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FROM THE BOOKSHELF

"Die Streckentriebfahrzeuge und Schneeschleudern der Rhätische Bahn"

This small book with a long title is a successor to an earlier edition on the motive power of the RhB. In this new expanded edition the snowplough equipment has been included, as well as motive power and railcars both past and present.

The format and arrangement is the same as in the previous book with each type of locomotive or railcar featured in a photograph and a side elevation drawing with a brief description.

The motive power includes that of the Bernina, Bellinzona - Mesocco and the Chur - Arosa lines as well as the main RhB lines. The book starts with steam power and continues up to the present time, including the 1987 rebuilding of the Ge 4/4 class and a drawing of the new ABe 4/4 railcars (Nos 51-53) which are due to be delivered in 1988.

The book has 160 pages and includes 73 photos and 71 side elevation drawings. Card covers.

"Technische Bauten Schmalspuriger Gebirgsbahnen"

Similar in format to the highly popular Gleispläne der Rhätischen Bahn, this book is devoted to drawings and illustrations of bridges, viaducts and such things as tunnel portals of a number of Swiss narrow gauge systems. The RhB is well featured including the famous Landwasser Viaduct as well as numerous less spectacular structures. Among those of other systems are the MOB's Grubenbach viaduct at Gstaad, the Furka Oberalp's well known "demountable" Steffenbachbrücke (on the now closed Gletsch section of the line), the Centovalli's impressive Isorna viaduct and the BVZ's modern concrete "Mühlebach" viaduct.

Extremely useful for the narrow gauge modeller, the book has 80 pages, 85 photos and 37 drawings. Soft cover.

"Bahnen ins Appenzellarland"

The Appenzell region of Switzerland has never achieved the same level of popularity with British Tourists - or railway enthusiasts - as some other regions. Although the scenery is less spectacular than, for example, that of the Bernese Oberland or the Graubünden, there is plenty of railway variety, both standard and narrow gauge.

Bernhard Studer's book (which is similar to his Schweizer Bahnen, Schweizer Landschaften) highlights this variety in a pleasing range of photographs.

Each railway is dealt with in turn, starting with the Appenzellerbahn, while other systems include the Säntisbahn, the Gaiserbahn, the Stossbahn, the Rheintaler tram, the Rheinbeck-Walzenhausen mountain railway, the standard gauge Rorschach - Heiden - Bergbahn and the Trogenerbahn.

The book is largely pictorial, supplemented by short descriptive chapters on each line and ending with tables listing the motive power of the various systems.

In all there are 137 black and white and 20 colour photographs within the book's 120 pages.

All the above books are available from Robert Spark. Railway Literature. Evelyn Way. Cobham. Surrey. KT11 2SJ and are post free and also subject to 10% discount to SRS members.