

Rapp record

A NICE new world record has given a very positive sign for the stamp market to end 2008.

Marianne Rapp Ohmann (pictured) proudly presented



the most expensive stamp of Switzerland ever sold anywhere in the world, the used 5 Rp 'Rayon I' with completely framed cross from 1850.

As one of many Swiss rarities offered on Thursday, November 27 in the Rapp auction house in Wil, Switzerland, it achieved a selling price of 348,000 Swiss francs/US\$276,000!

The most expensive lot was a collection of Guatemala, which changed hands at 357,000 Swiss francs. With a total turnover of 17.9 million francs, the final result exceeded the pre-auction estimate by 2.9 million francs.

A financial pundit

commented: "Top prices are still being paid for stamps – investors and collectors were unimpressed by the decline in the financial and art markets ... the stamp market has thus demonstrated an impressive level of resistance to the financial crisis."

Spanish forgeries from 150 years ago

FAKES and forgeries have been part of philately since postage stamps were first collected. Surprisingly, or not, nowadays some have a higher value than the originals, especially in the case of postal forgeries. In Spain these were a problem, even 150 years ago, so the postal administration changed the stamp designs nearly every year.

A young auction house, Christian Arbeiter from Bamberg, started the auction