Type II



Type III



Type IV



Unused with gum

Type V



Unused with gum
ex- Ferrari

Type V



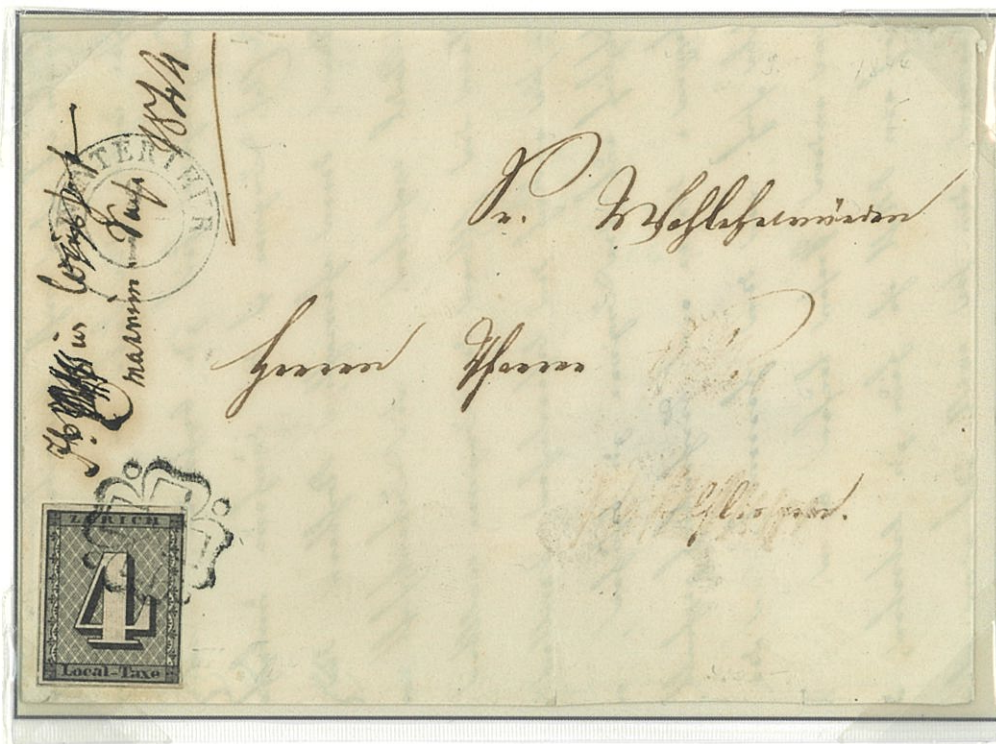
pos.70

Only One Recorded Unused Plate Flaw "A Hook in 4"
Repaired, 1mm square upper right margin was added.



(300%)

4 Rp. denomination stamp was issued for a city-drop mail rate, which was unnecessary in narrow rural areas.



WINTERTHUR to Wülflingen Only Five Such Correspondence Recorded

Type IV, tied by black Zürich rosette,
WINTERTHUR to Wülflingen, 9/1 (1844)

Winterthur was the second largest town in Zürich canton, however, only ten local letters are recorded according to Schäfer's study.

WINTERTHUR to Töss The Latest Usage for Such Correspondence

Type III tied by black Zürich rosette,
WINTERTHUR to Töss, 20/9 47

As the demand for Zürich 4 was minimal in narrow rural areas, the first dispatch of Zürich 4 was enough for rural post offices, who used them until the last.

This is **the latest usage** recorded between Winterthur and Töss, and the second latest usage used inside Winterthur.



NEW YEAR Usage in Zürich

Type I, tied by red ZÜRICH rosette
ZÜRICH to Zürich, 1/1 1846

Red ink was mainly used in Zürich post office to cancel stamps and letters.

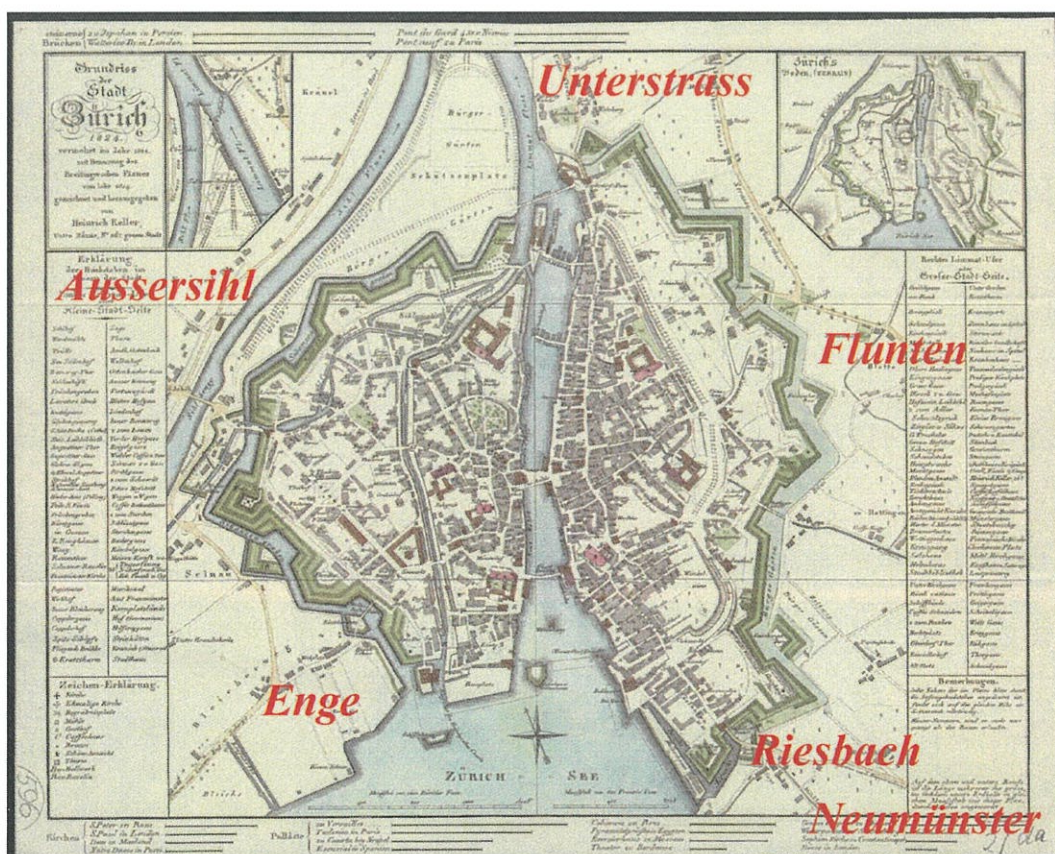
Beside city-drop letters, the same rate of 4 Rappen could be applied in case the neighbor postal district was served delivered by the same postman.

Cantonal Letter With 4 Rp. Rate Applied Only 5 Recorded to Riesbach



Type II tied by Zürich red rosette with a double ring cds in red beside
ZÜRICH to Riesbach in Neumünster, 13/1 45 NM

It was sent to the city court president of Schwerzenbach in the city itself, then forwarded to Riesbach.



An old map of ZÜRICH city and its suburbs in the first half of the 19th century. Green color in the above map shows the wall of Zürich city and red characters show the area names with 4 Rp. rate applied

Neumünster was outside the city of Zürich, however, it was located very close to the center of Zürich. Thus, a city-drop rate of 4 Rappen was specially applied in case of delivery by the same postman.

Cantonal Letter With 4 Rp. Rate Applied
12 Recorded from Neumünster



Type IV tied by black Zürich rosette with a pre-philatelic double ring cds beside
 NEUMÜNSTER to Zürich, 17 JANV 1844
 The address Caspar Escher is well-known as the co-founder of Escher, Wyss & Co.

Cantonal Letter With 4 Rp. Rate Applied
Opposite way to Neumünster, Only 6 Recorded



Type I tied by red Zürich rosette with a double ring cds in red beside.
 ZÜRICH to Neumünster, 27/12 44
 This datestamp was used between Mar. 2nd, 1843 and Dec. 1844

Enge was outside the city of Zürich, however, it was located very close to the center of Zürich. Thus, a city-drop rate of 4 Rappen was specially applied in case of delivery by the same postman.

Early Usage in August, 1846

Also A Cantonal Letter With 4 Rp. Rate Applied, of which only 6 Recorded to Neumünster



Type III tied by red Zürich rosette with a double ring cds in red beside
ZÜRICH to Neumünster, 27 8 (18)46
4 Rappen was specially applied in case of delivery by the same postman.

Cantonal Letter With 4 Rp. Rate Applied Only 5 Recorded to Enge



Colorless spot in the upper-
right corner
(300%)

Type II with a plate flaw "Colorless spot in the upper-right corner" (1W.2.02)
tied by red Zürich rosette with a double ring cds and a single line "N: Abg" in red beside
ZÜRICH to Enge, 27 AVRIL 1847 NACHMITTAG

ex- Helveticus

Single colored stamp with no background lines become called as "The Third Edition" in 2010s in Swiss Philately.

**The Third Edition of 4 Rp.
Only A Few Examples Known**



Type I

**The Largest Multiple of The Third Edition of 6 Rp.
Only A Few Multiples Known**



Pos.13/15 and a part of Pos. 16



Pos. 41



Pos. 87

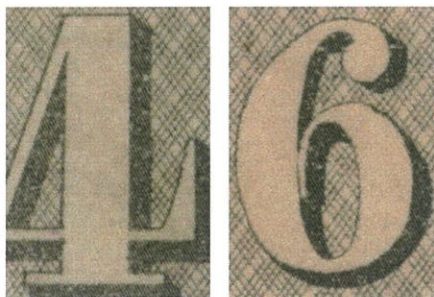


Pos. 38



Pos. 99

These four stamps with above strip of three show all the five types of The Third Edition of 6 Rp.



(300%)

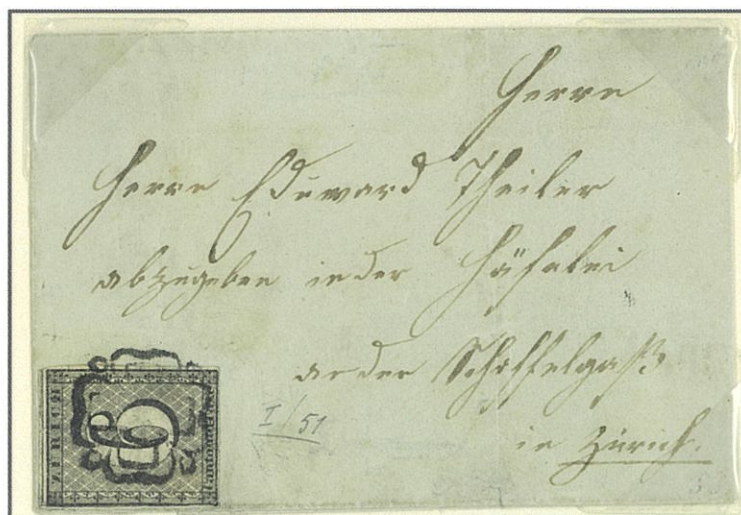
To prevent forgeries or reuse of used stamps, the first stamps of Zürich were printed in bi-color; black for main design and red lines printed slightly on all over the 100 stamps including margins, vertically at first and horizontally after 1846.

Sometimes there comes stamps without any red background lines in philatelic market, which had been thought as "*faded stamps*", however, some of those stamps without red lines are in fresh condition as shown in this page.

As a result of this finding, single colored stamp with no background lines are believed to be issued and they became called as "*The Third Edition*" in 2010s in Swiss Philately.

Only a few entire usages are known for the third edition

The Third Edition with A Black Rosette on Cover
Possibly One or Two Examples Are Known



Pos. 51 tied by black Zürich rosette without cds
A folded letter to Schoffeelgasse in Zürich, arrival cds 15 NOV 1847 on the back

Experted as The Third Edition by Marin Eichele in 2021.

The Third Edition with A Red Rosette on Cover
Possibly Less Than Ten Examples Known



Pos. 57 tied by red Zürich rosette with a double ring cds in red beside
ZÜRICH to Winterthur, 2 JAN 1848 NACHMITTAG

Intermediate die containing five types were transferred 20 times into printing plate.

Type I

pos. 11

Type II

pos. 37

Type III

pos.93

Type IV

pos.4

Type V

pos.5

Type V

pos.25

Multiple Cancelled Stamps

Double Cancelled 4 Rp.

4 Rp. with vertical lines, type III
cancelled by red Zürich rosette & cds,
Zürich 20 / 8

Circle datestamp was usually stamped
beside to show the information of post
offices and dates clearly.
The right illustration is a black faded
photo copy.

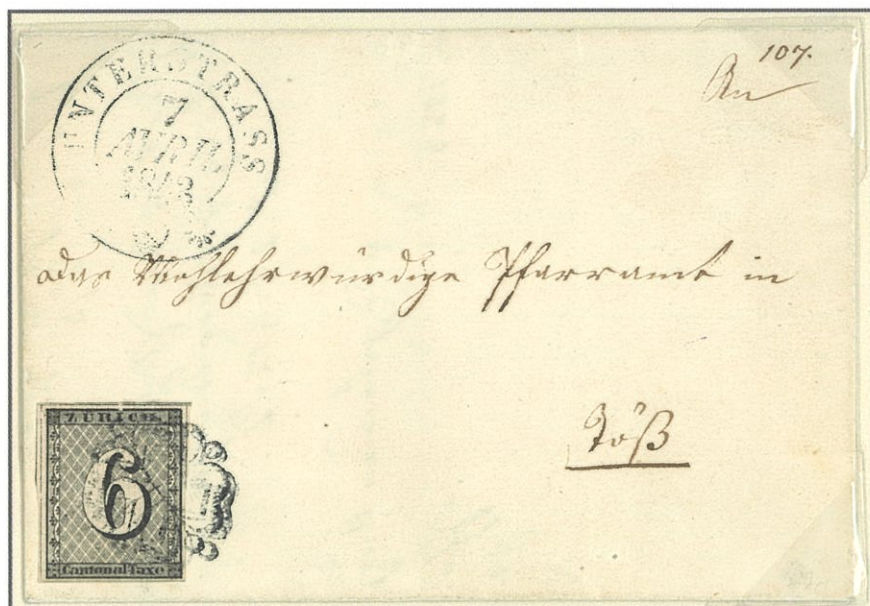
Triple Cancelled 6 Rp.

6 Rp. with vertical lines, pos.46
cancelled by red Zürich rosette triple
The right illustration is a black faded photo copy.

Multiple cancelled stamps are
uncommon in Zürich philately.

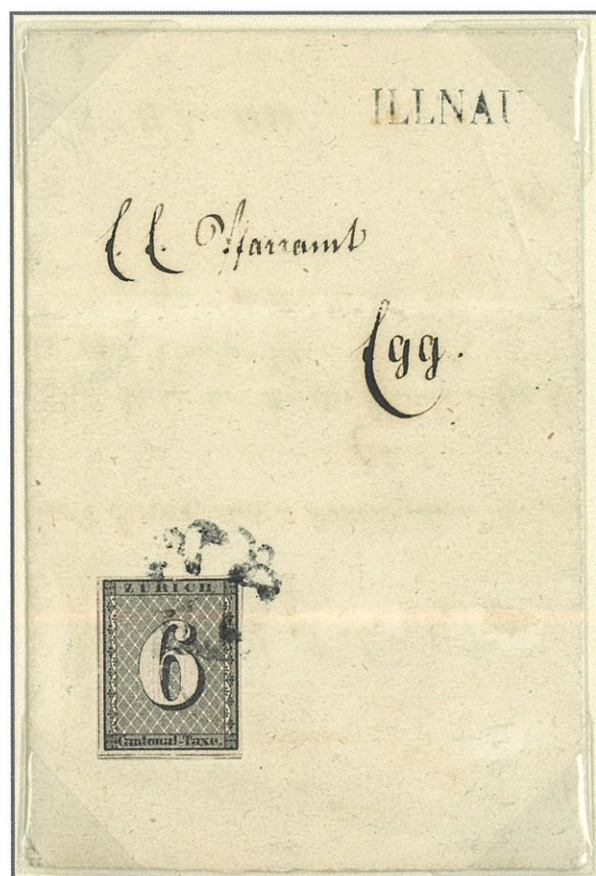
Among 78 post offices except Zürich main post office and the second biggest Winterthur had the fewer mails.

UNTERSTRASS to Töss



Pos. 82, tied by Black Rosette with a pre-philatelic large dated postmark beside
UNTERSTRASS to Töss, Apr. 7, 1843
Early Usage in April 1843

ILLNAU to Egg



Pos.38, tied by black Zürich rosette
with a single bar cancellation ILLNAU (AW7546)
ILLNAU to Egg, Dec. 21st, 1844.

STÄFA to Zürich



Type II tied by black Zürich rosette
STÄFA to Zürich 5 May 1844

Large dated postmark with star is a pre-philatelic cancellation,
which was used between 1836 and 1847