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Book & Video Reviews

Book review; Swiss Railways by Chris Appleby: Platform 5 Publishing Ltd (ISBN 1872524907) £13.50

The second edition of this European Handbook No 5 was released in late July 1997. The original edition was dated 1991 and it is thus useful to all members to have access to more up to date information. Whilst the first edition had French translations alongside the English the new edition is entirely in the English language.

This 178 page A5 format volume has different chapters covering; the SBB, BLS, RhB, other private railways, tramway systems, paddle steamers, preserved rolling stock and museums/lines. Those familiar with the original edition will notice the expanded coverage of this version.

There are four pages of useful maps (in the usual *Today's Railways* magazine format) which are much clearer than those of the original edition. In addition to the cover illustrations 35 pages of the book contain colour photos. These are supplemented by numerous black and white pictures. Most of these are good quality but occasionally a dark picture has slipped in.

The text and information is clear and easy to follow once you have spent a few minutes familiarising yourself with the format of the book. The introduction of the book contains a useful explanation of Swiss motive power classification and numbering schemes.

The picture editor of the book seems to be an RhB fan. On first glance there seems to be rather more photographs of Rhatische Bahn locos than SBB pro-rata to the prototype! There are rather surprisingly no photographs of any the SBB Class 460 locos in advertising livery or the Cisalpino ETR 470 units.

First impressions of the maps suggest that the spelling on some of the station names should not always be relied upon. The September and November 1997 issues of *Today's Railways* magazine have already carried corrections and additions to the book's data.

There are a few lines about the tickets available to visitors. Unfortunately the title and address quoted for Switzerland Tourism have already been superseded. Readers are advised to check Swiss Express for the correct details.

Video review; 125 Jahre BODELIBAHN

Rincovision, Hagenholzstr 81A, Zurich, CH-8050. Available from MITV, address etc. in Ads

This 65 minute video recording is a worthwhile purchase for both those who did not attend the Bodelibahnfest in Interlaken during August 1997 and those who did attend but who wish to have a permanent reminder of the superb event.

The production concentrates upon the special double headed steam hauled train that ran between Zurich and Interlaken on Saturday 16 August 1997. The main cover photograph shows the train which featured SBB locomotives B3/4 1367 and A3/5 705. Footage includes lineside, cab and helicopter pictures. If you ever wondered what the Thun to Interlaken route looks like from the air this tape is for you - most of the line is included. As the train makes its way from Zurich to Interlaken watch for Limmatt and train, the passing ICE "EC Thunersee" train and a glimpse of new double decker stock.

The Lokparade which took place at Darligen is also featured with good footage of three steam locomotives (Zephir, GTB 3 and Pacific DB 01 202 4-6-2), BLS locomotives (Ce 4/6 307, Ce 4/4 316, Ae 4/4 251, Ae 8/8 275, Ae 6/8 205), multiple units STB BDe 4/6, Bde 4/6, ABDe 4/8 and RBDe 4/4 together with modern locos Re 4/4 161 & Re 465 001 and three tractors including Tm 235.

On Sunday 17th August special services ran behind Zephir. These are covered on the tape although the weather on that day was certainly not kind to the passengers in the multi-coloured open wagons - it poured with rain in contrast to the beautiful sunshine of the day before.

During the recording there is some narration in German which is interspersed with live sound recordings. Graphics show the classes of the motive power as they pass Darligen station.

This is not just a railway tape - the views around Thunersee are superb! The blue waters surprise viewers who are not familiar with the area. You may even get other family members to watch it! Picture and sound quality is very good. I predict it will be one of those railway tapes I personally will watch more than once. It is highly recommended.

Peter Marriott

The History of the Gotthard Railway.

The hardback [sewn and glued] A4 size book with dust cover, contains 510 pages with over 500 illustrations, drawings, A3 size [folded] trackplans and charts printed on high quality cartridge paper.

The narrative commences with a minds-eye journey through the Gotthard area from Schaffhausen and Basel in the north to Chiasso in the south and, continues with a description of the early history from the birth of Bishop Godehadus in 961, the development of the area in terms of freight transport by the mule co-operatives, the hospice and Monte Prosa hotel, the battles of the area, the road network as well as the early postal service.

The largest part of the book deals with the construction of the Gotthardbahn and its development into the ultra-modern railway that is operating today. Full descriptions of all the motive power, passenger and freight rolling stock are given in both text and data form. Also included are drawings of the stock for the Gotthardbahn and the SBB of today.

The book is on sale in the United Kingdom at £44.99 plus post and packing.

To obtain an order form please send an s.a.e. to

M. Hardy-Randall. 51 School Crescent. Newburgh. Aberdeenshire.

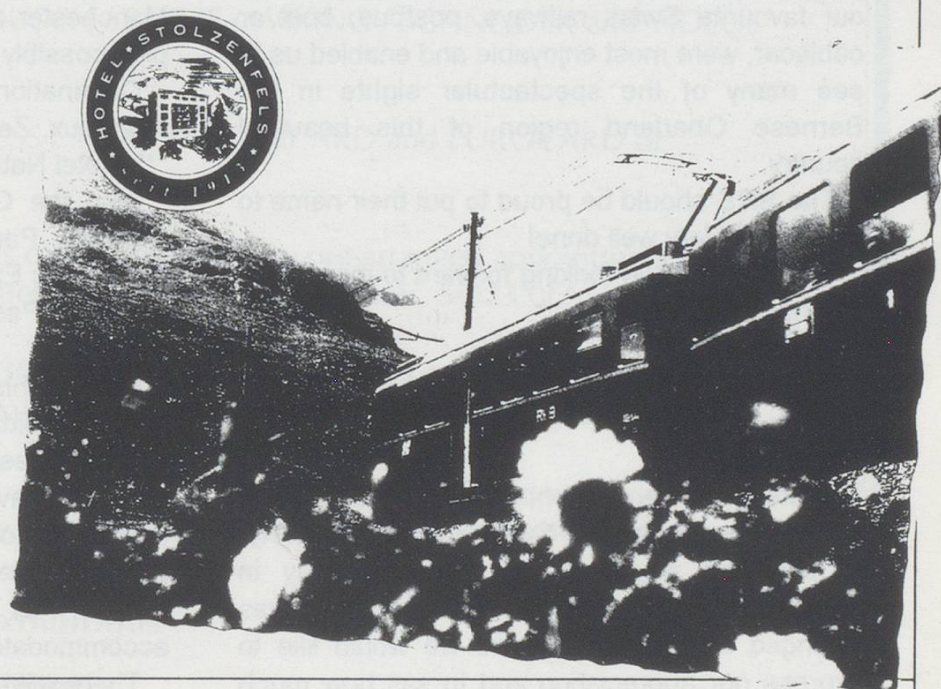
AB41 6BH. Scotland.

Fascination

RHAETIAN RAILWAY

It is really a very special landscape which presents itself to the natural lover. And it is also a very special adventure for every fan of railways. It is simply one of the most beautiful ways to travel through the Swiss mountains.

The Hotel Stolzenfels in Davos has organized for many years in cooperation with the Rhaetian Railway the popular train adventure weeks for its guests, the so-called "Fascination Rhaetian Railway". Would you like to share this fascination with us? Then please request our information on dates and prices from the address indicated below. We are already looking forward to welcoming you as our guest!



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