

P. MIRABAUD — A. DE REUTERSKIÖLD

THE  
POSTAGE STAMPS  
OF SWITZERLAND

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1843 — 1862

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PARIS  
LIBRAIRIES-IMPRIMERIES RÉUNIES  
MOTTEROZ, Directeur  
7, rue Saint-Benoît, 7  
—  
1899



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## PREFACE

In the year 1840, England, turning to account the invention of Sir Rowland Hill, was the first to introduce prepayment of letters by the employment of postage-stamps. Scarcely half a century has elapsed since this revolution took place, which, modest as it seemed, has been nevertheless so fruitful in its effects, that it would now be difficult to calculate the marvellous advantages gained by the civilized world in the circulation of these tiny pictures.

If the man of business is now enabled, at a trifling cost, to keep himself in constant communication with his agents dispersed throughout the most distant lands; if it is easy for the scholar to exchange thoughts with those who in far-off countries are interested in the same studies as himself; if the poorest people can, without any great sacrifice, converse by letter with relations and friends from whom fate has severed them, — it is to the immense facilities afforded to correspondence by the employment of postage-stamps that these benefits are due.

Most people, it is true, profit by these numerous advantages without considering the source from whence they flow.



## DIVISIONS OF THE BOOK

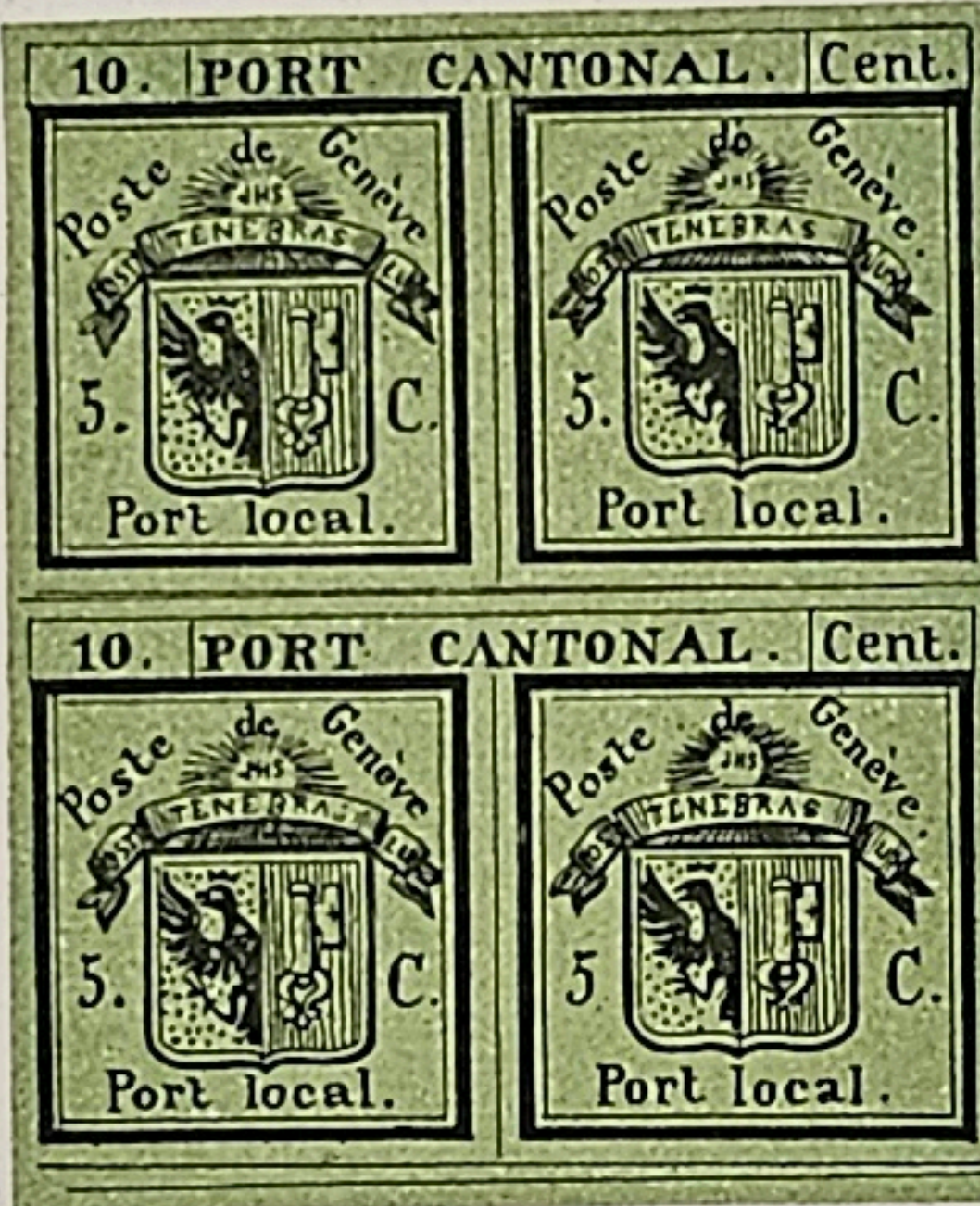
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The divisions adopted in this book were dictated by the nature of the facts with which it deals. The first three parts will treat in turn of the STAMPS ISSUED BY THE CANTONS, the TRANSITIONAL STAMPS which appeared after the Confederation took over the control of the Post-Office, but before the issue of Federal stamps, and, finally, of the STAMPS ISSUED BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. A fourth part will be devoted to a subject common to the three periods — a description of OBLITERATIONS.

In the history of the different stamps, a uniform plan will render research easy. First, will be given a short history of the issue of the stamp and its official circulation; then, *in extenso*, and printed in smaller type, the texts bearing upon that information; and, finally, a description of the type adopted for the stamp, together with such details concerning its manufacture as we have been able to obtain, viz. the number of stamps issued, re-impressions, and other details. The dimensions of the different parts that form the design of each stamp having been carefully indicated in the work of M. de Reuterskiöld, which is in the hands of every collector, it has been thought unnecessary to repeat those observations which are only of use in the detection of forgeries. The plates we give will, moreover, furnish very precise means of verification.

It may be useful to note here that variations of size may be found in different specimens of the same stamp, caused by the stretching produced by fixing them on letters. This is especially noticeable in strips consisting of several stamps.







*Timbres d'affranchissement pour les lettres au dessous de 1 once,  
dans l'intérieur du Canton de Genève.*

*Les Ecussons doivent être coupés et collés sur l'adresse des lettres qu'on veut affranchir.  
Un seul Ecusson suffit pour affranchir une lettre adressée d'une Commune à une autre Commune du Canton.*

Lith. Schmid à Genève







04032



