

CORINPHILA KL –
Karl Louis at **Corinphila**
p. 5

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BREAKING NEWS

We are proud to announce that **Corinphila Auktionen AG** will be the Main Partner to the organisers of the next international exhibition in Switzerland. **BERNABA 2025 Multilaterale Exhibition** takes place in Bern from 14–17 May next year.

Behind the exhibition stands a team with strong governance, management and support from Mr. Jean-Pierre Senn of Switzerland, who also is one of the most prolific collectors in the country. For the execution of the exhibition, Ms. Barbara

Scherrer is committed as project manager.

In an agreement signed on 17 November last year, Mr. Senn and his team secured the necessary support for the upcoming delivery in partnership with **Corinphila**. We will be the Main Partner to the organisers. The exhibition will focus on Swiss philately, celebrating the 175 years' anniversary of the federal stamps from Switzerland. The multilateral context implies that the participation is aimed at exhibitors related to Switzerland, Austria, Germany, Lichtenstein, Luxembourg,

the Netherlands, and Slovenia. However, jointly the **NABA 2025** will take place, to coincide with the Swiss National Exhibition. More information about exhibiting will follow from the organisers at www.bernaba25.ch.

The Major Partnership comprises an extensive range of commitments tunderaken by **Corinphila**. We will further present these within the **GAZETTE** in the coming months and elsewhere going forward. Put these dates in your calendar; 14–17 May 2025 in Bern, which follows the week after the exhibition **EuroPhilEx Birmingham 2025** in the United Kingdom (7–11 May 2025)./JH



Antoine Clavel (left) and Jonas Hällström (right), Managing Directors at **Corinphila Auktionen AG**, we are proud to make commitments with Mr. Jean-Pierre Senn, Ms. Barbara Scherrer, and the team for **BERNABA 2025 Multilaterale Exhibition** in Bern, 14–17 May next year.

Who we are at Corinphila!



Corinphila is an abbreviation of **Corporation Internationale de Philatélie**. From our offices in the business quarters of Zürich, in the Seefeld area at Wiesenstrasse 8, our sales are made with traditional formats such as the auction room for physical bidding, book bids, as

well as live phone bidding. Our digital platform for online live bidding connects the largest community in the world with bidders and buyers. Implicitly this means that no other company has more underbidders and buyers.

We connect the largest community in the world with bidders and buyers

WE PRESERVE TRADITIONS OF SUCCESS
As the oldest stamp auction house in Switzerland, we at **Corinphila Auctions** know the market. Senior philatelic knowledge, fastidious presentations, and an international customer base guarantee the highest prices. Single-Owner Sales, and Catalogues, are our speciality.

CONTACT US NOW
We are open to discuss important holdings in a meeting with you, possibly in your home. Selling or buying – the next **Corinphila Auction Event** is 3 – 8 June 2024.

The latest date for consignments is 5 March 2024. Reach us always at www.corinphila.ch. Contact us by phone at + 41 44 389 91 91 or by e-mail at info@corinphila.ch.

We are the CORPORATION Internationale de PHILAtélie



Antoine Clavel,
Managing Director



From left to right | **Row 1:** Walter Brühlmann (Senior Philatelist), Greg Todd (Senior Philatelist), Andrzej Zbojnowicz (Senior Philatelist) | **Row 2:** , Devlan Kruck (Senior Philatelist), Tim Foster, (Philatelist), Catherine Frey (Management of Administration) | **Row 3:** Nora Blattner (Chief Financial Officer), Volodymyr Svystun (Philately & Logistics)



Jonas Hällström RDP,
Managing Director

EDITION D'OR #70

by Richard Schäfer:

Switzerland Federal Mail – Rare Frankings 1849–1854



The Edition d'Or Series of books presenting the most beautiful stamp collections, which have been awarded an International Large Gold Medal or Grand Prix, have now reached 70. During a reception at **Corinphila's** office in Zürich on the 17 November last year, one week prior to past **Auction Event Week**, the presentation took place in front of circa 25 philatelists and guests.

It was the renowned Swiss philatelist Richard Schäfer's (1939–2023) exceptional co-

llection of Switzerland Federal Mail – Rare Frankings 1849–1854 which was launched in this “Hall of Fame in Philately”, i.e. referring to the Edition d'Or Series. Part I of the collection was offered at **Corinphila's** sale last November, **Part II will be offered during our Auction Event Week in June**. Part III and part IV will be offered in November 2024, and June 2025 respectively.

Antoine Clavel, Managing Director, held an honorable presentation of Richard Schäfers achievements in philately, followed by a “conversation” between Walter Brühlmann and Franzeska Schäfer, daughter to Richard, about her father's collecting and passion for the hobby. The book is available for purchases online at www.corinphila.ch or by contacting our office by phone at **+ 41 44 389 91 91** or by e-mail at info@corinphila.ch. /JH



Lodrup Emchi at Corinphila, and his apprenticeship with us as a Commercial Employee



On 21 August 2023, Lodrup Emchi started his apprenticeship at **Corinphila Auktionen AG** as a Commercial Employee. During his apprenticeship, our CEO Nora Blattner is responsible for his training and his mentorship, which spans over three years. In parallel to the apprenticeship, Lodrup goes to a vocational school, where he teaches the theoretical foundations to the practical training. The most important subject in his training is economy.

– In school I have the following subject's: Physical Education, English, French, German, Economy and Computer Science. In computer science I learn how to use Microsoft Word, Excel, Adobe Acrobat

etc. In the language subjects I learn the vocabulary that relates to my apprenticeship. For example, in English I learn how to talk with a customer on the phone.

– I have school on Thursdays and Fridays. During the third year of my apprenticeship, I only have school one day. At **Corinphila** I deal with practical tasks, for example checking the emails, opening the mail, and managing arriving shippings.

– I also have classes called industry courses, eight days during the whole apprenticeship. These classes are meant to supplement my apprenticeship: Teaching basic skills, introduction to basic working methods, supplementing practical training in the training company, preparation for the training company, and everyday working life, planning learning units, and lastly assessment of the apprenticeship. They also teach important basics about the relevant industry in which my apprenticeship company operates in. **Corinphila Auktionen AG** operates in the category service and administration industry, Lodrup concludes. /JH

Through the Eyes of Devlan Kruck, philatelist at Corinphila

Since July last year we fortunately have Devlan Kruck, from the United Kingdom, working with us. Devlan takes up a role of supporting our team's expansion and development. He is based in the UK, is a professional philatelist and philatelic journalist for many years, who's studied stamps for over 30 years. He is a member of the Royal Philatelic Society London, the Great Britain Philatelic Society (GBPS) and the Cambridge Philatelic Society, and has published hundreds of articles within philatelic publications over many years. Devlan has also been a regular face at all the major stamp shows and fairs in the UK for the last decade.

He has a background with a broad range of business experience, having held the position of Corporate Performance Manager for a joint venture consultant engineering and contractor organisation, where he was responsible for manag-

ing quality, environmental and health and safety arrangements and previously worked as an Audit Manager and Consultant for Transport for London and Highways England.

We look forward to working with Devlan and we welcome the additional experience and knowledge that he will bring to our worldwide business. In this issue of the **GAZETTE**, there are two articles deriving from what has crossed “his eyes” as one of a philatelist working in our Zurich offices.

Next time it might be your collection Devlan will be working with. Reach us always at www.corinphila.ch. Contact us by phone at **+ 41 44 389 91 91** or by e-mail at info@corinphila.ch. /JH



Devlan Kruck, senior philatelist.

Next Auction Event Week

3 to 8 June

If you consign to the next **Auction Event Week** at **Corinphila**, your material will be in good hands and will be managed by our knowledgeable philatelic team. Currently we are working on the following to be offered:

THE HUNTINGFIELD BLOCK – Australia's unissued Edward VIII stamp 1936

BESANÇON
South Africa & Pre-Union South Africa including Basutoland, South West Africa, St. Helena (part II), Great Britain (part V).

DUBOIS (part IV)
Australian States & Commonwealth of Australia

HEIMBÜCHLER
Brazil (part I)

CASTRO-HARRIGAN (part I)
Panama

CARNIO
Postal History of The World

SCHAEFER (part II)
Switzerland Postal History 1849–1854

SWITZERLAND
From classic to modern.

THE GENERAL SALE
Spain 1850 6 Quartos black (part II);
The Peter Campbell Collection of Australian States (part III),
Special Collection of Mexico (part II),
From the Brian Moorhouse Estate South and Middle America single lots and collections.

The latest date for consignments is 5 March 2024. Reach us always at www.corinphila.ch. Contact us by phone at **+ 41 44 389 91 91** or by e-mail at info@corinphila.ch.

Message in a Bottle

“Drink the Bulls Eye Wine, meet Nick Gebers and You will Know that He is the Winemaker”

by Ian Roodt – Western Cape Wines

Knowing Nick for some years now one feels and senses his connection and expression to his wines and this rather unique way he makes each wine. On each of my visits to Stellenbosch, no visit is complete without visiting Nick in his wine cellar and of course tasing his wines.

Nick always wanted to create something with his hands, a carpenter or painter was his vision. He had the opportunity to venture into making wine after his late father purchased the farm in 1981. His artistic painting skills plays a small part in his way of wine making, it is more of a gut feeling and intuition in the wine making process.

The name of the farm was derived from the original Post Office on the farm, thus naming the wines after stamps was a logic choice.

As for Nick’s favourite wine, that depends on his moods and choice of vintage. His Pinotage and Petit Verdot do take the upper places.

Nick’s winemaking philosophy embraces a natural, hands-off approach to allow the true character of the grapes to shine. From gentle handling and sorting to fermentation with natural yeasts, the process is focused on minimal interference. Red grapes undergo fermentation with natural

yeasts in French oak barrels, followed by careful racking using gravity flow. The wine evolves over 18 to 20 months, with minimal sulphur and no filtration, resulting in a genuine expression of terroir.

For white wine, grapes experience a brief skin contact, settling for 24 hours, and fermentation in barrels with natural yeasts. This process minimizes air contact, preserving the fruit’s essence. Regular lees stirring adds richness, and the wine is fined with bentonite before bottling unfiltered, with minimal sulphur levels.

Post House Bulls Eye 2021
The Stamp: The “Bulls Eyes” were the first stamps ever issued in Brazil. They went on sale on 1 August 1843 with denominations of 30, 60 and 90 réis. Brazil was the world’s second nation to release postage stamps. The unusual nickname is due to the oval design and the arrangement of the stamps in the sheet which makes a pair look like a bull’s eyes.

THE BULLS EYE WINE
Grapes: 90% Cabernet Sauvignon / 5% Merlot / 5% Petit Verdot

Wood ageing: 35% new, 26 months in 225 litre barrels

The Wine – Winemakers Comments: “In crafting this Cabernet, I aimed for that classic character – bold and

robust, a real meaty experience. Take in the enticing scents of raspberry, cigar box, chocolate, and a touch of gamy meat, it’s the soul of this wine.

On the palate, I’ve shaped a firm, oaky foundation, complemented by rounded, ripe fruit and tannins that weave through, adding depth to the finish.

Whether you choose to enjoy it now or patiently let it evolve over the next 8 years, it’s an invitation to savour the journey. Cheers and enjoy the artistry in every sip.”

The Wine – The sommelier: (Belinda Marra – WSET)
Bulls Eye 2021 presents itself as a Cabernet Sauvignon with a deep, nearly black colour. Its captivating aroma unveils a rich blend of ripe blackberries and black cherries, complemented by subtle hints of fresh mint, tobacco leaves, and cedarwood. This full-bodied wine is characterized by robust tannins, gracefully balanced by its refreshing acidity. The flavors of dark plum, balsamic undertones, and cedarwood



90 reis, 2nd. composite plate, state A, second largest recorded unused multiple of the 90 reis.



60 reis, 2nd. composite plate, state B, unused block of six. One of the few existing unused multiples from composite plates.

Both items will be offered by Corinphila in June: HEIM-BÜCHLER Part I.

from the barrel persist until the smooth, warm finish.

Due to the robust tannins, I suggest opening this wine at least 3 hours before serving to allow it to breathe. As it is still quite young, aging it in the cellar for at least 3–6 years would enhance its full potential.

Food: Serve this Cabernet Sauvignon with roasted beef fillet, rack of lamb, Prosciutto ham and mushroom pasta, duck, steak and kidney pudding, and oven roasted vegetables. This wine pairs exceptionally well with a juicy grilled steak or meat dishes, complemented by grilled peppers.

Post House Wines – Where to buy
South African has the magic ingredients for wine making, the heat, the warmth, the sun and the oldest terroir in the world. We have been making

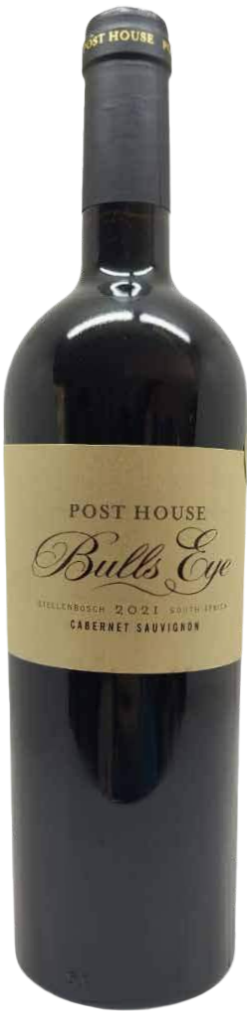
wine since 462 years and the first wines were produced on the 2nd February 1659.

If you enjoy wine, the experience and the stories behind the wine then join me in my Wine Cellar, situated in the historic Maggie Factory Complex in Kempththal. History, the culture, the background and the making are elements that add to the ingredients of every bottle of wine.

Each bottle of wine reflects the wine farm and the area where it is situated. Drinking the wine not only gives you the enjoyment but brings memories of travels through one of the most beautiful countries in the world.

Let me take you on this journey, not to buy wine but to buy the Experience and Lifestyle.

THE BULLS EYE RED WINE BOTTLE



POST HOUSE



Come and find your Taste

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Kempththal 3, 8310 Kempththal, Switzerland

Tel: +41 797948361 | Email: ian@westerncapewines.ch

Web and Online shop: www.westerncapewines.ch
Instagram: [@westerncapewines](https://www.instagram.com/westerncapewines)

Global Enquiries – Western Cape Wines GmbH
Tel: +41 79 7948361 | Email: hello@westerncapewines.ch

THROUGH THE EYES OF CORINPHILA'S PHILATELISTS

"The Rosette Franking" of Switzerland is both Unique and Attractive

by Tim Foster, Philatelist

When casually looking through a collection of a classic issue (not a commendable attitude, I admit) there are few things as eye-catching as large multiple frankings, which often combine a remarkable visual impact with great philatelic importance and, through the unusual rates they most often served to pay, a particular interest for postal history.

Undoubtedly one of the most important multiple frankings of Swiss philately is the famous 90 Rp.-"Rosette"-franking that has most recently formed part of the collection of Richard Schäfer sen. Consisting of nine single values of the 10 Rp. "Rayon II" (Types 1, 4, 9, 11, 20, 26, 33, 34 and 36) artistically grouped in the shape of a rosette and tied by four neat strikes of a black

"federal" lozenge obliterator to a large folded entire struck with a black "MÜNSTER 25 MAI 1857" circular date stamp dating from the postal administration of the Canton of Luzern, this scarce 90 Rp.-franking served to pay the rate for a registered letter of the sixth weight step with 93 Rp. to collect on delivery in accordance with the second federal postal tariff of January 1, 1852. In detail the rate is made up of 40 Rp. for a letter of the sixth weight step (3 to 3.5 Loth, see manuscript "3 ¼ Lth" in the top right corner) over a distance of more than

48km, doubled for registration plus 10 Rp. minimal charge for the collection of the 93 Rp. on delivery. The hand written number "725" plus the characteristic markings in red ink confirm registration.

This spectacular and unique cover was, to our knowledge, first brought to a wider attention when it was offered for an estimated CHF 2'000 to 4'000 by the Zurich firm of "Luder, Edelmann & Co" (soon to be known as **Corinphila**) as lot 5834 in their 11th sale of November 1928. Simply yet fittingly honoured as "hochinteressantes Unikum" (highly interesting and one-of-a-kind) the cover was used to great effect as decoration for the frontispiece of the illustrations-booklet accompanying the catalogue. Since then the cover has been part of many important Swiss collections, most notably that of Fritz



The 90 Rp. "Rosette Franking" as portrayed on the cover of the illustrations for the 11th Corinphila sale in November 1928.

Kirchner (164. **Corinphila** sale, March 2010, lot 6385) and will now, once again, be offered by **Corinphila** in June 2024 in the second part of the unique collection of Richard Schäfer sen.

The spectacular and unique 90 Rp. "Rosette Franking" on 25 May 1852 from Münster. The letter rate is 40 Rp. in the sixth weight class, plus 40 Rp. for registration, and 10 Rp. for cash on delivery. A correct franking ex. Burrus, ex. Kirchner, ex. Schäfer. **Corinphila will be proud to offer this unique and attractive cover at our auction in June.**

Karl Louis remains in Two Roles with Corinphila

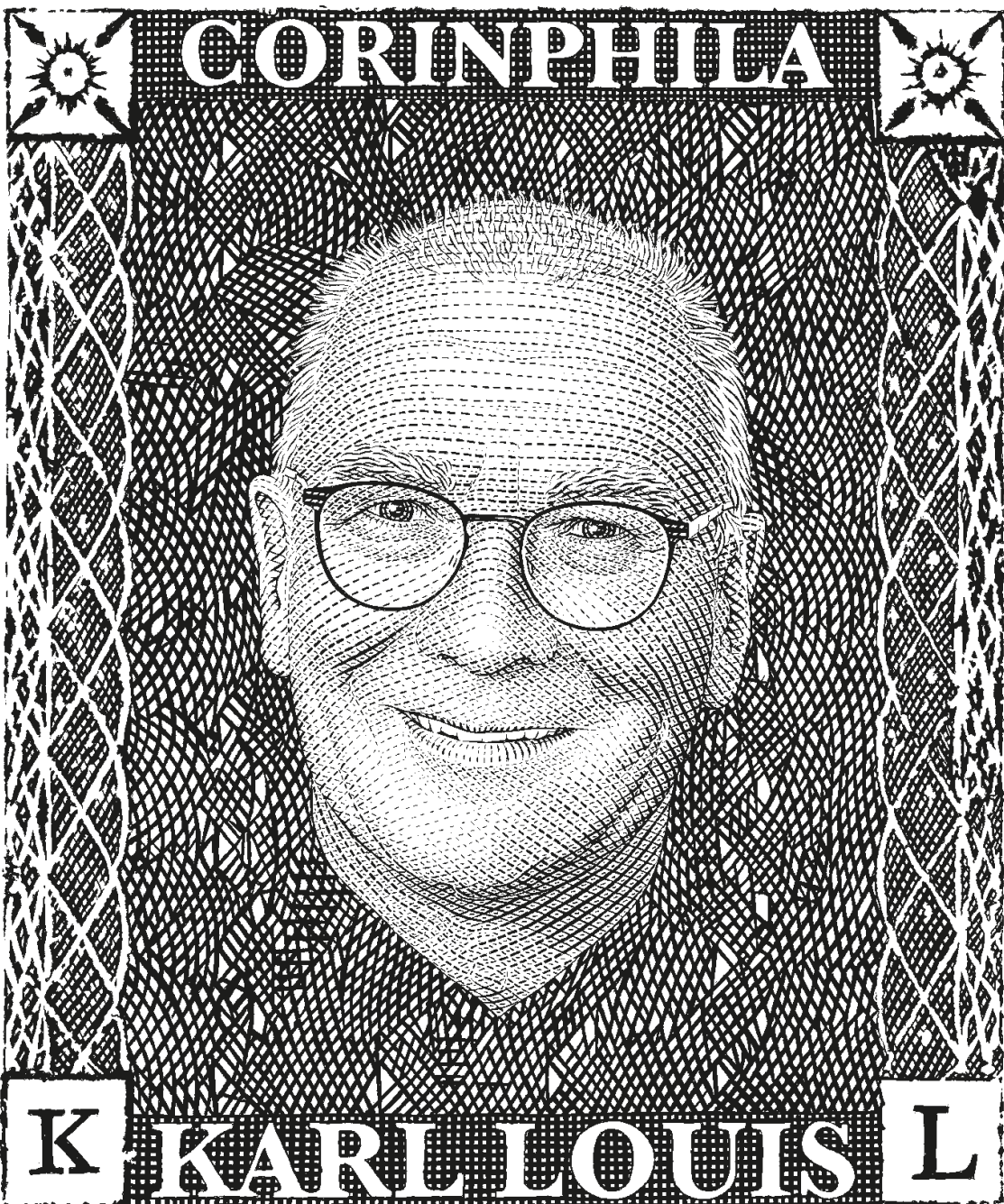
As previously has been announced by **Corinphila**, from 1 January 2024 Jonas Hällström succeeded Karl Louis as a Managing Director of the company. From the same date, Karl Louis is fully committed to continue with **Corinphila** in two roles, and to extend his activities for Great Britain philately and related areas.

With the use of the Karl Louis Card Index System, and the identification of numerous pedigrees of GB philately provenances for important items, **Corinphila** has very successfully sold during recent years highly important and famous Great Britain Collections, such as: The BESANÇON Collection "GB 1840–1910" (Part I–V); The DUBOIS Collection of "GB Used Abroad" (Part I–II); The international large gold awarded collection "GB 1840–1870" by Åke Rietz; The famous "Penny Pink Postal Stationery 1841–1901" Collection by the past president of the Great Britain Philatelic Society, Michael Lockton; The "GB 1840 – 1879 Blue Symphony" Collection by Burkhart Beer; The famous LONDON 2022 gold medal awarded Ray Simpson Collection of "British Perforation"; and the LONDON 2022 Grand Prix Candidate Collection formed by Simon Beresford-Wylie (Part I–III).

Thanks to Karl Louis, at **Corinphila** we have established GB philately as one of our home markets. Karl will now fully focus on further developing **Corinphila**'s businesses on this home market going forward.

Corinphila Auktionen AG is one of the five companies in a family of auction houses at three different continents, operating under the corporate roof of The Global Philatelic Network. The other four companies are Henrich Köhler GmbH in Germany, John Bull in Hong Kong, H.R. Harmer in USA, and **Corinphila** Veilingen in the Netherlands. Karl Louis remains unchanged one of five partner shareholders in the Köhler & **Corinphila** Holding GmbH, and from 1 January 2024 he takes on a new position as Chairman of the Group's new Business Board, which will empower the executive management of the Group in business development and strategy.

Customers to **Corinphila** should know they can use the same contacts to Karl Louis as in the past, and a call or e-mail to Karl – he will still respond personally. As everyone has come to recognise that Karl has a passion for serving our clients, all sales and our related business, and he will continue to do so also going forward. /JH



Design by Martin Mörck, artist.

THROUGH THE EYES OF CORINPHILA'S PHILATELISTS

A ‘Major’ Discovery

A Tale to Illustrate that Not all ‘Major’ Discoveries are what we ‘Assume’ Them to be.

by Devlan Kruck

One of the many rewarding aspects of our hobby is discovering something interesting about the material we are handling, whether that be as the collector writing-up their purchases, or the professional philatelist describing an item for auction. The pleasure of uncovering an added detail, even in the humblest of items, is equally satisfying for us all because what we bring to light adds greater context which stimulates the historian in us all. A pertinent example of this occurred recently in our Zurich office when breaking-down the Michael J Y Roberts “African Air Mail” collection for our June 2024 auction.

The collection was beautifully presented, extremely well researched and written-up with tremendous detail and facts. This added to the pleasure of the task and it’s easy to assume that there was not much for the philatelist to discover. However, as we all know it always pays ‘not to assume anything’ and to keep alert to the possibility that something might have been missed, or perhaps was outside the scope of the previous custodian’s interest.

The featured 1931 envelope here looks for all intents and purposes to be a straightforward Imperial Airways first-flight commemorative cover and indeed that is exactly

how it was presented and described upon the exhibition page. However, when you look more closely at the neatly typed addressee information it reveals the recipient, “Major K.E. Beaumont”, who was a very notable philatelist. In fact, a little research tells us that Major Kenneth Beaumont was also an important figure in the world of international aviation law; a detail which is pertinent to the subject of aviation themed material. For those who perhaps are not familiar with Major Beaumont, he was the President of the Royal Philatelic Society London 1953 to 1956 and the founding President of the Great Britain Philatelic Society (GBPS) in 1955, which was the year Major Beaumont signed the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists.

It’s worth noting that 1955 was the same year Maurice Burrus signed the Roll, which provides an added perspective on the philatelic credentials of Major Beaumont if his contribution to organised philately were not enough. Indeed he also co-authored, with J.B.M. Stanton, Part IV of The Stamps of Great Britain (King George V issues), and assisted in the revision of Part III (Queen Victoria and King Edward VII) with the support of John Easton.

As you might expect from his writing contributions, Major

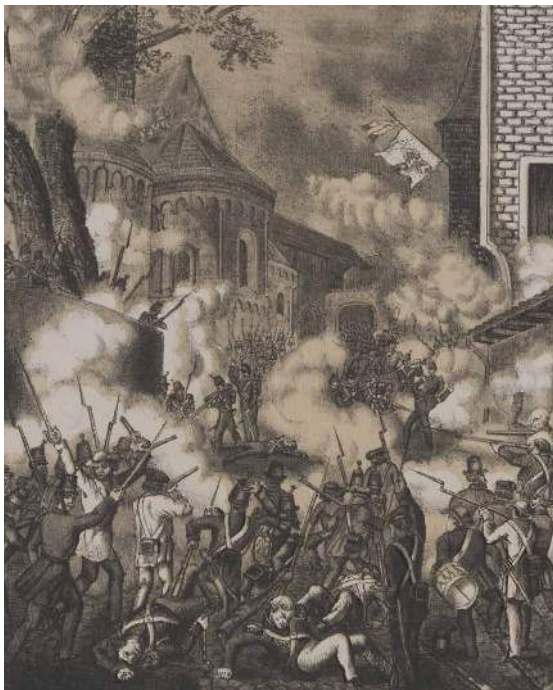
Beaumont’s primary collecting interest was in the stamps of Great Britain, but he also formed important collections of Cape of Good Hope, St Vincent, New Zealand, and North Borneo. Professionally, he was a lawyer by trade and became a world authority on aviation law helping to architect much of the early international aviation law and this contribution to aeronautics led to him being awarded a CBE for his services to the industry. This information provides a nice story around the cover and adds a rather good name in the area of Provenance. He’s certainly a fascinating individual, even if that was all there was to know about Major Beaumont, but as is often the case with philatelists there’s always more to them, and often more surprising things to learn than one would imagine. For example, Major Beaumont has the rather unusual accomplishment of

being an Olympic figure skater and later figure skating judge. He took part in the 1920 Olympic Games in the men’s singles and mixed pair skating disciplines, which is quite an achievement for anyone, let

alone a stamp collector. Although, as any serious philatelist will tell you, ‘don’t assume anything’, especially not about stamps and covers, and more so the individuals who study them!



This is one of the lots from Michael J Y Roberts “African Air Mail” collection at sale by Corinthia in June.



Royalists trying to take Neuchâtel castle: a contemporary print showing the royalist uprising in September 1856. (Collection of the Swiss National Museum, Zurich).

“En Suisse tout est à la guerre”

A Contemporary Account of a Diplomatic Crisis

by Tim Foster, Philatelist

Ask an international group of people to name something typically Swiss, and mountains, snow chocolate and cheese will be frequent answers. Relating to mentality, aspects like stability, consensus, compromise and neutrality will be common additions, especial-

ly in the country itself. This narrative, largely created to strengthen the national unity of a nation as diverse as Switzerland has been dominant in Swiss perception of the country’s history for more than a century and has tended to ignore the deep divisions that preceeded and indeed

made possible the foundation of the modern confederation in 1848. It is one of the more interesting aspects of classical Swiss philately that many of its gems originate from this turbulent period and can sometimes shed an unexpected light on it’s somewhat forgotten history.

THROUGH THE EYES OF CORINPHILA'S PHILATELISTS



This folded letter mail is attractively franked with Sitting Helvetia Imperforate 1 Fr. grey, 40 Rp. greenish-olive (2) and 10 Rp. blue, each tied by black "federal" lozenge-obliterators to a complete three-page folded letter to New York, struck with blue "Neuchâtel en Suisse 5 Janv. 1857" cds. as well as boxed "P.D." and endorsed "via Liverpool". The franking of Fr. 1.90 represents the correct amount for a letter of the second weight step (7,5–15g, as indicated by manuscript "2") paid to port via France and Great Britain as per the reduced rate introduced when the revised Anglo-French postal treaty of September 24, 1856 came into effect on January 1, 1857. The French entry- and transitmarkings "SUISSE / PONTARLIER 7 JANV. 57" and "PARIS A CALAIS" as well as the black arrival mark confirm the Liverpool-route. **Corinphila will be proud to offer this extraordinary historical folded letter mail as part of our auction in June.**

This is the case with this folded letter mail. In the letter, Edouard Du Pasquier, descendant of an influential liberal family in Neuchâtel, describes the political situation in his hometown to his son Edouard in New York, and rapidly comes to the somewhat surprising conclusion: *"en Suisse, tout est à la guerre"* (in Switzerland, everything looks like war). To understand the crisis that led to this point of high tension, a brief historical excursion may be necessary. When the French Grande Armée invaded Switzerland in 1798, leading to the proclamation of the Helvetic Republic, this meant not only the end of the feudal old order, but also the beginning of five centuries of turbulence, deep political divisions and rapid social change. Short lived and unpopular, the centralistic french-style experiment of the Helvetic Republic was abandoned in 1803, and the sovereignty of the cantons largely restored, with the same status being granted to a number of territories that had seen feudal possession by the old cantons. Switzerland had once again become a loose alliance of independent states meeting a few times a year at the Federal Diet or Tagsatzung, delegate conferences loosely resembling today's EU-summits, to discuss common affairs while maintaining their own laws, armies, currencies, weights, measurements, postal services, etc.

The following thirty years were marked by deep political divisions and bitter conflict opposing an essentially urban and protestant liberal movement, gradually gaining power in a majority of cantons and advocating a modern nation-state with a moderately centralized government and a mainly rural

and catholic conservative minority, vigorously opposed to any further integration seen as a threat to their identity and religion, culminating in a short civil war in autumn 1847 and, after an easy and relatively bloodless liberal victory, the founding of the modern Swiss Confederation in 1848.

In all of this agitation, Du Pasquier's home of Neuchâtel had occupied a rather special position. After a lengthy and complicated quarrel of succession in 1707, the crown of the ancient principality of Neuchâtel had fallen to Frederick I., King of Prussia and was still held by his descendants when, in 1814, the principality with its strong historic links to Switzerland had requested and been granted admission to the Confederation. In 1815, the Vienna Congress confirmed the principality's unique status as a Swiss Canton while retaining the King of Prussia as head of state. This lasted until the beginning of 1848, when, inspired by the French overthrow of the July-Monarchy, republicans under the lead of Fritz Courvoisier and Ami Girard marched on the town of Neuchâtel, took the castle, formed a provisional government and declared the canton a republic.

Though in the long run the Neuchâtel Revolution would prove to be the only successful revolution of 1848, in the short term the situation remained unstable. Frederick William IV of Prussia refused to renounce his rights to the self-proclaimed republic and the new government was faced with a strong, prussian-backed royalist opposition. On the night of September 3, 1856 Royalists under the lead of Count Frédéric de Pourtalès-Steiger staged a

coup against the government, which was however quickly quashed by federal troops. Nearly 500 royalists were taken prisoners, and the town was permanently occupied by federal troops. When the King of Prussia, still insisting on his rights to the crown, demanded the confederation immediately release all royalist prisoners, Switzerland was quickly sliding towards a major diplomatic crisis. It is here that our letter picks up the thread, Edouard Du Pasquier describing and commenting the subsequent events in detail.

He begins his letter with the words: *We live, my dear Edouard, in serious times* and goes on to describe *the grave position of our unfortunate country where we live under the most arbitrary régime possible, exposed to the despotism of the masses, which, after all, is the worst possible despotism.* The Du Pasquier family had held notable functions in the city of Neuchâtel since at least the 17th century and had acquired

considerable wealth through their early involvement in the textile industry as well as the family bank of DuPasquier, Pourtalès et Cie. founded at the turn of the century. Since the proclamation of the republic in 1848 numerous family-members had been active in politics as moderate liberals, an opinion shared by Edouard, as is made clear by his equal condemnation of the royalist conspirators, *that insane and deplorable crowd of September 3*, and the government composed exclusively of radical liberals, in his eyes *made up of spiteful and vindictive people who want nothing but to crush anyone who owns anything or holds any opinion contrary to their own.*

He then goes on to describe the diplomatic situation in a well-informed and historically accurate manner: *You have seen in the newspapers that since October 23 in Switzerland everything looks like war; Prussia has announced to the Federal Council the rupture of all diplomatic relations and after the first rumours of a prussian mobilization has ordered the immediate mobilization of 2 divisions or 20,000 men to guard the Rhine.* He further discusses parliament unanimously voting in favour of the measures taken by the Federal Council and describes the patriotic élan gripping the newspapers to show the unanimity and resolution of the Swiss Nation *but it remains to be seen what is happening behind the scenes. At the end of November, General Dufour was sent to Paris to see the Emperor and returned tot he Federal Council bearing the Emperor's advice; the latter insisted on the liberation of the prisoners, after which he would undertake to insist on Prussia and to bring about a solution to the whole question in accordance with the wishes and interests of Switzerland.*

However for the time being and to Du Pasquier's consternation the attempt was

unsuccessful: *If Switzerland had been led by magistrates with even the slightest bit of foresight, there is no doubt that the matter would have been settled at that time. There had even been a rumour that the prisoners were to be released, and a letter from Berne had announced this as positive. However, it seems that the british ambassador Gordon crossed the plans, advising the Federal Council to ask France for positive guarantees of Prussia's intentions and so, to his great dismay and displeasure, Dufour's mission failed.*

When Du Pasquier, writing at the high point of the crisis, turns his thoughts to the future, the apprehension becomes palpable: *The prisoner's trial is planned for January 19. By then I hope, the big question [Prussia's rights to the crown of Neuchâtel and their demand for the prisoners' release] will be solved, because if it should come to the trial I fear there will be no more possible arrangement with Prussia; she would call to arms rather than to leave them to be judged. The defence [...] is studying the documents for the trial. There are 17 volumes folio.*

Coming to the end of a paragraph, Du Pasquier deplores the fact, that the cost for the troops guarding the prisoners is to be met by the tax payers of the city of Neuchâtel before closing on a sombre note: *That is a loss of money one has to envisage like a bankruptcy and of which we would accept our part, were it not for the general and growing demoralisation; notions of what is just and unjust have been perverted, men have abandoned God and God has abandoned them to the torrent of their excesses.*

By the time Du Pasquier had sent his letter, the point of highest tension in the crisis had probably already passed and, contrary to Du Pasquier's gloomy outlook, Napoleon III ended up engaging in a second more successful mediation, resulting in Prussia postponing and then cancelling the mobilisation of her army after Switzerland had given the emperor her assurance that the prisoners would be freed and deported. After an international conference in March 1857, Frederick William IV of Prussia finally renounced all rights to the principality of Neuchâtel on May 26, 1857.

A unique and compelling contemporary account of this pivotal and largely forgotten crisis in Swiss history, **Corinphila** will be proud to offer this extraordinary historical document as part of our spring auction. A full transcription (in french) is available from the author.



Frederick William IV of Prussia (1795–1861).

THROUGH THE EYES OF CORINPHILA'S PHILATELISTS

The King who only had Eyes for his Stamps

by Devlan Kruck



King Carol II (1893–1953) is without doubt one of the most famous, if not infamous, stamp collectors of the 20th Century. However, oddly, there is not a whole lot written about the man who formed the greatest ever collection of Romanian material and, during his illustrious philatelic pursuits, acquired many of the world's rarest and most valuable stamps. Perhaps a factor in the dearth of stamp related literary accolades, for a man who was King of Romania for a decade, is because of the controversy surrounding his life both before and during his reign, not to mention following his forced abdication in 1940.

These controversies were not confined to his personal or occupational activities, because the well-informed philatelist among us will be aware that several the scarcer Moldavia "Bulls" in his possession have vanished without a trace since being exhibited by Carol II in 1950; including the unique 1858 27pa tête-bêche pair, which boasted the illustrious Provenance of Ferrari and Hind before finding its way into the King's collection. However,

“ I have just sold His Majesty King George the adjoining stamp. Only 30 exist. £30 ”

not wanting to speculate on these philatelic indiscretions and preferring to focus upon more positive contributions, let's remind ourselves that this was a man often photographed with a glamorous lady in one hand and an alcoholic drink in the other, but it was often reported that his only real love was for his stamps. Clearly a colourful character who brought a level of glamour and dedication to our hobby that shouldn't be ignored, because let's be candid, the glitz, stardust, and influence, not to mention affluence he sprinkled wherever he went, wouldn't do the world of stamps any harm today.

The reason for highlighting these Transylvania anecdotes is in our June 2024 auction in Zurich we will be offering Part Two of the Gabriel Sas-sower (FRPSL) collection of Romania, as well as material from other vendors in a sole Romania catalogue. It will include Moldavia "Bulls" and a palatial range of other treasures for all budget levels and unusually there is one particular lot which captures the imagination of the connoisseur and not for the reasons you might expect.

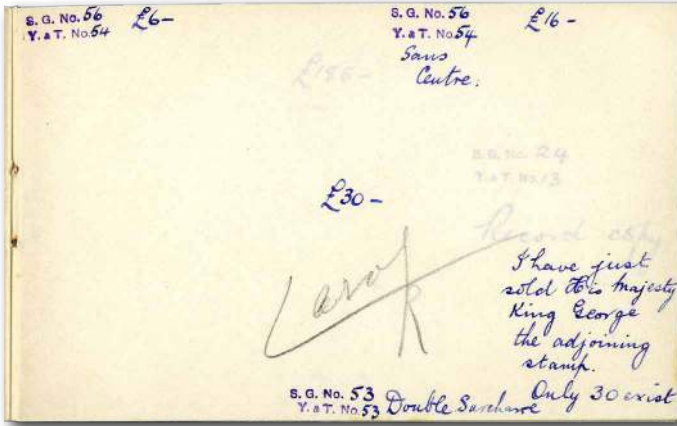
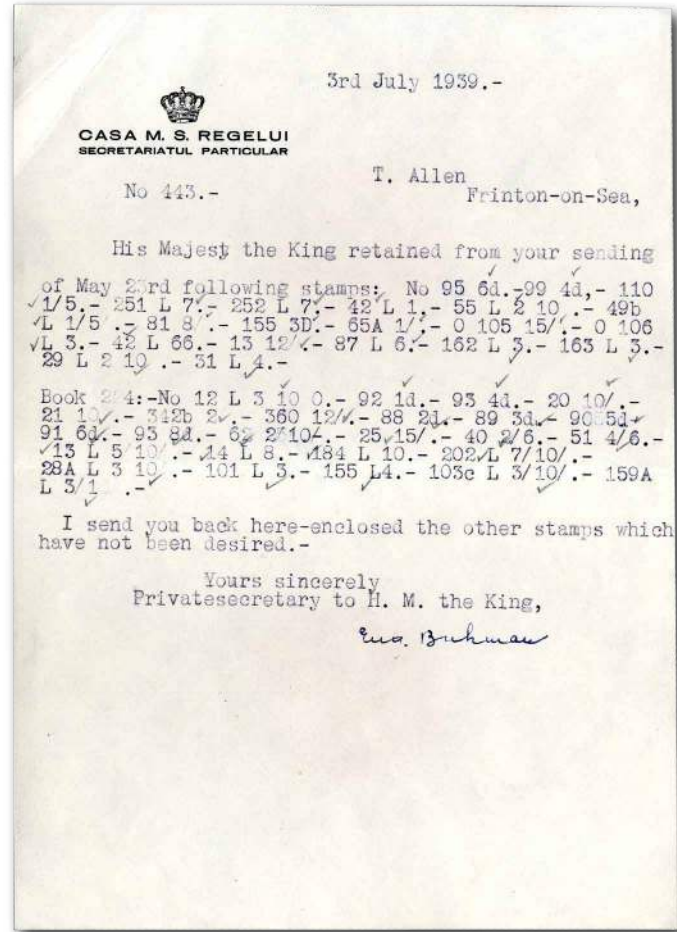
In short, it's a relatively un-presuming assembly of covers, documents, and records from a noteworthy London stamp dealer, *Thomas Allen (1895–1984), who had the privilege of selling his wares to the rich and famous around the world during the 1930's and 1950's including, pertinently, our playboy King Carol II.

There are letters from the Royal Palace to Allen about stamp purchases, bank notifications of payments from the King to the dealer, including

one for £200 (which in today's money is around £16k), and an old approval book which has been sent to the Romanian monarch as well as the British sovereign King George V. The evidence of this comes from handwritten notes dotted throughout the pages from Allen addressing his 'Majesty', which contain the signature of Carol II in the places he'd selected a stamp to buy. There are several penned messages which speak of a majestic period, one stating; "I have just sold His Majesty King George the adjoining stamp. Only 30 exist. £30". In the presence of such a psychological sales pitch, it is no surprise to see King Carol's distinctive cursive script initials on the empty page. Quite a staggering piece of philatelic history that conjures up a romantic image of a unique time when philately truly was the hobby of Kings.

Given the two clients Thomas Allen was selling to, you might imagine the approval book to be a grand leatherbound book with gold leaf pages and fancy print, but in fact it is just your common old journal, the same as those we all remember picking stamps from in an age gone by and some of us still receive from our local philatelic society approvals circuit. It doesn't even have a rigid cover, it is of the most modest and unassuming construction. Nevertheless, the raw and basic presentation of the book, whilst contrasting enormously with the apparent audience, adds to the charm and more importantly illustrates that the King's decision to buy a stamp was never governed by costumes or accoutrements. A genuine stamp collector focused upon the element of his study. Mind you, it does make you think that Thomas Allen, the London stamp dealer to royalty, must have been a shrewd character. Afterall, he clearly recognised a dressed-up approval book was a pointless accessory in the face of a King who only had eyes for his stamps.

This is a lot in Corinphila's sale in June.



*Thomas Allen (1895–1984), was a well-known London based dealer of British Colonial rarities. An active member of the Royal Philatelic Society London (RPSL), Allen was an RPSL Council Member, the Curator of its forgery collection and a member of their Expert Committee, for whom he reorganised their enormous assembly of reference photographs. Allen, together with Charles Nissen, purchased in 1936, the Perkins Bacon stock and records. He was a philatelist with a broad experience who served on the jury at FIPEX, New York 1956 and was a member of the Executive Committee for the London International Exhibition 1960.

EDITORIAL

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