

5.4 THE SECOND WORLD WAR 1939 - 1945, **Swiss Troops.**

Despite the mountainous terrain, Switzerland maintained several Bicycle Units throughout the War.

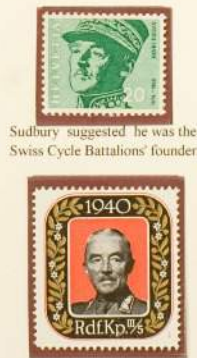


Above soldier stamp used by First Bicycle Company Sixth Battalion.

Below 39th Bicycle Company, with motto "One for all, all for one".



Below General Henri Guisan on stamp, for 3rd Co. 3th battalion.



Sudbury suggested he was the Swiss Cycle Battalions' founder.

5.4 THE SECOND WORLD WAR 1939 - 1945, **Swiss Troops.**

Switzerland remained neutral during World War II but maintained an Army to defend its neutrality.



Above:
Love your Country - it is the best in the world.

Postage FREE for the Armed Forces but use of "soldier stamps" gave mail priority.

Below RDF.KP.III/4 = 2nd Company 4th Bicycle Battalion.



RDF.BAT.3 = 3rd Bicycle Battalion
The Chevron (inverted V) only worn by cyclists in the Swiss Armed Forces.

Below Card dated 22.9.39 on reverse, 3 weeks after out break of war



6.1 THE DELIVERY OF ORDINARY MAIL

Before the invention of the bicycle, mail was delivered by postmen on foot, on horseback or horsedrawn carriage.

Potential for mail delivery soon realised see *Bochum* stamps.



Postmen in Cretan uniform.



Bochum imperf
1888 local set.



Thurn & Taxis postal
service 1852 - 1867.

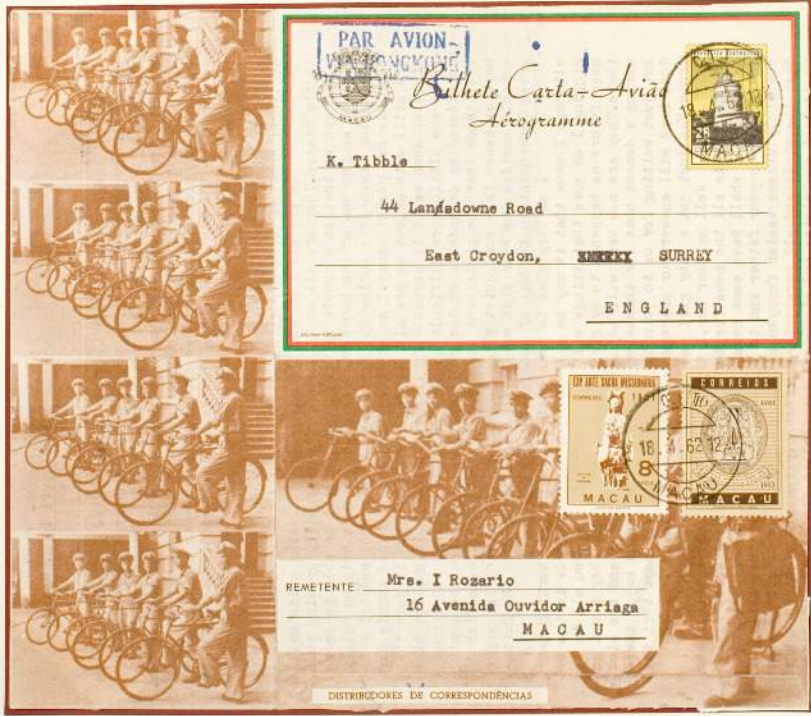


Bochum perf,
1888 local set.



City foot post 1863

Below Aerogramme with multiple scenes of Macau Postmen reporting for duty outside Post Office.



6.1 THE DELIVERY OF ORDINARY MAIL

The bicycle has played its part in the growth of postal services throughout the world.



Left:
1987
Greetings
stamps by
children.
Artist
Brigid
Tehan.



Miniature sheet issued for Exhibition "Hafnia 87"



Top left:
Free ticket
for entry to
HAFNIA '87
enclosed
with each
miniature
sheet.



Left Postmen
ready to go on
their rounds.

Below:
Front of the
postal stationery
card, on the left,
reduced in size.



6.2 THE DELIVERY OF SPECIAL MAIL - Express mail

The bicycle has continued to be used for delivery of urgent mail both in cities and in rural areas.



Proof of stamp in use 1902-17.



Express stamps issued 1939.



Specimen of stamp issued 1947.



Sofia Express cancel 18.53 on back of cover.



Copy of front of cover, reduced in size.



The post must go through, however bad the weather.



6.2 THE DELIVERY OF SPECIAL MAIL - Special delivery.

At the start of the twentieth century the bicycle was the most useful means of delivering urgent mail



Error in 3rd word "iumediata" on 1899 proof and 1900 cover.



Handstamped "ULTRAMAR" by Portugal on receipt from LPU



Above Corrected version "iumediata". Below Specimen stamps 1929 from 3rd Pan American Postal Congress booklet.

