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BOOKS AND VIDEO REVIEWS

Videos

Swiss Railways in the Sixties, Volume 2 "South from Bern"

Produced by Alan Snowdon.
(VHS/PAL format, 59 mins)

Obtainable only through the Society from The Sales Officer, Steve Horobin, 16 Bath Court, Haverhill, Suffolk CB9 8LW price £10 post free or the Society stand at exhibitions.

For those of you of the sixties generation with reels of 8mm or Super 8 film that you think is obsolete or boring to the viewer Alan Snowdon's beautiful second volume of archive films is a delight and a lesson in attempting to bring them to life again. It provides an interesting and diverse historic record of the period as seen through a carefully sequenced tour which makes sense of the journeys undertaken. The nostalgically grainy and aged colour film has the quality of old paintings which have been edited with precise narration and correct pronunciation which holds the viewer's interest throughout.

With such a time consuming creation from obsolete sixties material one expects some jumping of frame and script but this somehow adds to the feel of the period and brings back memories of ones own youthful days of experimentation with a first movie camera. If there

was an emphasis upon the geography rather than the technical detail it serves as a lesson to all photographers that detailed notes should be kept when filming to ensure that a glimpse of an old beloved and now lost locomotive does not pass without mention.

For enthusiasts expert in the art of spotting there are some tantalising glimpses of locations, rolling stock and line-side equipment. For those new to Swiss railways there are scenes of lost Switzerland, stations and services as well as some long gone semaphore signals. For instance did we know that there was a tramway from Spiez station to the pier and wonder now what a good idea it would be to restore it at the re-furbished main line station? Did we know that a VZ train might be hauled by an FO locomotive?

The quality, presentation, labelling and captioning of Volume Two is an improvement upon the first and serve as reminders that these aspects are so important to giving a professional feel to a personal production as are correct pronunciation and spelling. This is a commendable attempt at a very difficult and detailed task which viewers should enjoy and want to replay to check upon what has been recorded. Thoroughly recommended and excellent value at £10 from the Society Sales Officer. (SEAW)

LETTERS

Sir,

The survey on content published in the March 1999 issue of Swiss Express showed that 15% of the respondents wanted less on modelling. I would like to know how this can be possible as there has been no modelling article published since September 1997 - that's 6 model free issues.

It appears that the majority of respondents would like the return of modelling articles, especially as this is an area not adequately covered by other publications.

Has Peter Marriott finished the article on Oberried promised 7 issues ago? Can "nit-picker" be persuaded to return to the typewriter?

Yours sincerely,
Andy Micklethwaite.

STOCK CHANGES

SWISS FEDERAL RAILWAYS

November 1998

Withdrawn:

E/e 3/3 16335, 16343, 16348

Tm¹ 407, 431, 458

December 1998

Rebuilt & Renumbered:

RABDe 12/12 1117 to RABDe 510 016

January 1999

No changes

February 1999

No changes