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THE REVIEWS



Waldenburgerbahn

Author-Friedrich Gysin. Published by Verlag Dietschi. Language German. Hardback. ISBN 3-905404-14-1 Size. 290 mm x 220 mm

This book was first published in September 2000 and provides a fully comprehensive coverage of the history of the route and full details of all the rolling stock. It contains approximately 270 illustrations of which many are in full colour. In the first part of the book there are maps showing the original route plans as well the present route along with drawings of the station buildings, track-plans and layouts of various workshops, etc.

Detail on the construction of the line and building of the many bridges is also included. There are drawings of the signal layout at both ends of the line both original and present day. The second part of the book contains details of all rolling stock as well as drawings and technical data. Locomotive line drawings are basic with no measurements indicated but a full range of these can be found in the data tables. Included are complete listings of passenger coach stock and freight wagons.

For anyone interested in this 750-mm gauge line that runs the 15 km from Liestal to Waldenburg, or indeed for anybody wishing to model this line this is a book that will serve well on both counts. This has to be the definitive work on this picturesque and interested railway. The text may be in German but the copious supply of tables, drawings and illustrations will provide all the major information required.

M H-R

Steam Over Switzerland.

Author – George Berhend. Published by Jersey Artists, 1973. A5, soft back, 48 pp, 32 b/w pictures, 6 line drawings and 2 maps. Available from SRS Sales at £5, post-free.

A very limited number of mint signed copies of this book have been made available to the Society. The text follows a journey round Switzerland exploring various lines running regular or special steam trains, written very much in the style of the same writer's "Railway Holiday in Switzerland."

Given that it is now 29 years old, there is little information in it that is totally up to date, but its value lies in nostalgia and a historical reminder of how we saw Switzerland in the early 1970s. Then it was useful to know that the bus from Zürich Airport to the Hauptbahnhof was not included in the Swiss Holiday Pass, that the Pass could be obtained from Thomas Cook, that UK Exchange Controls would apply should you wish to take out membership of the Blonay – Chamby Historical Railway Co-Operative Society and that a meal on an SSG dining car could be obtained for £1 to £2. (Even in 1973 that cannot have been more than SFr 12.- !) Perhaps the most interesting data is a table of the depot allocation of the SBB locomotives and dimensions of locomotives preserved on the BC line. Times have certainly changed; there was not even a Swiss Railways Society when the book was published!

PR

Switzerland

Author-Mark Honan. Published by Lonely Planet July 2000. Language English. 128mm x 185mm ISBN 0-86442-723-9

'Switzerland,' £11.99, edited by Mark Honan offers the same format as its sister publication reviewed above and is of comparable quality throughout. This book is aimed at the casual independent traveller and fully covers most aspects of travel around Switzerland. Much of the text is most relevant to those of us travelling by train/post bus and is most informative. Details of rail passes, mountain railways, cheap accommodation/camping together with much local information abound throughout this publication as well details of the local station buffets – we have all been there haven't we? Local customs and leisure activities are covered in detail and



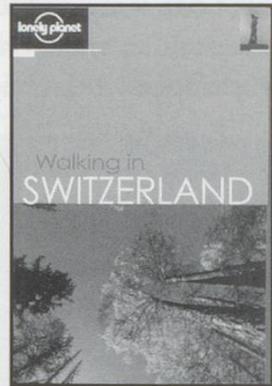
vary from skiing to drunken revelry (honest its there.) The maps reproduced are black and white and are quite small, particularly the city maps that need magnifying to read. This comment should be taken in the context of the publication that cannot do everything in this size of pocket book. For the Internet surfers amongst you there are e-mail and web site addresses throughout together with telephone numbers of every organisation you will ever need. If you want to learn about Switzerland, its history and culture as well as our love, the railways this may be the book for you. It does not offer the wealth of historical information that 'Baedeker' offers but it more than makes up for that in up to date practical knowledge of Switzerland.

G&T

Walking in Switzerland

Author-Clem Lindenmayer. Published by Lonely Planet August 2001. Language English. 128mm x 185mm. ISBN 0-86442-737-9. £12.99 from all good bookshops

'Walking in Switzerland' is written by Clem Lindenmayer who clearly shows his undoubted passion for Switzerland together with an in-depth knowledge of both the environment and the associated equipment and safety issues. The Flora and Fauna section certainly is detailed and taught me much about a subject that I had not considered in detail before. The first 100 pages detail every aspect of walking in Switzerland from mountain transport to accommodation and walking with children. The walks themselves are segregated into eight areas covering all of Switzerland and are sub divided into regions, all properly indexed at the front of the book. Small maps are provided and the descriptions of the walks are exemplary together with associated information on eating, accommodation, and phone numbers of tourist offices, in fact almost everything you will need on a walking holiday. Although the maps are clear and well printed they are small so you will need a large-scale map to maximise your enjoyment.



This book is as fascinating for a non-walker as well as a walker because of the proliferation of interesting facts about the villages and towns together with the quality of the photographs and the associated maps. I would have preferred the book to have hard covers to stand the rigours of continual use, but that apart any other criticism would be difficult to identify. A brilliant production that should be a must for those outdoor types who do not lineside most of their holidays.

G&T

Modelling European Railways,

£2.80 edited by Peter Marriott and published by Warners Group Publications plc.

To my delight the content had a disproportional amount of Swiss Railway text and photographs so its success is guaranteed amongst the Swiss enthusiasts! Seriously though this 64-page magazine is aimed at those who would like to model European railways but lack the information to follow their desire. In this, the publication succeeds in listing manufacturers as well as clubs to enable the newcomer to research the subject, to plan and execute their own railway.

Much of the magazine is given over to describing railways and modelling ideas together with over 90 colour photographs of predominantly Swiss and Austrian railways (great). For actual modellers, this magazine may be a disappointment as there are so few articles on the actual subject but that said that is not the point of this one off publication. I feel that this format with much more actual modelling is of value to the UK market as there are so many average, modellers that would welcome the clear easy-to-read style that would not infringe on the Continental Modeller, advanced modelling fraternity, I enjoyed the format and viewed the text as informative for the intended market.

The magazine is on sale at larger branches of W H Smiths or can be obtained directly from the publishers on 01778 391180. Incidentally Peter is an SRS member and well known writer and modeller.

G&T