

When the Confederation came to Berne

Two corporate stamps with franking validity for the BERNABA 2025

Corporate stamps in Switzerland are a new product of the Swiss Post, which can be used by private individuals and companies for their own stamp design.

This new stamp category is yet to be included in the Swiss Stamp Catalogue as a separate chapter. The first two company stamps were issued by the Hotel Schweizerhof in Lucerne to mark its 175th anniversary with the title "Empathy & Excellence".

After the Sonderbund War in 1847, the 1st Federal Constitution was discussed and adopted in Bern in the beautiful Empire Hall of the Restaurant zum Äusseren Stand on Zeughausgasse on the 12th of September 1848. In the same hall, the Universal Postal Union UPU was founded on the 9th of October 1874.

Bern was chosen as the national capital for reasons of its location in Switzerland, its bridging function between French-speaking and German-speaking Switzerland, and the important past of the canton of Bern. The Federal Palace had not yet been built at that time and was only completed in 1852.

With the new constitution, the postal regulations were transferred from the cantons to the Confederation and the General Postal Directorate was established in Bern.

On October 1, 1850, the first federal stamps officially issued. The **Federal Palace** is the seat of the federal government, houses the parliament and is the symbol of the establishment of the Confederation of Bern. The **Zytglogge** is the landmark of the city and the canton of Bern. These two emblems were united by the artist on a stamp to commemorate the 175th anniversary of the first federal stamps and the national and multilateral stamp exhibition BERNABA in 2025.

The second stamp shows the official logo for this exhibition by the well-known graphic artist **Domo Löw**, who also designed the commemorative stamp for the 175 Years of the Basel Dove. The logo of the exhibition in connection with the beautiful Lake Biel in the Bernese Seeland and its navigation with the MS Stadt Biel stands for the partnership of the two organizing associations, the **Philatelic Society Biel-Seeland**, founded in 1889, and the **Philatelic Association Bern**, established since 1885, which will jointly organize the BERNABA and Multilaterale from 14 to 17 May 2025.

Both motifs were designed by **Kimberley Angelina Senn**, who has been drawing various motifs and working artistically part-time for years. The thoughts and considerations of the artist are reflected on pages 4 and 6.



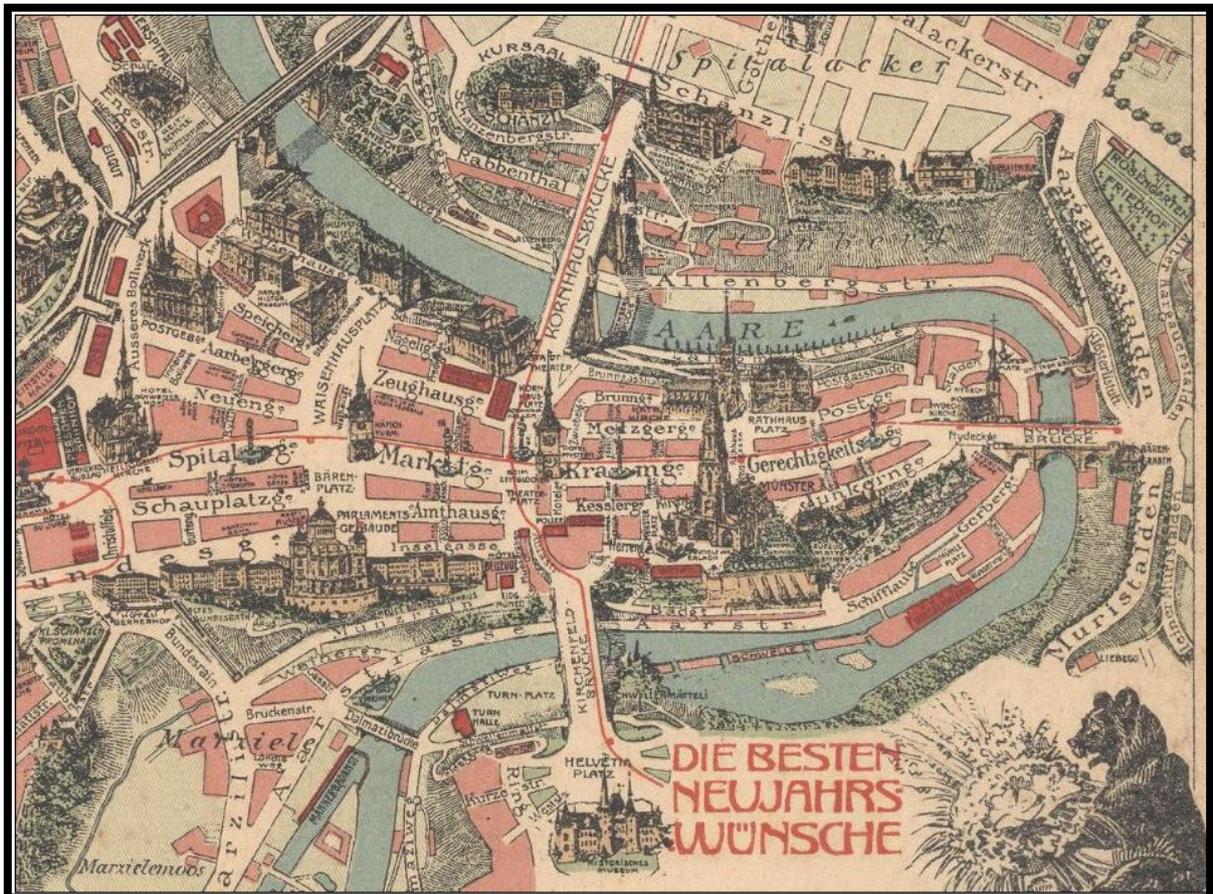
The Zytglogge

The Zytglogge is Bern's most famous emblem and an ingenious combination of beauty and versatility. During the enlargement of the city of Bern, founded in 1191, it was built as part of the city wall and gateway to the west on the Kramgasse / Marktgasse. Originally, the Zytglogge was a guard tower made of sandstone, which was built in the period from 1218 to 1220. Due to the Aare loop, which naturally protects the city of Bern but limits its expansion, the city could only grow towards the west. Until the city fire of 1405, this tower originally served as a prison and only afterwards was converted into a clock tower with the installation of an astrolabe or star collector, in which the constellations, the sun and the moon orbit the earth. A practically identical clock is located on the Prague City Hall.

In 1530, the rectangular building received its present form with the installation of the carillon and clock, which was created by Kaspar Brunner, a Swiss blacksmith. The world-famous carillon and tourist magnet gave the city the time, was the starting point for calculating movement distances and includes other functions from its complex dial with 24 Roman numerals for the 24 hours indicating the time, the date, the zodiac signs for the months and much more.

Every new decree or ordinance was posted in the gateway. Since the 18th century, the length measurements were also placed there for public inspection. In 1770 / 1771, late Baroque elements were added to the exterior appearance for further decoration.

City Map of Bern



Stamp Motif 1 "The Confederation in Bern»

One sight in Bern that never seems boring and always fascinates me is the "Zytglogge". If you consider that the clockwork dates to the Middle Ages and that they created such a complex interplay of technology and art at that time with their available resources and possibilities, you can only admire it.

I was particularly captivated by the astrolabe clock of the Zytglogge. Therefore, I have tried to combine the astronomical dial of the clock simplified, but also with the necessary artistic freedom.

In the realization, I have therefore artistically represented only some of the many facets and functions of the astrolabe clock.

As with the original clock, I have illustrated the 2-times 12 hour scale with Roman numerals in detail. With the help of the movable circles in the inner part of the clock, the geocentric world view that prevailed at that time is shown. The shifted circles are supposed to represent the rotation of the sun, the moon, and the stars. On one circle of the clock, the 12 months are shown with their ancient names. On the blue ring are the 12 signs of the zodiac and at the top of the twelve is the day. The time is indicated by the two hands with the hand and the sun. Since BERNABA will take place from May 14 to 17, 2025, the indications on the clock have been chosen to refer accordingly to the start of **BERNABA on May 14, 2025**.

The moon hand is on the zodiac sign Taurus, for the month of May. If you are not familiar with the signs of the zodiac, you can read the month from the position of the hand with the Sun.

Bern also stands for the Bear Pit and the bears, Bern's heraldic animal. Consequently, I also wanted to integrate them into the subject.

The bears on the stamp are made up of different triangles and other geometric shapes that together form the silhouette of a bear. I color-filled the shaped parts in the three colors of the Bernese flag. They represent the three main regions of the canton of Bern: Oberland, Mittelland-Emmental-Oberaargau and Seeland-Bernese Jura.

In the background of the stamp is, of course, also shown the Federal Palace.

The Zytglogge stands in front of the Federal Palace. The bears move upwards to the center of the seat of the Confederation, the symbol of our modern direct democracy.

One bear each stands for the United Federal Assembly, consisting of the National Council and the Council of States, which as a legislative authority represent the interests of both the people and the cantons. Both bears move upwards along the clock and presumably meet in the middle, which is intended to show that important and controversial issues are also discussed in Bern from time to time, which, despite differing opinions ultimately lead to a Helvetic compromise with the best possible solution, behind which the Swiss people stand as sovereign, always leading to unity and peace in the country. The clock of the "Zytglogge Tower" also symbolizes honesty, precision, reliability and connects the theme with Biel- the world's clock metropolis.

BERNABA

MULTILATERALE

14. BIS 17. MAI 2025



KIMBERLEY SENN

110

2023
SCHWEIZ - SUISSE - SVIZZERA - SVIZRA

Stamp Motif 2 "Biel and Bern Philatelically United"

For the second motif, I wanted to present the city of Biel and the Seeland region, especially since the Philatelic Society Biel-Seeland initiated and co-organizes the BERNABA and Multilaterale 2025.

Since the official logo of BERNABA should be easily recognizable on the stamp, this stamp was deliberately designed to be a little plainer.

Biel is often seen as a gray industrial city, partly in unawareness of its values. It is usually forgotten that the city of Biel has a lot of potential and is very innovative. The charm of bilingualism, the roots in the watch industry, the beautiful old town, and the many appealing places around the Lake Biel, that have not yet been exploited for tourism, are true treasures of the region, which should inspire to visit. I associate many beautiful childhood memories with Biel, the lake and its ships.

Lake Biel in its unmistakable shape with St. Peter's Island encloses the logo of the BERNABA and is crossed by the MS Stadt Biel, symbolizing both nature and water in connection with the national and multilateral event of philately.

When I was little, I often went to Biel with my grandparents during the boating season to take a Lake Biel cruise to St. Peter's Island and then walk from one side of the island to the other.

At that time, I was most impressed by the MS Stadt Biel with its cowskin pattern and was every time delighted to look at the area from the outside deck and watch the ship's docking maneuvers.

Since my grandfather himself had been an interested stamp collector for as long as I can remember, I found great motivation in the possibility of creating mementos from earlier times that would also be of great emotional value to my grandfather and thus give him a little joy.

From these considerations, the Biel stamp design with Lake Biel and the MS Stadt Biel embodies for me a cheerful childhood memory and a bond between me as a grandchild with my grandparents on a beautiful, sunny day.

Schwadernau, May 2023

Kimberley Senn



KIMBERLEY SENN

2023
SCHWEIZ - SUISSE - SVIZZERA - SVIZRA
110

Contact:

**Einfache Gesellschaft, OK BERNABA/Multilaterale 2025
c/o FORS AG
Schafftenholzweg 8
2557 Studen**

vorstand@philatelistenverein-biel.ch

