



Swiss Flexible-Head Razor Cancelers



This exhibit illustrates the story of flexible-head, rotating date-wheel cancelers invented by Frédéric de Coppet (1851–1930) of Lausanne, Switzerland.

Scope of Exhibit

In 1866 Güller & Cie made the first rotating date-wheel cancelers for Swiss Post, Telephone, and Telegraph (PTT). Twenty-three years later in 1889 de Coppet patented his first flexible-head mechanism combining the two technologies. His patent described the most significant canceler design in the history of the Swiss PTT.

De Coppet demonstrated a working model of his invention to the PTT in 1889, but it took another nine years before administrators agreed to conduct extensive tests. The eleven District Post Offices (DPO) participating in the tests received their first experimental devices in October 1898. The test period continued for four and one half years until April 1903, when the PTT signed a contract with de Coppet adopting his patented design. Güller & Cie was chosen to make the devices since the company had an ongoing contract to make all Swiss postal cancelers. Eventually Güller manufactured over 10,000 cancelers based on de Coppet's invention.

On 31 December 1907 Aarau was the first office to stop the use of its razor canceler. Within five years, six of twelve other offices had discontinued using razor cancelers. By 1918 thirty-five of the forty-seven devices had disappeared from service, five survived after 1930.

The mechanical design was used by the Swiss PTT until 1964, at which time town post codes were required to be incorporated into each canceler. Güller was unable to produce them within the necessary time limits. Put out to bid, the new contract was won by a German company, which substituted de Coppet's spring mechanism with a solid block of rubber, thus ending a 60 year collaboration between Frederic de Coppet, Güller & Cie, and the Swiss PTT.

Exhibit Organization

The exhibit is organized as a timeline illustrating the order in which the test cancelers were issued. It is not designed to be a catalogue of the 47 different cancelers used at the twelve post offices, though 102 of 130 different outgoing/incoming/forwarding combinations are exhibited. (Eleven uses are not known.) Items have been chosen demonstrating interesting destinations, rates, and methods of Swiss mail handling during and after the official test period of 1898-1903.

Exhibit Examples

Lausanne 0.02, 6. X.89 card, one of thirteen on cover.
Geneve 6.01, 9.V.99, one of 2 known transit uses.
Bellinzona 3.01, 3.VII.99, only known transit use.
Lausanne 7.01, 7.VI.00, <5 known forwarding uses.
Bern 4.02, 10. IX.00, first day of use.
Aarau 1.02, 2.VII.02, earliest known use.
Lausanne 7.02, 12.X.02, <10 forwarding uses.

Lausanne 7.01a, 7.I.03, <3 known forwarding uses.
Bellinzona 3.03, 4.X.07, only known forwarding use.
St Gallen 10.03, 24.VII.08, 1 of 2 known transit uses
Geneve 6.02, 9.IX.08, <5 forwarding uses.
Zurich Fahrpost 11.06, 15. V.09, <5 receiver uses.
Lausanne 7.02, 28.IV.11, <10 receiver uses.
Lausanne 7.02, 14.IX.11, <10 forwarding uses.

References

Swiss "Razor blade postmarks" Roger Heath, Rudolf Inger, Peter Schlatter, Erwin Steinbrüchel and Hans J. Zinken, 2016
<http://www.zinken.net/ArGe/Seite-Buecher.html#Rasierklingenhandbuc>

1889-97	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904-07
<p>February 1889 De Coppet patents flexible-head hand canceler</p> <p>October 1889 Lausanne tests</p> <p>1897 St. Croix canceler delivered</p>	<p>Official Test starts 10 October 6 cancelers issued.</p> <p>24 October 5 additional issued.</p> <p>16 November Breakages require all cancelers be recalled for repairs.</p>	<p>19 April Cancelers returned to all DPOs for renewed testing.</p> <p>Intermittent use. Breakage common.</p> <p>30 November All recalled, further modifications.</p>	<p>11 April Cancelers returned to DPOs for additional testing.</p> <p>7 September New cancelers sent to 3 offices to test redesigned internal spring mechanism. Repairs made throughout the year.</p>	<p>Razor cancelers continue to have problems, though less often.</p>	<p>June 27 Type 9 internal spring cancelers issued to all DPOs.</p> <p>27 October PTT receives final prototype cancelers from de Coppet.</p>	<p>12 April de Coppet and PTT sign contract.</p> <p>June Pre-production samples made by Güller for PTT.</p> <p>November Mass production begins by Güller.</p>	<p>24 November 1904 Flun du Stand only razor canceler made by Güller.</p> <p>Last use: Aarau 31 December 1907</p>
Frame 1		Frame 2		Frame 3		Frame 4	
						Frame 5	

Items of special interest are outlined in red. Explanatory notes accompany the item descriptions.

The deCoppet canceler included rotating date wheels and a flexible head. The external spring mechanism centered the handle after each strike. This feature was later replaced with an internal coil spring as seen in these drawings which were included in deCoppet's patent applications of 1889, 1903, and 1905.

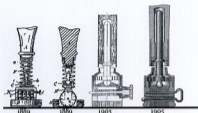
1889

De Coppet's First Post Office
Demonstration in Lausanne



Lausanne Exp. Let.
2 October 1889
First day of use.

De Coppet's Patent Drawings



1889 – external spring; de Coppet's first patent application.
1903 – internal spring; pin for fixing location of date wheels.
1905 – internal spring / modified retaining spring clip.



Lausanne Exp. Let.
6 October 1889
to Genève.
Domestic postal card.

One of thirteen known examples on cover.

Seven known use dates of this device:
2 - 6 October;
7, 16 December 1889.

Three different de Coppet devices were used in 1889 - Lausanne Exp.Let.) as above), six known examples of Bern Brf. Ex., and two known examples of Lausanne Fac.Let.

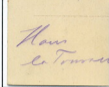
1908-11	1912-15	1916-19	1920-22	1923-27	1928-31	1932-38
▲ Last used: Zürich 5 April 1909	▲▲▲ Last used: St. Gallen 5 April 1912	▲▲ 1 February 1917 Chur first modified canceler with postal district identification.	▲▲▲▲ All remaining cancelers modified with 24 hr date wheel.	▲▲ 4 April 1925. Basel last to reappear after modifications.	▲▲▲▲ Last used: Bern 22 December 1928	▲▲▲▲ Last used: Genève 3 January 1934
Bellinzona 12 May 1911	Lausanne 23 June 1912	April 1919 Lausanne cancelers modified and returned to post office.	September 1920- July 1922 Rue du Stand Bern. Genève. Neuchâtel.	Last used: Basel 29 October 1926	Rue du Stand 24 December 1928	Chur 6 February 1935
19 September 1911 First machine installed at Bern.	Lausanne Consig. Mess. 25 December 1912				Zürich Fahrpost 15 April 1930	Last used: Luxemb outgoing 10 November 1938
Frame 6		Frame 7			Frame 8	

Delivered June 1897. It is assumed there were mechanical differences between this device and those of the 1889 trials in Lausanne.

1897
Ste. Croix



Ste. Croix [0.04]
29 July 1897



Frankfurt am Main
7 December 1898
to Ste Croix [0.04]
8 December 1898.
International post card.



Bätterkinden
16 June 1899
to Ste Croix [0.04]
17 June 1899.
Domestic letter,
underpaid 4 centimes.

In early 1905 this canceler was modified. Two visual differences are seen: reengraved letters, and a wider white line to separate the bars and the inner circle.

Ste Croix [0.04a]
8 April 1908
to Guntur, India.
International postcard.



Warsaw, [Russia] to
Ste Croix [0.04a]
12 April 1909
International
registered letter.

Schweiz-Suisse-Svizzera

Coupon.
Kann v. Adressaten abgeholt werden.
Peut être débanché par le destinataire.
Può essere sbancato dal destinatario.

Ste-Croix — N° d'impostazione
769

Ste-Croix

d'expédition **1** **Paquet** **1** **Boletino** di spedizione

Nachnahme.
Remboursement.

Postage
W. Val
V. Val
A. A.

Northwestern
Reimboursment
Bilboresu

Pr. 18.-
Franco »
Total Fr. 18.-

Herrn
L. Stohr
Buzeu
Roumanien

512

H. THORENS
Ste-CROIX
(Suisse)

159

Tranche du Bureau
de départ

Boletino
d'expédition

Leptele — D. eich-dum
Steix-Regist.

Eikette — Anweisung

In das Auswahlschloß. | An Bureau
Buchs Bhf.

ROMANIA
10 BANI
10 BANI

Ste Croix [0.04a] 23 September 1912 to Buzeu, Roumania. International packet card.

10 October – Razor cancelers issued, official post office trials begin


5 cancelers issued. Basel Bern Genève Lausanne Neuchâtel
2 cancelers broke Basel - 20 October Genève - 5 November
<u>24 October</u> 5 cancelers issued. Aarau Bellinzona Luzern St. Gallen Zürich
<u>16 November</u> All cancelers back to deCoppet for repairs.



Bern [4.01] 11 October 1898 to Nürnberg, Bavaria.
International postal card.

Second day of use.



Basel [2.01] 17 October 1898 to Thuisis. Domestic printed matter card.

This canceler broke on 20 October, was sent to be repaired and not returned to the post office until April 1899. Used only 10 days in 1898.

Aarau, Bellinzona, Luzern, St. Gallen, and Zürich devices were issued 24 October.
 All offices now had a razor canceler for testing purposes.
 First day of use varies for each office.



Paddington, England 1 November to Zurich [11.01] 2 November 1898.
 International postal card.



Cadiz, Spain 4 November 1898 to Bellinzona [3.01] 11 November 1898.
 Concession rate postal card, uprated for international use.

Bellinzona's canceler is not known used before 2 November,
 and was recalled 16 November. **Used only fourteen days in 1898.**



Lausanne [7.01] 5 November 1898 to Dorpate (Tartu), Estonia.
International postal answer card.



Kamerun 11 October 1898 to St. Gallen [10.01] 13 November 1898.
International registered postal card. (Over franked)



Zurich [11.01]
14 November 1898
to Rommerskirchen,
Germany.
International post card.

Excerpt from the 1898 correspondence log between the Swiss PTT and de Coppet:

14 November – De Coppet to PTT: Vendor delivered new part, need to modify all cancelers.

16 November – PTT to 8 DPO's: Return devices. (Basel and Geneve being repaired, no Chur existed.)



Lausanne [7.01] 17 November 1898 to Plainfield, NJ, USA.
International letter.

Last known use in 1898

This cover shows the Lausanne PO used its canceler the day after Bern issued the recall. De Coppet lived in Lausanne, therefore, it was not necessary for the Lausanne PO to send the canceler to Bern only to have it returned to Lausanne for de Coppet. He is known to have regularly frequented his home town post office during this test period. De Coppet took five months to modify the cancelers before returning them to Bern for further testing in April 1899.

19 April 1899

Testing resumes.

Chur and Zürich Fahrpost received razor cancelers for the first time, total of 12 now being tested.

Breakage occurs, intermittent use. Genève, Bern, Basel, Aarau, and Zürich all returned their cancelers before mid-June. These were repaired and returned to them.



Neuchâtel [9.01]

24 April 1899 to Gmünd, Württemberg. Unpaid international postcard. Deficient 10 centimes, due 20 pfennigs.

Lausanne [7.01]

26 April 1899 to Rollingergrund, Luxembourg. International post card.



Included with the repaired cancelers was a new device for Zürich Fahrpost.

Zürich Fahrpost [11.06]
13 May 1899 to Meilen. Domestic postcard 5 centimes, nachnahme $\times 10$ fr = 10 centimes. Total = 15 centimes.





Satigny via **Geneve** [6.01] 9 May 1899 to Gex, France.
International cross-border rate to France, 15 centimes.

Mailed at Satigny station 10km SW of Geneva. This cover did not receive an ambulant date stamp on board the train, therefore, it was processed on arrival at the main Geneva post office prior to routing for France.

One of two known transit uses of this device.



Marienburg, Austria 25 June 1899 to Zurich [11.01] 25 June 1899.
Underpaid international post card.

Short 8 heller = 8 centimes x 2 = rounded to 15 centimes due.

1899



Zurich [11.01]
7 June 1899 within Zürich.
Local printed matter.

This canceler was sent for repairs on 21 May and returned this day, June 7. It broke again becoming unusable on 12 October 1899 and not repaired, thus, the first razor canceler withdrawn from service.

Bellinzona [3.01]
3 July 1899 to Pallanza, Italy.
Upgraded domestic postal card.

This card originated at the Hotel Reber au Lac 3 VII 99, was carried to Locarno train station (SL station mark), and processed at the Bellinzona main post office for distribution to Pallanza.

Only known example of a Bellinzona 3.01 transit use.



Bern [4.01]
22 July 1899 to Luzern.
Domestic postcard.

The Bern canceler had a similar fate to the above Zurich device. It was sent for repairs 13 May, returned to use on 7 June, but broke again on 16 August and withdrawn as unusable. Bern did not have a serviceable razor canceler until one was returned with all the other upgraded cancelers, 11 April 1900.

1899

— Carte postale.



Union postale universelle. - Weltpostverein. - Unione postale universale.

SUISSE. SCHWEIZ. SVIZZERA.

Nur für die Adresse.



Frau Anna Buchli - Fontana

Versam

Côté réservé à l'adresse.

Take reserve side for address.

Luzern broke 27 June, Neuchâtel broke 28 June, neither were returned in 1899.

Five others broke between August and October and were not returned in 1899.

The remaining six were recalled on November 30.

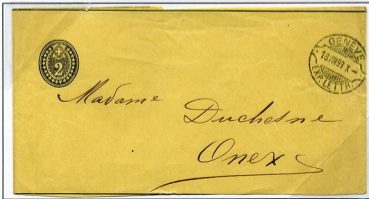
Chur [5.01]

8 August 1899 to Versam.
Free domestic postcard.
Swiss Military Commissioner.



Waterbury, USA
7 August 1899 to

Aarau [1.01] 18 August 1899.
Updated domestic postal card.



Geneve [6.01]
18 August 1899
to Onex.
Printed matter.

11 April - Repaired cancelers reissued to post offices.

11 April

Type 1 cancelers reissued to post offices. Probably modified with new spring. PO's told to use until April 1901, then report.

Repairs made throughout year, i.e. Neuchatel broke 20 April, sent to de Coppet, returned 3 June.

21 April

PO orders new internal spring cancelers for:
Basel Brief Exp.
Bern Brief Exp.
Geneve Rue Du Stand
Lausanne Consig. Lett.
Zürich

2-5 July

UPU Convention in Bern. De Coppet made special canceler for convention PO. This led to international requests for information about his mechanical design.

10 September

The new 8 bar cancelers were delivered to four post offices, Zürich had 12 bars.

Both the original and new mechanisms were being used simultaneously. Post offices were ordered to continue using them in preparation of their April 1901 reports.



Bern (4.01) to Aarau (1.01) 25 April 1900. Domestic postal card.

Two different razor cancels on the same item is uncommon.

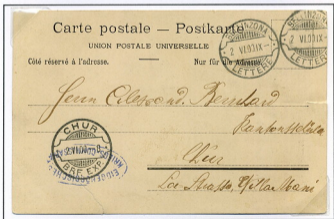


Montevideo, Uruguay 3 May 1900, via Milan, Italy 23 May, to Bellinzona [3.01] 23 May 1900. International post card.

1900



Lausanne [7.01] 30 May 1900 to Salonique, Turkey.
International post card.



Bellinzona [3.01] 2 June 1900 to Chur [5.01]
Free domestic military post card.
(Two different razor cancels.)

1900

One of two known examples of this canceler used for receiving or transit purposes.



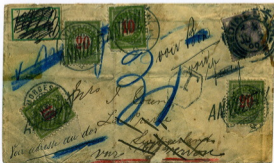
Edinburgh, Scotland 7 June 1900 to La Prairie, an estate near Morges 9 June.
Underpaid international letter which should have been franked 2 1/2d.

Bern 9 June 6am transit;
Morges 9 June 3 pm; Morges 9 June 3pm postage due uncollected.
Letter held for three weeks then forwarded to Bex,
via Vevey 3 July 2pm, to Bex 4 July 8pm receiving;
forwarded to Yverdon.

Inconnu label added prior to arrival in Yverdon 7 July 7am,
postage due uncollected Yverdon 7 July 7am .

Received Lausanne [7.01] 8 July 11am.

[The letter was finally sent from Yverdon to the Lausanne District Post Office which had the authority to decide how the letter would be handled. It was sent on to Havre de Pas, St Helier, Jersey.]



Scan 85% of original.

1900

The first commemoratives issued by Switzerland celebrated the 25th Anniversary of the Universal Postal Union.

2 July, 1900:

First Day of issue for the 5, 10, 25 centimes stamps, and both 5 and 10 centimes postal cards.

(Valid until 31 December 1900)



Lausanne [7.01]

2 July 1900.

Local letter.

Bern [4.01] 2 July 1900

to Burgdorf.

Domestic use of

international postal card.



Bière via Bière-Morges

Regional railway

26 July 1900

to Lausanne 26 July 9am.

Forwarded Lausanne [7.01]

26 July 2pm to Bussigny sur

Oron 26 July 1900 5pm.

Domestic post card.

Lausanne 7.01 is known used about twenty times as a forwarding date stamp. All recorded uses are between 8 July and 20 August 1900, though the device was in use for almost four years.



1900



British Field Office #27, Orange Free State, South Africa 26 July 1900; to Baumaris, Lausanne received 19 August. Forwarded from Lausanne [7.01] 20 August 3pm, via Interlaken 20 August, to Grindelwald 21 August 9am International letter.

Fewer than five know forwarding examples.

Scan 85% of original



Pará, Belém, Brazil 20 July, via Lisbon 3 August 1900; received Neuchatel 7 August 9am. Forwarded from Neuchatel [9.01] 7 August 10am to Ponts-de-Martel 7 August 4 pm. International uprated postal card.

1900

10 September

New cancelers were issued to Basel, Bern, and Zürich; additionally, Lausanne Consig Lett. and the Geneva Rue Du Stand Branch Office received new razor cancelers for the first time.

The 26mm diameter design included the newest internal spring mechanism and had eight bars above and below the date bridge making them visually different from Type 1 devices which continued to be used by all participating offices.



Bern [4.02] 10 September 1900 to Bern.
Domestic postal card.

Type 2 - First day of use

Roggwyl 1 October
(docketed on reverse)
Transit **Bern [4.02]** 2 October,
to Bad Blumenstein bei Thun
2 October.
Domestic post card.

Fewer than ten known
Bern 4.02 transit uses.

The hand written blue pencil mark confirms this card originated in Roggwyl. It was transported by train to Bern where it was processed at the main Bern post office for distribution to Blumenstein.



Geneve Rue Du Stand [6.04]
11 October 1900
to Lyon, France
International printed matter,
triple rate (100-150gm).

Though not a district post office, the Rue Du Stand office processed more mail than many of the participating test offices, therefore, it was included at this time and issued a Type 2 canceler.



1900

Carte postale — Postkarte — Correspondence
 Cartolina postale — Post card — Leveladó-Lap — Brief
 Union postale universelle — Weltpostverein — Unione postale



Herrn Fritzli, Pfister
Aarau



Aarau

Aarau [1.01]
 29 October 1900
 within Aarau.
 Glitter glued onto the
 picture of this card
 required a 5 centimes
 surcharge. Correctly
 paid domestic post card.

Aarau 15 October 1900
 within Aarau
 forwarded from **Aarau [1.01]**
 to Zürich 15 October.
 Domestic postal card.

Cosa riservato all'Indirizzo.



Postkarte.
 CARTE POSTALE. — CARTOLINA POSTALE.
 Nur für die Adresse.



H. Schütz, Meteorolog.
Central-Postamt
Aarau
Zürich



Cosa riservato all'Indirizzo.

Neuchatel [9.01]
 29 October 1900
 to Brousse, Turkey,
 via Constantinople.
 International postal card.

Cosa riservato all'Indirizzo.



Carte postale.
 Union postale universelle. — Weltpostverein. — Unione postale universale.
 SUISSE SCHWEIZ SVIZZERA
 Nur für die Adresse.



Mlle Théodora Reinick
Ecole Américaine de
Kaya-Bashi
Brousse.
(Turgui d'Asie.)
N° Constantinople.

Cosa riservato all'Indirizzo.

1900

Examples of two different razor cancels on same piece.





Chur [5.01] to Aarau [1.01] 9 November 1900.
Domestic postal card.



Geneve Rue Du Stand [6.04] to Neuchâtel [9.01] 12 November 1900.
Domestic postal card.

1900

From
Gér. Girard
Handly
Medels. Platta
Curaglia



Chur [5.01]

21 November 1900
to Medels Platta,
forwarded to Curaglia
[two very small villages].
Domestic letter.

Basel [2.01]
22 November 1900 to Lenzberg.
Domestic letter.
Unfranked over 20 km = 20 centimes.

Lenzberg
H. Hargan



rich-Lischer

Monsieur Lidy. Vallette
Campagne Fatale
Avenue M. Monnier
Genève Chancy



Neuchâtel [9.01]
26 November 1900
to Genève.
Domestic letter.

1900

Geneve Rue Du Stand [6.04]
16 December 1900 to Bex.
Domestic printed matter.

Lausanne [7.01]

27 December 1900
to Brussels, Belgium.

Printed matter post card returned
Lausanne 29 December.



"NON ADMIS AU TRANSPORT"

Switzerland allowed short
five word messages on
printed matter cards.

This card has a handwritten
date, signature, and the
stamp on the picture side.
Belgium did not accept the
card, therefore, returned it
to Switzerland.

It was another six years
until the UPU adopted a
consistent rule.



Zürich [11.02]

30 December 1900,
from Versez, Hungary.
Uprated domestic postal
card.



1900



Chur [5.01] 30 December 1900 to Münsingen, Württemberg.
International letter.



Bern [4.02] 30 December 1900 to Bern.
Overfranked registered domestic post card.

1900



Chur [5.01]
29 December 1900
to Aarau [1.01]
30 December.
Domestic post card.

Cancel legibility
was compromised
on embossed post
cards leading them
to go out of style.

Last day of validity for the UPU commemorative stamps and postal cards was 31 December 1900 at midnight. Some are dated January 1 1901, but those are attributed to items found in letter boxes after post office closings.



Lausanne [7.01] 31 December 1900 5pm to Ouchy. Local letter.

1901 Type 1 and Type 2 cancelers used all year

▲ ▲ ▲

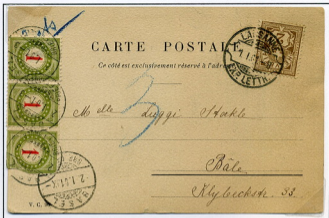
April - Post Offices send first reports to Bern.

13 April
Basel Ausstellung canceler sent to PO officials. Exposition opens 2 June.

24 June
Vevey Exposition canceler delivered; Expo opens 28 June. (New construction method, probably internal springs.)

7 October
Post Office department orders a set of 11 next generation cancelers for a final test period.

Razor cancelers continued to have problems during 1901, though less frequently.



Lausanne [7.01] 1 January 1901 to Basel.
Underpaid domestic greeting card.

Sender should have changed "Carte Postale" to "Imprimé" to obtain lower printed matter rate for this New Year's greeting.



Biel/Bienne 1 February 1901 to Geneve Rue Du Stand [6.04] 1 February.
Domestic postcard.



Cairo, Egypt 1 February 1901 to Neuchâtel [9.01] 6 February.
International post card.



Basel [2.02] 23 February 1901 to Zürich.
Domestic postal card.

Though from a large post office and used for over five years, Oct 1900 - Feb 1906, examples of this device are difficult to find.

This was the model for the next generation of cancelers issued in July 1902.

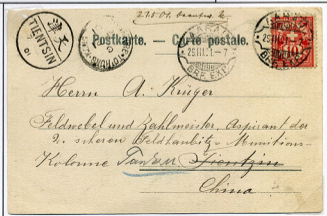
1901

These three cards were sent to a military accounting clerk stationed in Germany. In late 1900 his unit was deployed to China and saw action in the Boxer Rebellion. The lower cards were received at Tangku. In May 1901 the soldier returned to Germany.



Zurich [11.01]
22 July 1899
to Graudenz, Germany.
International postcard.

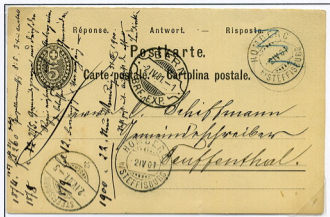
Luzern [8.01] 5 March 1901
to Tientsin, China;
transit Hong Kong 3 April;
transit Shanghai 6 April;
forwarded Tientsin 12 April;
received Tongku 14 April.
International postcard.



Aarau [1.01] 29 March 1901
to Tientsin, China;
transit Singapore-Hong Kong
21 April;
received Tientsin 7 May;
forwarded to Tangu.
International postcard.

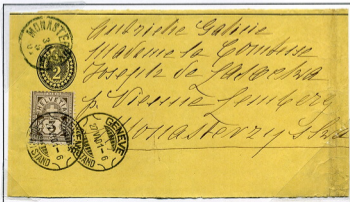
Bern [4.01]
2 April 1901 to
Teuffenthal;
transit Steffisburg;
transit Homberg.
Domestic postal
answer card.

Answer card originated in Bern. The Homberg clerk placed the receiver at the top right then realized it implied origin. He crossed this out and reapplied the mark at lower left.



	9 Apr - Zürich	-	de Coppet system <u>not qualified</u> for hard use in PO.
	11 Apr - Bern	+	de Coppet system <u>doing well</u> .
Opinions of	11 Apr - Aarau	-	<u>not totally good</u>
de Coppet	12 Apr - Geneve	+	<u>Doing well</u> no repairs needed (broke 2 days later)
Canceler	13 Apr - Lausanne	+	System <u>working well</u>
Submitted by	13 Apr - Basel	+	System <u>working well</u>
District Post	13 Apr - Luzern	-	<u>not good</u> enough for PO work
Offices to Bern	17 Apr - Neuchâtel	+	system <u>deserves implementation</u>
Headquarters	27 Apr - Lausanne	+	Fahpost cancel <u>worked well</u>
April 1901	30 Apr - Bellinzona	-	<u>Returned cancel</u> with report
	10 May - Chur	+	<u>Worked well</u> , sent cancel
	20 Jul - St Gallen	-	System has <u>some flaws</u>

Geneve
Rue Du Stand [6.04]
27 June 1901
to Monastyriska,
Austrian Galicia.
Domestic wrapper
updated for
international use.



1901

Basel Ausstellung

2 June – 15 October

The official exhibition post office canceler was made by De Coppet. The public was able to see his invention for the first time. The rectangular date bridge is similar to his early Lausanne and Ste.Croix devices.



Basel [0.06] 15 September 1901 to Dresden, Germany.
International postcard.

Vevey Exposition

28 June – 30 September

De Coppet provided a canceler to this exhibition post office. In correspondence to the PTT he noted it had a new method of construction. It also had a newer look with fewer bars above and below the date bridge.



Vevey [0.07] 16 August 1901 to Geneva. Domestic postcard.
Baumaroche is located at the top of the Vevey–Mont Pelerin Funicular.

Type 1 and Type 2 cancelers continued to be tested at the District Post Offices while deCoppet worked on the new set. Bern was one of four District Offices having both Types 1 and 2 on hand. These cards show the cancelers used 12 hours apart on the same day, indicating clerks on different shifts were assigned to use them.



Bern [4.02] 14 October 1901 (1:00am) to Cavallasca, Italy.
 Underfranked international postcard. (Stamp on other side.)

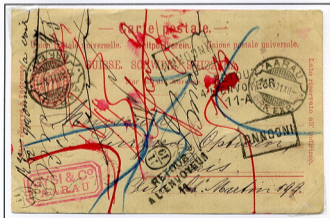


Bern [4.01] 14 October 1901 (1:00pm) to Fehraltorf.
 Domestic postal card.



Azepeitia, Spain to Interlaken 25 November 1901.
Luzern [8.01] 25 November 1901. International postal card.

To Hotel Metropole, Interlaken, 25 November, 9am; forwarded to Hotel Metropole, Luzern 25 November, 6pm; date stamped by Hotel Metropole (Luzern) 25 November, returned to Luzern PC. Forwarded back to Interlaken from Luzern [8.01] 25 November, 11pm; received and forwarded from Interlaken, 26 November to Florence, Italy, received 27 November.



Aarau [1.01] 11 December 1901 to Paris, France. International postal card.

Paris - "INCONNU", RETOUR A L'ENVOYEUR/11-A; RETOUR A L'ENVOYEUR/11; 11/10.
Undelivered and returned to Aarau [1.01], 15 December 1901.



Two razor cancels, both used in a forwarding situation is very rare.

Local letter within Luzern, 22 January 9am, not delivered. Forwarded from Luzern [8.01] 22 January to Geneve received 22 January 10pm. Forwarded to Geneve Rue Du Stand PO. Postage due applied 23 January 6am; out for delivery Geneve Rue du Stand [6.04] 23 January 7am.

Local letter forwarded outside local area, 5 centime postage due, collected in Geneve.

1 July

Type 2 internal spring cancelers distributed to all 11 DPOs.
New report due in 1903.

27 October

PO receives four final prototype cancelers from de Coppet.



Lausanne [7.01a]

6 January 1902
to Stockholm, Sweden.
International letter.

Mit bezahlter Antwort.

Avec réponse payée. — **Carte postale.** — Con risposta pagata.

Union postale universelle. — Weltpostverein. — Unione postale universale.

SUISSE. SCHWEIZ. SVIZZERA.

Nur für die Adresse.



Tutto riservato all'indirizzo.

M. S. R. Console Italiano
 Costantinopoli
 Cegitto

Chur [5.01]

4 January 1902
 to Constantinople, Turkey
 (Egypt). Received by the
 Austrian Post Office.
 International answer card.

Côté réservé à l'adresse.

A. Gebauer-Verlag
 Buchhof
 Leipzig, Sachsen

Postkarte.

Carte postale. — Cartolina postale.

Nur für die Adresse.



Tutto riservato all'indirizzo.

Miss M. Foster,
 Trafford House,
 Angleten

Dane Road,
 St. Leonards on Sea,
 Sussex.

Côté réservé à l'adresse.

XI 04 — 4,000,000

Geneve [6.01]

25 February 1902
 to St. Leonard's on Sea,
 England.
 Uprated domestic postal
 card for international use.

Deutsche
 Post

2fr

Herrn Schneider & Co.
 Verlag-Verwaltung
 Aarau.
 / Schweiz. /

Berlin, Germany 9 April 1902
Aarau [1.01] 11 April.
 Uprated domestic postal
 card for international use.



Postamt
 (Postoffice and Poststation)

1902

July 1 – First use of new internal spring cancelers

Ordered in October 1901, eleven redesigned cancelers were finally delivered to the DPO's on 27 June.

A few were used Tuesday, 1 July.

Seven are recognized by having 8/8 bars above and below the date bridge.

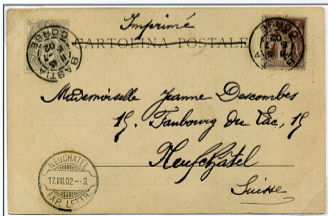
Four did not conform to this pattern: Basel, Lausanne, and Neuchatel 10/10; Zürich 10/12.

The first series of cancelers continued to be used.



Aarau [1.02] 2 July 1902 from Leipzig, Germany.
International postcard.

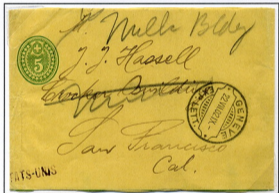
[Earliest use of Aarau Type 2](#)



Bastia, Corsica
15 July 1902
to Neuchatel [9.02]
17 July 1902
International printed
matter.

1902

Luzern [8.02]
20 July 1902
to Galfenz, Austria.
International postcard.



Geneve [6.02]
22 July 1902
to San Francisco, USA.
International printed matter.

Chur [5.02]
25 July 1902
to Gersau.
Free domestic
military post card.



1902

Bellinzona [3.02]
29 July 1902
to Fehraltorf.
Domestic postal
card.

Used only
4 1/2 months:
1 July -
15 November
1902.

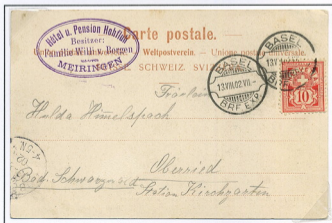


Tutto riservato all'indirizzo.

Bern [4.03]
29 July 1902 to Bern,
forwarded to Interlaken.
Local letter 5 centimes,
forwarded outside 10km
zone = 5 centimes tax.



Basel [2.03]
13 August 1902
to Oberried, Germany.
International postcard.



1902



Port Louis, Guadeloupe 26 August 1902 to Neuchâtel [9.02] 13 September.
International postcard.



Ammerland, Bavaria, 15 September. International postcard.

Incomplete address saw this card first sent to Neuchâtel, Switzerland, 16 Sep;
forwarded to Neuchâtel, Pas-de-Calais, France, 17 Sep;
forwarded to Neuchâtel-en-Bray, Seine Infre, France, 19 Sep;
returned to Neuchâtel [9.02], Switzerland, 20 Sep; finally forwarded to Bromley, England.

This routing covered 3392 km in 7 days!

1902



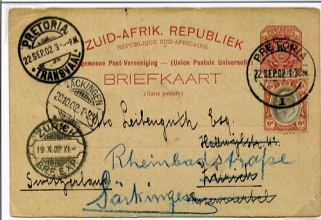
Chur [5.02]
4 October 1902 to Geneva.
Domestic postal card.

This Swiss soldier was difficult to find. The Geneve markings: Facteurs, 5 Oct - 3am; Plainpalais, 6 Oct - 10am; Facteurs, 6 Oct - 11am; Bourg de Four, 6 Oct - 6pm; Facteurs, 6 Oct - 7pm. (Facteurs = mail carrier)



Chicago, USA 7 October 1902 to Luzern 18 October.

Forwarded Luzern [8.01] 18 October to United States Consul, Paris, France, received 20 October; forwarded to addressee within Paris. International postcard.



From Pretoria, Tranvaal, 22 September 1902
Received Zürich [11.03] 19 October.
Forwarded to Sackingen, Germany, 20 October
International postal card.

This Type 2 Zürich canceler was first used 17 Sept. 1902, more than two months after it was issued.

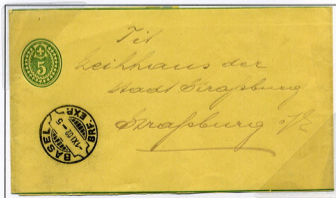
1902



Frankfurt, Germany 11 October 1902 to Lausanne 12 October.
Forwarded Lausanne [7.02] 12 October 1902 to Montreux 13 October.
International letter.

Canceler in use for over 10 years.
Earliest of eight known forwarding examples.

By this time in October 1902, the newest Type 2 cancelers all had internal springs. The older Type 1 devices had been modified to also include internal springs from the unsuccessful external springs of de Coppet's first patent. Post Office Headquarters in Bern continued to require reports from the District Offices.



Basel [2.02] 1 November 1902 to Strassburg, Elsass.
International printed matter.

1902 de Coppet Final Prototypes

Four prototypes were ordered to finalize the mechanical design acceptable to the PTT. These were ordered 28 August and after the PTT selected appearance, they were delivered 27 October 1902. First known uses: St. Moritz-Dorf (4 Nov); Grenchen (4 Nov); Chaux-de-Fonds (7 Nov); Basel 2 Fil.B.B. (18 Nov).



Chaux-de-Fonds 9 November 1902 - 4pm, to Bern.
Received 10 November - 10am. Short paid 3 centimes, definitive added at 5pm.
Domestic post card.



St. Moritz-Dorf 17 December 1902 to Cairo, Egypt.
International printed matter.

The mass production feasibility test was a success, but the visual design deemed too heavy. This was addressed after the contract signing in April 1903. The appearance was refined in June 1903 when deCoppet made a final set of test cancelers. The alternate designs eventually led to the first production "fleuron" devices with distribution starting in late November 1903. These 1902 prototypes were used for many years.



From Moscow, Russia to Lausanne 7 January 1903, forwarded from
Lausanne [7.01a] 7 January 1903 to Leysin 7 January.
International postcard.

Earliest of three known receiver/forwarding uses.

▲ ▲ ▲
<p>12 April PTT contracts to use de Coppet's flexible-head design. Güller signed to manufacture cancels.</p>
<p>June-July Güller delivers 17 pre- production cancels to PTT for final approval.</p>
<p>November First cancels distribu- ted. Fleuron pattern selected to make new cancels distinctive.</p>
<p>Existing razor cancels continue to be used.</p>



Zürich [11.02] 18 February 1903 to Budrio, Italy.
International postcard

1903



(Paa denne side skrives kun adressen)

Til Herr. Pastor Thomas Nante

~~Es Herr generalen för Jermund~~



Genf "Les Belmonts"

Schweiz Rte de Chêne



Kristiania, Norway
5 March 1903.
Received Geneve
Rue Du Stand[6.04]
8 March 8am,
forwarded within Geneva
9 March 4pm.
Uprated domestic
postal card.

Osaka, Japan
9 March 1903,
transit Yokohama
9 March 1903;
to Zürich [11.02]
10 April 1903,
forwarded within Zurich.
International postal card.



Switzerland

Union Postale Universelle

書端合聯便郵

CARTE POSTALE

Mr. Emanuel Häfner

27 Sonneggstrasse 27

Zürich

(CÔTÉ RÉSERVÉ À L'ADRESSE)

(しへむ認を名宛はに面表此)

Via Puerto Barrios

TARJETA F

Republica de G



Miss Marguerite Weder

Chêne, Graben 38

St. Gall.

Suiza



Switzerland

Retalhuleu, Guatemala.,
17 March 1903
to St Gallen [10.01]
10 April 1903.
International postcard

The image of the 10 centavo
stamp was misidentified by
the Guatemalan PO.
It is of Atitlan, not Lac
Amatitlan as printed.

1903

April 12 - contract signed.
Flexible-head canceler adopted as new PTT standard.



Geneve [6.02] 11 April 1903 to Havana, Cuba.
International printed matter.

The day this wrapper was posted, 11 April 1903, Frédéric de Coppet received a contract from the Swiss PTT to provide cancelers for all First Class Post Offices.

He signed and returned the contract 12 April 1903.

After the contract was signed De Coppet was unable to hand-make the large number of cancelers required. Güller & Sons was subcontracted to manufacture and engrave the canceler heads, which were then sent to deCoppet for assembly by his other contractor, Breguet of Le Locle. A total of 1424 canceler heads were produced for de Coppet, before he sold his patents and all spare parts to Güller in 1911. After 1911 all cancelers were made by Güller until 1963.

The experimental tests were now over, but these razor cancelers stayed in service for many years. Most disappeared prior to WWI, but some were modified and survived into the 1930's. They were mostly used in special postal situations not suited for high speed machine processing, which was introduced by the PTT in 1912. Therefore, they are found used as express receivers, on official documents, special event items, printed matter wrappers, machine skips, philatelic situations, etc., all best suited for hand canceling.

Carte postale.



Weltpostverein. Unione postale universale.

SCHWITZE SCHWEIZ SVIZZERA

Nur für Briefpost.



Lato riservato all'indirizzo.

Fraulein Olga Fricke
Haltberg
Rüti

A. Zurich

Post offices continued to use their razor cancelers daily. This provided longevity data of individual cancelers supporting the PTT's decision to adopt the de Coppet system.

Basel [2.03]

12 June 1903 to Rüti
Free military post card.

Kristiania, Norway
8 August 1903,
St. Gallen [10.01]
11 August 1903.
International postcard.
Invalid Sweden 10 ore,
re franked Norway 10 ore.



St. Gallen [10.01]

12 October 1903
to Montevideo, Uruguay.
International printed matter.



1904

Carte postale.

Union postale universelle. — Weltpostverein. — Union postale universelle.

SUISSE. SCHWEIZ. SVIZZERA.

Sur la face adressée.



Carte adressée à Lausanne.

Russians Habersburg
 Germany Luroban
 Caucas Batoumi
 Banyere

Lausanne [7.02]

5 January 1904

to Batoumi, Caucasus, Georgia.
International postcard.

Lausanne [7.02]

15 March 1904

to Reims, France.

International postcard.



Ab. H. Braun 45 Betty Street Johannesburg
 UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE
 TRANSSVAAL Transvaal.
 POST CARD CARTE POSTALE
 THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.



Herr Oskar Frey.



Postalist Zurich
 Culmanstr. 19. II
 Switzerland Europe

Jeppestown, Transvaal

9 May 1904

to Zürich [11.04]

29 May 1904

International postal card.

1904



St. Gallen 31 May 1904 to Zürich [11.04] 1 June.
Domestic post card.



Blantyre, British Central Africa, 7 June 1904 via Chinde, B.C.A. and Zanzibar 21 June
to Zürich [11.04] 11 July 1904.
International postal card.



St. Gallen [10.01] 15 June 1904-10am to St. Margrethen 15 June 1904-1pm;
 forwarded to Fürstentfeldbruck bei München, Bavaria 18 June 1904;
 forwarded to Wörgl, Austria 21 June 1904; received Lermoos, Austria, 18 July 1904 (?).
 Postage due: 2x deficiency = 10 heller. Domestic postal card, forwarded internationally.



(50% scan of opened lettercard
 showing fabric sample.)



Périgueux, France 6 August 1904 to **St. Gallen [10.01]** 8 August 1904.
 Domestic letter card used internationally.
 Short paid 10 centimes, 2x deficiency = 20 centimes.

1905



St. Gallen [10.02]
1 January 1905
to Bucarest, Roumania.
International printed matter.



St. Gallen [10.02]
30 March 1905
to Durango, Mexico.
International printed matter.

1906



Aarau [1.03]
19 - 20 March 1906 to Germany.
First posted 19 March (fleuron),
underfranked and returned
19 March to sender for additional
postage (lower razor).
Reposted with correct franking
20 March 1906 (top razor, 2
strikes); received Wiesbaden
20 March 1906.
International postcard.

1906



Hannover, Germany
29 March 1906 to Aarau.
Postage due applied Aarau
30 March - 9am,
out for delivery Aarau [1.03]
30 March-10am.
Refused, label added - 8pm.
Returned to Hannover,
received 1 April 1906.

Short paid international
printed matter. Printed
advertising on the message
side, but "postkarte" not
crossed out, thus postage
due was uncollected.

By this time all District
Post Offices had been
issued multiple "fleuron"
cancelers, therefore,
when a problem arose
concerning breakage or
maintainence of razor
cancelers they seem to
have been withdrawn
from service.

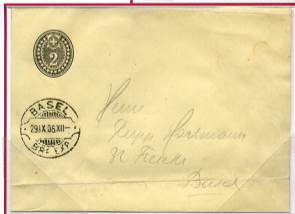


London 22 June 1906 to
Zürich [11.04] received 23 June.
Uprated registered
postal envelope.

Last recorded use of this canceler
which extends the known use date
by 16 months.

Basel [2.01]
29 September 1906 to Basel.
Domestic printed matter.

The last recorded use of this
canceler was six days later,
5 October 1906.



1906

This, **Geneve Rue Du Stand [6.05]**, was the only razor canceler made by Güller & Cie. The device was delivered to the post office in November, 1904. It replaced the earlier device removed from service in October 1903. The company had been making Fleuron cancelers for more than a year so there was no obvious reason for this device to be made since the test was over.



Russia to Geneve
forwarded from **Geneve
Rue Du Stand [6.05]**
17 July 1906
to Les Prese Bagni
19 July 1906.
International perforated
letter card.



**Geneve
Rue Du Stand [6.05]**
14 August 1906
to Milan, Italy.
International postcard.

**Geneve
Rue Du Stand [6.05]**
6 August 1906.
Received Cairo 13 August;
transit Gisa 13 August;
misdirected via Faiyum-
Cairo TPO 14 August;
returned to Gisa 14 August;
received Boulac-el-Dacrour
14 August.
International printed
matter.



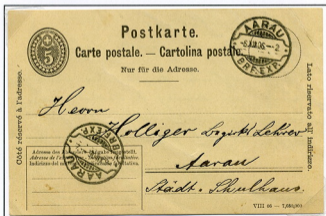
Geneve - Hôtel d'Angleterre et Kursaal

1906



(75% scan of cover.)

New York, 10 August 1906; received Geneve Facteurs (mail carrier) 19 August attempted delivery, forwarded from **Geneve Rue Du Stand [6.05]** 20 August 1906; received Bellevue (district of Geneve), 22 August 1906; returned to New York, USA. International letter.



Aarau [1.03] 6 December 1906 within Aarau. Domestic postal card.

This example shows the same hour, indicating the clerk date stamped both outgoing and receiving marks simultaneously.

1907

Brousse, Turkey
29 December 1906
to Geneva
Rue Du Stand [6.05]
3 January 1907.
International postal card.



Moscow, Russia
4 January 1907 (Julian) to
Geneve
Rue Du Stand [6.05]
21 January 1907.
Uprated domestic postcard.

Galati, Romania
8 April 1907 to
St Gallen [10.02]
11 April 1907.
International postal card.



1907

Three razor cancelers were distributed to money handling desks before September 1900. One each to Zurich Fahrpost, Lausanne - Consig. Lett. (letter acceptance division) and Consig. Mess. (mail acceptance division). Even though their use periods extended over many years (until 1931), both Lausanne cancelers are scarce and difficult to find, while the Zurich Fahrpost cancel is relatively common.

DIE SCHWEIZ A.-G. der illustrierten Zeitschrift
 „DIE SCHWEIZ“
 Jährlich 24 reich illustrierte Hefte. Zürich I - Zwingliplatz 3

Abonnements-Nachnahme

1 Abonnement auf «Die Schweiz» für 3 Monate

1907. II. Quartal, samt Postspesen: incl. Porto **Fr. 3.⁶²**

3669 *Herr J. Jucker - Wirth,*

Gründel - Saaland
Tösstal




Zurich Fahrpost [11.06] 5 May 1907 to Saaland.
 Domestic nachnahme printed matter. 2 centimes plus 10 centimes collect fee.

FEUILLE D'AVIS DE LAUSANNE


Monsieur Ernest Diserens,
La Gallaz

REMBOURSEMENT pour abonnement de 12 mois, Fr. 10.-
 finissant le *31 juillet* 190*8*

franchissement, > -12

Total Fr. 10.12

La présente carte tient lieu de quittance.
Les abonnements continuent jusqu'à révocation formelle.




Lausanne
 Consig. Mess. [7.04]
 17 August 1907 to La Sallaz.
 Domestic nachnahme.



Sao Paulo, Brazil 27 May 1907 to Aarau [1.03] 15 June 1907.
International postal card.



Luzern [8.01] 3 July 1907 to Charlottenberg, Germany.
International postal card plus 30 centimes international Express fee.

The earliest known Geneve [6.02] forwarding example; canceler in service 1902 -1919.



Lausanne Transit, 4 September 1907-5pm to Geneve Post Restante, 5 September-5am. Forwarded **Geneve [6.02]**, 5 September-9am; received Lausanne Fact. Lettr.-1pm; forwarded from Lausanne Post Rest.-2pm to Salins, Jura. Domestic postcard.

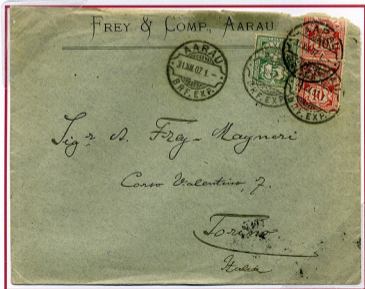
Only known Bellinzona [3.03] return label/forwarding example; canceler in service 1903 -1911.



Eichstaett, Bavaria, 16 July 1907 to Bellinzona Post Restante 17 July 1907. Held, not claimed label applied **Bellinzona [3.03]** 4 October 1907, returned to Eichstaett, 5 October 1907. Up-rated domestic postal card for international use.



Zürich Fahrpost [11.06] 20 November 1907 to Neuhausen.
Domestic package card attached to money shipment.
Written on reverse: "Request immediate return of empty bag."



Aarau [1.03] 31 December 1907 to Torino, Italy. International letter.
Aarau was the first post office to stop using all its issued razor cancelers.
This must have been an administrative decision, none are seen after 31 December 1907.

1908

1908-11

31 December

1907

Last use Aarau.

5 April 1909

Last use Zurich.

12 May 1911

Last use

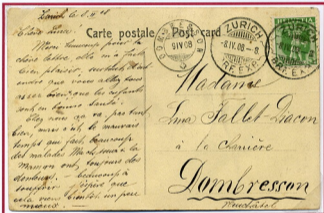
Bellinzona.



Alexandria, Egypt
29 February 1908 to
Bern [4.04] 4 March 1908.
International letter.

Fewer than 10 known
receiver uses 1908 -14.

Since 1903 all DPOs
had been using their
issued Fleuron
cancelers. At the same
time many old razor
devices were still
being used, but in
1908 the reappearance
of these three, Bern,
Zürich, and St. Gallen
is unexplainable.



Zürich [11.05]

8 April 1908

to Dombresson.

Domestic postcard.

Earliest known use.



Differdange, Luxembourg

8 April 1908

to Zürich [11.05]

9 April 1908.

Upated domestic postcard.

Earliest known receiver.



Zürich Fahrpost [11.06] 24 March 1908 to Burgdorf. Domestic nachnahme.



Appenzell via St. Gallen [10.03] 24 July 1908 to Innsbruck, Austria. International post card.

This card entered the mails at the Appenzell train station, blue pencil. It did not receive an ambulant date stamp, therefore, was processed at the main St. Gallen post office. There is only one other known transit use of this razor canceller.



Zürich Fahrpost [11.06] 28 August 1908 to Alvenau.
 Domestic declared value letter. Packet postage 15 centimes,
 9 x 3 centimes per 100fr value = Total 42 centimes, rounded up to 45 centimes.

This card shows three generations of Swiss cancelers:

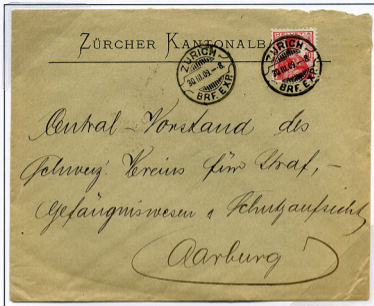
An early date wheel
 Poste Restante by
 Güller;
 the Geneve razor
 made 27 June 1902 by
 de Coppet;
 and the Frutigen
 fleuron made by
 Güller 28 Nov 1903.

One of five known
 forwarding examples
 of [6.02]; canceler in
 service 1902-19.



Lonfrancq, France, 8 September 1908 to Geneve Post Restante, 9 September -10am.
 Forwarded **Geneve [6.02]** 9 September 1908-12pm to Frutigen 10 September - 9am;
 forwarded to Thun. International postcard.

1909



Zurich [11.05] 30 March 1909 to Aarburg. Domestic letter.

Six days later, 5 April 1909, this device was withdrawn from service.
Fahrpost was then the only Zürich razor canceler surviving after this date.



Bellegarde, France
to Bellinzona [3.03]
21 June 1909.
International post card.

1909



Zürich [11.06] 15 May 1909 to Zürich;
Sent in error to Amriswil, 18 May 1909;
returned to **Zürich [11.06]**, 20 May 1909.
Domestic nachnahme letter.

Fewer than 5 known examples of
Zürich Fahrpost used as a receiver.
In use April 1899 - April 1930.



This address is only five blocks
from the Zürich PO. Original
attempt to mail at 2 centimes
was disallowed as there were
fewer than twenty items in same
mailing; 3 centimes additional
required.

To collect: 3Fr charge:
<10Fr = 10 centimes + 5
centimes postage, total 3.15Fr
from addressee.

Herr Schoop refused to pay.
Zürich Fahrpost office used its
canceler to document the five
day delay in the return of the
letter to its office.

(70% scan of front)

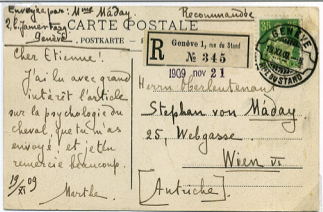


Geneve, Rade et Mort Blanc

9147 - Photo G. - Kautler

Geneve [6.02]
6 July 1909
to Macon, France.
International printed matter.

Lausanne
Consig. Mess. [7.04]
(Mail Acceptance Division)
14 October 1909
to Aubonne.
Remboursement card.
2 centimes printed matter,
10 centimes/10fr x 3.
Total 32 centimes.



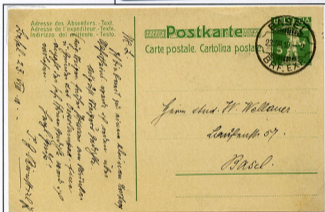
Geneve
Rue Du Stand [6.05]
19 November 1909
to Vienna, Austria.
International registered
postcard.
10 centimes + 25 centimes
international registration.
Total 35 centimes

1910

Bellinzona [3.03]
 12 February 1910
 to Bern Bundeshaus;
 forwarded to Herisau.
 Free domestic military
 postcard card.



Phototype Co., Zürich.



Basel [2.03]
 23 August 1910
 to Basel.
 Domestic postal card.



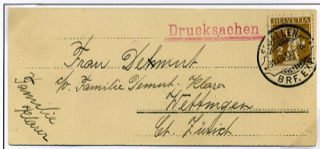
St Gallen [10.03]
 3 March 1910
 to Zürich.
 Domestic postal card.

1910



Montreux via Ambulant 15 October 1910 to Bern [4.04] 15 October 1910.
Domestic postal card.

Fewer than 20 known receiver uses, 1908 – 14.



St. Gallen [10.03] 31 December 1910 to Wettingen.
Domestic printed matter. (New Year's greeting card.)



Lausanne Consig. Mess. [7.04] 15 February 1911 to Unterehrendingen.
Domestic nachnahme.



Lausanne Consig. Lett. [7.03] 17 February 1911 within Lausanne.
Registered court summons.



Lausanne Consig. Mess.[7.04]
15 October 1912.
4Fr block probably used for
internal accountancy purposes.



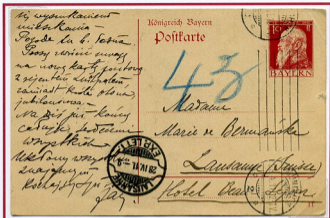
Lausanne [7.02] 9 March 1911.
25Fr block probably used for internal accountancy purposes.



Bellinzona [3.03] 12 May 1911 to Osogna.
Domestic postcard.

Last known use of the Bellinzona razor cancel.

Munich, Bavaria
28 April 1911 to
Lausanne [7.02]
28 April 1911.
International postal card.



Receiving use. →

Fewer than 5 documented receiving uses between 6 July 1902 and 23 June 1912.

Forwarding use. →



Mor-Ostrau, Austria
12 September 1911
to Lausanne [7.02]
14 September 1911.
Forwarded to Luxembourg.
International post card.

The rarity of Lausanne receiver/forwarded items with a razor cancel implies the internal routing of forwarded mail differed from the regular processed mail which is common.



Bern [4.04] 17 December 1914 to Escholzmatt. Domestic printed matter.

Last known use of this canceler.



British Army PO 75 - 24 December 1914 to Bern 29 December 1914 1am.

Addressed to Bernaby Hotel, but sent to Bernerhof, marked "Inconnu Bernerhof" (unknown); returned to PO, label applied 29 December 1914-4pm; forwarded Bern [4.03] 29 December 1914-6pm to London F.S.20 [returned mail from abroad] - 14 January 1915.

Forwarded from London and received Army Post Office S.5, Paris (verso blue crayon) 12 February 1915.

Verso receiver: Bern Brieftrager, 29 December 1914-1am. Return address: Bureau de Postes, Militaire Anglais. Official British Post Office envelope. Postage due 50 centimes.



Lausanne Consig. Lett. [7.03]

13 January 1915.

Unredeemed International
Reply Coupon,

25 centimes value.

Released
Foreign Office of the Railway Post Office,
Munich.

Freigegeben!
Auslandstelle des Bahnpostamts
München.



Paris, France 13 June 1916
to Luzern [8.03] 16 June 1916.
Forwarded to Munich, Germany,
with added 5 centimes postage.
International printed matter.

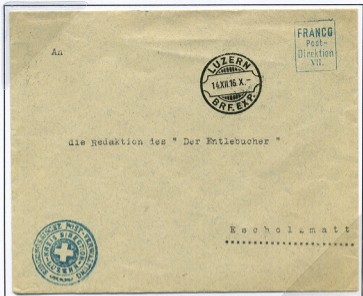
Zürich Fahrpost [11.06]

17 April 1915
to Zürich.

Domestic nachnahme.



1916-1917



Luzern [8.03] 14 December 1916 to Escholzmatt. Free Official Post Office Letter.



Bern [4.03] 27 February 1917 to Solothurn.
Domestic registered letter 10 centimes postage + 10 centimes registration..

1916-1917

Re-engraving of razor cancels

In 1914 the PTT decreed all postal cancelers would include the Swiss Cross above the date bridge and district numerals below.

World War I intervened and the changes to razor cancelers were delayed until the first reappeared at Chur, 1 February 1917. Time wheel: Roman numerals indicate - am, Arabic numbers - pm, later changed to 24hr wheel.



B. Camenisch-Lang, Veltliner Weine, Chur

(vorm. J. A. JANKA)

Chur

*B. Giger
Hotel Lucmanus*

Disentis.



↑ Königsberg, Germany
20 April 1916 to
Chur [5.02] 25 April 1916.
International letter.

Chur [5.03] 3 February 1917 ↑
to Disentis. Domestic postcard.

Third day of modified canceler.



Chur [5.03]

26 October 1917 - 10pm to Lugano.
Domestic printed matter.

First attempt 3 centime discount
rate >50 pieces;
returned to sender, uprated,
remailed 27 October 1917 - 2pm
at 5 centimes rate for <50 pieces.



Geneve
Rue Du Stand [6.05]
 1 August 1917
 (National Festival Day)
 to Mayens de Sion.
 Domestic Bundesfeier
 postal card.
 First day of issue.

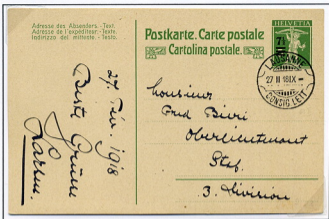
Bern [4.03]
 3 December 1917
 to Bern.
 Unfranked local
 letter,
 10 centimes due.

This canceler was
 never updated
 with the new
 characteristics.



In Oberleutnant der Kommandatur des Kriegs-Gefangenen-Lagers, Ohrdruf

Geneve [6.02]
 25 August 1917
 to Headquarters Ohrdruf
 Prisoner of War Camp,
 Ohrdruf, Germany.
 International printed matter.



Lausanne Consig. Lett. [7.03] 27 February to Swiss Army 3rd Division.
Domestic postal card.



Boston, USA to Luzern [8.03] 3 December 1918,
redirected to Immensee 4 December. International letter.

Fewer than ten known
forwarding uses.

These three pages show examples from Geneve Rue Du Stand, Geneve, Bern, Luzern and Neuchatel post offices confirming that razor cancelers were not modified and returned to service as a group. For some reason they were all modified individually over a 2 to 4 year period.

1918

Office of the President, Panama to the Panama Consul,
Geneve [6.02] 2 December 1918 - 3pm
forwarded to Lausanne Poste Restante 3 December.
International printed matter.

Fewer than 10 known receiving/
forwarding uses since 1902.



Geneve [6.02] 2
December 1918-3pm.
The example above
was canceled the same
hour as this wrapper,
and confirms this
canceler was used to
process special
documents.



Geneve [6.02]
15 February 1919.
Official free franking.

1919-
1920

Munich, Bavaria,
13 December 1919
to Chur
15 December.
International
express letter.

First known use
of Chur with 24
hour wheels.



Bern [4.05]

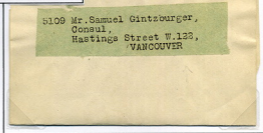
17 January 1921
to Barcelona, Spain
International printed matter.

Bern [4.05]

18 February 1921
to Vancouver, Canada
International printed matter.



Since 1875 the international printed matter rate had been 5 centimes. Starting 1 February 1921 the rate was raised to 10 centimes. Later in 1924 the rate returned to 5 centimes.





Bern [4.05]
8 March 1921 to Bern.
Philatelic domestic
postal card.

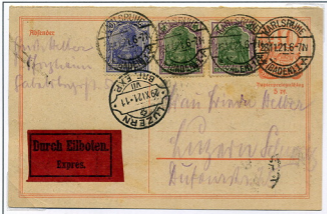


Lausanne Consig. Lett. [7.03]
2 June 1921 to Oerlikon.
Domestic printed matter.

Lindau im Bodensee,
Germany
17 September 1921
to Chur 19 September.
"Business closed" label
applied Chur [5.03]
19 September.
Returned to Lindau.
International post card.



The old fleuron receiver
was made 26 October 1904
and reengraved to conform
to the same requirements
of all post-1914 cancellers.



Karlsruhe, Germany
28 November 1921
to Luzern [8.04]
29 November 1921.
International express
uprated postal card.

Bern [8.05]
22 February 1922
to Basel.
Domestic letter.



Zürich Fahrpost [11.06]
17 July 1922 to Zürich.
Local nachnahme card.
Postage 10 centimes +
15 centimes to collect
over 10Fr. Total = 25
centimes.

This canceler, issued in
April 1899, was never
modified.

NB. Es bei Vorweisung dieser Nachnahme die Einlösung möglichst ist, so bleibt dieselbe 7 Tage lang auf der Post liegen und kann während dieser Zeit bei jeder Gelegenheit daselbst eingelöst werden.

Geneve [6.03]

24 April 1922
to Geneve.Domestic official post
office letter.This canceler is only
known on outgoing
mail, no examples of
receiving or forward-
ing uses are known.Sarajevo, Jugoslavia 19 December 1922 to Bern [4.05] 23 December 1922.
Uprated international postal card.

Fewer than 10 known uses as a forwarding date stamp.



Ministry of Finance, Rome, Italy, 27 September 1923
to **Geneve Rue Du Stand [6.06]** 29 September 1923,
to the Secretary of the Finance Committee, Société des Nations.
International express letter.

Fewer than 20 receiver examples known.



Bern [4.05]
17 March 1923
to Leipzig, Germany.
Up-rated domestic
postal card.

Machine skip.
Within the hour a clerk
used **Bern [4.05]** to
correct a machine cancel
skip, though the month
wheel was set wrong.
Message on reverse is
dated 17 March 1923.

1924



Luzern [8.04] 30 November 1924 to Hamm, Germany. International express.

Postage: 30 centimes+ foreign express surcharge 60 centimes+ outside ordinary time 30 centimes.

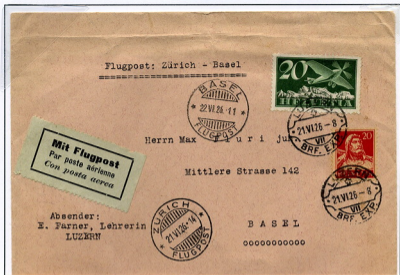
Total - 1Fr 20. Rates went into effect 1 Oct 1924.



Geneve Rue Du Stand [6.06] 29 December 1925 to Riga, Latvia.

International registered letter.

1926



Luzern [8.04] 21 June 1926 to Basel via Zürich.
Domestic airmail letter.



Philadelphia, USA, 6 December 1926
to Luzern [8.05] 17 December.
International express letter.

Only known use of solo 25 cent Fourth Bureau to pay
5 cent surface and 20 cent foreign special delivery rate.

1926



Luzern [8.04] 29 June 1926
to Aix-le-Bains, France.
Double weight international
printed matter.

French 10 centimes
poste restante fee.

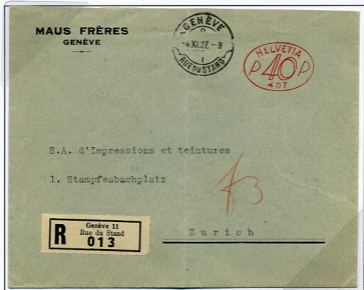
Basel [2.04] 24 September 1926
to Basel.
Domestic printed matter.

This Basel canceler, previously used
1902 to 1913 [2.03], was re-engraved
and modified then returned to service
April 1925. It was used until October
1926. Its whereabouts between 1913
and 1925 is unknown.

Fewer than 25 examples known.



1927-1928



Geneve Rue Du Stand [6.06] 4 November 1927 to Zürich.

Domestic registered letter machine franked requiring date stamp of originating post office.



New York, USA, 13 September 1928 to Neuchatel,
forwarded from Neuchatel [9.03] 22 September to Lausanne.
International letter.



This Bern razor canceler was never updated.

Rome, Italy, 17 March 1928 to Bern.

Received **Bern [4.03]** 19 March 1928-4am, forwarded to telegraph office for delivery by messenger.
International express letter.

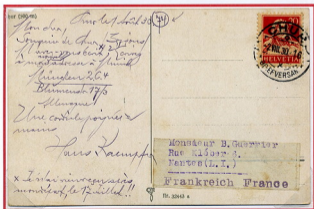


Geneve [6.03]
29 July 1928
to Edinburgh, Scotland.
International printed matter.

1929-1930



Neuchâtel 5 August 1929 within Neuchâtel. Forwarded Neuchâtel [9.03] 6 August to Carouge. Postage due 10 centimes for uprating local to domestic letter, Carouge 6 August.



Chur [5.04]
2 August 1930
to Nantes, France.
International post card.

Fewer than thirty examples are known between April 1930 and August 1934.

This canceler, after being re-engraved in 1917 and having the hour wheels updated in 1919, was again re-engraved in 1930 to include 'Briefversand' (letter despatch) in the lower section of the device.

Philatelic covers aboard the first winter crossings of Julierpass by bus. Bad weather prevented departure from Chur on the 4th. It was not until the 6th that the round trip, Chur/St. Moritz/Chur, was accomplished.

1935



Chur [5.04] 4, 6 February 1935 to Erlenbach, via St. Moritz 6 February. Domestic letter.



St Moritz 4 February 1935 to Geneva, via Chur [5.04] 6 February 1935-19. Domestic post card. This date is the last known use of the Chur razor canceler as it appears here. Recent investigation indicates the canceler was modified, losing its characteristic razor look, and used after this date.

1937-1938



Ueberlingen, Germany 6 December 1937 to **Luzern [8.04]** 7 December 1937.
International letter.

Last known use as a receiving date stamp. Previous earliest 30 September 1926.



Luzern [8.05] 27 May 1938 to Berlin, Germany.
International letter.



Luzern [8.05] 28 May 1938 to Paris, France. International letter.

The last surviving recognizable razor cancelers were
Neuchatel [9.03] 3 July 1939 and **Luzern [8.05]** 27 March 1940.

Recent study has compared two cancelers from Neuchatel and Chur with the Güller proof books. It has been determined these cancelers must be modified razor cancelers since they cannot be found in the proof books. This is a new area of study and only a handful of examples have been found. They do not have the characteristic "razor" look.

Güller used De Coppet's patents to manufacture cancelers for Swiss Post until 1964 when a new mechanism replaced this successful 19th century invention.

In conclusion, deCoppet's idea to have a flexible joint attached to a rotating date wheel head was perfected between 1898 and 1903. This mechanical design continued in use for 61 years only to be replaced because the post office wished to include post codes in all town cancelers. Güller and Cie, the manufacturer, was a small family business and unable to make the estimated 10,000 devices required in the short time required by the post office department in 1964.



Luzern [8.05]
 10 November 1938
 Last known
 outgoing use.