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The PTT Museum

by Steve Horobin

The National Swiss Postal Museum in Bern has recently been moved from its old location in Helvetiaplatz to new premises just around the corner in Helvetiastrasse. There is an impressive display of Telecommunications and Postal Equipment as well as Postage Stamps on three floors. The ground floor, with its display of postal equipment will be of considerable interest to Society members.

The centre of the display is taken up by preserved stage coaches, charabanc and motor vehicles, attractively displayed, whilst around the walls several visual display units are located. Modern technology permits easy selection of archive films presenting the history of the PTT. These films include vintage footage of Postbus operation over the mountain passes when they were little more than cart tracks, not the wide tarmac roads with crash barriers we know today.

At one end of the ground floor is an example of a railway PTT coach with a large TV screen inside showing a short film describing the relationship between the Railways and the PTT. This includes sequences of steam trains and old electric locomotives on postal services.

In the basement there is a mock-up of the Zürich PTT underground railway, which can be operated by push button control, giving a realistic demonstration of the working of this unusual system.

Admission to the museum is only SFr2, and represents extremely good value, since it is advisable to allow at least 2-3 hours to get full benefit from your visit.

Zürich PTT underground train

