

**Zeitschrift:** Swiss express : the Swiss Railways Society journal  
**Herausgeber:** Swiss Railways Society  
**Band:** 5 (1997-1999)  
**Heft:** 9

**Artikel:** The stamp of approval  
**Autor:** Cairns, D.  
**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-854563>

### **Nutzungsbedingungen**

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

### **Conditions d'utilisation**

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

### **Terms of use**

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

**Download PDF:** 15.12.2025

**ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>**

## The Stamp of Approval by D. Cairns

It may be looked upon as something of an impertinence by readers of this journal that a non-member of the Society should be writing about Swiss railways. Very much like teaching one's grandmother to suck eggs! However, the object of the exercise is to draw attention to another aspect of Switzerland's major transport system which may have escaped the notice of most of that country's railway enthusiasts; namely the philatelic theme.

Railways and the Swiss postal service became inextricably linked within ten years of the day in 1847 when the first rail service was introduced. From 1858 onwards the Travelling Post Offices expanded in direct proportion to the expansion of the rail network and the study of the various TPO markings from that time onwards has been of great interest to many Swiss philatelists. Where postage stamps were concerned, in 1932 the 50th Anniversary of the St. Gotthard Railway was commemorated by an issue of three stamps depicting the gentlemen who were the prime movers in the construction of that line, whilst a miniature sheet was produced for the line's Centenary. At various times since 1932, Swiss railways, the

locomotives, stations and those who worked for the service have been the subject for the designs depicted on a number of issues of postage stamps, the most recent being a set of four for the 150th Anniversary of Swiss Railways in 1997. Railway Stamps from 1874 onwards and used on railway company document provide some philatelists with a very specialised field of study, as do aspects of postal stationery which carry a railway motif.

So, the Swiss railway enthusiast and the Swiss philatelist have much in common. Indeed there are, I know, some of the latter group who are members of the Swiss Railway Society. The group on whose behalf I am writing this short article is the Helvetia Philatelic Society, which issues a monthly newsletter and arranges meetings on a regular basis both in London and Leeds. Should you wish to know more about the society or perhaps attend a meeting just out of curiosity, please contact the General Secretary, John Cordingley (tel. 01654 710020) or myself, Dennis Cairns, the Northern Group Secretary, (tel: 01282 812956). Swiss postal products, like Swiss railways are usually a joy to behold, so both merit our Stamp of Approval!

## What do you think of Swiss Express Survey Results

	more	less	about right
Buses	60	54	114
Boats	43	33	182
Excursion news	58	8	192
Modelling	97	40	121
Special offers	64	8	186
Travelogue	66	21	171
Technical info	56	28	174
Railway/transport history	95	13	150
Book & Video reviews	35	14	209
Notepad	99	1	158
Advertisements	27	12	219
Photographs	93	0	165

I would like to thank all of you who returned the forms, one comment that quite a few people made was that they liked the content of Swiss Express. I have enjoyed my time as editor, but must now move on!