

# A Swiss Sampler



An album showcasing the variety and beauty  
of Swiss stamps

Created by the American Helvetia Philatelic Society  
for the enjoyment of stamp collectors



# The Stamps of Switzerland

## U.S. – Swiss Connections

Swiss and U.S. Capitols  
(1991)

Joint Swiss-U.S. issue commemorating the 700th anniversary of the Swiss Confederation. The design shows the Bundeshaus in Bern and the Capitol Dome in Washington, D.C.

Albert Einstein  
(2005)

Albert Einstein developed the theory of relativity while working as a patent clerk in Bern. The stamp commemorates the centennial of the theory. He died in Princeton, N.J., in 1955.

Albert Einstein  
(1972)

Although Albert Einstein was born in Germany, he was educated in Switzerland and wrote many of his significant papers while living there. He later emigrated to the United States where he held a position at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton.

Montgomery Blair  
(1974)

As U.S. Postmaster General in the Lincoln administration, Montgomery Blair called for an international postal congress that was held in 1863 and resulted in the formation of the Universal Postal Union in Bern in 1874. This issue commemorates the centennial of the founding of the UPU.

Douglas DC-4  
(1947)

This stamp was valid only on the first flight between Switzerland and the United States. It shows the airplane, a Douglas DC-4 which was built in California, with the Statue of Liberty on one side and Geneva's Cathedral of St. Pierre on the other. Unfortunately because of bad weather, the flight was diverted from New York to Washington, D.C.

Douglas DC-4  
(1997)

On May 2, 1947, Swissair initiated trans-Atlantic passenger flights between Geneva, Switzerland, and New York City. The stamp commemorates the 50th anniversary of the flight.

Swissair Boeing 747  
(1972)

The workhorse jet airplane for long-distance international travel, the Boeing 747, built in Washington, even today remains the standard against which newer airplanes are judged. The stamp shows a 747 in Swissair livery.

Lockheed Orion  
(1944)

The 1932 Lockheed Orion, built in California, saw service on the Swissair express line between Zurich, Munich, and Vienna. It carried four passengers in addition to the pilot.

O.H. Amman  
(1979)

Othmar H. Ammann emigrated to the United States in 1904. In his work with the Port of New York Authority, he participated in the design of many bridges in New York including the George Washington Bridge and the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge, which is shown on the stamp.

Douglas DC-3  
(1944)

The Douglas DC-3 was the workhorse propeller plane before, during, and after World War II. Built in California, it was used by Swissair on its European flights. This stamp was valid on a special flight between Zurich, Bern, Lausanne, and Geneva on September 20, 1944.



# The Stamps of Switzerland

## U.S. – Swiss Connections



Swiss and U.S. Capitols  
1991



Albert Einstein  
2005



Albert Einstein  
1972



Montgomery Blair  
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Douglas DC-4  
1947



Douglas DC-4  
1997



Swissair Boeing 747  
1972



Lockheed Orion  
1944



O.H. Amman  
1979



Douglas DC-3  
1944



# The Stamps of Switzerland

## Trains

### Mountain Railway (1949)

The cog railway shown on the stamp ascends to an altitude of 6,473 feet at Rochers-de-Naye above Montreux. A series of galleries protecting sections of the railway vulnerable to snow can also be seen on the stamp.

### Cog Railway (1983)

Europe's first cog railway opened on May 20, 1871, travelling from Vitznau in Canton Luzern to the summit of the Rigi (3,456 feet) with grades as steep as 25%. The locomotive shown on the stamp is the original steam model used on the line.

### Railway Viaduct (1963)

The Luogelkin Viaduct is on the Bern-Lötschberg-Simplon (BLS) Railway line near Hohtenn in Canton Valais. The viaduct is 380 feet long and 164 feet high. Both ends of the viaduct enter tunnels into the mountain.

### Steam Locomotive (1947)

The "Limmat" was the first steam locomotive in Switzerland. Built in 1847, it operated between Zurich and Baden in Canton Aargau. This line was called the "Spanish Rolls Line" for the pastries it carried to Zurich every morning.

### 1930s Train (1997)

In 1935 the Swiss railways introduced light railcars to supplement their regular rolling stock. The railcar shown on the stamp was called "The Red Arrow". Unfortunately, it was limited by the fact it had to be used alone. It operated again during the Swiss EXPO 1964 for local train service.

### Trans-Europe Express (1962)

The Trans-Europe Express service was extended into Switzerland in 1962 when the original diesel-powered locomotives were replaced by electric versions, enabling them to use Switzerland's alpine tunnels. The first trip left Zurich for Milan, Italy, and Paris, France, on July 1, 1962.

### Intercity Express (2002)

The RABDe 500 Intercity train features tilting railcars that lean into curves, thus allowing faster travel without passengers feeling the centrifugal force of rounding a curve. It was put into service in June 2001.

### Electric Locomotive (1982)

The Class Re 6/6 mixed-traffic electric locomotive shown on the stamp is used on the Gotthard line between central and Italian Switzerland. With a rating of 10,600hp, it is capable of speeds up to 87 mph.

### Train and Tunnel (2006)

At 12.3 miles, the Simplon Tunnel between Switzerland and Italy was the longest mountain tunnel in the world for many years. It was completed in 1905 and put into service in 1906. Its height was increased in 2004 to allow heavy-goods vehicle transports such as the train shown on the stamp.

### Streetcar (1982)

Streetcar service began in Zurich in 1882 with horse-drawn cars. Today Zurich has the largest local public transport system in Switzerland. One of its new articulated streetcars is shown on the stamp.

### Toy Locomotive (1983)

Toy trains have long been a prominent item in a child's toy chest. The toy locomotive shown on the stamp was made around 1900 and is cast iron and painted sheet iron.

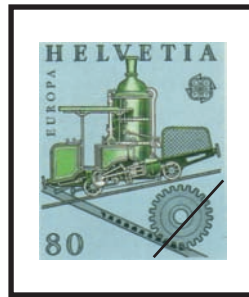


# The Stamps of Switzerland

## Trains



Mountain Railway  
1949



Cog Railway  
1983



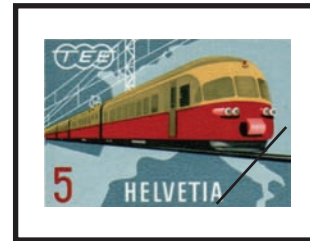
Railway Viaduct  
1963



Steam Locomotive  
1947



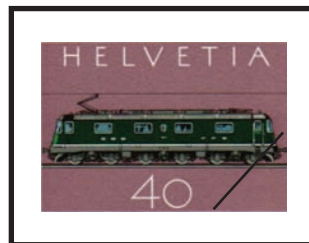
1930s Train  
1997



Trans-Europe Express  
1962



Intercity Express  
2002



Electric Locomotive  
1982



Train and Tunnel  
2006



Streetcar  
1982



Toy Locomotive  
1983



# The Stamps of Switzerland

## Birds

Common Chaffinch  
(2007)

*Fringilla coelebs*

The common chaffinch, or *Buchfink* or *Pinson des arbres* as it is called in Switzerland, is found wherever there are at least a few trees.

Wallcreeper  
(2007)

*Tichodroma muraria*

The wallcreeper, or *Mauerläufer* or *Tichodrome échelettes* as it is called in Switzerland, is found on rock faces in the Alps. It feeds on spiders and insects it finds in rocky crevices.

Grey-headed Woodpecker  
(2008)

*Picus canus*

The grey-headed woodpecker, or *Grauspecht* or *Pic cendré* as it is called in Switzerland, is found in deciduous forest, orchards, and parks. It feeds primarily on ants and their larvae.

Turkey  
(1992)

*Meleagris gallopavo*

The turkey, known as *Truthahn* or *Dindon* in Switzerland, was imported to Europe from the Americas in the 17th century.

Kingfisher  
(1996)

*Alcedo atthis*

The European kingfisher, *Eisvogel* or *Martin-pêcheur* in Switzerland, is about seven inches in size and, as its name indicates, feeds on small fish.

Barn Owls  
(1991)

*Tyto alba guttata*

Barn owls are well loved by farmers since they will eat one or more mice a day. They hunt at night, gliding silently over open fields.

Bullfinch  
(1968)

*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

The bullfinch, *Gimpel* or *Bouvreuil pivione* in Switzerland, is about seven inches in size and lives in coniferous forests.

Rooster  
(1975)

This rooster weathervane tops the spire of the Cathedral of St. Ursus in Solothurn. It is fashioned out of iron and is about 50 inches in height.

Bluethroat  
(1971)

*Luscinia svecia*

The bluethroat, *Blaukehlchen* or *Gorge-bleue* in Switzerland, is about seven inches in size and lives in moist areas near water.

Golden Oriole  
(1969)

*Oriolus oriolus*

The golden oriole, *Pirol* or *Loriot d'Europe* in Switzerland, is about ten inches in size. It is very shy but very noisy.

Grey Wagtail  
(1995)

*Motacilla cinerea*

The grey wagtail, *Gebirgsstelze* in German, lives along fast-moving mountain streams where it feeds on flying insects such as dragonflies.

Mallards  
(1971)

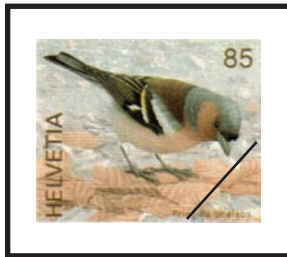
*Anas platyrynchos*

Mallards or *Stockente* or *Canard sauvage* as they are known in Switzerland, are found all around the world.



# The Stamps of Switzerland

## Birds



Common Chaffinch  
2007



Wallcreeper  
2007



Grey-headed Woodpecker  
2008



Turkey  
1992



Kingfisher  
1966



Barn Owls  
1991



Bullfinch  
1968



Rooster  
1975



Bluethroat  
1971



Golden Oriole  
1969



Grey Wagtail  
1995



Mallards  
1971



# The Stamps of Switzerland

## Mountains

### Eiger, Mönch, and Jungfrau

(2006)

The three peaks, the Eiger (13,025 feet), the Mönch (13,474 feet), and the Jungfrau (11,332 feet), tower above Interlaken in Canton Bern. Their names come from a legend of a monk (Mönch) protecting a virgin (Jungfrau) from an ogre (Eiger). The train trip up the Jungfrau is a popular tourist attraction.

### Matterhorn

(1965)

Perhaps the most famous and most easily recognized peak in Switzerland is the Matterhorn located in Canton Valais in southern Switzerland. Its height (14,688 feet) and relative separation from other peaks give it a solitary majesty.

### Finsteraarhorn

(1966)

On the border between Cantons Bern and Valais, the Finsteraarhorn at 14,022 feet is the highest peak in the Bernese Alps.

### Piz Palü

(1970)

Piz Palü is located in Canton Graubünden on the Italian border and forms part of the Bernina Massif. The three peaks shown on the stamp are from 12,543 to 12,812 feet in height.

### Kreuzberge

(1969)

Located in Canton St. Gallen in northeastern Switzerland, the Kreuzberge is a rock ridge on the eastern face of the Alpstein. The peaks shown on the stamp range from 6,204 to 6,788 feet.

### Les Diablerets

(1971)

On the border between Cantons Vaud and Valais, Les Diablerets at 10,246 feet can be seen from Lake Geneva some 20 miles to the west. The name comes from a legend that the mountain was the playground of evil spirits.

### Spannörter

(1972)

The Spannörter are a group of peaks in Canton Uri in central Switzerland whose heights range from 10,302 to 10,492 feet.

### Mönch

(1975)

The design of the stamp is taken from a 1911 painting by the Swiss artist Ferdinand Hodler. The Mönch is in Canton Bern above Interlaken.

### Gotthard Massif

(1976)

The Gotthard Massif covers an area of 170 square miles in the southern Alps. The highest peak of the group is Piz Rotondo at 10,472 feet. These mountains are the source of many of Europe's rivers, including the Rhine and Rhone.



# The Stamps of Switzerland

## Mountains



Eiger, Mönch, and Jungfrau  
2006



Matterhorn  
1965



Finsteraarhorn  
1966



Piz Palü  
1970



Kreuzberge  
1969



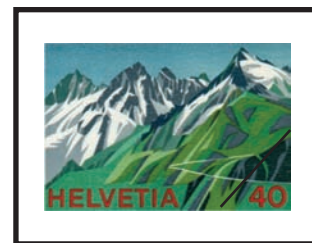
Les Diablerets  
1971



Spannörter  
1972



Mönch  
1975



Gotthard Massif  
1976



# The Stamps of Switzerland

Switzerland – What Comes to Mind: Chocolate, Cheese, and Swiss Army Knives

## Chocolate (2001)

Issued to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Chocosuisse, the trade association of the Swiss chocolate industry, the stamp looks like a candy bar and smells like chocolate if scratched with your fingernail.

## Chocolate (2008)

Designed by the Italian artist Laura Mangiavacchi, this stamp represents one of the things Italians think of when they hear “Switzerland”.

## Cheese Making (1987)

The stamp shows a step in the process of making cheese – the breaking up of the curdled milk with a “harp” prior to separating the curds from the whey.

## Cheese (1946)

The stamp shows the initial step in the process of making cheese – pouring the milk into the curdling vat.

## Cheeses (2004)

A selection of traditional Swiss cheeses is displayed on the stamp, including Emmentaler (the holey cheese we call “Swiss”).

## First Swiss Army Knife (2006)

The Victorinox company in Canton Schwyz patented its design for a pocket knife in 1897. The stamp shows its first model which was called an “Officer’s Knife”.

## Modern Swiss Army Knife (2006)

The Victorinox factory manufactures some 25,000 “Swiss Army Knives” per day in 100 different models. The model shown on the stamp is its latest design.

## Knife Blades (2008)

Also designed by the Italian artist Laura Mangiavacchi, this stamp also represents one of the things Italians think of when they hear “Switzerland”.

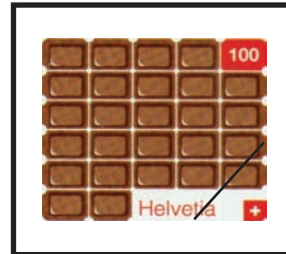


# The Stamps of Switzerland

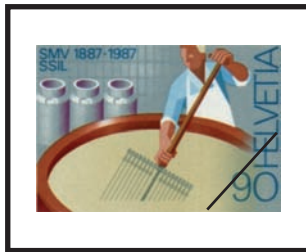
Switzerland – What Comes to Mind: Chocolate, Cheese, and Swiss Army Knives



Chocolate  
2001



Chocolate  
2008



Cheese Making  
1987



Cheese Making  
1946



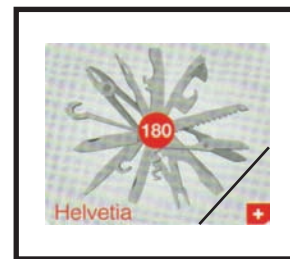
Cheeses  
2004



First Swiss Army Knife  
2006



Modern Swiss Army Knife  
2006



Knife Blades  
2008



# The Stamps of Switzerland

## Flowers

Gentian  
(2001)

*Gentiana clusii*

The gentian grows in rocky and chalky soil at sub-alpine altitudes to a height of two to four inches.

Edelweiss  
(2001)

*Leontopodium alpinum*

The edelweiss is the flower associated with the Alps. It grows in stony meadows to a height of eight inches.

Rose  
(2002)

*Belle Vaudoise*

This rose was developed by Dorieux in 1993 and has dense foliage with a silky luster. The stamp is perfumed with the scent of roses.

Germanium  
(1991)

*Geranium sylvaticum*

The forest geranium is a wildflower found in wooded areas. Its domestic cousins with their scented foliage are popular ground covers.

St. John's Wort  
(2003)

*Hypericum perforatum*

The medicinal plant St. John's wort comes into full bloom on John the Baptist's Day (June 24). The plant has a mild anti-depressant effect.

Sunflower  
(1961)

*Helianthus annuus*

The huge sunflower is the state flower of Kansas but grows around the world in temperate climates.

Dandelion  
(1960)

*Taraxacum officinale*

The dandelion is perhaps the one flower the gardener does not want to see in his garden.

Poppy  
(1959)

*Papaver rhoeas*

Iceland poppies are popular garden flowers loving full sun. Their brilliant colored blossoms standing on long, thin stalks are an especially welcome sight in spring.

Pansy  
(1958)

*Viola wittrockiana*

The pansy is a perennial favorite in spring and late fall gardens. Breeders have developed a wide spectrum of colors for this flower.

Rose  
(1972)

*Madame Dimitriu*

This rose was developed by the French rose grower Delbard in 1968. It is a fragrant floribunda.

Hepatica  
(1975)

*Anemone hepatica*

Found in deciduous forests and on stony outcrops, the hepatica blooms in March. It has medicinal properties useful in treating bronchitis.

Rose  
(1982)

*La belle Portugaise*

This rose was developed around the turn of the 20th century by Henry Cayeux, the rose expert at the Lisbon, Portugal, Botanical Gardens.



# The Stamps of Switzerland

## Flowers



Gentian  
2001



Edelweiss  
2001



Rose  
2002



Geranium  
1991



St. John's Wort  
2003



Sunflower  
1961



Dandelion  
1960



Poppy  
1959



Pansy  
1958



Rose  
1972



Hepatica  
1975



Rose  
1982



# The Stamps of Switzerland

## Animals

Beaver  
(1995)

*Castor fiber*

The European beaver is Europe's largest rodent. Hunted almost to extinction for its fur, it is slowly making a comeback in Switzerland.

Ibex  
(2006)

*Capra ibex*

The alpine ibex, called a *Steinbock* or *Bouquetin* in Switzerland, was reintroduced to the Swiss Alps in 1906.

Frog  
(1995)

*Hyla arborea*

The green tree frog, *Laubfrosch* or *Rainette* in Switzerland, is about two inches long and lives in trees near water.

Hedgehog  
(2004)

*Erinaceus europaeus*

The European hedgehog is a nocturnal insectivore, eating creatures such as snails and beetles. It is particularly sensitive to environmental poisons which have led to its decline.

Polar Bear  
(2008)

*Ursus maritimus*

Lars, the Little Polar Bear shown on the stamp, is a popular character in children's picture books and is known in Switzerland as *Der Kleine Eisbär*. The character was created by Hans de Beer.

Cat  
(2004)

*Felis catus*

Cats have lived with humans for more than 9,500 years. Worshiped in ancient Egypt, it is now a common household pet.

Rabbit  
(1991)

*Lepus europaeus*

The European hare is the largest member of the rabbit family, weighing up to ten pounds. Popular as a pet, it is also a food and fur source.

Sheep  
(1995)

*Ovis aries aries*

Sheep were one of the earliest animals to be domesticated. They are an important source of meat, milk, and fleece. Their wool can be found in clothing around the world.

Cow  
(1992)

*Bos primigenius taurus*

The brown cow grazing in an alpine field with a cowbell tied around its neck is a popular feature of the Swiss countryside. Its milk is the source of many famous Swiss cheeses.

Horse  
(1941)

*Equus ferus caballus*

One of the most familiar of large animals, horses have been used by humans for millenia in tasks ranging from agriculture to racing. The plow horse shown on the stamp filled an important place prior to the introduction of mechanical tractors.

Fish  
(1983)

*Perca fluviatilis*

The perch is found in Swiss rivers and lakes in abundance. It grows to around 12 inches in length and is an important and tasty food fish.

Dogs  
(1983)

*Canis lupus*

The two dogs shown on the stamps are typical Swiss breeds. The larger dog on the left is the *Berner Sennenhund* (Bernese herdsman's dog) and the smaller dog on the right is the *Schwyzer Laufhund* (Swiss hunting dog).



# The Stamps of Switzerland

## Animals



Beaver  
1995



Ibex  
2006



Frog  
1995



Hedgehog  
2004



Polar Bear  
2008



Cat  
2004



Rabbit  
1991



Sheep  
1995



Cow  
1992



Horse  
1941



Fish  
1983



Dogs  
1983



# The Stamps of Switzerland

## Castles

### Jörgenberg Ruins (1987)

Built in the 8th century, Jörgenberg was once the largest castle in the Oberland. It is located near the village of Waltensburg/Vuorz in Canton Graubünden.

### Château de Chillon (1998)

The Château de Chillon, located on Lake Geneva near Montreux in Canton Vaud, is probably the best known castle in Switzerland. It was built in the 12th century and belonged to the Duke of Savoy.

### Château de La Sarraz (1999)

The Château de La Sarraz, in the village of the same name in Canton Vaud, was built in 1049 by the Lord of Grandson.

### Château de Neuchâtel (1948)

Neuchâtel in the canton of the same name was the residence of the King of Burgundy. In 1033 it passed to the Lord of Fenis and in 1147 to the Count of Neuchâtel.

### Schloss Lenzburg (1968)

Schloss Lenzburg in the city of the same name in Canton Aargau is the largest castle in Switzerland. Begun in the 11th century, it was the seat of the Lenzburg line, then the Kyburg line, and finally the Hapsburg dynasty.

### Château de Nyon (1958)

The city of Nyon in Canton Vaud was the first town to be founded by the Romans in western Switzerland. The château was rebuilt by Ludwig I of Savoy in the 13th century.

### Castello di Montebello (1958)

The Castello di Montebello is located in Bellinzona in Canton Ticino. Its location controlled several mountain pass roads as early as Roman times. The castle was built in the 13th century.

### Stockalperpalast (1978)

Kaspar Jodok Stockalper built this palace between 1658 and 1678 in Brig in Canton Valais. Stockalper was a merchant who profited from the French-Italian trade over the Simplon Pass.

### Schloss Hagenwil (1978)

Schloss Hagenwil is one of the finest and best-preserved moated castles in Switzerland. Built around 1200 by Rudolf von Hagenwil, it is located near Amriswil in Canton Thurgau.

### Schloss Kyburg (1976)

Schloss Kyburg dates to the 10th century and was later the property of the Hapsburg dynasty. It is located in the town of the same name in Canton Zurich.

### Schloss Tarasp (1978)

Schloss Tarasp, located in the village of the same name in Canton Graubünden, was built in the 11th century by the Lord of Tarasp.

### Schloss Sargans (1977)

Schloss Sargans was the seat of the Count of Werdenberg-Sargans. The castle was built in the 13th century and is located in the town of the same name in Canton St. Gallen.



# The Stamps of Switzerland

## Castles



Castle Ruins  
1987



Castle  
1998



Castle  
1999



Castle  
1948



Castle  
1968



Castle  
1958



Castle  
1976



Castle  
1978



Castle  
1978



Castle  
1976



Castle  
1978



Castle  
1977



# The Stamps of Switzerland

## Insects

Ladybug  
(1952)

*Coccinella septempunctata*

The seven-spot ladybug, *Marienkäfer* or *Coccinelle à sept points* in Switzerland, is probably the best-known beetle.

Butterfly  
(2002)

*Araschnia levana*

The map butterfly, *Landkärtchen* or *Carte géographique* in Switzerland, is a seasonal dimorph. In spring its upper wing surfaces are yellow-brown, in summer black.

Butterfly  
(1951)

*Iphiclides podalirius*

The scarce swallowtail, *Segelfalter* or *Flambé* in Switzerland, is a common European butterfly.

Bumblebee  
(1954)

*Bombus terrestris*

The buff-tailed bumble bee, *Erdhummel* or *Bourdon terrestre* in Switzerland, nests in the ground, hence its German or French name.

Beetle  
(1956)

*Carabus intricatus*

The blue ground beetle, *Blauer Laufkäfer* or *Carabe embrouillé* in Switzerland, lives in forests up to an altitude of 4,500 feet. It is about an inch long.

Butterfly  
(1951)

*Anthocharis cardamines*

The orange tip, *Aurorafalter* or *Aurore* in Switzerland, is medium-sized, with a wing span of two inches. It lives at altitudes below 6,000 feet.

Beetle  
(1953)

*Purpuricenus kaehleri*

The purple longhorn beetle, *Purpur-Bockkäfer* or *Longicorne pourpre* in Switzerland, is a member of a family of beetles with more than 20,000 species around the world.

Honey Bee  
(1950)

*Apis mellifera*

The honey bee, *Honigbiene* or *Abeille européenne* in Switzerland, plays an important role in pollenization of plants.

Butterfly  
(1957)

*Abraxas grossulariata*

The clouded yellow, *Stachelbeerspanner* or *Zérène du groseillier* in Switzerland, feeds on the leaves of the goosberry and hazelnut.

Dragonfly  
(2002)

*Anax imperator*

The emperor dragonfly, *Blaue Königslibelle* or *Anax empereur* in Switzerland, lives at lower altitudes around stagnant waters. It feeds on flying insects.

Butterfly  
(2002)

*Mesoacidalia aglaja*

The dark green fritillary, *Grosser Perlmutterfalter* or *Grand nacré* in Switzerland, lives in forest meadows or pastures. Yellow and blue flowers are its source of food.

Beetle  
(2002)

*Rosalia alpina*

The Rosalia longhorn beetle, *Alpenbockkäfer* or *Rosalie des Alpes* in Switzerland, lives in beech woods on chalk-rich soil. It is extremely rare and facing extinction because of poor forestry management.



# The Stamps of Switzerland

## Insects



Ladybug  
1952



Butterfly  
1995



Butterfly  
1951



Bumblebee  
1954



Beetle  
1956



Butterfly  
1951



Beetle  
1953



Honey Bee  
1950



Butterfly  
1957



Dragonfly  
2002



Butterfly  
2002



Beetle  
2002





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