

# President's Message

by Steven Opheim

*Grüezi!* Fall has fully arrived with cooler weather and the changing season. Soon it will be winter, and we will welcome Advent and the holidays. Time is measured, and we count not just months and days, but hours.

Famous is the *Zytglogge* or Clock Tower in Bern. Built in the early 13<sup>th</sup> century and later rebuilt, it has variously served the city as a guard tower, prison, clock tower, and center of urban life and civic memorial. It marks time and contains an astronomical clock that demonstrates the movement of the stars and moon phases, along with a calendar. It has a mechanical figure play (*Figurenspiel*), with a crowing rooster, parade of bears, bell-ringing jester, and sandglass-turning *Chronos*, the god of time. Today the interior is accessible for guided tours.

Switzerland has featured stamps depicting the *Zytglogge*, including the 2014 joint issue with Russia. **Figure 1** depicts the sheetlet of 8 stamps of the *Zytglogge*. (Zumstein no. 1515, Scott no. 1528). **Figure 2** depicts the sheetlet of 8 stamps of the Kazansky Tower, in Moscow, Russia. (Zumstein no. 1516, Scott no. 1529). The Kazansky Tower contains a clock with zodiac signs, at the Kazansky railway terminal, an important and highly regarded train station in Europe. **Figure 3** depicts the sheetlet of the Russia issue with the towers on two separate stamps. (Scott no. 7531, Michel nos. 2043-44).

Bern is the site of BerNABA, taking place from May 14 to 17, 2025, at BernExpo. It will be both Switzerland's national stamp exhibition and a multilateral exhibition of 7 countries: Germany, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Austria, Switzerland, and Slovenia. The show will also

celebrate the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Switzerland's first federal stamp. It will be the philatelic event of the year.

Several hotels are located directly on the exhibit site and other hotels are in the city center with good public transportation to the convention center. Information in English is on the exhibition's website, [www.bernaba25.ch](http://www.bernaba25.ch). We will be prominent at the show with a society table from which you can meet stamp collectors from around Europe and promote our society.

Bern's *Altstadt* contains many attractions with its medieval streets, historic buildings, and frolicsome fountains, situated along the Aare River. Beyond Bern you can travel to Interlaken to hike in the *Berner Oberland* and ride steamboats on the *Thunersee* and *Brienzersee*, among other outdoor activities. You can venture to other parts of Switzerland, such as Luzern, with its *Kapellbrücke*, and the nearby summits of Mount Pilatus and Mount Kulm, ascendable by cogwheel trains. Visit your favorite areas pictured on Swiss stamps.

BerNABA is a great opportunity to add quality items to your collection, view outstanding philatelic exhibits, and meet other collectors. Make your hotel reservations for Bern now, monitor airline fares to purchase plane tickets soon, and develop an itinerary for a memorable experience of Swiss travel, culture, and stamps.

The *Zytglogge* stamps of Switzerland and Russia show now is the *time* to make plans for BerNABA. *Begleiten Sie uns.* +



Figure 1 - The *Zytglogge*. (Zumstein no. 1515, Scott no. 1528)