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ONE FINE DAY IN LUZERN

Paul Russenberger with a little help from Alan Pike

Verkehrshaus der Schweiz

Schweizerisches Museum für Verkehr und Kommunikation
Museum Suisse des Transport et des Communications
Museo Svizzero dei Trasporti e delle Comunicazioni

Wednesday 22nd August really was a picture postcard type of day when 16 members, together with 16 of their wives, families and friends did indeed meet in Luzern to enjoy the Verkehrshaus. Many came across from the station on the lunchtime cruise ship which conveniently began its journey by calling at the "Verkehrshaus-Lido" landing stage.

Entry tickets bought, we were privileged to be warmly welcomed by Herr Killian Ellsasser, Deputy Director of the VHS and also the Curator of Railways, who spoke about the importance of railways as part of the socio-economic infrastructure of a country. Herr Ellsasser can be seen on the left in the accompanying photograph. He recalled the way the nature of a country influences the development of its railways by pointing out that the Swiss Transport Museum is the only one to exhibit more examples of electric locomotives than steam! During his address, he revealed that a new exhibit was being prepared for the upper gallery in the hall in which the photo was taken, illustrating in model form the construc-

tion of the Gotthard and its tunnels. He then kindly presented the Society with the previous year's Annual Report, a Guide to the Verkehrshaus and a further booklet. (These have been passed to the Society's Librarian and are available for loan to members.) Herr Ellsasser was thanked for taking time and trouble to greet us and for his reminder about a classic feature of Swiss railways.

Moving from the exhibition hall to the restaurant, we found a large number of tables set aside for the Society, ready laid with place mats, cutlery and glasses. With the Museum to visit, lunch did not last long, but it was an excellent opportunity to exchange news and just chat.

On a personal note, I sincerely thank those members, their families and their friends who joined the visit and really did make it, forgive the cliché, a memorable occasion. Suggestions for another place to visit will be gratefully received!

The group picture was kindly taken by Malcolm Hardy-Randall.