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SOCIETY NOTICEBOARD

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

1990 is the 10th Anniversary year of our Society. We owe much to its founders one of whom, John Price, sadly has died but we still have our Vice President, Roy Dunglison, and Tim Stannard involved in this country whilst our President, Alfred Hauser-Gubser, keeps a watch on things in Switzerland.

Our numbers have grown steadily over the years and now exceed 600. The largest grouping outside the UK is in the United States and much of this is thanks to the hard work by our member there, Gary Hartman.

For most of our members, the **Swiss Express** is the main means of contact and to this end we have done our best to improve it in style and quality. I recall our early days when Tony Smith produced a duplicated magazine packed with information. But a watershed came when Alan Ramage introduced the style of magazine which we have today. Malcolm Hardy-Randall, our present Editor, whilst adopting the style and format which has become something of a trademark for our Society, launched a drive for increased advertising revenue which has enabled the Society to keep its subscription pegged for longer than most organisations in this country.

Branches have begun to flourish around the country and it gives me great pleasure to see the new ones starting up. All of this needs a devoted band of unpaid and unsung people both for branch committees and the main committee. Thanks to Dave Howsam, membership records are now on computer. John Jesson and I field most of the brickbats and, quietly but effectively, Peter Over makes sure that financial records are properly maintained and your money is wisely invested or spent as required. There are others before us to whom we should tender our thanks. I know some of these people are listed in the early pages of the **Swiss Express**, but now is the time to highlight the need for their existence. If you can help, then please offer your services.

However, I am disappointed by the lack of response by members to Malcolm's repeated pleas for articles. The magazine ought to reflect a cross section of members experiences and, perhaps, the fruits of their own researches. May I ask for support from you, the members, by sending to Malcolm your articles about Swiss Railways; perhaps a review of a particular locomotive class, a style of wagon, signalling, trackwork, and notes about Swiss Railway models and modelling. So, please start writing now so that our material for our Anniversary year is more fully representative of the experiences and knowledge of our membership as a whole.

GIFT TO THE SOCIETY BY A SWISS RAILWAY CLUB.

Marcus Brundler of the Modelleisenbahn Club of BAAR in Switzerland visited our London Branch on 2 August 1989 and presented the Society a rare and out of print book "Der Dampfbetrieb der Schweizerischen Eisenbahn, 1847 - 1966" by the well known author, Alfred Moser.

We are most grateful to Mr Brundler and to his club for this important addition to our library.