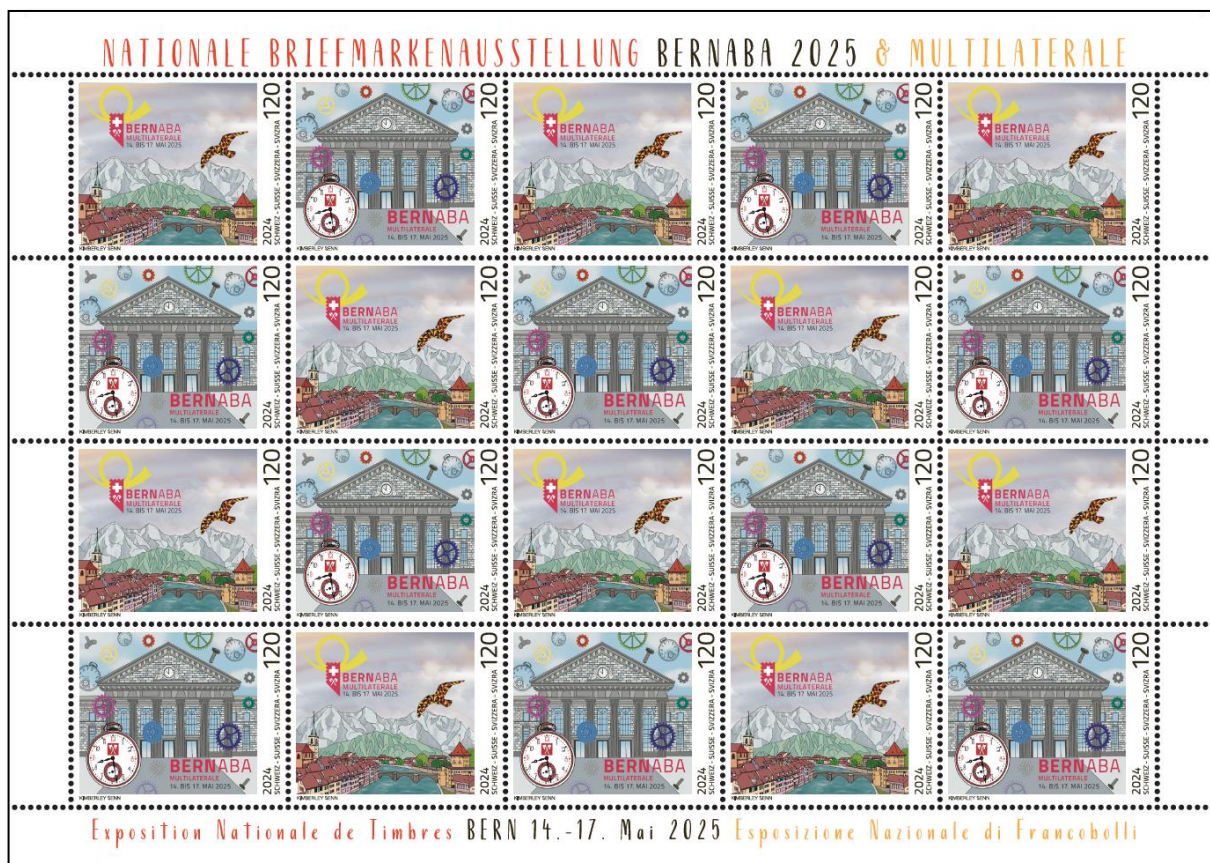


# BERNEABA/Multilateral 2025

## 175 years of Swiss federal stamps



# The 2nd edition of the designer Kimberley Senn

The art of stamp design  
History and commentary on the stamp issues

## 2nd issue of Berneaba company stamps

The new official Berneaba stamps will be presented with the issue date on **May 14, 2024**, one year before the opening of the national and multilateral stamp exhibition in Berne. These stamps issued by the Berneaba Organizing Committee (OC) are valid for postage in the same way as normal stamps.

Artist **Kimberley Senn** has once again created a masterpiece that will enrich philately in the long term. The stamps will be issued again in a chequerboard design as a **sheet of 20** stamps with border lettering featuring the cities of Biel and Bernee with the two philatelic societies of these towns and the OC team. The issue is limited to 5,000 stamps per design.

The **Biel stamp** shows the **world clock metropolis** with the Biel railroad station, which connects Biel with the world. The beautiful neoclassical building dating from 1923 is surrounded by clocks and micromechanical watch components. The pocket watch bears the emblem of the city of Biel. The station clock shows the daily opening time of the Expo at 10.00 am. The brand pays homage to the city of Biel and the watchmaking industry, which has been based there since the 17th century.

The **Berne stamp** focuses on **tourism in Switzerland** with the city of Bernee at the heart of the country. The stamp depicts the Matte district of the old town, the Nydegg castle built by the city's founder in the 12th century, the Nydegg bridge built in 1843 on the River Aare and the Bärengraben, the original part of the city founded by the Zähringer family in 1193. In the background, the view to the south towards the Berneese Oberland with the legendary mountain panorama of the Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau and the foothills of the Alps. This impressive mountain landscape and alpine backdrop is world-famous and represents a piece of paradise on earth.

The elaborately designed motifs of the two stamps were created by the young artist as a timeless work as a stamp and postage stamp and show the wonderful aspects of Switzerland as a tourist destination and in particular the canton of Bernee with all its beautiful and varied elements. Bernee is beautiful and lovely - Bernee at it's best.

A visit to Biel and Bernee is a must and an enrichment from a cultural, historical and scenic point of view. As philatelists from Biel and Bernee, we are proud to present Switzerland, with its mountains and lakes, in the form of stamps to our visitors and guests from the seven member countries of the Multilateral and from all over the world. The modern federal state of Switzerland with the Federal Parliament and the Zytglogge were used as a theme in the first issue of Berneaba stamps and are good ambassadors for the philatelic event of international significance.

Studen, in April 2024  
Jean-Pierre Senn, OC President

## **The explanations of the designer Kimberley Senn**

In the two new subjects, I have swapped the themes of the two cities. The first stamp for Bernee was more technical in nature, which I have now implemented in Biel this time. The scenic motif that characterized the first stamp for Biel can now be found in the second stamp for Bernee, which therefore pays tribute to it.

### **Biel as a watchmaking city**

The first Biel stamp was deliberately kept simple. In contrast, the latest design focuses on the watches, which are very technical and complex and are manufactured with great precision. I chose the Biel railroad station as a symbol of the gate to the world, which connects the watch city of Biel with its world-famous watches to the world. The station clock at 10 o'clock symbolizes the daily opening hours of the Berneaba stamp exhibition in Berne. The Biel emblem on the dial of the pocket watch is representative of all watch manufacturers in the region and in particular Biel as a world watch city. The parts of the micromechanics were deliberately designed in color to show the many facets of a watch. Each watch has a complex and interesting inner life that differs from one manufacturer to another, although the structure of the micromechanics is similar in each case. The colored parts and the pocket watch represent the changing times. In the past, the parts were often visible in pocket watches with a hinged lid, then they were concealed as a wristwatch and now reappear as individual parts in skeleton watches or thanks to the glass back. Last but not least, the watch also stands for the time we have to live, the length of which we do not know, but which is precious to us all due to its finite nature.

### **Berne as a Gate with a Great History**

I dedicated the first stamp motif to the history of Bernee with the clockwork of the Zytgloggen Tower built around 1220 and the Federal Palace built around 1852. The new motif now focuses on the beautiful, idyllic landscape of Bernee. In order to remain true to the style of the last stamp, an animal - in this case a seagull - once again appears in geometric shapes in the colors of the Bernee emblem. The theme of water, which was represented on the first stamp in Biel, is now to be found again on the Berneese stamp with the River Aare. The Aare is symbolic of Switzerland as a water castle and the cycles of life with their constant change. The Aare flows around the city of Berne and through Lake Biel, therefor connecting the cities of Berne and Biel. The impressive mountain panorama of the Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau can be seen in the background. These mountains are very important to me because of many childhood memories. For me personally, the Jungfrau in particular is linked to my start as an artist. I was given my first camera at the foot of the mountain at the age of 11. With the pictures of this camera I began draw lifelike from the photographs. The mountains on the stamp also symbolize constancy and continuity. Although many things change over time and in today's world many things don't last long, many generations before our time have admired these mountains and enjoyed this beautiful panorama, just as we do today.

The way the four pictures were designed reflects my personal style of drawing. I first sketched all the depictions on paper and then scanned them in and designed them on the screen. The procedure is almost identical to the original painting with a brush on a canvas, but the technique influences the structure of the picture design. Changes are easier to make but the inspiration, the perspective and the accuracy of the drawing remain the same. I have created a time-lapse film documentation of the design process so that viewers of the stamps can get a better idea of how I worked. I hope that you will enjoy my four stamps and take them to your heart. You can find more of my work on my homepage at [www.happymoonatelier.ch](http://www.happymoonatelier.ch) and [www.happycrunch.ch](http://www.happycrunch.ch).

Schwadernau, in April 2024  
Kimberley Senn, Designer

## **Biel/Bienne railroad station as the gateway to the watchmaking metropolis**

It is not the old town of Biel/Bienne with its striking and beautiful medieval buildings that is the motif of the second stamp issue of OC Berneaba, but the Biel/Bienne railroad station with its eventful history.

The first steam-powered locomotive was introduced in England in 1825. From a European perspective, Switzerland had fallen somewhat behind when it came to rail transport. Nevertheless, Biel, like other towns with a future, wanted to be connected by rail and planned the first railroad line from Biel to Herzogenbuchsee in 1854. On **May 10, 1857**, the time had come and the first train arrived at the site of the first station on Zentralplatz. The wooden station building was located on the Schüss Canal at the level of today's control building. The name **Centralplatz** in Biel originally came from the **Swiss Central Railway**, which built the first station. At that time, Biel had a population of just 6,000.

The city planners had been pursuing the goal of connecting the station with the port on the lake for some time and at the time considered the freight traffic of ships to be an important part of the transport concept. This explains why the station was not built near the old town, but rather towards the lake. The second station was built on **June 1, 1864** by the **Jura-Simplon Railway Company** on wasteland at the site of today's Hotel Elite on Guisanplatz, formerly known as Nidaumatte. On December 8, 1889, it became the first railroad station in Switzerland to be electrified.

On August 18, 1877, the Nidau-Biel-Bözingen horse-drawn streetcar followed as the second horse-drawn streetcar in Switzerland. The Funi cableways Biel-Maggingen went into operation on June 2, 1867 and Biel-Leubringen on January 20, 1898. The growing passenger and freight traffic necessitated a new building and relocation. An initial relocation project in June 1899 was rejected by the city. Only after the nationalization of the railroad at national level, with the founding of the Swiss Federal Railways SBB on 1 January 1902, did the project gain momentum. To finance the CHF 16 million station project, the city of Biel had to buy back the site of the second station at Guisanplatz for CHF 1.8 million, donate 8,900 m<sup>2</sup> of wasteland to the SBB and also co-invest CHF 300,000 in the project with the municipality of Madretsch. The city of Biel can therefore proudly state that the current station would not have been realized in its present form without the foresight of the Biel city fathers and therefore belongs to the city of Biel.

The third station at its current location is further south and therefore closer to Nidau Castle than to Biel's old town. The magnificent building, reminiscent of a temple, with a length of 112 m and a striking central section with 6 pillars, was built from February 1913 and opened in 1923, thereby completing its first 100 years of existence. During this time, the Biel-Meinisberg Railway was built as a connecting line on December 29, 1913 and the Biel-Täuffelen-Ins Railway (BTI) on December 4, 1916, which runs to Biel station. On the stamp image of the second Berneaba series, the station is surrounded by clocks and other components of micromechanics, symbolizing the region's world-famous watchmaking industry. One watch bears the emblem of the city of Biel, which can also be found on the Berneaba logo.

## **Berne's old town and the Nydegg Bridge**

After the clock theme of the Zytglogge in Berne and the Bundeshaus, which was chosen for the first Berneese stamp motif, the new stamp image now shows a natural landscape with the Aare in Berne's Matte district, around which the Aare flows in a 180° arc, forming a natural half-island.

**Duke Berchtold V of Zähringen** settled in this protected location as the founder of the town and built his Nydeggburg as a town castle in 1196, at the outermost point of the Aare half-island. The castle protected and controlled ferry traffic across the Aare. In 1268/70, the Berneese removed the castle after the extinction of the Zähringen family to make room for the Nydegg quarter, but also with the aim of preventing imminent imperial claims to the castle.

Rudolf I of Habsburg forgave the Berneese the destruction of the castle in a document dated January 16, 1274. The Nydegg Church was later built on this site between 1341 and 1346. When the Nydegg Bridge was opened between 1840 and 1854, some remains of Nydeggburg Castle were discovered. Over the centuries, the city of Berne continued to develop from this location westwards to the Käfigturm, Zytgloggeturm and Christoffelturm and beyond. These towers were part of the fortifications and the extended city walls. They had the function of a city gate, defensive tower and high guard and also served as a prison until 1897. After the great city fire of 1405, the Käfigturm (built in 1256) took over the latter function from the Zytgloggeturm (built in 1220). Both towers were extended and rebuilt over the course of time. The Christoffel Tower, built in 1346 by the Heiliggeistkirche near the railroad station, was part of the last extension to the city walls. In a niche on the side of the tower facing the city center stood St. Christopher, last made of lime wood in 1498 and almost 10 meters high. The tower was demolished with the town walls in 1865. Foundations can still be seen today in the station underpass. The head of St. Christopher is in the Natural History Museum in Berne.

Berne as the state of Switzerland had an extremely successful development from the 14th to the 18th century with numerous conquests of territories and a skillful financial policy until the invasion of Napoleon's troops in 1798, who looted the treasury, kidnapped the bears of Berne and brought down the Ancien Regime.

This second stamp issue of Berne is dedicated to the place where the city of Berne was founded and shows the magnificent and world-famous Alpine panorama with the Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau mountains and the foothills of the Alps in front of them. The mountain range can be seen beautifully from Berne in good weather, but not from this perspective.

The flying seagull in front of the Jungfrau in the Berneese colors yellow, red and black has replaced the tricolored bear on the first Berneese stamp motif and stands for the freedom and prosperous development of Berne.



Berne will be the venue for the BERNEABA National and Multilateral Stamp Exhibition from Wednesday, May 14 to Saturday, May 17, 2025.

A beautiful city in front of the unique, world-famous Alpine panorama in the heart of Europe.





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