

Zeitschrift: Swiss express : the Swiss Railways Society journal
Herausgeber: Swiss Railways Society
Band: 5 (1997-1999)
Heft: 1

Rubrik: Book review

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: 26.12.2025

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

MAILBAG

Dear Sir,

It is great trepidation that I feel I must put pen to paper and dare to make a comment on the Chairman's notes in the 4/12 December 1996 Journal, which I feel were LACKING to say the least.

Most of us realise that the previous journal was not up to 'par', but as the Chairman correctly pointed out on occasions these unfortunate things happen, and all committees suffer from "a few that do a lot and a lot that do very little". I am sure that most of us have experienced these problems, but sadly I feel the Chairman gave far too much credence and too many column inches to the anger of one member who, if he feels so strongly, should remove himself from our society. None of us want unnecessary nastiness within our friendly ranks.

More importantly, the Chairman made no mention of the resignation of our Membership

Secretary, B Hemming Esq., not a word of thanks etc. on behalf of us all, comments which should have been normal in such circumstances. Instead we got a quick, curt one-liner from the Secretary! (If he knew, then the Chair must have known too.) The Society has now lost two major players within as many years, for whatever reasons. Good volunteers are not easily found, a thought that should focus the minds of the rest of the Committee!

Lastly, as the Chair omitted to convey festive greetings to us all, please allow me as an ordinary member of the Society, to wish you all a very happy Swiss-railwaying New Year and safe journeys, and that includes the anonymous 'whinger' who so angered our Chairman. I feel that he/she hit a raw nerve, but "it" should have been treated with the contempt "it" deserved.

J. A. Davis

Welwyn, Hertfordshire.

Book Review

"The Swiss Railway Saga - 150 Years of Swiss Trains" published by AS Verlag and Buchkonzept, Zürich, ISBN 3-905111-16-0. 328 pps. Available from Swiss Book Service, 1 The Orchard, Idmiston, Salisbury, SP4 OAT and Midland Counties Publications, Unit 3, Maizefield, Hinckley, Leics, LE10 1YF. Robert Spark Railway Literature, address in ad.

This is a "coffee table" size book beautifully produced and printed as can be expected from this publisher. It is profusely illustrated, where possible in colour, and I was particularly interested in the archive pictures most of which were new to me. This may be because one of the main contributors was Hans Wismann recently retired from the post of Archivist at the Luzern Transport Museum.

It is very difficult to encompass in a single volume 150 years of history. The team of contributors have provided the accredited author, Hans Peter Treichler, with material which strikes a reasonable balance between readability and technical detail which helps to make this a useful reference source. It is probably not surprising that the book tends to focus on the activities of

the "Big Three", the Federal Railways, the BLS and the Rhätische Bahn.

The author has had the courage to look at current trends, NEAT with very clear diagrams of the tunnels, the travel market and the changing roles of the railway employees. Particularly brave is a section concerning the merits of road and rail relative to the environment which will strike a sympathetic chord with many readers. A diagram which clearly shows various combinations of road/rail transport could find wide use.

I have a great respect for translators and this must have been a mammoth task to cover it in the short timescale but it is a pity that it was not checked by a 'mother tongue' reader as it is rather quaint in places. At least reference should have been made to "Lexique Général des termes Ferroviaires" by the UIC which provides rail terms in six European languages.

Whatever shortcomings there are, they do not detract from the fact that this book should be in the collection of anyone who has a regard for Switzerland and its railways. It would make a wonderful birthday or Christmas present.

AJP