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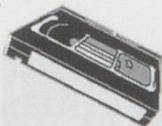
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THE REVIEWS



Gotthardlok Ae 6/6. - Dr Hans-Bernhard Schönborn

Published by GeraMond. Language. German. A5 Hardback. ISBN 3-7654-7120-8

This 144 page book is very well illustrated with line drawings of the loco and its motor units as well as many photographs - black and white and colour - throughout its history. The author starts with a brief history of the Gotthard - including electric locomotives from the prototype Ce 6/8 I up to the Re 465 - in which he includes a simple data chart for all the locomotives used on the route. The book is split into sections that cover the design project, technical details both mechanical and electrical, layout, details of major accidents and variations on the design used for locomotives of overseas railway companies. The sections have quite a number of drawings and copious photographs showing the various new ideas being implemented in this general purpose locomotive. Possibly of considerable interest to quite a few readers will be the final section in the book, in which the author describes the various models of the Ae 6/6 that have been produced to date. Even if the reader has only a limited grasp of the German language a great deal of information can be gathered from the many tables and lists that abound throughout the book. (MHR)

Bahnhöfe der Schweiz. - Cyrill Seifert

Published by GeraMond. Language. German. A5 Hardback. ISBN 3-7654-7160-7

A 143 page book aimed at the modeller of Swiss railways. The author has chosen over 100 of the smaller stations from the many areas of the country, and details them in three sections. In section one can be found photographs, track plans and data on the various stations all listed under the chapter heading of 'Romantic Swiss stations and their trackplans'. The book does not cater from somebody looking for a trackplan of a station such as Zürich Hbf, but describes the lesser known stations that are so full of character and style found on the smaller railways. Stations such as Gstaad, Gornergrat, Wengen, Zernez and Reichenau-Tamins are all listed. Chapter two, titled 'Typical Swiss Stations on Branch lines' contains over 35 photographs of some of the picturesque stations on lines from Altmatt on the SOB to Carolina on the RhB. This section does not include data or trackplan. Chapter three is also a photographic section covering 'Small and Curious halt stations'. The coverage is of 33 halts on the various Swiss lines from the strange platform at Foyer-Dents-du-Midi on the BVB to the floral halt at St-Légier-Gare on the CEV. A book that will be of interest to both modeller and enthusiast alike. My only criticism, if one is allowed, is the fact that no general scales are provided for the track drawings, but that should not be an insurmountable problem. (MHR)

Volldampf auf der Furka-Bergstrecke

DESTI Eisenbahn Video. 52 minutes long. Stereo sound. £23.95 (+£1.25 p/p) from MITV. See the advert in Swiss Express for details

The DFB is destined to become one of the great railway stories. The Video contributes to this story starting with a departure from Realp, followed by scenes up the line. Some superb archive footage has been restored and which outlines the history of the line and its rebirth including the repatriation of locomotives from Vietnam (readers may recall an earlier article in *Swiss Express*.) The heroic efforts of the volunteers are followed by a description of the area, together with some of the towns and villages. There are interviews with staff including the drivers who by and large are SBB and other rail company employees working their days off - just like the UK! The video continues with a ride up the line, some very surprising snow scenes in giving an indication just how difficult this line's operations are, the Gletsch extension with the first trains, and great shots of the Steffenbach bridge being put together. The relationship between the DFB and the Rhône Glacier is explored, the video finally concluding with some passenger interviews. The photography is very good, the tape quality high and the commentary unobtrusive. The latter is of course in German but it is simple German and those with even a smattering will understand it. Those without will marvel at the footage as the story is told logically. Available now from MITV, who kindly lent a copy for review. A great Christmas present.

(TOGGENBURG)