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HELVETIA



MAGAZINE OF THE SWISS SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND

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YEAR 85/86

Highlights

- The Hofer family
- Gotthard Tunnel
- Trift Bridge
- Hohle Gasse

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Jelmoli Märli tram

Every year Zurich's Santa gives the rein-deers a few days off. He leaves them in the stable for a change and instead opts for a different form of transport. While he drives the Märli tram streetcar through the streets of Zurich, his young passengers – all of them children aged between 4 and 10 years – listen in wonder to Christmas stories told by two angels.

The Maerlitram (Fairy Tale Tram) Be 2/2 1208 is the oldest historic vehicle still operated by the Zurich public transport. The tram was built in 1913 and originally operated as Ce 2/2 208. It was built by the Swiss wagon manufacturer Schlieren and the Maschinenfabrik Oerlikon. In 1956 it was renamed Be 2/2 type. Since 1958 the tram runs at Christmas time on a circuit in the centre of Zurich. The Christmas decorated tram was formerly white but today is red. In 2002 it was last renovated. A circuit takes approximately 25 minutes and while the angels read the Fairy Tales Santa happily steers the tram. Every year 7-10,00 children are transported in Maerlitram sponsored by Jelmoli, who also carry out the ticket sales.

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