

Die Basler Taube

(The Basel Dove)



This beautiful stamp was the first tri-color and embossed issue in the world! The Kanton of Basel became the third stamp-issuing Kanton in Switzerland, after Zurich and Geneva. It was the only postage stamp issued by Basel. The date of issue was July 1, 1845; copper-engraved and printed by Krebs & Co., of Frankfurt, Germany.

The 2½ Rappen paid for letter delivery within the city walls, up to ½ ‘loth’ (15 grams). Greater weight or to communes outside the walls required 5 Rappen.

At first the stamp had a green background which was rejected by officials. Blue was subsequently accepted with 40,000 stamps delivered. It has been verified that any green Dove which appears on the market as a “proof” is bogus.

Approximately 30,000 stamps were actually sold but a census has not been done. Validity ended September 30, 1854 when Swiss Cantonal postal unification took place.

All known cancels are shown below. ✕ denotes the cancel of the example.



✕

Here are images of the 1995 National Stamp Exposition at Basel souvenir sheet and the 1945 Centennial souvenir sheet (on cover).

