

## What Are Franchise Stamps?

'Portfreiheitsmarken' = Postage-free Stamps = Charity(franchise) stamps

Switzerland was the first country to issue them, starting in 1871. Hospitals, charitable organizations, etc. were allowed to use these govt.-issued stamps under very strict guidelines. In 1943 the supply was discontinued, with remainders to be used up by end of 1955. Approx. 800 institutions received these stamps over the years.



The special label issued by Swiss PTT in 1871 on request of the Int. Red Cross, for use by 1,000s of interned French soldiers in Switzerland after the Franco-Prussian War. Approx. 224,000 were printed. Total used on letters to France is unknown.



Issued 1911-26. The current postage due stamp design was used, with 'P P'(Port Payee) +value in the 'tablet' area. A bluish and white paper type, with and without numbers (indicates which institution, etc.), were used.



'Servers of Mankind': Protestant, Catholic and Henri Dunant(founder of the Red Cross), issued 1935. Numbers indicate the specific institutions.