

Special stamps Bicentenary of Geneva, Neuchâtel and Valais
joining the Swiss Confederation

**Three bicentenaries in western and
southern Switzerland**

Special stamps Europa – Old toys

**Children's toys from the
good old days**

Special stamp 75th anniversary of Swiss Sponsorship for Mountain Communities

**Sponsorship association celebrates
unwavering commitment**



2/2015

**Focus on
stamps**

The Collector's Magazine

SWISS POST

Yellow in motion.

Promoting culture with Pro Patria stamps

Special stamps with surcharge **Pro Patria – Village museums**

Sales
Philately: From 30.4.2015 to 31.12.2015, while stocks last
Post offices: From 7.5.2015, while stocks last

Validity
Unlimited from 7.5.2015

Printing
Offset, 4-colour; Joh. Enschedé, Haarlem, Netherlands

Sizes
Stamps: 33x28 mm
Sheetlet: 195x142 mm (4 rows of 5 stamps)

Paper
White stamp paper with optical brightener, matt gummed, 110 gm²

Perforation
13 $\frac{3}{4}$:14 $\frac{1}{4}$

Design
Vito Noto, Lugano



First-day cover motif



First-day cancellation

Even in this digital age, exclusive franked letters are highly desirable because these miniature works of art both surprise recipients and arouse their curiosity. But Pro Patria stamps not only spread enjoyment, they also support the cultural life of our country. The proceeds from the surcharge are paid into a fund dedicated to supporting selected projects.

The Pro Patria stamps for 2015 depict objects from the collections of museums in the cantons of Appenzell Innerrhoden, Berne, Thurgau and Vaud. This year's four stamps complete a three-year, twelve-part set of special stamps devoted to museums. The "Swiss local and regional museums" campaign launched in 2013 aimed to specifically promote the communication of history also in small and medium-sized museums. Once the collection is complete, over a million Swiss francs will have been raised. Pro Patria's partner for the

project is the Swiss Museums Association (Verband der Museen der Schweiz, VMS). Over 80 applications have already been submitted and 50 grants awarded. The cantonal project lists on the website bear testimony to the large number of cultural projects that Pro Patria stamps have helped support over the past decades, especially in the field of heritage conservation.

**Roman G. Schönauer, General Secretary
Swiss Pro Patria Foundation**

Further information: propatria.ch



Photos: Aigle Castle



Barrels like this were used during the grape harvest, Vine and Wine Museum, Aigle

Artefacts for wine lovers

Aigle Castle is home to the Vine and Wine Museum which was founded in 1971 with aim of preserving Vaudois winemaking heritage. It boasts an extensive collection of objects relating to wine and viticulture, including the barrel depicted on the new stamp. This was used during the grape harvest. People carried such barrels containing the picked grapes on their backs from the vineyard to the cart on which the grapes were taken to the wine press. The Vine and Wine Museum, which was renovated in 2010 and 2013, starts from the techniques and processes currently used for making wines in the region and places them in a historical and geographical context. There are five permanent exhibitions, all with an emphasis on interactivity. As well as the work of the winemaker in the vineyard and the wine cellar, the collections also touch on the themes of landscape, biodiversity, educating the palate, the economics of wine, ecology, art and festivals. Experiences, sensory encounters, audiovisual exhibits, discoveries... a visit to the museum offers an entertaining introduction to the world of wine in the charming surroundings of Aigle Castle.

**Nicolas Isoz, Curator,
Vine and Wine Museum, Aigle Castle**

Vine and Wine Museum, Aigle Castle, chateauaigle.ch



Stamp booklet

A booklet with the current Pro Patria special stamps contains ten mixed stamps: six stamps featuring the barrel motif (CHF 0.85 + 0.40) and four stamps featuring the disc brooch (CHF 1.00 + 0.50). The booklet can be purchased for CHF 14.50 (incl. CHF 1.00 for the envelope) from the Swiss Pro Patria Foundation, Clausiusstrasse 45, 8006 Zurich, in the Postshop (postshop.ch) and at Swiss Post stamp counters.



Tobacco pouch with traditional brass embellishments, Appenzell Museum

Smoking in style

This tobacco pouch, known as a "Backseckl" in the Innerrhoden dialect, shows that the paraphernalia required for smoking was also an important element of Appenzell folk culture. For once, however, the focus is not on the "Lindauerli", the famous Appenzell pipe with silver ornaments. In the latter half of the 18th century, Appenzell saddlers began to apply chased brass ornamentation to leather goods. They did this on cow and goat bell collars, bridles for bulls, packhorse harnesses and dog collars. The earliest named alpine saddler, Johann Anton Fässler (1772–1850), first applied brass studs to braces around 1800; the first brass-studded tobacco pouches date from 1860.

The pouch depicted was produced in 2001 by local saddler Adalbert Fässler after a traditional design. Adalbert is now the sixth generation of the Fässler family to practice the leatherworker's craft. He uses thick sheets of brass to make his figures and ornaments, which lend the cows and herdsmen an archaic quality. Incidentally, the braided brass pipe reamer is used to clean the tobacco pipe. Unlike smoking, it is not actually as dangerous as it looks.

Roland Inauen

Deputy Chairman of the Governing Council, Appenzell Innerrhoden

Appenzell Museum, Hauptgasse 4, Appenzell, ai.ch



Disc brooch with glass and filigree ornamentation, Frauenfeld

Merovingian jewel

At the beginning of the 20th century, a certain J. Traber made an extraordinary discovery during the construction of a house in the Chilestigli precinct of Steckborn: a large disc brooch, 6.5 cm in diameter, decorated with gold filigree work and several stone and glass inlays. Originally a large gemstone would have sparkled in the middle, as can be seen in comparable finds. Women used such brooches to fasten their cloaks in the 7th century. We know this from examining the remains of textiles attached to the objects as well as from contemporary accounts.

The exquisite Steckborn piece probably came from an early medieval grave, but no further information is known. It was not until 1958 that the Steckborn-Chilestigli burial ground near the site of the find was archaeologically investigated.

Disc brooches with filigree ornamentation were among the most complex and sophisticated pieces of jewellery produced during the Merovingian period and are testament to the skilled craftsmanship and artistry of the goldsmiths of the time. Each piece is unique. The Chilestigli brooch can be admired in the Turmhof Museum in Steckborn.

Dr. habil. Urs Leuzinger

Director Frauenfeld Museum for Archaeology

Museum for Archaeology, Freiestrasse 24, Frauenfeld, archaeologie.ch



Photos: Museum for Archaeology, Frauenfeld



18th century carved butter board, Saanen Museum of the Countryside

Artfully crafted

Since time immemorial, chiefly local skilled craftsmen have fabricated the accoutrements of rural daily life: chests, boxes, milk pails, butter boards and moulds, often richly decorated with carvings. The imagination knew no bounds – cows, horses, goats, alpine herdsmen and their dogs, later often gentian and edelweiss, as well as the initials of the owner and the year. Particularly decorative elements are rosettes, hearts, stars, lozenges, stylized tulips and leaves.

The butter board shown here is from the Berchten Collection in the Saanen Museum of the Countryside. It was made in the middle of the 18th century and measures 22.5 × 21.5 cm. A symmetrical endless design with four interlocking hearts is contained within a simple circle of lines, and the handle has a heart-shaped hole.

Stephan Jaggi, President Saanen Local History Museum

Saanen Museum of the Countryside, Dorfplatz, Saanen, museum-saanen.ch