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News from the Verkershäus - Luzern

A Celebration of European Pioneer Locomotives and Model Railway Construction.

14th presentation of Model Railway Show held in the Swiss Museum of Transport and Communication.

Historic exhibits will for the centrepiece of the 14th Model Railway Show, to take place from 4th to the 12th October 1997 at the Swiss Museum of Transport and Communication in Lucerne. "European Pioneer Locomotives" is the theme for the exhibition of original rolling stock, while the world of model railway construction is again very extensively represented by more than 60 exhibitors and includes model making demonstrations, a series of presentations, competitions and many supporting events.

Every two years the most frequented museum in Switzerland becomes a Mecca for all rail enthusiasts. This, the biggest railway exhibition in Switzerland, covers virtually everything to do with rail travel and transport, or the popular hobby of model railway construction. Railways past, present and future are all included. The wide range of activities available means you can simply have fun playing with the many model layouts or listen to a series of presentations by experts on all kinds of topics related to railways.

The first European railways in Lucerne

Europe has never seen anything like this before: approximately one dozen locomotives from seven different European countries, representing the pioneering age of the railway, will be on display from 22nd August to 26th October 1997, at the Swiss Museum of Transport and Communication in Lucerne. Some are still in fully operational condition. Some are originals, others are faithful reproductions, accurate in every detail. They will form the mainspring of the 14th Model Railway Show. On show will be the "Rocket", the first fully developed English loco; the "Adler" and "Saxonia" from Germany; the "De Arend" from the Netherlands; the first Italian loco, the "Bayard"; from France, the pioneering locomotives "Marc Seguin" and "Crampton"; the "Licaon" from Austria; and from Switzerland, the loco and rolling stock of the "Spanisch-Brötli-Bahn" (Spanish Biscuits railway) and the "Zephyr".

8,000 m2 of completely re-designed railway exhibition

The prestige attached to the 14th Model Railway Show event can be measured by the fact that it is to take place within the completely re-designed permanent railways exhibition in this 150th anniversary year of Swiss railways. The construction engineers, passengers and railway officials, i.e. everyone connected with the railway, are central to this exhibition which opened on 23rd March 1997. The designer, Roger Pfund from Geneva, has ingeniously created a footbridge running right through the three exhibition halls, thereby providing a good and informative overview of the original vehicles. The descriptions and legends provided next to the vehicles are for the benefit of anyone who has a deeper interest. One of the focal points of the new exhibition is the show, lasting about 30 minutes, depicting the construction of the railway tunnel through the Gotthard Pass (1872-1882). Three loco simulators, new information points and many multi-media installations, some offering unpublished picture material, round off the exhibition.

The model railway Olympics

For many, however, pulses do not begin to race until they reach the area dedicated to model railways, and the exhibits on show this year in the model making section at the Museum of Transport can be described, without exaggeration, as totally unique. More than 60 exhibitors will display their products; 20 model railway layouts will be seen in operation; and about 100 entries, submitted by model makers from all over Switzerland, Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Hungary, the Netherlands and the USA to compete for the "Museum of Transport and Communication Prize", will demonstrate the high standard of amateur model construction, which has received new impetus from the Model Railway Show. Those in the know have come to



Above: A view of a small part of the railway hall in the Museum.

Photo: Verkershaus

regard this international competition as the "Olympic Championships" of model construction. The products of thousands of hours of work are on show here, reflecting the broad social spectrum from which enthusiasts of this broadly-based hobby are drawn. School children, senior citizens, members of the workforce and academics have all constructed their own individual railway worlds, ranging from ultra-modern stations to layouts evocative of the age of steam. This exhibition is a celebration of everything which travels on cast iron wheels.

A chance to make contact with experts

The promotion and expansion of interest in railways and the exciting hobby of model railway construction are some of the goals of the Model Railway Show. Anyone who would like to become initiated in this fulfilling leisure pastime will find the right contact person for them from the railway

world. Over 60 commercial exhibitors will provide practical information, and the products on display will cover the entire spectrum of model construction as a hobby. A series of presentations will offer a deeper insight into the subject. Given by experts in their field, they will report on construction techniques, the background to model railway construction, and other topics of interest related to railways.

The Model Railway Show opens on Saturday, 4th October at 09.00 a.m. and runs until Sunday, 12th October 1997. Both the exhibition and the museum itself will be open daily from 09.00 a.m. until 18.00 p.m.