

PRO JUVENTUTE AND GOTTFRIED MIND

Pro Juventute is a Swiss charitable foundation, established in 1912, and dedicated to supporting the rights and needs of Swiss children and youth. Since c.1911, the Swiss post office has issued an annual charity postcard series (listed below) to support the work of the foundation.

Artists' Works featured on Pro Juventute Cards (by year) together with known others (undated)
Reference: Published by the Helvetia Philatelic Society (Great Britain); personal research, based on dated cancellation marks examined [*].

- 1911 Emil Anner *
- 1912 J. Böhm, Otto Baumberger, Ella Keller, Ernst Emil Schlatter
- 1913 Emil Cardinaux, Burkhard Mangold, Otto Baumberger, Ernst Emil Schlatter
- 1915 Emil Anner, Ernst Buchner, Gritz Gilsli, Max von Moos, Marie Stiefel, Arthur Riedel, Ernst Emil Schlatter
- 1916 Henry Bischoff, René Frankcillon, Hermann Gattiker, M. La Roche, Ernst Rüegg, Marie Stiefel, **Gottfried Mind**
- 1917 **Gottfried Mind** *
- 1918 Konrad Kreidolfn, **Gottfried Mind** *
- 1919 Franz Portier
- 1920 Gabriel Lory (snr), Gabriel Lory (jnr) *, E Rittmeier *
- 1921 E Rittmeier *, Francis Portier *, F Franzoni *, Alexandre Calame *
- 1922 Adolf Stäbli *
- 1923 Adolf Stäbli *, Alexandre Calame *, W Röthlisberger *, Joseph Reinhardt *, **Gottfried Mind**
- 1924 Adolf Stäbli *, Albert Anker *, W Röthlisberger *
- 1925 Ernst Stückelberg *
- 1926 Ernst Stückelberg *, Eugène Burnand *, Pietro Chiesa *
- 1927 Ernst Hodel, Adolf Stäbli *
- 1928 Ernst Hodel *
- 1929 Ernst Hodel *, L Rossi *, Joseph Reinhardt *
- 1933 L Rossi *
- 1934 Olga Derendinger-Roux
- 1935 Franz Elminger
- 1936 Marcus Gacoe *
- 1938 Olga Derendinger-Roux *, Hedwig Spörri-Dolder *, H Klöckler *, F de Ribaupierre *
- 1941 Karl Girardet *
- 1944 M Higgenbach *
- 1945 Barthélemy Menn *
- 1951 Louis Dürr
- 1952 Henriette Bolle
- 1959 Anne Marie Trechslin
- Others named * (undated): Adam W Toepffer, C Liner, J H Lüttringshausen, H B Wieland

The collection that follows is but a soupçon of that available to the dedicated collector. Though there are many fine works of art available, this reflects my principle interest in one, **Gottfried Mind**.

GOTTFRIED MIND (* Bern 1768 – † 1814) was a Swiss autistic savant who manifest an extraordinary talent for drawing. He was called the *Raphael of Cats* because of the excellence with which he painted those animals. However, this appellation greatly understates his talents; for instance, it is his pictures of peasant children that appear on the Pro Juventute cards.

For the most part, the artwork was rendered on small sheets in watercolour. As caricatures they have a certain careful elegance suggesting advanced powers of observation in the artist. They depict impoverished street children occupied in playground sports, bantering, quarrels, and sledge-parties. Their faces are merry and characterful; clothes ragged but, in a sense, picturesque. Through them, one easily imagines hearing the hubbub of children at play.

Recommended biography: G. Fairholme: 'Life of Godfrey Mind. / commonly called / The Raphael of Cats (see https://research.britishmuseum.org/research/collection_online)